

## StudentsLive High-Profile Key Note Speakers



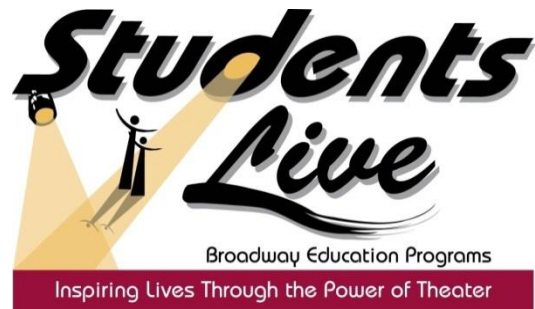
George Hamilton, Broadway and Film Actor, speaks at a **Chicago Day on Broadway**



Broadway Actresses Charlotte D'Amboise & Jasmine Guy speak at a **Chicago Day on Broadway**



Fashion Designer, Tommy Hilfiger, speaks at a **Career Day on Broadway**



## JUDGE JUDITH SHEINDLIN



**Judge Judith Sheindlin's** career in family court began in 1972 when she began prosecuting juvenile delinquency cases for the state of New York, quickly developing a reputation as a sharp, no-nonsense lawyer. In 1982, New York's then-Mayor, Edward Koch, appointed Judge Sheindlin to the bench as a Judge in the Family Court. Four years later, she was appointed the Supervising Judge in Manhattan and since then, has heard over 20,000 cases in her career. Judge Sheindlin earned a reputation as one of New York's toughest judges.

As one of the most outspoken judges in the country, Judge Sheindlin became the subject of a Los Angeles Times article in February of 1993. The piece caught the attention of 60 Minutes, leading to a segment on the popular newsmagazine show, which brought her national recognition. She was approached by Larry Lyttle, President, Big Ticket Television, about the possibility of presiding over real cases with real consequences in a courtroom on television. Intrigued by the notion of bringing her no-nonsense message to a national audience, she agreed. Shortly thereafter, JUDGE JUDY became a reality, premiering in national syndication on September 16, 1996.

## JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN, JR.



**Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.** (October 2, 1937 – March 29, 2005) was an American [lawyer](#) best known for his leadership role in the defense and criminal acquittal of [O.J. Simpson](#) for the alleged murder of his former wife [Nicole Simpson](#) and her friend [Ronald Goldman](#). Cochran also represented [Sean Combs](#) (during his trial on gun and bribery charges), [Michael Jackson](#), rapper [Tupac Shakur](#), actor [Todd Bridges](#), football player [Jim Brown](#), rapper [Snoop Dogg](#), former heavyweight Champion [Riddick Bowe](#), and [1992 Los Angeles riot](#) beating victim [Reginald Oliver Denny](#). He also represented athlete [Marion Jones](#) when she faced charges of doping during her high school track career. Cochran was known for his skill in the courtroom and his prominence as an early [advocate](#) for victims of police brutality.

## KATHIE LEE GIFFORD



**Kathie Lee Gifford** is an American television host, singer, songwriter and actress, best known for her 15-year run (1985–2000) on the talk show *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*, which she co-hosted with Regis Philbin. She has received 11 Emmy nominations. Before her long stint in talk shows, Gifford's first television exposure was that of Tom Kennedy's singer/sidekick on *Name That Tune*, from 1974-78. On April 7, 2008, Gifford began co-hosting the fourth hour of NBC's *Today Show*, alongside Hoda Kotb.

## GERALDINE ANNE FERRARO



**Geraldine Anne Ferraro** (August 26, 1935 – March 26, 2011) was an American attorney, a Democratic Party politician, and a member of the United States House of Representatives. She was the first female Vice Presidential candidate representing a major American political party.

## SUSAN LUCCI



**Susan Lucci** is an American actress, best known for portraying Erica Kane on the daytime drama *All My Children*. The character is considered an icon, and Lucci has been called "Daytime's Leading Lady" by TV Guide[citation needed], with New York Times and Los Angeles Times citing her as the highest-paid actor in daytime television.

## TOMMY HILFIGER



**Tommy Hilfiger** started out in the retail business in upstate New York in 1969. In the late 1970s he moved to New York City, and in 1982 landed financial backing to start Tommy Hilfiger, Inc. In 1984 he launched his first signature collection of jeans and men's sportswear, and by the mid-1990s had expanded into women's clothing, eyewear, jewelry, fragrances and home products. His simple designs, emphasizing his name as the brand, were not considered high fashion, but Hilfiger's marketing savvy put him at the top of the industry, and by the end of the 1990s his company had revenues of nearly \$2 billion a year. In recent years Hilfiger has suffered somewhat from overexposure, but the brand is still one of the biggest in the world. In 2004 CBS television announced plans to air a "reality" show in cooperation with Hilfiger, called *The Cut*, in which contestants would vie for a chance to design their own line of clothing.

