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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA THEATRE COMPANY

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I, T O O,



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BOOK BY HUGH WHEELER
BASED ON THE PLAY BY CHRISTOPHER BOND



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A MESSAGE FROM JAMIE

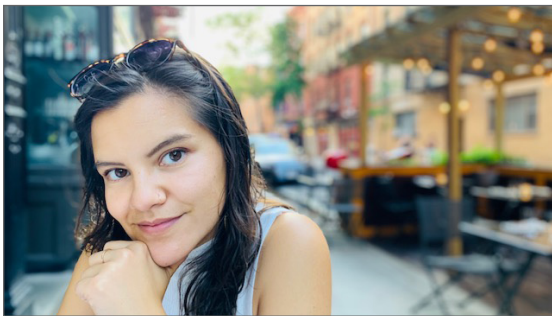


image: hirsch shah

In the winter of 2017, Othello had the idea to create *I, Too, Sing America*: a production of poems by authors of color set to original music. With a small budget and a vague idea, we thought maybe we could get a couple of singers and dancers to create a simple cabaret revue. The following summer, after a scrappy audition process that included recruiting performers after their shows, enlisting co-workers, friends, and friends of friends, and enthusiastic phone calls after jaw-dropping video submissions, we looked around at the thirty incredible talents in the room and thought: “We have a real show on our hands.” Our ambition commensurately grew. The summer of 2018, that cast and creative team from the first *I, Too, Sing America* production established a spirit of collaboration, vulnerability, team unity, and exuberant joy that I had not anticipated. During rehearsals, the cast would gather to watch their castmates, hooting and hollering in support and awe of each other’s performances. There was a real love in that theater and that love had legs! Cast members went on to be in long lasting romantic relationships, others shared housing, and many have created friendships and artistic collaborations that expanded beyond the rehearsal room. Since its inception, over seventy different artists have worked on *I, Too, Sing America*.

For this production, our third full mount, we are so excited to welcome back original and returning cast members and welcome new cast members, some I have known since childhood and some we found from watching their videos on Instagram. While this rehearsal process was unconventional with roughly half the cast in quarantine and Zooming in our first week, somehow there was still the familiar impulse to groove to Othello’s music from Zoom boxes and share jokes with the rehearsal room from the chat.

In the four-plus years we have worked on this, Othello, Chung, and I continue to be surprised and excited by the way the production can grow and change. We are so grateful for this artistic community and for all the stages where we have been able to share the production. Some iteration of this show has been performed at the Buriel Clay Theater in the Fillmore, at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown, at the Juneteenth Celebration at the Bayview Opera House, for the 2019 TBA Awards, at California State University, in East Bay musical theatre classes, over Zoom, in the Skyline Recording Studio, and at SFBATCO’s home, the Brava Theater in the Mission.

Jamie Yuen-Shore

co-creator, director



2781 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
415.484.8566
info@sfbatco.org
sfbatco.org

Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.
artistic director

Adam Maggio
managing director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mecca Billings, *co-chair*
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Lillian Murphy, *treasurer*

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Nicki Litvak-Rosenberg
Adam Maggio
Martina Rogers
Kate Stoia





SCENES FROM
I, TOO, SING AMERICA



photographers: lore gonzalez and natalia perez | pictured (from top left - r): rolanda d. bell, quinn collaço, gus wellin, anthone jackson • mallia byrne, mia diawara • mia diawara • anthone jackson, akua nyarko-odoom, maya vilaplana • marcelo lawler, taylor gonzález rivera • rodney earl jackson jr., tosh harris santiago, marcus j. paige, chris sacks, jaavon martin

A MESSAGE FROM OTHELLO



image: lore gonzalez

*Creative team Christina Chung, Othello Jefferson,
and Jamie Yuen-Shore*

In *I, Too, Sing America*, you will see an example of what makes this country great: a diverse group of people (singers, poets, performers, artists, and dancers) who share their gifts and talents to collaboratively create a work that gives a snapshot of the experiences of people of color in America. Through the work of various artists and poets, you will see that no matter one's human condition, there is an undeniable connection that unites us more than it divides us. Let each song, movement, and quote remind us that each of us has the power to use our voice to share the story of our lives and ultimately declare that "*I, Too, Sing America!*"

In these uncertain times, the arts can be a powerful tool in reminding us that it is important to cherish both life and the voices of lives that some may seem to dismiss. As we face challenging situations on a global scale, we can still see, hear, and experience the power of words, songs, and movement that allows us to remember and not forget.

