Black Nativity



Video On-Demand December 10 - 26, 2020







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presents

Black Nativity

The 17th Annual Holiday Gospel Celebration

Directed by **Phyllis Cicero**Musical Direction by **Myles Tate**Choreography by **Terrance Johnson**

December 10 – 26, 2020

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CAST

J. Arinze	Reverend Ray Hines	Angela Mitchell
Feleceia Benton	Angela Blair-Jeffries	Jerrold Trice
April Clark	Danielle Knighten	Culus Williams

OOOHHHH Childs Student Group

Anglea Akhara	Samaya Jack	Danielle Nelson
Skye Cole	Caylee Jackson	Devin Sasser
Kaitlyn Davis	Nora Levingston	Kasaiya Woolridge

Drama Llamas Student Group

Egypt Au-Set	Kingston Johnson	Brooke Morton
Carys Carlisle	Alyssa King	Mya Shelly
Vanidee Duhart	Farago Mao	William Shields
Alyssa Hernandez	Marley McClary	Alessandro Mueller-Vamonte

Zamir Williams

TMJ Young Artist Training Academy

Nakhoby Bullock	Erryn Jackson	Ella Najim
Nahla Carter	Jordyn Littlejohn	Jeniah Smith
Kendall Cormier	London Menefee	Tatelyn Wheeler
Leigha Davis	Amir Najm	Jordan Williams
_	Ciciel Moore	

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Phyllis Cicero
Musical Director	
Stage Manager	
Choreography	
Lighting Design	
Lighting/Sound Board Operator	
Videographer	
Sound Engineer	

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Artistic Director	Teresa Coleman Wash
Director of Development	Gabriela Morlett
Director of Education	Tiffany Jackson
Executive Assistant	Samantha Anderson
Bookkeeping/Accounting	Brittney Kennedy
House Manager	Daylan Dickerson

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

J. Arınze & Ensemble	Joy To The World
Angela Mitchell	
J. Arinze	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Angela Blair	Mary Did You Know
Danielle Knighten	Jesus, What A Wonderful Child.
Rev. Ray Hines	Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Ensemble	Go Tell It On The Mountain
Oba William King	Little Drummer Boy
Angela Blair	Oh Holy Night
April Clark	O' Come All Ye Faithful
Angela Mitchell	Because Of Who You Are
Culus Williams	Leak In This Old Building
Ensemble	God Be With You



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ABOUT THE CAST



J. ARINZE (Vocalist) is a lyric soprano, originally from South Carolina, but she calls Denton home. This is her second "Black Nativity" with the Bishop Arts Theatre Center. She has graced both the national and international stages covering five continents as a classical singer.



FELECEIA BENTON (Narrator) is excited to return to Bishop Arts Theatre. Since the pandemic, she has directed a virtual show with Dallas Children's Theatre and performed a one-woman concert with WaterTower Theatre, *Ella's Swinging Christmas*. Feleceia frequents Dallas stages but spends her days as a full-time mother, speaker, and entrepreneur. Favorite credits include Aida/Ragtime/Songs for a New World-Uptown Players, Les Miserables/The Wiz - Dallas Theater Center, Abyssinia/Newsies/As Thousands Cheer - Lyric Stage, Godspell, Smokey Joe's Cafe/Full Monty - WaterTower Theater. She sits on several non-profit boards and holds a BFA in Musical Theater and a BS in Advertising/Public Relations from TCU. www.Feleceia.com

@heyfeleceia- Love to Frankie + Zoe

APRIL CLARK (Performer), a native of Fort Worth, Texas, is a first-time performer with the Bishop Arts Theatre. She is the youngest member in the Adlee H. Trezevant Memorial Choir of the Historic I.M. Terrell High School with direction under Mark E. Davis and the late Finis E. Smith.



ANGELA BLAIR-JEFFRIES (Vocalist) won an Irma P. Hall Award for Best Performer in a musical during Bishop Arts Theatre Center's 2016 production of *Black Nativity*. She returns this year with some of Dallas' most talented vocalist to bring us a unique blend of theatre, film, dance, and docudrama. Entertaining is something that comes naturally to Jeffries, so it was no surprise when at the age of fifteen she was opening shows for the likes of the legendary Mighty Clouds of Joy and 11-time Grammy Award winner Shirley Caesar. In addition to receiving the 2016 Irma P. Hall Award, Jeffries was recognized by a Statewide New Artist Showcase in Austin as Texas' Female Vocalist of the Year. In earlier years she received UK's Greatest Voice You've Never Heard and Kraft Gospel

Talent Search. Following her Kraft Gospel Talent Search win, Jeffries released her debut CD entitled, "It's All About Love". God has opened so many amazing doors for Jeffries, such as the opportunity to minister at the Essence Festival, Bobby Jones Gospel on BET, Super Bowl 46, 2009 Presidential Inauguration, and cast as an 'Angel of Mercy' singer in the motion picture film, Leap of Faith. Jeffries is a devoted mother, wife, philanthropist, and entrepreneur.