## REBA MCENTIRE



**Reba McEntire** is an American country music artist and actress. She began her career in the music industry singing with her siblings on local radio shows and at rodeos. As a solo act, she was invited to perform at a rodeo in Oklahoma City, which caught the attention of country artist Red Steagall. She released her first solo album in 1977 and released five additional studio albums under the label until 1983. Her album, *My Kind of Country*, brought her breakthrough success, bringing her a series of successful albums and number one singles in the 1980s and 1990s. McEntire has since released 26 studio albums, acquired 35 #1 singles, and 28 albums have been certified Gold, Platinum or Multi-Platinum in sales by the Recording Industry Association of America. In the early 1990s, McEntire branched into film starting with 1990's *Tremors*. She has since starred in the Broadway revival of **Annie Get Your Gun** and starred in her television sitcom, *Reba* (2001–2007) for which she was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series–Musical or Comedy. She has sometimes been referred to as "The Queen of Country", having sold 41 million records in the United States and more than 56 million worldwide. In the United States, she ranks as both the seventh best-selling female artist in all genres and the seventh best-selling country artist, and the second best-selling female country artist of all time, behind Shania Twain.

## CHAZZ PALMINTERI



**Calogero Lorenzo "Chazz" Palminteri** is an American actor and [writer](#), best known for his performances in [The Usual Suspects](#), [A Bronx Tale](#), [Mulholland Falls](#) and his [Academy Award](#) nominated role for [Best Supporting Actor](#) in [Bullets Over Broadway](#).

## SUSAN HILFERTY

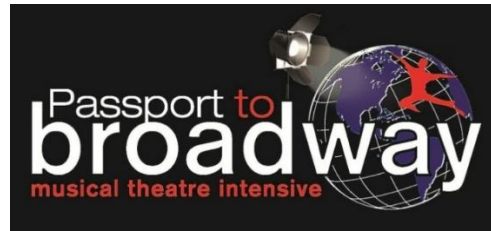
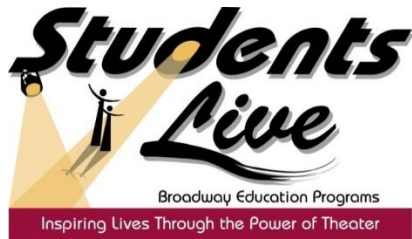


**Susan Hilferty** has designed over 300 productions from Broadway to the Bay area and internationally including Japan, London, Australia, Germany and South Africa. Recent designs include *Wicked* (2004 Tony, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama Desk awards and Olivier nominations), *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination) August Wilson's *Radio Golf* and *Jitney*, *Lestat* (Tony nomination) *Assassins*, *Into the Woods* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations; Hewes Award), *Manon* at LA opera and Berlin Staatsoper, Richard Nelson's *Conversations in Tusculum*, Frank Wildhorn's *Wonderland*. She works with such well-known directors as Joe Mantello, James Lapine, Michael Mayer, Walter Bobbie, Robert Falls, Tony Kushner, Robert Woodruff, JoAnne Akalaitis, the late Garland Wright, James MacDonald, Bart Sher, Mark Lamos, Frank Galati, Des McAnuff, Christopher Ashley, Emily Mann, David Jones, Marion McClinton, Rebecca Taichman, Laurie Anderson, Doug Wright, Carole Rothman, Garry Hynes, Richard Nelson and Athol Fugard (the South African writer with whom she works as set and costume designer and often as co-director since 1980). Hilferty also designs for opera, film, and dance, and chairs the Department of Design for Stage and Film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Many awards include a 2000 OBIE for Sustained Excellence in Design.