I thank SFBATCO co-founders Rodney and Marcelo, Jamie, Christine, and the SFBATCO staff for giving this production an opportunity to come alive for you! I am incredibly grateful and very proud to have watched these individuals grow up and become the marvelous artists, performers, and educators that they are today. Thank you to this incredible cast for their energy and ingenuity, for you have made this experience both an absolute joy and a privilege!

Othello Jefferson

co-creator, composer, music director

MISSION

SFBATCO unites artists and audiences through live theatre that is reflective of the authentic perspective and history of the San Francisco Bay Area. Our nonprofit organization supports artists through creative development, full productions, and mentorships that aspire to engage a new generation of live theatre supporters.

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SFBATCO acknowledges that we are located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and recognize them as the original stewards of this land. We recognize that we are guests here and that our art is presented in their traditional homeland. We offer our work with respect to the ancestors, elders past and present, and the relatives of the Ramaytush Community. We call on our community to help us empower and uplift the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

RESOURCES:

The Association of Ramaytush
ramaytush.org

Ohlone Native Arts
& Culture Foundation
nativeartsandcultures.org

First Peoples Fund
firstpeoplesfund.org

SOURCE
MATERIAL
AUTHORS

Folami Abiade
James Baldwin
Y. M. Barnwell
Gwendolyn Bennett
Marissa Bergmann
Gwendolyn Brooks
Victoria Chang
Cortney Lamar Charleston
Frances Chung
Junot Díaz
Denice Froham
Vince Gotera
Angelina Weld Grimké
Willie Hercule
Langston Hughes
Othello Jefferson
Audre Lourde
Andrés Montoya
Nina Simone
Jocelyn Thompson-Jordan
Jean Toomer
Alok Vaid-Menon
Maya Vilaplana
Shantelle Williams

COMPOSERS
& ARRANGERS

Ysaye Maria Barnwell
Marissa Bergmann
Willie Hercule
Marcelo Javier
Othello Jefferson
Jonathan Leung
Jocelyn Thompson-Jordan
Maya Vilaplana
Shantelle Williams

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Daniel Cancel
Christine Chung
Isa Musni
Alex Nana-Sinkam
Julie Ni
Brenda Palaby
Jaylen Pea
Tayna González Rivera
Nasha Harris Santiago
Nina Wu
Jamie Yuen-Shore

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
THEATRE COMPANY

presents

I, TOO, SING AMERICA

co-created by Othello Jefferson
and Jamie Yuen-Shore
concept & music by Othello Jefferson

CAST

Marissa Bergmann
Christine Chung
Niesha "PrincessSmyles"
Colbert-Junior
Quinn Collaço
Amainary Contreras
Chachi Delgado
Mia Diawara
Anisa Henry
Anthone Jackson
Rodney Earl Jackson Jr. *
Othello Jefferson
Sarah Jiang
Vinney Le
Jonathan Leung
Zuri "Iruz" Montgomery
Isa Musni
Naté The Soulsanger
Marcus J. Paige
Brenda Palaby
Jaylen Pea
Tayna González Rivera
Chris Sackes
Nasha Harris Santiago
Orion Harris Santiago
Jocelyn Thompson-Jordan

* Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



MUSICIANS

Conductor, Piano..... Othello Jefferson
Drums..... Taylor Joshua Rankin
Bass Guitar..... Kendra Kop
Guitar..... Mike Smith

PRODUCTION SPONSORS



This programming was brought to you in partnership with the Dream Keeper Initiative. This activity is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. arts.ca.gov | arts.gov

PERFORMANCE DATES: January 28 to February 13, 2022

BRAVA THEATER CENTER, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

The performance lasts approximately ninety minutes.
There is no intermission.

