



DREAMGIRLS

MUSIC BY HENRY KRIEGER
LYRICS AND BOOK BY TOM EYEN

DREAMGIRLS

Friday-Saturday, August 5-6, 2016, at 7:30pm

Sunday, August 7, 2016, at 4pm

Studio Theatre

WELCOME

From its widely celebrated and auspicious opening in 1969—and against all odds in the midst of extraordinary domestic and global instability—there would be communion in this temple of the living arts.

Year after year, for nearly five decades, Krannert Center has served as a source of joy, discovery, and restoration. For the students, faculty, and staff of this great land-grant university, and for the youth, families, and citizenry of our community and across Illinois.

A temple in which artists from every continent have been welcomed, and will continue to be welcomed. And in which artists across the cultural spectrum of America have found voice, and will continue to find voice.

A communal touchstone within which the most socially secure and most vulnerable can seek and find fulfillment. Together. Side by side. In the midst of persistent instability, and against all odds.

With thanks to all who make this possible, welcome to Krannert Center.

All good things,



MIKE ROSS, DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION, OUR VALUES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is dedicated to the advancement of education, research, and public engagement through the pursuit of excellence and innovation in the performing arts. Embracing the art of the past as well as the art of our time, the Center supports the belief that creativity is a core human characteristic and that the arts hold uniquely transformative potential. Through its multiple and integrated roles as classroom, laboratory, and public square, Krannert Center serves as a touchstone for the exploration and expansion of human experience.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THIS PERFORMANCE

The Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy and Krannert Center honor the spirited generosity of these committed sponsors whose support of this performance continues to strengthen the impact of the arts in our community.



D O R I S D U K E
C H A R I T A B L E F O U N D A T I O N

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation enabled Krannert Center to work with New York-based Anne Bogart and SIT! Company and diverse community groups through periodic residencies at Krannert Center culminating in this performance of *Dreamgirls*.



I L L I N O I S
U N I V E R S I T Y O F I L L I N O I S A T U R B A N A - C H A M P A I G N

The University of Illinois Public Engagement grant supports Krannert Center's engagement work through the Making Communities Visible project.



DREAMGIRLS SILVER SPONSOR



DREAMGIRLS SILVER SPONSOR

DREAMGIRLS SUPPORTERS

We give special thanks to our Dreamgirls Supporters for their generous donations.
Your support greatly impacted our production. Thank you!

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DREAMGIRLS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

On behalf of the *Dreamgirls* producers, we express great appreciation to the following community partners for assistance in marketing. We thank you for volunteering time and talents to help make this production a success!

Maryam Ar-Raheem
Dawn Blackman
Desiree McMillion

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ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

We are delighted to welcome you to this community performance of *Dreamgirls*, a combined effort of the Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy (BBL), Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and our wonderfully dedicated cast of local artists.

The Dreamgirls Project started almost three years ago with a conversation between BBL, Krannert Center, and members of the New York-based theatre ensemble SITI Company. We discussed the challenges our community faces in regard to divisions between the university campus and our local community, current (and historical) inequities based on race, and disparity in access to cultural resources. We discovered a shared interest in doing something positive that would draw on the talent and creative power resident in our community. Nathaniel Banks, co-director of BBL, said, "We should do a community production of *Dreamgirls*."

The result of that initial conversation, and the many that followed, is the performance you will see today. In addition, and perhaps more important, are the collaborative relationships that have developed among BBL, Krannert Center, SITI Company, and artists and arts advocates in our community. The Dreamgirls Project encompasses not only this community production, but also the Dreamgirls Production Shadow Program, designed to bring area teens and young adults into mentoring relationships with Krannert Center professional production staff as they work together behind the scenes. Further, after many years of performance

collaborations, BBL and Krannert Center have been able to develop a deeper relationship at the organizational level.

This deepening of relationship has been made possible by a generous grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in support of the Making Communities Visible (MCV) project. The MCV project has enabled the artistic community of Krannert Center to be more visible in, and more accessible to, specific local communities, while at the same time raising the visibility of the interests of local communities in the work of Krannert Center. Serving as artist-provocateurs, co-discoverers, and facilitators are members of SITI Company, who have brought their many talents from their ensemble-based theatre-making to this ensemble-based engagement work. Through numerous ensemble-building interactions, acting workshops, and reflective conversations with community members and Krannert Center staff, SITI Company has served as a catalyst for change. Some of our most interesting and productive discoveries have come from finding our blind spots, leading us to a deeper understanding of the role of the performing arts in the lives of each community.

So why *Dreamgirls*?

Nathaniel Banks reflects on the musical in this way: "As the music director and one of the leaders of Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy, I have enjoyed rehearsing and remembering the music styles that provided the soundtrack of my life as a teenager growing

up in the sixties. This musical truly captures the essence of those sounds. The sounds reflect the raw unpolished talent of teenagers, as well as the sophistication of those same individuals as they matured in life and in music. Our cast and musicians have done a wonderful job recreating the energy and style of the 1960s and 1970s, which provided the backdrop for the maturing of a nation. This production is a musical tip of the hat to those who created those sounds of young America. The music truly lives on in this production. Our singers and musicians have done a marvelous job of expressing that vibrancy.”