DANIELLE KNIGHTEN (Performer) is excited to be performing with The Bishop Arts Theatre for the first time. She is a Dallas native who has been singing in her church choir, New Jerusalem Institutional Baptist Church (Dallas, Texas) for many years. She is an educator for Dallas ISD and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



ANGELA MITCHELL (Performer) is a professional vocalist with vocal education and experience spanning 30 years. Her education includes Choral and theatre instruction at South Grand Prairie High School (1987-1989); Choral participation in multiple choirs with the New Hope Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, TX (1986-1990), and credit hours toward Music Education, Vocal Concentration Degree at the University of North Texas College of Music, Denton, TX (1991-1993). She completed a Gospel CD project with the group, S.A.V.E.D. in 1991 in Dallas, TX, and directed a choral. From 1994 -2014 she lent background vocal work for visiting recording artists, and music coordination, and general participation in multiple choirs with Christian Chapel CME Temple of Faith Church, she

was the Orchestra Booster Club President and Secretary, L.V. Berkner High School, Richardson, TX in 2016-2018. In recent years, Angela continues to lend her vocal abilities and expertise to various projects when requested.



JERROLD TRICE (Performer) Jerrold comes to us as a native of Rock Island, Illinois, where he was born and raised. He's accomplished a great deal in the realm of theatre, yet he is still motivated by ambition and a desire to learn and improve as an artist. He is currently writing plays and developing a theatre company that tours children's shows. 'Black Nativity' is his first production at Bishop Arts Theatre and it is a union that he is honored to be a part of. He was previously featured in Soul Rep's production of 'Bourbon at the Border'; Jubilee's productions of August Wilson's 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom,' and recently in 'Playwright's in the Newsroom' an original work that premiered at Dallas Theatre Center's Wyly Theatre earlier this year. Jerrold considers his role as 'Tico'

in 'Yemaya's Belly' – a Cara Mia production—a great example of his exploration and diversity as an actor. He Received training at Illinois State University where he earned a BFA in acting, and from there, took his theatrical talents all over the U.S. He has appeared on stages in Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Antonio, just to name a few. He is extremely grateful to Director Phyllis Cicero and the staff at Bishop Arts' for this opportunity.



CULUS WILLIAMS (Performer) is originally from the state of Arkansas. He enjoys singing and listening to quality gospel music. It brings him great pleasure to be invited to participate in the production of *Black Nativity*. During the pandemic, it has been difficult to find opportunities to sing corporately so he is grateful to work with Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC). Culus hopes that he will be able to continue working with BATC soon.



REVEREND RAY HINES JR. (Performer) is a native of Dallas, TX. He began demonstrating leadership capabilities early in life as he began singing for the Lord at the age of 3 years old. As the Spirit of God would have it, Reverend Hines heard the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ when he was 18 years old, but like most preacher/pastors, ran until the Lord got him to the point of arresting his attention. At the young age of 21, he accepted what God allowed and said yes to the voice of God. After 10 years of evangelistic ministry, as an associate minister, he was called to pastor his first church, here in Dallas at the age of 31. He remained faithful to that assignment just one month shy of 9 years, before receiving the call to his second pastorate, where he

pastored for 5 years until the Lord released him and gave him the new assignment in evangelistic ministry. Reverend Hines' chief desire is to see souls added to the Kingdom of God. He is committed to loving the people of God and teaching the Word of God with authority such that the people are liberated in every area of their lives.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF



PHYLLIS CICERO (Director) is an actor, director, and educator with over 25 years of stage, screen, and voice-over experience. Recent directing credits include Ruined. staged reading for a Theatre, *Cocaine* (Teatro Dallas), and *Jubilation* (Jubilee Theatre). Previous works include productions for Stage West, Contemporary Theater of Dallas, Soul Rep. Dallas Drama Company, and the African American Repertory Theater as well as the national tour of her onewoman show, Aesop in my World. Acting credits include roles at Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Children's s Theater, Theater Three, Teatro Dallas, Jubilee Theater, African American Repertory Theater, and Echo Theatre. Working with the arts in education company, Big Thought, she was

afforded the unique opportunity to work and train as a Big Thought Master Teaching Artist Fellow for two years, under the leadership of Margie Reese. As an educator, she is currently teaching ongoing classes at KD Studio in commercial acting for children, adult, and teen classes, in acting, scene study and introduction, and advanced voice-over. As Co-Founder and Artistic Director of "Seraphim Creative," Phyllis is committed to integrating arts and education in innovative and uplifting endeavors. Current projects include an original musical slated for late 2016, and continued private coaching and audition prep workshops. She has directed several plays over the years with Bishop Arts Theatre Center including Black Nativity.



EDWIN WILLIAMS (Sound Engineer) started his acting and filmmaking career in 2014. He has an Associate in Acting Performance degree from KD Conservatory in Dallas and has appeared in feature films, TV commercials, and short films. In 2015, he was the Director of Photography for Carl Jackson's The Jesus Freak. This feature film would be released in select theaters in August 2017. He is the Director of Photography for the original web series, Saving Hope.