Please note the location of all exits and turn off your electronic devices. Please respect the audience and the performers on stage. Photographing, videotaping, or recording this production is strictly prohibited.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director Jamie Yuen-Shore
Music Director Othello Jefferson
Director of Choreography Christine Chung
Associate Choreographer Nasha Harris Santiago
Scenic & Lighting Designer Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo
Stage Manager April Ballesteros
Assistant Stage Manager Jasmine Murray

SFBATCO STAFF

Artistic Director Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.
Managing Director Adam Maggio
Director of Operations & Design Christine Chung
Literary Manager & Outreach Coordinator Aidaa Peerzada
Technical Director Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo
Email Marketing Manager Darian Gemora

PRODUCTION TEAM

Social Media Manager Media a la Carte
Digital Marketing Huddled Masses
Press Representative Jackie Wright, *Wright Enterprises*
Box Office Manager Mia Macaspac
Sound Engineer Alex Glavin
Rehearsal Pianist Jon Gallo

SPECIAL THANKS: 42nd Street Moon, Brava Theater Center, Dream Keeper Initiative, Human Rights Commission, Marcelo Javier, Shakirah Simley (Executive Director, Booker T. Washington Community Service Center), James Spingola (Director, Collective Impact).

BRAVA! WOMEN FOR THE ARTS TEAM

Executive Director Anastacia Powers Cuellar
Marketing Director Annette Muller
Production Manager Alba Lluch
Technical Director Drea Schwartz
Sound Engineer Carlie Mari
Facilities Manager Marco Flores
Education Director Melvign Badiola
Venue Manager Angelica Rodriguez
Operations Manager Gabby Lozano
Youth Staff Niku Radan

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SONGS

“I, Too, Sing America: I”

text & music by Othello Jefferson

“The Black Finger”

text by Angelina Weld Grimké

“Beehive”

text by Jean Toomer | music by Othello Jefferson

“Komorebi”

text & music by Marissa Bergmann

“Wanting Memories”

text & music by Ysaye M. Barnwell

“Bloodline”

text & music by Marissa Bergmann, Maya Vilaplana, and Jocelyn Thompson-Jordan

“Here For You”

text & music by Shantelle Williams

“Uh-uh”

text & music by Willie Hercule

“In Daddy’s Arms”

text by Folami Abiade | music by Othello Jefferson

“First Mango”

text by Vince Gotera | music by Othello Jefferson

“Accents”

text by Denice Frohman
music by Marissa Bergmann, Marcelo Javier, and Maya Vilaplana

“Once Barbie Chang Worked”

text by Victoria Chang | music by Othello Jefferson

“Page 65 | riding the subway is an adventure”

text by Frances Chung | music by Othello Jefferson

“We Real Cool”

text by Gwendolyn Brooks | music by Othello Jefferson

“I, Too”

text by Langston Hughes | music by Othello Jefferson

“My Freedom”

text & music by Othello Jefferson

“I’m Rooting for Everybody Black”

text by Cortney Lamar Charleston

“Hip Hop”

text by Talib Kweli | music by Othello Jefferson

“Three Thousand Lost Kisses”

text by Andrés Montoya

music by Marissa Bergmann and Maya Vilaplana

“Quotes”

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Alok Vaid Menon, James Baldwin, Junot Díaz, Amy Tan, Nina Simone

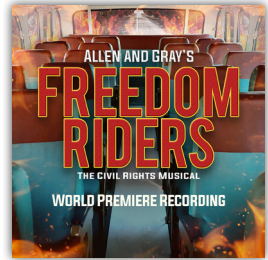
“To a Dark Girl”

text by Gwendolyn Bennett | music by Othello Jefferson

“I, Too, Sing America: II”

text & music by Othello Jefferson

BAYSTAGES M U S I C



FREEDOM RIDERS | WORLD PREMIERE

Richard Allen and Taron Gray tell the true story of college-age activists challenging the Jim Crow Laws in 1961. (broadwayrecords.com)