According to the director, Latrelle Bright, *Dreamgirls* asks, “What are we willing to give up to reach our dreams or, better yet, why do we believe we need to give up anything? Particularly that part within—that still small voice. As the characters cling to relationships and rise to stardom, pieces of them fall by the wayside. To some extent, they are aware that they are giving up something essential to who they are, but they do it anyway—for the dream. In many ways, by the end, the characters are back where they started. They are mature versions of their former selves when their paths first crossed that fateful night at The Apollo. Their journey made their ideas about who they are, and how they wish to be ‘somebody’ in the world, clear.”

The art of theatre, at its most fundamental, brings people together to meet each other, creating conditions for authentic experiences. As SITI Company’s Anne Bogart shared in a blog post, “The subject of the theater is not only the

fictional community within a given play but also the actual communities that come together within the time set aside for performance: the actors, the audience, and those behind the scenes of any production. The subject of a classic play is the history of audiences and creators who have encountered and interpreted the play in the past. The subject of the theater is always, in part, the act of being a community.”

This summer, in particular, the issues we face as a community involving power, race, and culture have come to the fore through violence and grief. These issues are vast, and not ones that can be addressed by “a project.” But working on a project together is one way to bring disparate people together in authentic relationships. It is our hope that this production will celebrate the creative capacity of our collective communities and remind us that the ability to create joy often depends on acts of courage and tenacity.

PROGRAM

DREAMGIRLS

Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyrn

Music by Henry Krieger

Latrelle Bright, director

Nathaniel Banks, music director

Endalyn Taylor, choreographer

Friday-Saturday, August 5-6, 2016, at 7:30pm

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Produced by special arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC.,
500 South Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

DREAMGIRLS

Book and Lyrics	Tom Eyen
Music	Henry Krieger
Director	Latrell Bright
Music Director	Nathaniel Banks
Choreographer	Endalyn Taylor
Production Manager/Technical Director	Nicole Bromley
Scenic Coordinator	J. Michael Griggs
Costume Designer	Samantha C. Jones
Lighting Designer	David Krupla
Sound Designer/Audio Engineer	Alec LaBau
Vocal Coach/Rehearsal Accompanist	Justin M. Brauer
Assistant Director	Kate Fenton
Assistant Choreographer	C. Kemal Nance
Master Electrician	Eric Van Tassell
Stage Manager	Cathy Fazio
Assistant Stage Manager	Grace Chariya
Outreach Director	Crystal Womble
Community Engagement Liaison	Emily Laugesen
Events Coordinator	Kate Henry

CAST

Effie Melody White	Tafadzwa Diener
Curtis Taylor, Jr.	Kvn Tajzea
Deena Jones	Jasmine Dandridge
C.C. White	Davion Williams
Lorrell Robinson	J'Lyn Hope
James "Thunder" Early	Cedric Jones
Marty	Nathon Jones
Michelle Morris	April M. Blacker
Wayne	Prince Robertson
Tiny Joe Dixon/Jerry Norman	Kevin Cory LeSure
M.C.	Preston Roseborough
Stepp Sister/Security Guard	Madelyn Childress
Stepp Sister/Stage Manager	Rhonda Henderson
Stepp Sister/Delores	Elisa Ransom
Stepp Sister/Frances	Alahna Van Matre
Charlene	Jelinda Smith
JoAnn	Ocean Richardson
Little Albert	Adrian Rochelle
Backstage Worker	James H. Hayes, Jr.
Dave	Eric Sirota
Sweetheart	Saskia Bakker
Sweetheart	Megan Fazio
Sweetheart	Christine Mayer

ENSEMBLE (*The Tru-Tones, The Tuxedos, James Early Band, Les Style, Mr. Morgan, Radio Announcers, Film Executives, Reporters, Photographers, Guests, Vocals*):

Saskia Bakker, April M. Blacker, Madelyn Childress, Megan Fazio, James H. Hayes, Jr., Rhonda Henderson, Kevin Cory LeSure, Christine Mayer, Elisa Ransom, Ocean Richardson, Adrian Rochelle, Preston Roseborough, Eric Sirota, Jelinda Smith, Alahna Van Matre

Dance Captains	Preston Roseborough Jelinda Smith
Understudy for Male Principal Roles	Preston Roseborough

DREAMGIRLS BAND

Conductor	Nathaniel Banks
Keyboard	Justin M. Brauer
Synthesizer	Leigh Meador
Trumpet	Joshua Billingsley Phillip Kocheril Alexandra Wells
Saxophone	Chip McNeill Ron Bridgewater Jenelle Orcherton
Trombone	Matthew Frazzetto
Guitar	Jose Gobbo
Bass Guitar	Christopher Beyt
Drums	Mark McKnight