MYLES TATE III (Musical Director) Pianist, composer/arranger, artist, educator, producer; these are some of the hats worn by Chicago native, Myles Tate, III. With roots in Gospel, R&B, Blues, and Soul, he hit the local scene at the age of 19 while attending Roosevelt University and worked his way around the city of Chicago. Composing, arranging, and performing multiple styles of music has kept Myles busy and earned him a seat on the stage to perform with Rodney Whitaker, Wycliffe Gordon, Orbert Davis, Wynton Marsalis, Nicole Mitchell, Shelley Carrol, Slum Village, Big

Daddy Kane, Dwele, Dorinda Clark-Cole, and other great artists. Myles has formed a group known

as *The Myles Tate Alliance*, this group plays original compositions and original arrangements from the pen of Myles Tate. One of the noted arrangements from Myles is his interpretation of Prince's 'Purple Rain'. Myles is also a middle school and high school music educator in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas. He teaches with the same amount of conviction and passion that he displays on stage. Myles believes all musicians should hone their craft no matter what background they have. "It's not enough to know how to do a thing; one should also know why they do it and how to explain what they do. Education mixed with raw talent creates excellence in the craft".



TERRENCE JOHNSON (Choreographer) is a professional dance artist from Alexandria, Louisiana. He is a graduate of The Southern University A&M College at Baton Rouge, LA where he received a Bachelor of Science in marketing. After graduation, he relocated to Dallas, TX where he became a marketing & sales professional with leading Fortune 500 companies. While maintaining a successful corporate career, Terrance enrolled in evening adult classes at Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) and later became a company member of Dallas Black Dance Theater II. He credits his dance training to institutions including Dallas Black Dance Academy, The Ailey School, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and the School of Contemporary Ballet Dallas. He has performed with various companies including Dallas

Black Dance Theater II, Exhibit Dallas Collective, Beckles Dancing Company, Contemporary Ballet Dallas, and the Dallas Opera. In addition to training and performance experience, Terrance studied dance theory and praxis at Texas Woman's University where he received a Master of Fine Arts in dance performance and choreography. Upon the completion of his graduate studies, he founded the Terrance M. Johnson (TMJ) Dance Project, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that uses the art of dance to enrich the lives of children and families in historically underserved living communities. The mission of the TMJ Dance Project is to create cultural dance experiences that promote community enrichment, art in education, quality dance training, and live dance performance.

TROY DACUS (Lighting/Sound Board Operator) is a lighting and audio engineer who grew up in Denton, Texas. He attended Lake Dallas Schools and the University of North Texas (UNT). He also grew up with audio engineer parents so he says that he is in the "family business." Troy has been happily married for three years and his hobbies include model building, axe and knife throwing, yo-yo, kendama, begleri, playing with his three dogs, video games, and collecting collectibles. He is excited to work with Bishop Arts Theatre Center on the production of *Black Nativity*.

KEITH ALLEN (Lighting Design) Keith Allen's career in lighting design spans over 20 years. He has toured with artists such as George Strait, Tim McGraw, and Garth Brooks. He spent a year on the Lifestyle Tour with Oprah Winfrey as her Master Electrician. He holds 3 ESTA/ETCP lighting and rigging licenses including the ETCP teaching certification. Keith is the current owner of KWA Productions and they service houses of Worship such as Potters House, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Watermark, and Whites Chapel UMC. His Corporate client list includes Whataburger, Bobcat, John Deer, Pepsi, General Motors, Ford, and Frito Lay.



DYLAN ROBNETT (Videographer) was born in Berlin, Germany but lived-in cities across the United States, therefore he offers a unique perspective and skill-set to the world of new media. His creative lens has brought him much success in the world of film, theatre, and television. Dylan has trained at Southern Maine Technical College where he received a degree in Video Production. After graduating, he worked for multiple companies across New England before moving to NYC in 2008. While in NYC, he worked with sketch comedy groups creating viral content and freelancing around the city. Since coming to Dallas in 2014, Dylan has contributed videos for many theatrical productions and even worked an event at Cowboys Stadium. He and his wife, actress Stacy Ann are the proud new parents of a baby girl and have been

enjoying life in Oak Cliff.



JUSTIN CAVAZOS (Stage Manager) has performed on the Bishop Arts Theatre Center's stage as an actor and joined the teaching artist team earlier this year. Justin is an aspiring playwright who loves inspiring young actors. He is excited to be the stage manager for this year's *Black Nativity* Production.



TERESA COLEMAN WASH (Executive Producer) Teresa Coleman Wash is a producer, playwright, and Founding Artistic Director for the Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC). She is the National Arts Strategies' Chief Executive Program Fellow having studied at Harvard Business School and she is the proud recipient of an Irma P. Hall Medal for Theatrical Excellence Medal. She earned an MA in Arts Management from Goucher College and a BS in Business Administration from Albany State University. Her plays have been seen in New York, Atlanta, Washington, D. C., Detroit, Los Angeles, and Chicago, and Philadelphia. Wash is the recent recipient of Theater Communications Group Peter Zeisler Memorial Award, the National Guild for Community Arts Education

Milestone Award, and the Business Council for the Arts Obelisk Award for Visionary Nonprofit Arts Leader. In 2016, she was one of the three recipients of the Dallas Observer's MasterMind Award, and she served on the steering committee for the Dramatists Guild of America.



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