CAROLINE, OR CHANGE | REVIVAL

Sharon D. Clarke leads the West End transfer and first Broadway revival of the Kushner-Tesori musical. (broadwayrecords.com)



SEASONS | CONCEPT ALBUM

California writer Tyler Tofalla tracks six childhood friends through seasons of change in their lives. (broadwayrecords.com)



SPACE DOGS | ORIGINAL CAST

The heartbreaking, mind-blowing, true story of Laika and the top secret Russian scientist who sent her into space. (ghostlightrecords.com)



BERGMANN



CHUNG



COLBERT-JUNIOR



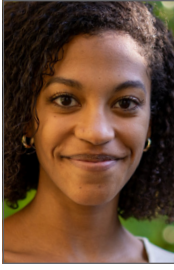
COLLAÇO



CONTRERAS



DELGADO



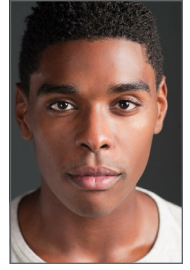
DIAWARA



HENRY



JACKSON, A.



JACKSON, R.



JEFFERSON



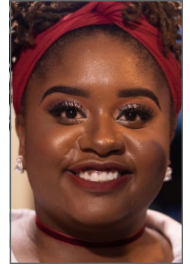
JIANG



LE



LEUNG



MONTGOMERY



MUSNI



NATÉ



PAIGE



PALABY



PEA



RIVERA



SACKS



SANTIAGO, N.



SANTIAGO, O.



THOMPSON-JORDAN

BIOGRAPHIES

APRIL BALLESTEROS

STAGE MANAGER

April is an actor, director, theatre educator, stage manager, and properties designer as well as associate artistic director at Theatre Cultura and artistic learning programs manager at the California Shakespeare Theater. She has worked with San Francisco Playhouse, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Theatre Cultura, and the Latinx Mafia Theater Collective, where she is a member. April recently directed a staged reading of *Memoria del Silencio* and starred in the live production of *Velorio* at Latinx Mafia. With every project, April hopes to empower and uplift BIPOC voices. She earned a BA in theatre arts from California State University, East Bay and is a proud Chicana from East Los Angeles.

MARISSA BERGMANN

CAST MEMBER

Marissa is an artist, designer, and arts educator based between San Francisco and New York. She has performed across the United States and in Mexico, Italy, and Turkey. Her voice is heard on numerous albums, including those of the indie-soul-acoustic band Solate and the award-winning female capella group Out of the Blue from Duke University. Marissa is part of the original cast of *I, Too, Sing America*, for which she worked on musical compositions for “Three Thousand Lost Kisses,” “Women,” and “Accents,” as well as original compositions “Komorebi” and “Bloodline.” This is her eighth performance with SFBATCO, and she loves this vibrant community. Currently, Marissa is excited about forming a new band called Love on Fire with her love, Retta Abraham.

CHRISTINE CHUNG

CAST MEMBER,

DIRECTOR OF CHOREOGRAPHY

Christine is a choreographer, dancer, designer, and program

manager. As the director of operations and design for SFBATCO, she is either buried in spreadsheets and emails or editing away on Adobe. As the director of choreography for *I, Too, Sing America*, Christine had the honor of collaborating with the entire dance cast to create emotional, genre-bending, lyrical movement inspired by each of their unique backgrounds. She received the TBA Award for Outstanding Choreography in 2019. Off-stage, you can find Christine at various film festivals and working with documentary short filmmakers to get their projects funded and seen.