SCENIC BREAKDOWN

ACT I

- Scene 1: The Apollo Theatre
- Scene 2: On the Road/Limbo, Three Months Later
- Scene 3: Recording Studio
- Scene 4: Limbo
- Scene 5: Limbo into Hotel Banquet Room (Birthday Party)
- Scene 6: Miami Beach
- Scene 7: A Dressing Room, Atlantic Hotel, Miami Beach
- Scene 8: Cleveland, The Crystal Room
- Scene 9: A Television Studio
- Scene 10: San Francisco, Fairmont Hotel
- Scene 11: Las Vegas, A Dressing Room
- Scene 12: Las Vegas, The Performance

20-minute intermission

ACT II

- Scene 1: Las Vegas, Hilton Hotel
- Scene 2: A Chicago Nightclub
- Scene 3: Vogue Magazine Photo Call
- Scene 4: National Democratic Fund Raiser
- Scene 5: Chicago, Recording Studio
- Scene 6: Los Angeles
- Scene 7: Chicago
- Scene 8: New York

This production includes haze and smoke effects.

This production includes strobe lighting.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. I'm Looking for Something Baby
2. Downtown
3. Long Way Home
4. Move (You're Steppin' on My Heart)
5. Fake Your Way to the Top
6. Cadillac Car
7. Cadillac Car – On the Road
8. Movin' Out/Recording Studio
9. Cadillac Car – À La Pat Boone
10. Steppin' to the Bad Side
11. Baby-Baby
12. Family
13. Show Biz Transition
14. Dreamgirls
15. Reporters
16. Heavy
17. It's All Over
18. I'm Not Going

ACT II

1. Opening Act Two
2. I Am Changing
3. I Am Changing – Vogue
4. You Are My Dream
5. Ain't No Party
6. I Meant You No Harm
7. Rap
8. I Miss You Old Friend
9. One Night Only
10. One Night Only – Disco
11. Chicago
12. Hard to Say Goodbye, My Love
13. Dreamgirls

PROFILES

Saskia Bakker (Sweetheart/Ensemble) is an upcoming junior at Urbana High School. She has been involved in theatre since third grade. Some of her favorite roles she has played are Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and the Waitress in *Working*, both through the Urbana High School Theatre Department. She is very excited to be in *Dreamgirls*, working with people of all different ages and backgrounds. She would like to thank Megan for convincing her to audition last minute, and her family for their constant support.

April M. Blacker (Michelle Morris) is excited to be back onstage after a five-year hiatus spent focusing on her job as mom to Ginny, Corinne, and Annie. During the day, she is an elementary music teacher at Leal and Yankee Ridge in Urbana and sings in the praise band at her church. Her most memorable roles include the Witch in *Into the Woods*, Ti Moune in *Once on This Island*, Mayzie LaBird in *Seussical*, Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and Jan in *Grease*. She would like to thank her mother and husband for making it possible for her to do this show, and her girls for sharing Mommy with her other love, the theatre. Thanks to Justin for putting up with her smart mouth!

Madelyn Childress (Stepp Sister/Security Guard/Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first production with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. She is a rising sophomore and a member of Thespian Troupe #1043 at Centennial High School. During her past year at Centennial, she appeared in the choruses of *The Little Mermaid* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Madelyn has also played several roles in Champaign Park District shows, including Mama Bear in *Shrek* and

Anna Leonowens in *The King and I*. When she's not performing, Madelyn practices the ukulele, rides her bike, and writes. She would like to thank her family for being so supportive of her dreams, as well as all the cast and crew of *Dreamgirls* for making this production happen.

Jasmine Dandridge (Deena Jones) is a current senior in high school continuing to do what she loves—musical theatre. She was most recently cast in lead roles in productions of *The Pajama Game*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Jasmine is thrilled to be playing Deena and considers it none other than a blessing to share this with you. Thanking her family, friends, and Douglass Camp children for their support, she will carry out this role for those who always knew she could.

Tafadzwa Diener (Effie Melody White) is currently a second-year theatre major at Parkland College on the performance track. You may have recently seen her in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Parkland where she played Hodel. Some other recent productions she has appeared in include *Noises Off!* (Belinda) and *For Colored Girls* (Lady in Yellow). She's so excited to be a part of this production and hopes you enjoy the show! Special thanks to friends and family!

Megan Fazio (Sweetheart/Ensemble) made the move to Champaign-Urbana from Michigan last year. She is a junior at Urbana High School. Megan has enjoyed every role she has played, especially most recently being her true self as a Thespian in Urbana High School Theatre's production of *High School Musical*. Prior to that, Megan was part of the ensemble in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, another Urbana High School Theatre production.

Megan would like to thank the cast and crew and everyone involved in the show for being amazing, especially the stage manager, whom she is very proud to call her mother.

James H. Hayes, Jr. (Backstage Worker/Ensemble) is a native of Mt. Vernon, New York. He received an MA degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently retired, he has sung with the Chorale and has appeared in a number of local performances: *Simply Heavenly*, *The Trials of Brother Jero*, *Before It Hits Home*, *Ain't Misbehavin*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *110 in the Shade*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around*, *The Lion and the Jewel*, and *Native Son*.