## TWYLA THARP



**Twyla Tharp** is one of the most accomplished and versatile artists working today, creating groundbreaking work in ballet, modern dance and on Broadway, in addition to her successes in film and television. She is also the author of three books. Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, Ms. Tharp has choreographed more than 135 dances, five Hollywood movies and directed and choreographed four Broadway shows. She received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, 19 honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President's Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize, a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1965 Ms. Tharp founded her dance company, Twyla Tharp Dance. In addition to choreographing for her own company, she has created dances for the Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, the Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Ms. Tharp's work first appeared on Broadway in 1980 with *When We Were Very Young*, followed in 1981 by her collaboration with David Byrne on *The Catherine Wheel* at the Winter Garden. Her 1985 production of *Singin' in the Rain* played at the Gershwin and was followed by an extensive national tour. In 2002, Ms. Tharp's award-winning dance musical *Movin' Out*, set to the music and lyrics of Billy Joel, premiered at the Richard Rodgers, where it ran for three years. A national tour opened in 2004 and also ran for three years. For *Movin' Out* Ms. Tharp received the 2003 Tony Award, the 2003 Astaire Award, the Drama League Award for Sustained Achievement in Musical Theatre and both the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Choreography. For the London production Ms. Tharp won the Best Choreography (Musical Theatre) Award of the UK's Critics Circle National Dance Awards 2006. In 2006 Ms. Tharp worked with Bob Dylan's music and lyrics to create *The Times They Are A-Changin'* which played at the Brooks Atkinson. In film Ms. Tharp has collaborated with director Milos Forman on *Hair* in 1978, *Ragtime* in 1980 and *Amadeus* in 1984; with Taylor Hackford on *White Nights* in 1985; and with James Brooks on *I'll Do Anything* in 1994.



## **SAMPLE BROADWAY GUEST ARTISTS**

### **CHRISTOPHER JACKSON - HAMILTON**



**Christopher Jackson- *Hamilton*** – original Off Broadway and Broadway Company, Tony Award nomination; *In the Heights* - original Co. B'way: Orig. Co. and Simba in *Disney's The Lion King*. Regional: *Comfortable Shoes*, *Beggar's Holiday*. TV credits: "*White Collar*," "*Nurse Jackie*," "*Gossip Girl*," "*Fringe*," "*Oz*." Co-music director for the hit PBS Show "*The Electric Company*" ('08-'09.) Has written songs for will.i.am, Sean Kingston, LL Cool J, Mario and many others. Currently writing and composing for "*Sesame Street*." Solo album - In The Name of LOVE.

### **ALICIA ALBRIGHT - FROZEN**



Alicia Albright is the current DC/swing and the Nessarose understudy of the Broadway company of *Wicked*. She also co-produced the current Broadway production of *Waitress*. She has also been in the 2nd national tour and the Chicago companies of *wicked*. Other credits include *All Shook Up* She has also danced in Donald McKayles *Étude Ensemble*. She has been teaching dance, yoga and Broadway workshops for many years and has also assisted such choreographers as Baayork Lee, Sergio Trujillo, Donald McKayle, Dontee Keihn and Michael Mindlen.

### **BRIAN GONZALEZ – ALADDIN**



Brian Gonzales (Babkak). Broadway: *One Man, Two Guv'nors* (Francis u/s). Broadway/tour: *Shrek* (Ensemble, *Shrek/Farquaad* u/s), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Barfee/Panch/Coneybear u/s). Regional: productions at theatres across the country including *Fly* at Dallas Theater Center, *Aladdin* (Babkak) at The 5th Ave Seattle. TV: "Law & Order."

### **JEFF PEW – FROZEN**



Jeff Pew is from San Jose, CA. He attended Brigham Young University and received a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Jeff made his Broadway debut in Cinderella as a member of the ensemble and understudy for the Prince. He also has toured with Billy Elliot the musical and The Radio City Christmas Spectacular. As well as being a performer Jeff is also a pianist and plays regularly for company class at American Ballet Theater.

### **LANCE ROBERTS – MY FAIR LADY**



LANCE ROBERTS most recently appeared in the Broadway revival of My Fair Lady. He was also in the world premiere of the new musical, *The Honeymooners*: Papermill Playhouse. Over the last 7 years, he has been in the original Broadway companies of *Sunset Boulevard* (revival), *Finding Neverland, Act One*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Ghost*, *Sister Act* and the *Peewee Herman Show*. Off Broadway: *The Robber Bridegroom* (revival): Roundabout, *Shows for Days*: Lincoln Center and *The Liquid Plain*: Signature Theater. National Tours/Los Angeles: The Los Angeles company of *Cats*, over 7000 performances of Jafar in *Aladdin*: Hyperion Theater, *Once in This Island*, *Aint Misbehavin'*, *The All Night Strut* and more. Film: *This Is Where I Leave You*, *I Am Michael*, *The Humbling*, *Fan Girl*. TV: *The Affair*, *Law and Order:SVU*, *White Collar*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Numb3rs*, *Girlfriends*, *Will and Grace*, *Drew Carey*, *Knots Landing* and *Scarecrow* and *Mrs. King* as well as the HBO miniseries, *Show Me A Hero*.