NIESHA “PRINCESSMYLES” COLBERT-JUNIOR

CAST MEMBER

Niesha is an Oakland native who has been performing and acting since the age of five. At thirteen, she was chosen in the top twenty-five out of four hundred children who auditioned, but unfortunately due to finances she was not able to move forward. Niesha vowed to make sure finances were not a reason for a child from her community to not reach their dreams. She continued acting throughout high school and college and added radio and television production to her resume. Today Niesha is a program coordinator with Reading Partners and last year she started the podcast *Uniquelynipodcast*. She hopes to start an online radio station and media production company here in the Bay Area, creating opportunities for the next generation of performers.

QUINN COLLAÇO

CAST MEMBER

Quinn is a Bay Area artist and health care worker with roots set in San Francisco. After two years of working in health care during the pandemic, Quinn is very grateful return for their third run of *I, Too, Sing America* with SFBATCO. With a background in jazz, gospel, and

classical music, their most recent credit is Frank in the German opera *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss at San Francisco State University. Quinn dedicates their performance to their family and close friends as a thanks for all of their love and support.

AMAINARY CONTRERAS

CAST MEMBER

Amainary is a dancer, actress, and choreographer who was born and raised in the area formerly known as South Central Los Angeles. Her training began at the age of four through Everybody Dance LA! Amainary attended Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as a dance major and earned BA degrees from University of California, Berkeley in dance and performance studies and theatre and performance studies. She has danced for Vox Dance Theatre, the WNBA, and The Voice, and has competed with various dance crews across California. Her most recent choreography work can be seen in the Twin Palms works “Me Pasé” featuring Jenn Morel and “Tranquilo” featuring Kat Dahlia and Demarco.

CHACHI DELGADO

CAST MEMBER

Chachi is so excited to be in his first production with SFBATCO. He sends his love and support to those who lost loved ones during the pandemic. Chachi deeply thanks his family, Youth Musical Theater Company, and his past for his culture, training, love, and the strength he carries with him today. He is beyond excited for you to experience this story!

MIA DIAWARA

CAST MEMBER

Mia supports early stage companies in mitigating climate change and moonlights as a poet and performer. She began dancing at six years old and has trained in ballet, modern, hip-hop, and jazz dance. Mia played Squeak in

the 2012 production of *The Color Purple* at Stanford University, where she also served as artistic director for the Dv8 student dance group. She was in the 2019 run of *I, Too, Sing America* and is grateful for the opportunity to perform it once again, alongside a beautiful and talented cast.

JON GALLO

REHEARSAL PIANIST

Jon is a music director and pianist based in Oakland. He has music directed over thirty productions in the Bay Area, working with companies such as Bay Area Musicals, Performing Arts Academy of Marin, Mountain Play, 42nd Street Moon, Youth Musical Theater Company, Oakland School for the Arts, and Berkeley Playhouse. He is also choir director for the Trinity Music Ministry in Oakland where he produces the annual *We are Oakland* community benefit concert. This is his second production with SFBATCO.

ANISA HENRY

CAST MEMBER

Anisa is a Bay Area native, born and raised in San Francisco and currently living in Oakland. She has been a lover of musicals since she was a child and began her performing journey with the San Francisco Arts Education Project. After graduating from the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts, Anisa went on to earn a BFA in musical theatre from Western Michigan University. During that time, she performed in multiple educational and professional productions. Some favorite credits include ensemble roles in *The Wiz* and *The Producers*, Anita in *West Side Story*, and Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Anisa is so excited and honored to perform again after an eventful couple of years. She sends endless thanks to SFBATCO for this amazing opportunity, to her incredible family who never stops believing in her, and especially to her boyfriend Andrew, whose constant support and love means more than she can ever say. "Enjoy the show!"