Rhonda Henderson (Stepp Sister/Stage Manager/Ensemble) is extremely proud to be making her first stage appearance in *Dreamgirls*. Rhonda, a mother of two children, lives in Rantoul and works at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has sung in her church choir for over 20 years and held the position of children's choir director. Rhonda enjoys drawing, reading, and gardening. Rhonda would like to thank her daddy, family, and friends for their love and support. Also, a special thanks to her nephew and his wife for encouraging her to attend the audition. Rhonda dedicates this performance to the memory of her late mother, Dorothy Henderson, her late sister, Regina Walthour, and her late best friend, Asia Stewart, for they are her guardian angels.

J'Lyn Hope (Lorrell Robinson) has enjoyed all her experiences in theatre, taking on roles such as Mitch Mahoney in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Maggie Holmes in *Working*, and Taylor McKessie in *High School Musical*. Since she began taking the stage, J'Lyn has experienced some of her biggest and brightest moments while singing and dancing her way into

the hearts of her many supporters. She wishes to one day advance to Broadway. "I want to take the world by storm in the best way I know how: on the stage. I hope to be amazing and to shine on until I get there. No matter what I'm doing!"

Cedric Jones (James "Thunder" Early) is a theatre student at Parkland College. A recent grad of Central High School, he has a love for theatre and has been performing since grade school. Notable roles include Roger in *The Producers*, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Fester in *The Addams Family*, and Oliver Warbucks in *Annie*. This past season, he has been featured as Sid Sorokin in *The Pajama Game*, Zombiekllr14 in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, and Robert in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. He would like to give a special thanks to Chris Taber, Ladonna Wilson, Sarah Mohr, April Cleveland, and Kyle Thomas. And a tremendous thank you goes to Latrelle, Nathaniel, Justin, Endalyn, and Cathy, for putting this show together.

Nathon Jones (Marty) Though not a native, Nathon has called central Illinois home for 30 years. He has performed with Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company, The Celebration Company at the Station Theatre, and Rantoul Theatre Group. Previous roles include James in *Superior Donuts*, Marcellus in *Hamlet*, Benny in *RENT*, Miss Motormouth in *Hairspray*, and Horse in *The Full Monty*. Nathon is also a founding member of the comedy improv group The Abe Froman Project and lead vocalist for local funk group Brother Embassy. He would like to thank the talented cast and crew and his lovely wife, Amy.

Kevin Cory LeSure (Tiny Joe Dixon/Jerry Norman/Ensemble) Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, both his mother and father raised him to be a good citizen of the world. But Kevin was a curious child, more interested in

music, comic books, movies, and video games, which made him want to be an entertainer at the early age of five. Participating in talent shows at school, Kevin realized he wanted to be on stage because the reaction the crowd gave him had such an impact that it made him see this was his future. He began to do poetry, then poetry led to hip-hop, then hip-hop led to R&B and neo soul. Kevin was always interested in the old-school R&B soul acts like the Isley Brothers, Marvin Gaye, the Jackson 5, Manhattans, Aretha Franklin, Al Green, the Stylistics, and Luther Vandross. In college, Kevin opened up more and began playing the guitar, which led to rock and roll, blues, metal, heavy metal, jazz, folk music, bluegrass, and country. Deciding to pursue the dream, Kevin left college and began recording, following his dreams which were foreseen when he was in the third grade talent show.

Christine Mayer (Sweetheart/Ensemble) is from Urbana and received her Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois. She is currently enrolled at Parkland College to study music and vocal performance this fall. She attended the Johanna Meier Summer Opera Theatre Program in 2007, where she performed in Charpentier's *Louise* as Blanche. She has also performed several roles in community theatre. She loves to sing with the Baroque Artists of Champaign (BACH) and is occasionally featured as a soloist. Professionally, she is co-owner, supervisor, and therapist for Compass Counseling and Consulting. She is very proud to sit on the board of directors for the UP (Uniting Pride) Center and to be helping to organize workshops for the upcoming Pride Fest in Champaign on September 10. See you there! She is so grateful for this opportunity to perform at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Big thanks to Latrelle and all her love to Michael.

Elisa Ransom (Stepp Sister/Delores/Ensemble) is a singer-songwriter out of Wichita, Kansas. Spanning several genres, her music blends R&B, jazz, rock, gospel, and neo soul. Her passionate delivery has earned her the reputation of being candid, explicit, and raw. She has sung backup for gospel legends such as Marvin Winans and Isaac Carree and has performed in the gospel production *What's Done in the Dark* written by Christian playwright Trina Day. She has also been heard at Krannert Uncorked with Ryan Byfield and the band Nucleus. Elisa has written more than 20 songs and is working on her debut album. She routinely collaborates with Derek Linzy of DLinz Productions out of Champaign and is excited to see where her music takes her next.

