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**The 2019-2020 M&T Bank Broadway Season**

*Presented by RBTL & Albert Noccioolino*



Disney PRESENTS

**THE LION KING**

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**December 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020**



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## CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

RAFIKI .....	Buyi Zama
MUFASA .....	Gerald Ramsey
SARABI .....	Chante Carmel
ZAZU .....	Jürgen Hooper
SCAR .....	Spencer Plachy
YOUNG SIMBA (at certain performances) .....	Richard A. Phillips Jr., Walter Russell III
YOUNG NALA (at certain performances) .....	Brilyn Johnston, Celina Smith
SHENZI .....	Martina Sykes
BANZAI .....	Keith Bennett
ED .....	Robbie Swift
TIMON .....	Nick Cordileone
PUMBAA .....	Ben Lipitz
SIMBA .....	Brandon A. McCall
NALA .....	Kayla Cyphers
ENSEMBLE SINGERS .....	Derek Adams, TyNia René Brandon, Chante Carmel, Thembelihle Cele, Daniela Cobb, William James Jr., Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Aaron Nelson, Sicelo Ntshangase, Yael Pineda-Hall, Christopher Sams, Darian Sanders, Mpume Sikakane
ENSEMBLE DANCERS .....	Eric Bean, Jr., Sasha Caicedo, Adrienne Chu, Lyric Danae, Erynn Marie Dickerson, Paige Fraser, Jane King, Jason Lewis, Sayiga Eugene Peabody, Kevin Tate, Courtney Thomas
STANDBYS .....	SCAR: William John Austin, Tony Freeman; ZAZU: Tony Freeman; TIMON: Tony Freeman; PUMBAA: William John Austin, Tony Freeman

### UNDERSTUDIES

*(Understudies never substitute for listed players unless announced at the time of the performance)*

*Rafiki*—Thembelihle Cele, Yael Pineda-Hall, Mpume Sikakane; *Mufasa*—William James Jr., Aaron Nelson, Christopher Sams; *Sarabi*—Leanne Antonio, Deidrea Halley, Phylicia Pearl Mpsi, Yael Pineda-Hall; *Zazu*—Robbie Swift; *Shenzi*—TyNia René Brandon, Chante Carmel, Daniela Cobb, Phylicia Pearl Mpsi; *Banzai*—Derek Adams, Andrew Arrington, Nathan Andrew Riley; *Ed*—Andrew Arrington, William James Jr.; *Timon*—Robbie Swift; *Pumbaa*—Robbie Swift; *Simba*—Aaron Nelson, Darian Sanders; *Nala*—Leanne Antonio, Chante Carmel, Thembelihle Cele

### SWINGS

Kayla Rose Aimable, Leanne Antonio, Andrew Arrington, Deidrea Halley, Kolin Jerron, Amber Mayberry, Christopher L. Mc Kenzie, Jr., Phylicia Pearl Mpsi, Nathan Andrew Riley

### DANCE CAPTAINS

Deidrea Halley, Christopher L. Mc Kenzie, Jr.

### SPECIALTIES

*Circle of Life Vocals*—Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Sicelo Ntshangase; *Mouse Shadow Puppet*—Sicelo Ntshangase; *Ant Hill Lady*—Jane King; *Guinea Fowl*—Eric Bean, Jr.; *Buzzard Pole*—Jason Lewis; *Gazelle Wheel*—Adrienne Chu; *Gazelles*—Eric Bean, Jr., Kevin Tate; *Lioness Chant Vocal*—Sicelo Ntshangase; *Acrobatic Trickster*—Sayiga Eugene Peabody; *Giraffe Shadow Puppets*—William James Jr., Darian Sanders; *Cheetah*—Sasha Caicedo; *Silt Giraffe*—Courtney Thomas; *Scar Shadow Puppet*—William James Jr., Christopher Sams, Darian Sanders; *Simba Shadow Puppet*—Derek Adams, Aaron Nelson, Sicelo Ntshangase; *One By One Vocal*—Sicelo Ntshangase; *One By One Dance*—Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Christopher Sams; *Fireflies*—Jane King; *Pumbaa Pole Puppet*—Jason Lewis; *Nala Pole Puppet*—Sasha Caicedo; *Lioness/Hyena Shadow Puppets*—TyNia René Brandon, Thembelihle Cele, Daniela Cobb, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Yael Pineda-Hall, Mpume Sikakane.