### **SHELBY FINNIE – THE PROM**



Broadway debut! “Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert” (NBC), Radio City Christmas Spectacular (Rockette), The Prom (Alliance Theatre), Sarasota Ballet. Endless thanks to Casey, Casey, John, Meg, Mary-Mitchell, Bethany, LDC and Mom!

### **BRITTANY NICHOLAS – MEAN GIRLS**



Brittany Nicholas is thrilled to be part of Mean Girls. Broadway: Billy Elliot (Swing). International: Billy Elliot Toronto (Swing/ Dance Captain). Tours: Billy Elliot First National (Original Cast), Matilda (Swing/Children’s Dance Captain). Favorites: Bye Bye, Birdie (Goodspeed); Mamma Mia! (RCCL); Hairspray (STONC). Glory to God, thanks to family, MSA, and creatives.

## SHIRINE BABB – HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD



Theatre includes: Broadway: Macbeth. Off-Broadway: Napoli, Brooklyn (Roundabout), Around The World in 80 Days (Theatre @ 45th St.), Extraordinary Skills (Women's Project). Selected Regional: Title role in Antony & Cleopatra (Folger), Disgraced (Long Wharf / Huntington). Television includes: "Iron Fist," "Blue Bloods," "Madam Secretary," "I Love You ... But I Lied." Training: MFA USD/Old Globe PTAP, MA East 15 Acting Conservatory, UK.

## CHLOE CAMPBELL – KING KONG



Chloe is a Proud Londoner. Most recently in the Chicago company of Hamilton. Broadway: Tuck Everlasting. Tour: In The Heights. West End: Mary Poppins, Shoes, Desperately Seeking Susan, On The Town. Thankful for this wonderfully inspiring team! Infinite thanks to my ever-supportive family and husband. Galatians 6:9

## JONALYN SAXER – MEAN GIRLS



Broadway: Cats, Holiday Inn, Honeymoon In Vegas, Bullets Over Broadway. World Premiere: Gotta Dance, Moonshine. Regional: The Muny, Pittsburgh CLO, MSMT. Proud Syracuse Graduate. Endless thanks to Casey, John, Casey, Tina, Jeff, Nell, Mary-Mitchell, Bethany, the entire Mean Girls team, and The Mine. Always for Grandma and the girls.

## KELLY GRANT – THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



**Kelly Jeanne Grant** is currently appearing on BROADWAY in Hal Prince's *The Phantom of the Opera*. This engagement comes on the heels of her years with the NATIONAL TOUR of *Phantom* playing the role of Christine Daae (Alternate.) Prior to her time on the road, she portrayed the role of Kathy on BROADWAY in the John Doyle Revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. (Tony Award – 2007 – Best Musical Revival.) OTHER NATIONAL TOURS / LONDON: *Show Boat* – Hal Prince Revival (Magnolia U/S), *The Secret Garden*, *Grand Night for Singing*. NEW YORK THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS: *Showgirl of 52<sup>nd</sup> St.* (York Theater Co) *The Beauty Prize* (Primary Stages), *Peg O' My Heart* (June Havoc Theare.) REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: *Cabaret* (Sally), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Lucy), *Evita* (Mistress), *Phantom* (Christine), *Victor/Victoria* (Victoria), *My Fair Lady* (Eliza), *South Pacific* (Nellie), *Oliver* (Nancy), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Suzette), and *Peter Pan* (Pan). TV: PBS Great Performances *Company*, *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *The*

**Tonight Show with Jay Leno.** COMMERCIALS: Subway, Food Network, HGTV, Strayer University, Dermasilk, JcPenney, Sony.

### **MARIA BRIGGS – MEAN GIRLS**



Within a span of 16 months, Maria has been a part of five Broadway shows. She made her debut swinging CATS, and made her way over to FROZEN. Continuing through the summer, Ms. Briggs joined HELLO, DOLLY and had the privilege to work with stars Bette Midler, Bernadette Peters, David Hyde Pierce, and Victor Garber. Maria immediately went into ANASTASIA. There she played the role of Marfa, covered Odette, and was a part of the closing company. Currently, she's in MEAN GIRLS as a swing. Maria received her BFA in musical theatre through The New School and AMDA.