Ocean Richardson (Joann/Ensemble) is a native of Champaign and received her BA from Ashford University and her MA in Human Service Administration from University of the Rockies. She performed in several musical productions throughout her high school years. This is Ocean's first community production, but she could not be more excited for what is to come! Ocean is active in her church and loves to sing in the choir and wherever she can. Married with four children, Ocean would like to thank her husband, children, family, and friends for being supportive!

Prince Robertson (Wayne) is a native of Harlem, New York, and later Saginaw, Michigan. He received a BA from Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) and his Masters of Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is a proud husband, father, educator, and spiritual mentor. He is currently working as an academic support program specialist in the Office of Minority and Student Affairs at the U of I. He has been vocally trained and sang with the Boys Choir of Harlem and competed in the NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and

Scientific Olympics in the vocal music category. He also performed in the play *Race*, adapted from Studs Terkel's book, making him the first African-American to have a lead role at SVSU, his alma mater.

Adrian Rochelle (Little Albert/Ensemble) is a native of Champaign and is going into his senior year at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) where he is pursuing a BFA in musical theatre. He just finished working at Thunderbay Theatre, where he performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Adrian has also been heavily involved in the productions put on by SIUC's department of theatre. Some honorable mentions include Uncle Fester in the *The Addams Family* and Albert/Kevin in *Clybourne Park*. Adrian has also had experience with music direction in a production of *Godspell* and choreography in productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *High School Musical*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Adrian would like to thank his family and friends for all of the support they have given and continue to give him. He would also like to thank his fantastically talented company and production staff who made one of his dream shows become a reality.

Preston Roseborough (M.C./Ensemble/Dance Captain/Male Principal Understudy) is a native of Illinois and attends Central High School. With no formal theatre training but a background in music and choral singing, as well as a minor background in ballet, he has performed in several choral ensembles throughout his educational career. His most notable performances have been in Central's madrigal choir during his high school career. He is an up-and-coming actor hoping to make a name for himself in this production of *Dreamgirls*.

Eric Sirota (Dave/Ensemble) The last musical Eric Sirota performed in was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* when he was in the fifth grade. Eric has honed his performance chops more at the coffeehouse than the theatre. In three consecutive years, from 2012 to 2014, he represented three different Chicago venues as a member of the National Poetry Slam team. He was a Chicago Grand Slam Champion in 2013 and 2014 and thus was one of two poets representing Chicago at the Individual World Poetry Slam. His poetry and spoken word have been featured on Button Poetry, GoWhereHipHop.com, Passion of the Weiss, and elsewhere. He is extremely thankful to the *Dreamgirls* team for giving him this new and exciting opportunity.

Jelinda Smith (Charlene/Ensemble/Dance Captain) is a third-year theatre major at Parkland College. Yes, you have to be really cool to be at your community college for three years! Jelinda has a passion for fashion and acting. In hopes of the perfect combination, she is working on her degree along with helping to construct costumes for herself and others. Jelinda has been a costume crew member for all shows since starting at Parkland in 2013. She also has an online fashion blog, shesafashionlover.wordpress.com, that highlights outfits and products she has created. Jelinda's ultimate goal is to graduate next semester with a theatre arts degree and move to New York City where she will audition for every television show, movie, anything *GLEE*-related, or theatre production possible! Jelinda would like to thank her amazing director, stage manager, and crew for believing in her ability to mesh with such a talented cast!

Kvn Tajzea (Curtis Taylor, Jr.) Pronounced KE-vin TAH-zhay, Kvn is an actor, vocalist, songwriter, screenwriter, and music producer hailing from central Illinois. Kvn began his love affair with

music and acting at a very young age. Kvn was a very sick child growing up and experienced quite a few brushes with death early on. It was in these moments that his creativity blossomed out of necessity. He read, listened to, and watched a plethora of varying artistic expressions. Kvn's music has been featured in award-winning films. He has appeared in a number of independent movie projects and on stage in venues across the country. In the fall, Kvn will be appearing in the stage production *Ferguson the Musical*, which will debut in Los Angeles.

Alahna Van Matre (Stepp Sister/Frances/Ensemble) is originally from Champaign and is currently getting her BA in theatre at Southern Illinois University. She graduated from Central High School in 2015 and did theatre throughout her time in high school. Her last role was the little girl in *Once on This Island*, which was a student-run production at SIU. She is so happy to be part of one of her favorite musicals and thanks everyone for making it possible for her.