ANTHONE JACKSON

CAST MEMBER

Anthone is blessed to work on this special production with SFBATCO. He performed here in previous productions of *I, Too, Sing America* as well as in fundraising events. Anthone worked in the recent *Home, Hope, & Holidays* recordings and played the roles of Adrian in *Smokey Joe's Café* and Curtis in *Dreamgirls* with Broadway by the Bay. Other notable recent credits include Dryer in *Caroline, or Change* (Ray of Light Theatre), Tom in *The Glass Menagerie* and Jim in *Big River* (South Bay Musical Theatre, TBA Award), Curtis in *Sister Act* (Berkeley Playhouse), Bobby in *Memphis* and Flick in *Violet* (Tabard Theatre Company), Mister in *The Color Purple*, and Tom in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Hillbarn Theatre), and the Prince in *Cinderella* (African-American Shakespeare Company). When not on stage, he works as a therapist and assistant director with awesome students. Anthone thanks his loving wife, daughters, family, and friends for their support. [@anthoneonstage](https://facebook.com/anthoneonstage)

RODNEY EARL JACKSON JR.*

CAST MEMBER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rodney is the artistic director and co-founder of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company. He made his Broadway debut in *The Book of Mormon* and most recently performed in *Toni Stone* (American Conservatory Theater and Arena Stage). Prior to that, Rodney traveled North America in the first national tour of *Motown The Musical*. A San Francisco native, he built his love and foundation for art and theatre in public city organizations such as the San Francisco Arts Education Project, Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, and the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts, where he graduated from the theatre department. He earned a

BFA from the school of drama at Carnegie Mellon University. Other theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol* (The Old Vic), *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), and *I, Too, Sing America* (SFBATCO).

OTHELLO JEFFERSON

CAST MEMBER, CO-CREATOR, COMPOSER, MUSIC DIRECTOR, CONDUCTOR, PIANO

Othello, a native San Franciscan, is a singer, musician, composer, and arranger, who, with a BM in voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a music teaching credential from San Francisco State University, is currently the choir director, orchestra director, and piano teacher at Sequoia High School in Redwood City and minister of music at First AME Zion Church in San Francisco. He conceived, composed, and music directed the multiple TBA Award-winning production *I, Too, Sing America* with SFBATCO and looks forward to further collaboration for this powerful production.

SARAH JIANG

CAST MEMBER

Sarah is an Oakland-based artist and performer. A graduate of Stanford University, Sarah was a vocalist and assistant director of the award-winning a capella group Stanford Talisman. Credits include Julie in *Tinderella: the modern musical* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award), the ensemble of *I, Too, Sing America*, and Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady* with the Stanford Asian American Theater Project.

KENDRA KOP

BASS GUITAR

Kendra is a San Francisco native and multi-faceted artist. She plays upright and electric bass, dances the Lindy Hop, and has recently picked up a new love for pole dancing. When not dancing up a storm, Kendra plays video games on Twitch or makes epic moments happen at Firefly Team

Events. A performer through and through, she loves to be an active contributor to the arts scene in San Francisco. *I, Too, Sing America* has been her favorite production and she is excited to be back.

VINNEY LE

CAST MEMBER

Vinney was born and raised in San Francisco and San Rafael. He started singing when he joined Stanford Talisman a cappella group in college and has been singing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus since 2013. He is making his SFBATCO debut with *I, Too, Sing America*, and he is moved beyond words to be in community with such wonderful artists.

JONATHAN LEUNG

CAST MEMBER

Jonathan began his dance journey on a small team of five in Atlanta. Since then, he has made his way through open styles teams to hone his craft and style. Now, when not working on solving health care, Jonathan freestyles for electronic dance music (EDM) festivals like Paradiso and EDC.

ZURI "IRUZ" MONTGOMERY

CAST MEMBER

Zuri is artistically known as Iruz. She is a neo soul and R&B singer and songwriter hailing from Florida. Zuri currently resides in the Bay Area as an expressive arts therapist and loves the performing arts. She performed with the FAMU Connection for two years during her time as a student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, recruiting students through acting, dancing, and singing. This is her debut performance with a theatre in the Bay Area, and hopefully not her last. Zuri is excited to be part of *I, Too, Sing America* with SFBATCO.

JASMINE MURRAY

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Jasmine earned a BA in theatre arts from San Francisco State University and looks forward to beginning her stage management career in the Bay Area. She has worked with

the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Magic Theatre, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Opera Parallèle, and PlayGround. This is her first production with SFBATCO and she hopes there will be many more in the future!