### **NICKY VENDITTI – WICKED**



Dance Captain, Swing, Chistery U/S. After years of practice as a child melting like the Wicked Witch, Nicky is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut in Wicked. Off-Broadway: Trip of Love (Asst. Choreographer).  
Tours: Wicked, A Chorus Line (Paul), Contact, Swing! Love to my beautiful family and friends.

### **TONY FREEMAN – THE LION KING**



Tony has played Zazu (and occasionally Scar) on Broadway and across the country over 3,000 times since the year 2000. Now he's added Timon and Pumbaa in The Lion King on Broadway. He did Tony Kushner's musical Caroline, or Change in Los Angeles and San Francisco with the original Broadway cast. Tony has performed guest roles on both "Law and Order" (twice) and "Law and Order, SVU"

### **CASSIE OKENKA – SCHOOL OF ROCK**



Cassie Okenka was last seen on Broadway in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical, SCHOOL OF ROCK! She made her Broadway debut in the Tony nominated BONNIE AND CLYDE and has toured with WICKED and THE WIZARD OF OZ. An Ohio native, Cassie studied at The Baldwin Wallace College - Conservatory of Music, where she received a Bachelor's of Music in Music Theatre. In addition to her entertainment endeavors, Cassie has been featured with the Toledo Symphonic Band at Music Under the Stars under the direction of Sam Szor. She has performed the national anthem for the Houston Astros and Chicago White Sox. She also is a

producer of the 42nd St to Main Concert Reading Series held annually at Theatre Horizon, previously producing Urinetown and Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson.

### **CELIA MEI RUBIN – GREAT COMET/MATILDA**



Celia lived in England for a decade and has worked extensively on the West End in London and across the UK on national tours. West End credits: Essie/Dance Captain in the OLC of PARADE (Donmar Warehouse, directed by Rob Ashford). Celia is very happy to be back in New York and making her Broadway debut in MATILDA.

### **TRYPHENA WADE – THE LION KING**



Tryphena is a multi-dimensional artist from Columbus, Ohio and a proud graduate of Howard University. She has studied, performed, and explored over 30 countries and has a passion for encouraging others to live fearlessly. In 2017 she self-published her first book, “The Heart Works: A Collection.”

### **STEPHANIE KLEMONS - HAMILTON**



**Stephanie Klemons** was raised in Colts Neck, NJ. She has a BA in genetics and microbio research and a BA in modern dance from Rutgers University. She is the Dance Captain for Hamilton (Tony Award, Grammy Award). She holds a Drama Desk Award along with the rest of the original cast of *In The Heights* for Outstanding Ensemble Performance in a Musical. National tours: Bombay Dreams (1st nat'l). Off-Bway: *Tea With Chachaji* (Amma), *Automatic Superstar*, *Repo: the genetic opera*, *In the Heights*. Workshops; *Bring It On- The Musical* (Assistant Choreographer). Film: Jaaneman.

### **KATIE O'TOOLE – JERSEY BOYS**



Broadway Debut! *Flora*, *The Red Menace* (LA Reprise). *We Will Rock You* ([Vegas](#)), National Tour *Starlight Express* (Dinah). *42nd Street*, *A Chorus Line*, *Babes In Arms*, *Sweeney Todd*. AEA. Thanks to KSA, Tara Rubin. Love always to my Family.

## **RUSSELL FISCHER – JERSEY BOYS**



Broadway debut! Nat'l Tour: *Big* (Billy). Regional: *Monkey: Journey to the West* (Spoleto Festival, SC), *The Music Man* (Chautauqua Opera), *Children of Eden* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *The Sound of Music* (Palace Theater, SC). Thanks to family, friends, and teachers who have led the way!

## **DANIEL WATTS - HAMILTON**



**Daniel Watts** credits include: Broadway: *Ghost-The Musical*, *Memphis* (original company), Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (original company), *The Color Purple* (also 1st nat'l). Other credits include City Center Encores! *The Wiz*, *WORDS!* (co-creator, Poet), *Langston in Harlem* (Urban Stages, associate choreographer). Elon University (BFA, music theatre).

## **BERNARD DOTSON – CHICAGO**



**Bernard Dobson** is thrilled to be working with StudentsLive. Bernard has been seen on Broadway in *Finian's Rainbow*, (First Gospels, Original revival Cast), *Chicago*, (Billy Flynn), *Imaginary Friends*, (Leo, Original Cast), *Sweet Smell Of Success*, (Club Zanzibar Singer, Original Cast), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, ( Original Revival Cast), and the Tony Award winning Musical, *Ragtime*, (Original Cast). with a host of International, National, and Regional tours, Bernard has been seen in such shows as *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Chorus Line*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Sophisticated Ladies*, just to name a few. Bernard can be heard on six cast albums including a Live Concert version of *Dreamgirls* for The Actors Fund. Bernard recently Directed and Choreographed a very successful production of *Ain't Misbehavin*, for TexArts in Austin Texas.