Davion Eugene Williams (C.C. White) is a graduate of Central State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance. Davion is a singer who loves to sing classical, gospel, and jazz music. He has been featured as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra in Haydn's *Awake the Harp*, from *The Creation*, at the orchestra's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, conducted by Musical Director Franz Welser-Möst. In 2013, Davion was a featured soloist in Adolphus Hailstork's *How Long* from *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*, a performance celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Wesley Foundation at the U of I. Currently, Davion is finishing his master's degree in performance at the University of Illinois. He is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Latrellle Bright (Director) is a theatre maker and performer. She has served as founding artistic director of The Renaissance Guild –San Antonio's Premiere Black Theatre Company; as director of audience development for *Voices of the South* in Memphis, Tennessee; as assistant program director for the *Heifer Theatre Project* with Heifer International, a world hunger relief and sustainability organization in Little Rock, Arkansas; and as program coordinator for the University of Illinois' social issues theatre program, where she created new performance pieces with students each semester. In addition to her theatre work, she was a paralegal in the corporate world and served on the San Antonio YWCA board and as a facilitator for Dialogues on Race through the *Common Ground* program in Memphis. Currently she works with the NAACP ACT-SO program; serves on the board of the Station Theatre; facilitates *The Performance Lab* at the Independent Media Center; and is developing an arts-based civic dialogue workshop, *Water and the Common Good*, which she will facilitate for Prairie Rivers Network in the fall. On stage, you will find her performing her own solo work. A recent performance highlight was her opportunity to work with Ping Chong in Baldwin/NOW last winter. She has received awards for her innovative programming, writing, and directing and has been recognized as a Young Leader of Color by TCG. Latrelle graduated from the University of Memphis with an MFA in directing. Favorite directing credits include: *The Castle*; *Topdog/Underdog*; *No Child...*; *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*; *The Sound of a Voice*; *Art*; *Betrayal*; and *The Taming of the Shrew*. She is grateful to the artistic and Krannert Center Community Engagement teams for their dedication to this project, to Tony Horne for his mentoring guidance, and to her husband, Rex, for his infinite patience.

Nathaniel Banks (Music Director) is a lifelong resident of Champaign. He began cultivating his love of music in the school band programs of the Champaign schools. He majored in music at the University of Illinois where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in applied trumpet and a Master of Education in music education. Nathaniel has played jazz big band and small ensemble music since his high school years. He played solo trumpet in the University of Illinois Jazz Band under the direction of Professor John Garvey, and was mentored by nationally known artists Cecil Bridgewater and Tony Zamora. He began as a jazz educator by leading a college jazz band initiated by Zamora, a local jazz legend and former director of the Afro-American Cultural Program. After a ten-year hiatus from music to raise his family, Nathaniel returned to performing and teaching music, primarily as a volunteer. Along with Robert Lewis, he established an after-school music program, Mo' Betta Music, targeting underrepresented students in elementary through high school. The name was changed to Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy to reflect a desire to branch out into other areas of the performing arts. He also currently directs the Urbana High School Jazz Band and was a director of the Illinois Music Education Association District Jazz Band in 2012.

Endalyn Taylor (Choreographer) began dancing at the age of seven at the Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago. She later trained at the Ruth Page School of Dance under the tutelage of Larry Long. Endalyn received scholarships to study with the Joffrey Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) School. She joined the DTH company in 1984 and became a principal in 1993. She has performed for such dignitaries as Coretta Scott King, Colin Powell, President Bill Clinton, Princess Diana, Nelson

Mandela, and many others. In 1992, she made her Broadway debut in the revival of *Carousel* and went on to perform in *The Lion King* and *Aida*. An original cast member of all three shows, Endalyn also performed at the 1993 and 1997 Tony Awards. As director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem School, she choreographed and staged numerous works for students. In 2010, she was invited to take 10 of her students to the White House to participate in a new arts initiative led by the Obamas. In 2013, several of her students performed for First Lady Michelle Obama and the spouses of visiting heads of state at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Endalyn's commissioned works include *Ugly Duckling* for the Guggenheim Works & Process series; *Dies Irae/Dies Amore* for the High School of Performing Arts in New York City; *Healing* and *One in Three* for the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community; numerous productions for DTH's Annual Spring Performances; Western Kentucky University; co-choreographer and concept developer for the Orchestra of St. Luke's Spring Performance Series at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City; and, most recently, for Judas International Dance Company, New York City. She made her triumphant musical theatre choreographic debut in April with the production of *Kiss Me Kate* for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. Endalyn received her MFA in dance from Hollins University in 2012 and currently holds an assistant professorship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Justin M. Brauer (Vocal Coach/Accompanist) is a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Music and holds a Master of Music degree in musicology and a Bachelor of Music Education in choral music education. He most recently served as music director for the U of I Department of Theatre Junior Acting Studio. Music direction

credits include: *The Pajama Game* and *The Music Man* (Urbana Park District); *Floyd Collins* (Station Theatre); *The Wedding Singer* (Illini Student Musicals); *The Wild Party* (Lippa) and *Reefer Madness* (assistant music director, Armory Free Theatre); and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (assistant music director, Champaign Urbana Theatre Company). Selected keyboard credits are: *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Oliver!* (CUTC); *High School Musical* and *Working* (Urbana High School); *Aida* (Barrington High School); *Mary Poppins* (Palatine Park District); *Legally Blonde* and *Chicago* (Illini Union Board); and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Illini Student Musicals). Justin is a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 301. Twitter: @JMBrauer. www.JustinMBrauer.com

Nicole Bromley (Production Manager/ Technical Director) has worked in theatre for over a decade, formerly freelancing as a theatre technician in lighting, scenery, and production management. She received her BFA in Theatre (Scenic Technology) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007 and holds an MFA in Technical Design and Production Management from Yale University. Currently she works at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as the technical director for events.