Thembelihle Cele, Mukelisiwe Goba, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Sicelo Ntshangase, Mpume Sikakane and Buyi Zama are appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.

### TOURING ORCHESTRA

**Conductor**—James Dodgson

*Associate Conductor*—Karl Shymanovitz;

*Keyboard 1*—Chris Neville; *Assistant Conductor/Keyboard 2*—Paul McCaffrey;

*Guitar*—Robert Tye; *Bass*—Michael Brown; *Drums*—Phil Martin; *Marimba*—Mike Faus;

*Percussion*—Stefan Monssen, Reuven Weizberg; *Flutes*—Darlene Drew; *French Horn*—Tim Riley.

**Music Coordinator**—Michael Keller

Based on the Disney film

## THE LION KING

Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff; Produced by Don Hahn

Special thanks to all the artists and staff of Walt Disney Feature Animation



## SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

Scene 1	Pride Rock “Circle of Life” with “Nants’ Ingonyama” . . . . .	Rafiki, Ensemble
Scene 2	Scar’s Cave	
Scene 3	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 4	The Pridelands	
Scene 5	Scar’s Cave	
Scene 6	The Pridelands “I Just Can’t Wait to Be King” . . . . .	Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble
Scene 7	Elephant Graveyard “Chow Down” . . . . .	Shenzi, Banzai, Ed
Scene 8	Under the Stars “They Live in You” . . . . .	Mufasa, Ensemble
Scene 9	Elephant Graveyard “Be Prepared” . . . . .	Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Ensemble
Scene 10	The Gorge	
Scene 11	Pride Rock “Be Prepared” (Reprise) . . . . . “Nao Tse Tsa” . . . . .	Scar, Ensemble Rafiki, Sarabi, Young Nala
Scene 12	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 13	The Desert/The Jungle “Hakuna Matata” . . . . .	Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble

### ACT TWO

Entr’acte	“One by One” . . . . .	Ensemble
Scene 1	Scar’s Cave “The Madness of King Scar” . . . . .	Scar, Zazu, Banzai, Shenzi, Ed, Nala
Scene 2	The Pridelands “Shadowland” . . . . .	Nala, Rafiki, Ensemble
Scene 3	The Jungle	
Scene 4	Under the Stars “Endless Night” . . . . .	Simba, Ensemble
Scene 5	Rafiki’s Tree	
Scene 6	The Jungle “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” . . . . . “He Lives in You” (Reprise) . . . . .	Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble Rafiki, Simba, Ensemble
Scene 7	Pride Rock “King of Pride Rock”/“Circle of Life” (Reprise) . . . . .	Ensemble

### THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

#### SONG CREDITS

All songs by Elton John (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics) except as follows:

“**Circle of Life**”: by Elton John (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics) with “**Nants’ Ingonyama**”: by Hans Zimmer and Lebo M; “**He Lives in You**” (“**They Live in You**”): Music and lyrics by Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Lebo M; “**Nao Tse Tsa**”: Music and lyrics by Jacques Loubelo; “**One by One**”: Music and lyrics by Lebo M; “**Shadowland**”: Music by Lebo M and Hans Zimmer, lyrics by Mark Mancina and Lebo M; “**Endless Night**”: Music by Lebo M, Hans Zimmer, and Jay Rifkin, lyrics by Julie Taymor; “**King of Pride Rock**”: Music by Hans Zimmer, lyrics by Lebo M

#### ADDITIONAL SCORE

Grasslands chant and Lioness chant by Lebo M; Rafiki’s chants by Tsidii Le Loka.



**WARNING**  
The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside the theatre, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Offenders may be ejected and liable for damages and other lawful remedies.

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## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

**SPENCER PLACHY** (*Scar*) Broadway: *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Off-Broadway: *The Common Pursuit*. Tours: *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *Fiddler on the Roof*. Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'N' Roll* at The Alley Theatre, *Private Lives* at Riverside Theatre, *Julius Caesar* (Antony) at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, *National Pastime* at Bucks County Playhouse. *The 39 Steps* at Orlando Shakespeare Theater/Florida Rep. TV: "Shades of Blue" (NBC). Love to my beautiful wife, Laura!