## **ERICA MANSFIELD - BANDSTAND**



**Erica Mansfield** was raised in Houston Texas and began working professionally in New York at age 18. You can currently find her on Broadway in *EVITA* and was recently in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* starring Daniel Radcliff where she understudied the role of Miss Jones. Previously, Erica was in the Broadway production of *Mamma Mia* as well as the National Tour where she went on as the understudy for the role of Sophie. She also originated the 1<sup>st</sup> national tour of *A Chorus Line* playing Cassie, Sheila, Maggie and Judy. Other regional credits include *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Mrs. Claus), *Grease* (Marty), *Oklahoma* (Gertie/us. Ado Annie), *Hello Dolly* (us. Ernestina, Minnie Faye, Ermengarde) and Cruise Ships internationally. In addition to performing, Erica is an established teacher and choreographer. She began student teaching at her dance studio at the age of 14 and continued to teach in the New York Area dance schools and at NYU. Erica is a strong believer in being a well-rounded performer. She believes that without her mentors she wouldn't be where she is today and hopes to pass on what she has so gratefully received.

### **DOUGLAS LYONS - BEAUTIFUL**



**Douglas Lyons** made his Broadway debut in *The Book of Mormon*! Douglas is from Connecticut and has always had a passion for singing, dancing and basketball! An Alumni of Hartt School in Connecticut, Douglas was invited to be a part of the National tour of *Rent* before he even graduated! He had the opportunity to understudy Benny and Collins which are some of his favorite characters in the musical. When Douglas graduated college, he moved to New York City where he landed a role in the National Tour of *Dreamgirls*. He was not only in the cast, but also had the opportunity to Understudy Jimmy 'Thunder' Early. In 2011, Douglas completed this National Tour. Upon moving back to New York City, he auditioned for *The Book of Mormon* and landed a position as a Swing in the show and is thrilled to be a part of this groundbreaking musical.

### **TYRICK WILTEZ JONES – FINIAN’S RAINBOW**



Tyrick Wiltez Jones

**Tyrick W. Jones:** Broadway: *Finian's Rainbow* (Howard), *Hairspray*. Broadway National Tours: *Seussical*, *Fosse*, *Show Boat*. Regional: *A Chorus Line*, *Dreamgirls*, *Chicago*. New York City Center 'ENCORES!': *Finian's Rainbow* (Henry). Concert: *PHISH 2011 New Year's Eve* concert at Madison Square Garden (featured singer/dancer), Mary Wilson of the Supremes Motown/Rock and Roll North America Tour (featured background singer), US Premiere of *Sacred Ellington* starring Jessye Norman w/Carnegie Hall 'HONOR' Series, *'Rockers On Broadway'* Motown Tribute (featured Singer). Film: *Joyful Noise* w/Dolly Parton & Queen Latifah (Cameo, Asst. Choreographer), *Back to Me* (TZ).

## **StudentsLive Sample Behind The Scenes Broadway Guest Artists**

**Jeffrey Dreisbach (Guest Artist- Casting)** received his BFA degree from Wayne State University in Michigan. He studied Theatre Performance in London and subsequently moved to New York where he accumulated theatre, film and television credits for over 20 years. Notable performance include film roles in *Splash*, *Die Hard 3*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*. For TV, Jeffrey was Norman Van Buren in the soap opera, *Another World* and many television commercials and voice over's. His last Broadway appearance was as Lt. Kendrick in Aaron Sorkin's *A FEW GOOD MEN* which he performed over 500 times. Jeffrey joined McCorkle casting as a casting partner 10 years ago and has contributed to Broadway, off Broadway, Film and Television casting. McCorkle casting has cast over 50 Broadway and 60 Off Broadway productions, 65 feature films and countless television projects. His book on Voice-overs, *Conversation Pieces Out of the Studio*, is currently being used in several BFA and MFA training programs for actors. Jeffrey is the podcast host of "*Casting Actors Cast*" The podcast for actors in the business of show, heard weekly around the world with over 12 thousand downloads and can be found on any podcast provider.