Grace Chariya (Assistant Stage Manager) will be a freshman in Stage Management at the University of Illinois this fall. She has previously worked as a stage manager for the past three years at Urbana High School as well as serving on Thespian Troupe 161's cabinet as secretary for two years. Her recent roles include stage manager for *High School Musical*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Working* (Urbana High School Theatre), and assistant stage manager for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Champaign Urbana Theatre Company).

Cathy Fazio (Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA stage management student at the University of Illinois. She is thrilled to be working on this production of *Dreamgirls*. Her University of Illinois credits include stage manager of the Illinois Theatre production of *In the Blood* and assistant stage manager and company manager of *Long Lost*, a new play by Donald Margulies, directed by Daniel Sullivan. She was also an assistant stage manager of the Lyric Opera @ Illinois production of *Beatrice and Benedict*. Cathy graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she stage managed *Grains of Hope: Refugee Experiences in West Michigan*, a show for which she also was part of the writing team. Other Calvin credits include stage manager of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Metamorphoses*, assistant stage manager of *An Ideal Husband*, and dramaturg for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Cathy would like to express her gratitude for the endless support from Nathan and Megan Fazio.

Kate Fenton (Assistant Director) is a senior Theatre Studies major at the University of Illinois. Her concentration is in directing, with a minor in Comparative Western Literature. In the past, she's enjoyed participating in programs at the Goodman Theatre, as well as directing original student work at the Armory Free Theatre and *Legally Blonde* through the Illini Union Board. She also produced the 2016 Theatre Studies Showcase. In the fall, she will be organizing the annual Impulse 24/7 event.

J. Michael Griggs (Scene Design Coordinator) Current projects include *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* for the Milwaukee Rep and *The Promise* to be produced in Tianjin and Beijing, China. Most recently, he designed the scenery for Donald Margulies's *Long Lost* as part of The Sullivan Project at Illinois Theatre;

School for Scandal for Actors' Shakespeare Project; *1984* for Illinois Theatre; *Lost Lake* for The Manhattan Theatre Club and Illinois Theatre; and *Fences* and *Auld Lang Syne* for The Gloucester Stage Company. Selected designs include *Romance, No Child, No Man's Land, How I Learned to Drive, Boston Marriage*, and others for the American Repertory Theater; *The Sanctuary Lamp, The Well of the Saints, The Lonesome West, St. Nicholas*, and others for The Sógán Theatre Company; *9 Parts of Desire* and *Adrift in Macao* for The Lyric Stage Company of Boston; as well as productions at SpeakEasy Stage Company, The Publick Theatre, Tir Na Theatre Company, Opera Providence, and New Repertory Theatre. As a designer for WGBH public television, he has designed for many local, national, and international clients, as well as national PBS shows including *Mystery!* and *Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman*. He is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

Samantha C. Jones (Costume Designer) is a visiting professor of costume design in the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is also an active designer in the Chicago theatre community. Some recent credits include *Inana* (TimeLine Theatre Company); *Samsara* and *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* (Victory Gardens Theater); *Dessa Rose* and *See What I Wanna See* (Bailiwick Chicago); and *Great God Pan* (Next Theatre). Regionally, she has designed for Triad Stage, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Peninsula Players Theatre, and Renaissance Theaterworks, among others. Her work can next be seen at Jackalope Theatre's premiere production of *Prowess*, American Theater Company's *Xanadu*, and Lookingglass Theatre's world premiere of *Thaddeus and Slocum*.

David Krupla (Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA lighting design candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He earned his undergraduate degree at Kent State University. Previous design credits include *In the Blood* at the University of Illinois; *The Skin of Our Teeth, Twelfth Night*, and *The Crucible* at Cuyahoga Community College; *These Are the Times*, workshop production, at Cleveland Public Theatre; *And the World Goes 'Round* at Porthouse Theatre; *Ragtime, Cloud 9*, and *4.48 Psychosis* at Kent State University; *Next Fall* at Weathervane Playhouse; and *Sweeney Todd* and *A Chorus Line* at Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute.

Alec LaBau (Sound Designer) is excited to be working on this production at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. He received his BFA in sound design from Utah State University and continued his education, earning an MFA from the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Alec has worked nationally as a sound designer and engineer with the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival (Missouri), Kansas City Repertory Theatre (Missouri), Crossroads Theatre Company (New Jersey), Kansas City Actors Theatre (Missouri), and the Old Lyric Repertory Theatre in Logan, Utah. Alec is currently working as assistant audio director at Krannert Center and teaches in the audio department. Most recently, he has worked as assistant technical director for the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. Some of his favorite designs include *Five by Tenn (+one)*, *Big River*, and *Amadeus*.