ISA MUSNI

CAST MEMBER

Isa has been performing with SFBATCO since 2017. An alumna of the San Francisco Arts Education Project, Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company, and the training program at ODC, Isa graduated from the School of Dance at the California Institute of the Arts. Her credits include *Hair* with Landmark Musical Theatre, numerous productions with Kularts, and commercial work for the RAE Agency. Isa is forever thankful for her family, friends, numerous supporters, and every *I, Too, Sing America* collaborator that has lifted each and every iteration of this essential work.

NATÉ THE SOULSANGER

CAST MEMBER

Born and raised in Oakland, Naté (nah-TAY) the Soulsanger is the premier urban entertainer in the Bay Area, maintaining a prolific career as a recording artist, performer, songwriter, and actress. Naté first hit the airwaves with her single "Heart Heals," a smooth slice of R&B which was prominently featured on KMEL in the Bay Area and in local clubs. She went on to share stages with an impressive range of artists including Kelly Price, Patti LaBelle, Lenny Williams, Will Downing, Yolanda Adams, Shalamar, Carlos Santana, Dionne Warwick, Neal Schon of Journey, MC Hammer, Narada Michael Walden, Martha Reeves, REO Speedwagon, and Peter Frampton.

MARCUS J. PAIGE

CAST MEMBER

Marcus is a Southern California-born tenor who is excited to return to the stage with SFBATCO. His classical training background has

led to cherished stage experiences in the roles of Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, Male Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Basilio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. His versatile musical prowess has allowed him opportunities in opera, musical theatre, and voiceover work. Roles include Jamie in *The Last Five Years*, leading the world premiere of *Unbreakable* by Andrew Lippa, and providing the singing voice for Zack in *Milo Murphy's Law*. marcusjpaige.com

BRENDA PALABY

CAST MEMBER

Brenda is a professional dancer and teaching artist based in her hometown of San Francisco. She danced throughout her childhood and trained primarily in ballet for over twelve years. Brenda graduated from University of California, Los Angeles where she continued her dance training through the world arts and cultures dance department. With a passion for moving and connecting with others, Brenda continued to train in a variety of styles including contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, West African, Bollywood, and bachata. Her mission is to make dance accessible to the youth in her communities and to create opportunities for others to connect through the art of movement.

JAYLEN PEA

CAST MEMBER

Jaylen is a San Jose native who has been dancing for eleven years. His dance journey started in high school with a hip-hop crew named 8th Period, and his love for dance has grown every day since! Jaylen eventually joined a competitive hip-hop team Hungry Fam, cultivating his choreography skills. Developing his own artistic voice, he began teaching at local studios and artistically directing a team named Syndicate. Jaylen is currently signed to Clear Talent Group in Los Angeles, traveling back and forth for auditions to live his dreams of becoming a working dancer.

TAYLOR JOSHUA RANKIN DRUMS

Taylor is thrilled to be playing drums for *I, Too, Sing America*. He recently played drums for *West Side Story*, *Pippin*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Mamma Mia!* (Berkeley Playhouse), *SILENCE! The Musical*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ray of Light Theatre), and *Grease* and *Sister Act* (Broadway by the Bay). Taylor has also subbed for productions at San Francisco Playhouse and Center REPeritory Company. He studied classical percussion, jazz drum set, and music composition during his undergraduate years and recently received his master's degree in music composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied privately under the Grammy award winning Bay Area composer Mason Bates.

CLAUDIO ANDRES SILVA RESTREPO SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGNER

Claudio is a designer originally from Santiago, Chile. He worked at StarStruck Academy & Theatre in Florida before moving to San Francisco. Claudio is the technical director for SFBATCO. He works with care with companies like Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Those Women Productions, and 42nd Street Moon to create works that represent the diverse community of the Bay Area and address social issues in his community. Claudio works as a designer and educator with San Francisco Arts Education Project, Throckmorton Theatre, and other educational programs. In the summer of 2020, Claudio joined the Jewish Community High School of the Bay as the new theatre technical director.