**GERALD RAMSEY** (*Mufasa*) is humbled to continue this journey across the continent with *The Lion King*. Born in Tacoma, Washington - Raised in Aunu'u, American Samoa and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Proud graduate of the University of Hawaii/Hilo. Thankful for the support of friends and especially the love of my aiga. Honored to represent the pride that has come before us. Soifua. @ramsey.gt

**BUYI ZAMA** (*Rafiki*). Birthplace: Kwa-Mashu, Durban, South Africa. Theatre: *The Lion King* (Broadway, West End, Las Vegas, Taipei, Johannesburg, Shanghai, Sydney, Melbourne, US National Tour) Other: *Hans Zimmer Live* European tour 2016, Awarded the 2004 MO Award for Female Musical Performer of the Year and nominated for the 2004 Best Female Actor Helpmann Award. Session singer and backing vocalist for international artists. Tweet her @BuyiZama.

**NICK CORDILEONE** (*Timon*). Off-Broadway: *Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd* (Mint Theater), *Hamlet* (Theatre by the Blind). Regional: *The Alchemist* (Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Lobby Hero* (The Old Globe); *Crime and Punishment* (Cincinnati Playhouse and Actors Theatre); *Henry VI, Richard III* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Comedy of Errors*, *Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). FILM: *Step Up 2 IG*: @milquetoastpoints LOVE: Amy, Hero, & Guthrie

**JÜRGEN HOOPER** (*Zazu*). Broadway: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Chicago: Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Writers Theatre, Court Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, American Theatre Company, and Circle Theatre. Regional: Indiana Rep., Milwaukee Rep., Arden Theatre, and New Theatre. Film/TV: "Chicago Med," "Chicago Fire," "Crisis," "Suits," and the film *Game Day*. Love to Blair, Charlie and Madeline.

**BEN LIPITZ** (*Pumbaa*). Over 6,000 performances as Pumbaa on Broadway/National Tour of Disney's *The Lion King*. Stage: Michael in *God of Carnage*; Max Bialystock in *The Producers* (Walnut St. Theatre); Teyve in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Broadway Live); Policy Pinkle in *Red, Hot and Blue* (Goodspeed Opera, PaperMill Playhouse); *Just So* (Goodspeed Opera); as well as *ART*; *Dirty Blonde*; *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "The Sopranos," "Law & Order," "100 Centre Street," "Homicide." Film: *The Giraffe* and *Find Me Guilty* (with Vin Diesel and Peter Dinklage). Member of The Actors Studio. Love and kisses to Rosalie, Matthew and Mikaela. CalArts Alumnus.

**BRANDON A. MCCALL** (*Simba*) Brandon is humbled to BE on Pride Rock! Proud native of Birmingham, AL and graduate of THE Alabama State University (BA in Theatre). Brandon is grateful to God, his wife, Denika and daughter, Brëa. Without them, he has no purpose. Much love and thanks to his mom (Josephine), sister (Lindi), family, manager (Lynne Marks) supporters, Red Mountain Theatre Company, Mark Brandon, Disney and *The Lion King* family! In loving memory of Pastor Linda Whitt. Visit [www.justbeingbam.com](http://www.justbeingbam.com) for credits and more. Instagram - @justbeingBAM

**KAYLA CYPHERS** (*Nala*) is a Southern California native who is excited to join *The Lion King* family. She attained her BFA from AMDA LA and she has previously appeared in *Bat Out Of Hell*, *The North American Tour/New York Engagement* (Ensemble, Raven U/S) and *Aida* at John W. Engeman Theater (Aida). She would like to thank God and her family, friends, instructors and The Mine Talent Agency for their unconditional love and support. Matthew 17:20.

**KEITH BENNETT** (*Banzai*). Broadway credits include *Richie in A Chorus Line*, *BJ in OH, KAY!*, *Wonder Boy in The High Rollers*, *Horace in Olympus On My Mind*, *Banzai in The Lion King*. Tours include: *Dancin'*, *The Tap Danced Kid*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Five Guys Named Moe*. Regional: *Stand-Up Tragedy*, *Betsy Brown*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Bo Bo's*, *A Son Come Home*. Show dedicated to wife Deidre and my lovely daughters Tyler and Jordan. Big shout out to my Lord God.