C. Kemal Nance (Assistant Choreographer) is a native of Chester, Pennsylvania, and a performer, choreographer, teacher, and scholar of contemporary African dance. Some of his recent accomplishments include premiering a

new work for the Stella Maris Dance Ensemble, which the *Jamaican Observer* referred to as “the most compelling work of the evening;” teaching at London’s Africa Utopia festival, one of the first American teachers to present a class in African dance there; and performing with his own all-male dance initiative, the Berry & Nance Dance Project (www.bndpdance.net), at Cincinnati’s first Black Dance Is Beautiful concert series. Nance is a master teacher of the Umfundalai contemporary African dance technique and leads the Organization of Umfundalai Teachers, a consortium of artists which convenes and facilitates African dance pedagogy trainings. His essay “There Were Men in That Fire, Too! Masculinities in Kariamu Welsh’s *Raaahmonaaah!*” will be published in the forthcoming anthology *African Dance in America: Perpetual Motion and Hot Feet*. Nance holds a BA in sociology/anthropology with a concentration in Black Studies from Swarthmore College, where he taught African dance for 20 years, and M.Ed and PhD degrees in dance from Temple University, where he received the 2013 Katherine Dunham Award for Creative Dance Research.

Omri Schwartz (Assistant Lighting Designer) recently graduated from Champaign Central High School. He is currently enrolled at the U of I majoring in theatre lighting design. He is incredibly proud and humbled to be the only student in the world who designed lights for a main stage performance at the 2016 International Thespian Festival. Omri held the concertmaster position in the Champaign Central Orchestra while also serving as the head of tech and lighting designer for Thespian Troupe 5981 for the last three years. He is now incredibly excited to start his professional career as a theatrical technician with *Dreamgirls*.

Eric Van Tassell (Master Electrician) Having worked in Chicago for nearly a decade with numerous storefront theatre companies, Non-Equity Jeff Award-nominated and BroadwayWorld Chicago Award-nominated lighting designer Eric Van Tassell is now an MFA lighting design candidate at the University of Illinois. A graduate of Hope College, Eric’s artistic home in Chicago is Oracle Theatre, where he has designed lights for numerous productions including *The America Play*, *The Mother* (nominated for a BroadwayWorld Chicago Award for Best Non-Equity Lighting), and *The Ghost Sonata* (nominated for a Non-Equity Jeff Award for Lighting Design). Additional credits include *Chalk* (Sideshow Theatre); *Genesis* (Definition Theatre); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Strange Loop Theatre); *Bard Fiction* (Commedia Beauregard); *Beautiful Broken* (Broken Nose Theatre); and *They Are Dying Out* (Trap Door Theatre). This fall at the U of I, he will be designing lights for *Dontrell*, *Who Kissed the Sea*. Learn more at www.evtlights.com.

Crystal Womble (Outreach Director), **Emily Laugesen** (Community Engagement Liaison), and **Kate Henry** (Events Coordinator) are delighted to serve as the producing arm of the **Krannert Center Engagement team** for this production. Crystal Womble is the lead coordinator of the Dreamgirls Project and, in her position as outreach director, works with Krannert Center Community Volunteers, coordinates special presentations about Krannert Center events, and promotes the group sales program. Emily Laugesen serves as program director for the Krannert Center Youth Series and is co-chair of the Creative Intersections engagement team. She is endlessly fascinated by the power of the arts to bring people together through shared experiences and is inspired by the creative

capacity of our central Illinois community. Kate Henry joined the Krannert Center team in the fall of 2015 as an events coordinator. She is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, where she completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in flute performance. Kate thoroughly enjoys working with both local and world-renowned artists, while enthusiastically advocating for the arts and education! She appreciates the collaborative experience with artists and the arts culture, while furthering her passion for arts administration and leadership.

SITI Company is a groundbreaking artistic collective founded in 1992 by Anne Bogart, Tadashi Suzuki, and a group of like-minded artists to redefine and revitalize contemporary theatre in the United States. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, New York, SITI eventually expanded to New York City, encompassing a year-round season inclusive of touring; a home base for the creation of new work; a conservatory program to cultivate the next generation of independent theatre artists; and an international training program. The company is led by artistic directors Anne Bogart, Leon Ingulsrud, and Ellen Lauren, and composed of eight actors, four designers, and one playwright.

DREAMGIRLS PRODUCTION SHADOW PROGRAM

The Dreamgirls Production Shadow Program gives area teens and young adults the opportunity to further their knowledge of and experience with theatre production processes by working alongside Krannert Center professional staff as production assistants. We are proud of (and grateful for) their many contributions to the production!

SHADOW PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Production Management Assistant	Jenna Keefer
Assistant Stage Manager	Tess Davenport
Assistant Stage Manager	Bethy Kaiser
Assistant Lighting Designer	Omri Schwartz
Lightboard Operator	Grace Yopez-Connors
Follow Spot Coordinator	Sierra Benson
Audio Assistant	Magdalena Yopez-Connors
Audio Assistant/Follow Spot Operator	Mason Hanks
Audio Assistant	Aidan Rivera-Rogers
Production Running Crew	Madison Gardner
Wardrobe/Hair and Makeup Assistant	Diamond Palmer
Hair and Makeup Assistant	Paige Stewart