**Duncan Stewart (Guest Artist- Casting)** is responsible for casting the current Broadway, London (star/celebrity) and National touring companies of CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, the current national tour of the Tony Award® winning musical, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES starring George Hamilton, and the new musical YANK! directed by David Cromer. Recently he has taken on the U.S. casting for London's prestigious Menier Chocolate Factory (TERRIBLE ADVICE directed by Frank Oz, starring Scott Bakula) as well as U.S. casting For UK's Stanhope Productions (JACQUES BREL, HEDDA GABBLER) and in 2011 Duncan partnered with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines as their Broadway Casting Consultant for HAIRSPRAY, SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER and CHICAGO THE MUSICAL. In the past, Duncan was the Executive Director of his own company, Southgate Productions and for many years acted as the Director of Casting for National Artists Management Company (NAMCO) where he cast numerous projects for legendary Broadway producers, Barry and Fran Weissler. Other credits include: the 2010 Broadway production of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (starring Kelsey Grammer and Douglas Hodge), West End production of THRILLER LIVE (US casting), New York's RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, West End premiere of Neil LaBute's FAT PIG (ATG co-production), numerous productions at Playwrights Horizons, Huntington Theater, Long Wharf, Coconut Grove, The Old Globe and North Shore Music Theatre. Duncan has also been a guest judge and panelist for Broadway TV's "Next Broadway Star" and for "The Great White Way", a reality-based TV show produced by Osaka Television. He has also provided talent consultation on numerous television projects for Cineflix International, a London based company. Mr. Stewart is a proud member of the Casting Society of America (CSA).

*"As a Casting Director I get to do what I do best – create opportunities for people. Whether this be getting someone an audition, letting an actor know that he or she has 'got' the part, or simply arranging a creative meeting between producer and client - on a daily basis I get to share the wealth around. Holding true to this paradigm brings me enormous joy and satisfaction."*

**Benton Whitley (Guest Artist- Casting)** is a partner at Duncan Stewart and Company and currently responsible for casting the Broadway, London (star/celebrity) and National touring companies of CHICAGO THE MUSICAL, the national tour of the Tony Award® winning musical LA CAGE AUX FOLLES starring George Hamilton, and the new musical YANK! directed by David Cromer, now in development. Prior to this, he was the Associate Casting Director at National Artists Management Company (NAMCO) where he cast the 2010 Revival of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, and other projects in development for Barry and Fran Weissler. Additional stage productions include New York's RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, the West End production of THRILLER LIVE (US Casting), NYMF/Fringe, as well as working on the 2009 Revival of RAGTIME, Terrence McNally's GOLDEN AGE (World Premiere), Randy Newman's HARPS AND ANGELS (Mark Taper Forum) and productions at The Kennedy Center, Alley Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Wilma, Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Cape Playhouse, Forestburgh Playhouse, and consultation for The Old Globe, and North Shore Music Theatre. Benton is a proud graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts and the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department.

**Alecia Parker (Guest Artist- Producer)** Broadway: *PRISCILLA: Queen of the Desert, The Scottsboro Boys, La Cage Aux Folles, Sweet Charity, Wonderful Town, Annie Get Your Gun* and *Chicago*. She has been associated with the Weisslers on productions including *Zorba* (associate producer/general manager), *Othello*, *Medea*, *Your Arm's Too Short to Box with God*, and the international tours of *My One & Only*, *Gypsy* and *Bye Bye Birdie* (general manager). She was the associate producer of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Falsettos* and *Grease!*

**Frank DiLella (Guest Artist- Producer/TV Anchor)** is a broadcast journalist for NY1, a 24-hour news station in New York City owned and operated by Time Warner Cable. Having been with the station since 2004, Frank currently produces and reports for NY1's weekly half-hour theater program, *ON STAGE*. While working the entertainment beat for the station, Frank has interviewed hundreds of artists including Edward Albee, Vanessa Redgrave, Bono, August Wilson, Elton John, Liza