TAYNA GONZÁLEZ RIVERA CAST MEMBER

Tayna is a Puerto Rican dancer who has called the Bay Area her home for the last ten years. Her background in dance includes jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, salsa, and choreography. Tayna has choreographed and danced

in many theatre productions including *Hairspray* and *I, Too, Sing America*. Most recently she spent time in New York dancing salsa professionally with the Karel Flores Company. Tayna is beyond excited to have a chance to perform alongside a stellar cast and is so thankful to SFBATCO for this opportunity.

CHRIS SACKES CAST MEMBER

Chris is a New Yorker by birth but has made San Francisco his home. Managing software engineers by day, he loves exploring the Bay Area by transit, taking photos of architecture, and eating anything he can get his hands on. Chris is excited to continue his work with SFBATCO bringing stories to life through song.

NASHA HARRIS SANTIAGO CAST MEMBER, ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER

Nasha is a recent graduate of Boston University with a bachelor's degree in communications (film and television) and arts leadership. She is a performer, choreographer, and former executive director of the Fusion Dance Troupe, a top hip-hop team at Boston University, which helped realize her potential and awakened a passion for leadership. Nasha wishes to expand her entertainment industry experience and find her place where the performing arts meets the screen. She is ecstatic to be working with SFBATCO again in her third project with the company.

ORION HARRIS SANTIAGO CAST MEMBER

Orion is a triple threat singer-dancer-actor. He has performed in multiple productions with the San Francisco Arts Education Project Players, including roles in *Matilda The Musical* and as Baby John in *West Side Story* (SFBATCO collaboration). Orion plays drums for the Tania Santiago Afro Brazilian dance classes and Carnival float. He was a featured hip-hop dancer at the City Dance Studios Winter Showcase. Orion currently

studies voice at Oakland School for the Arts.

MIKE SMITH GUITAR

Mike is so excited to return to performing live theatre in the Bay Area! He has performed on multiple national tours including *Hamilton* and *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Mike also spent many years performing with members of *Freestyle Love Supreme* such as Anthony Veneziale, Daveed Diggs, and James Monroe Iglehart.

JOCELYN THOMPSON-JORDAN CAST MEMBER

Jocelyn is overjoyed to come back to live theatre and to continue her partnership with SFBATCO. Being a black queer native of San Francisco, participating in productions that represent the diverse city she grew up in is extremely important to her. "I believe that uplifting BIPOC voices/ experiences in the Bay Area is so important, and when I say that, I mean ALL aspects of the BIPOC experience. I'm tired of only hearing about the struggles and pain our people have survived. Let's highlight our joy, intelligence, beauty, and talent that have been the blueprint for American culture and the inspiration to nations around the world."

JAMIE YUEN-SHORE DIRECTOR, CO-CREATOR

Jamie is a proud founding company member of SFBATCO. Born and raised in San Francisco, she trained with the San Francisco Arts Education Project (SFArtsEd) and the Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company (YPTMTC). She has choreographed for multiple years with SFArtsEd and currently serves as the theater director at Jewish Community High School of the Bay. She co-created and directed *I, Too, Sing America* in 2018 and 2019 (TBA Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical, Outstanding Production of a Musical) and is honored to continue collaborating on *I, Too, Sing America* with this artistic team.

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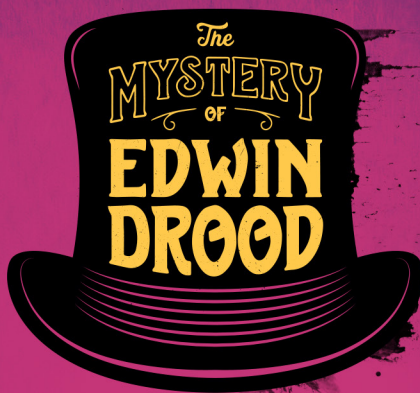
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