Minnelli, Patti LuPone, Bette Midler, Hugh Jackman, Tom Stoppard, Carol Channing, James Earl Jones, Chita Rivera, Jane Fonda, Elaine Stritch, Angela Lansbury, Lady Gaga, Tony Kushner, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Ben Vereen. In September of 2010, Frank made his Broadway debut on television in *Mary Poppins*. Aside from filing reports on the Broadway and off-Broadway scenes, Frank has traveled internationally with the news station, covering theatre in Japan, England, Scotland, and Canada. In the fall of 2009, Frank and his *ON STAGE* team were honored by the New York Musical Theatre Festival for their weekly coverage of NYC theatre. In addition to his work at NY1, Frank is a contributing correspondent for PLAYBILL (The National Theatre Magazine) and has given lectures on theatre and journalism at Hofstra University and The American Theatre Wing. Frank has appeared as a theater correspondent for the BBC, Sirius XM, The Early Show on CBS, CTV, and Al Jazeera TV. Frank can be seen in the 2010 documentary - *Pitmen Painters - A Brush With Broadway*. Prior to NY1, Frank worked commercially as a print model for Coca-Cola and VH1. He received a B.A in communications/journalism with a minor in theatre from Fordham University at Lincoln Center.

**Kevin Woodworth (Guest Artist- Costume Designer)** has been working on the Broadway musical *Chicago* for the past 10 years and doesn't remember where he worked before that! Some of his past Costume Designer credits include *The Wiz*, *Les Liaisons Dangereux*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Falsettos*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Amadeus*, *Grease* and *Cabaret*.

**Lisa Dawn Cave (Guest Artist- Stage Manager)**'s work includes: *West Side Story* Revival 2009, *Showboat*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Parade*, *Wild Party*, *Into The Woods* with Vanessa Williams, *Hollywood Arms*, *Hairspray*, *Caroline or Change*, *Julius Caesar* with Denzel Washington, *The Woman In White*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, *Hot Feet*, *The Color Purple*, and "13". Namaste.

**Kat Ventura (Guest Artist- Hair/Make-Up Artist)** has worked on many Broadway productions such as *Chicago*, *Spring Awakening*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Guy's & Dolls*. Kat has designed various BC/EFA events : Broadway Bares, Easter Bonnet and Gypsy of the Year Competitions. Her work can also be seen in Burberry print campaigns and L'uomo Vogue. Marquee artwork for *August: Osage County* and *In The Heights* to name a few. Kat has also had the pleasure of working with Broadway's top actors and actresses for the Tony Awards, The View and many other press events and magazine shoots. Kat is also an accomplished performer and proud member of AEA, SAG and AFTRA.

**Donyale Werle (Guest Artist- Set Design)** lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her work includes: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (The Public Theater), *Broke-ology* (Lincoln Center, Williamstown Theater Festival), *Jollyship the Whizbang* (Ars Nova), *Dance Dance Revolution* (Les Freres Corbusier), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile & Mary's Wedding* (Two River Theater), *Lower Ninth* (Flea), and *Princess of Burgundia* (Julliard). Upcoming shows include *Peter and the Starcatchers* (New York Theater Workshop). Other: NYU, PS 122, Magic Theater, Marin Theater Company, A.C.T. Conservatory, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, San Francisco Mime Troupe. Associate/Asst. Set Designer: (B'way/tours) *In the Heights*, *High Fidelity*, *White Christmas*, *Avenue Q*. Outer Critics Circle nomination for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Co-chair of The Broadway Green Alliance's Pre/Post production Committee.

**Kevin Hucke (Guest Artist- Wardrobe Supervisor)** Playwrights Horizons-Floyd Collins, Arts & Leisure, Fit to be Tied, Cloud Tectonics, Violet, Baby Anger. Roundabout Theatre Company- Misalliance. Broadway- Triumph of Love, The Sound of Music, Swing!, Seussical, Beauty and the Beast, The Dinner Party, Kiss Me, Kate, The Graduate, Movin' Out, Man of LaMancha, Hairspray, Cabaret and Wicked.

**Nick Pramik (Guest Artist- Marketing Director)** manages day-to-day marketing and partnership operations for SpotCo in addition to creating and executing strategic partnerships with media outlets, retail partners, non-profits, airline and travel companies, luxury goods, and wine and spirits companies for SpotCo's Broadway and touring clients. Nick prides himself on cultivating long-term, outside-the-box marketing programs. He holds a B.F.A. and an M.S. in Corporate Communication from New York University and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers.

**Julie Wechsler (Guest Artist- Marketing)** works in the marketing department at SpotCo on Broadway. The shows she works on include: *Sister Act*, *Once*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *End Of The Rainbow*, and *Zarkana*. Previously, Julie worked at bdb marketing under Betsy Bernstein on the Broadway show *Wicked*, and interned at Boneau/Bryan-Brown, Broadway Across America-Boston, and aka London. She graduated from Boston University with a BS in communications. Julie holds the record at SpotCo for speedwalking, and is looking forward to great upcoming Broadway seasons