**MARTINA SYKES** (*Shenzi*) is elated to be joining the Pridelands! Native of St. Petersburg, Fla. and graduate of the University of Florida. Favorite credits: *Motown The Musical* (Broad-

## WHO'S WHO in the CAST

way and First National Tour), *Raindogs, Rent* and *Hairspray*. I would like to thank God, my family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Ephesians 3:20. Instagram: Lady-sykes1 www.theheARTmission.org

**ROBBIE SWIFT** (*Ed/Understudy Pumbaa, Timon & Zazu*) is honored and excited to return to *The Lion King* family. Stage credits include *Snoopy!*, *Rumbles*, *One Red Flower*, *Water Children*, *Our Town*, *Godspell*. Film/Television: *On The Run* (Hyperboy), "Fastlane" (Fox), "Urban Graffiti" (Fox), "Scrubs" (NBC). Many thanks to God, Mom, Dad, The Starting Five, Family and Friends. Special thanks to Barry, Karen and Lois Yvonne. Robbie is a proud member of AEA, SAG and ASCAP. I dedicate this show to my beautiful wife, Lisa. You are my heart, my life, and my inspiration. Thanks for marrying me.

**BRILYN JOHNSTON** (*Young Nala at certain performances*) is thrilled to be making her Broadway tour debut. Credits include various productions at Raleigh Area Children's Theatre. Brilyn has a passion for performing and also enjoys piano, dance, and competing gymnastics with the USAG XCELL program. Brilyn loves her family, church family and friends! Instagram @planet\_brilyn.

**CELINA SMITH** (*Young Nala at certain performances*) is a 9-year-old honor student from Atlanta and loves entertaining. She is overjoyed about joining *The Lion King* cast. Celina's recent achievements include professional voice-over work and outstanding showcases with AGI Entertainment. Celina is thankful for her family and Natarsha Garcia for their support. Follow her on Instagram @littlecelinasmith

**RICHARD A. PHILLIPS JR.** (*Young Simba at certain performances*) is thrilled to be making his Broadway debut! He is a bi-lingual (English/Mandarin) student from Queens, NY and is grateful to God, his Parents & family, friends and Peggy at The SquarePeg Group, Inc. Thank you Bonnie Shumofsky, Avenues The World School, Abrams. Recent work: "Sesame Street," Nickelodeon, "Power" (Starz). Instagram: @razps

**WALTER RUSSELL III** (*Young Simba at certain performances*) was seen bringing his Harlem Swag to Nickelodeon's "Lip Sync Battle Shorties" and Everytown for Gun Safety's video "Enough!" featuring the music of Sia and his NDI peers. Thank you to his PUSH Dance Com-

pany, DST village, Agape family, GiGi, Tia and Mom for a ton of support! IG @WR3HRLM.

**DEREK ADAMS** (*Ensemble/Understudy Banzai*) is originally from Connecticut, and is thrilled to be joining the cast of *The Lion King*. Favorite credits include starring in *VEGAS! The Show* at Planet Hollywood Las Vegas. Regional: *Sister Act*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and the world premiere of Disney's *When You Wish*. @derekadamsmusic

**KAYLA ROSE AIMABLE** (*Swing*). Glory! Theater: *The Wiz*, Arkansas Repertory, *The Color Purple*, West Coast Black Theater Troupe, *Hairspray*, Royal Caribbean. She would like to Thank God, family, and mentors for all of their love and support. Psalm 23.

**LEANNE ANTONIO** (*Swing/Understudy Nala & Sarabi*). Regional credits include: *Disaster* (starring Seth Rudetsky), *All Shook Up*, *The Crucible*. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and so grateful to be on *The Lion King* tour!

**ANDREW ARRINGTON** (*Swing/Understudy Banzai and Ed*). Regional premiere of Kander & Ebb's *Scottsboro Boys*. *The Lion King* Las Vegas. Nat'l tours: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. New York: *Showboat* (Carnegie Hall), *Godspell* (workshop), Disney's *High School Musical 2*, *Respect* (NYSAF). TV: CBS' "My Broadway Debut." University of Michigan.

**WILLIAM JOHN AUSTIN** (*Standby Scar & Pumbaa*) is thrilled to be joining *The Lion King* family. New York Theater: *Measure for Measure*, *On the Verge*. Regional: Trinity Rep, Hartford Stage, MFA - Brown/Trinity Rep. A voice over artist, most recently the voice of Nigel, the Xyzal Owl. WilliamJohnAustin.com

**ERIC BEAN, JR.** (*Ensemble*) Originally from Bermuda, Eric attended the University of the Arts (Phila. PA) where he received his BFA in Dance Education & Choreography. A finalist in the Philadelphia A.W.A.R.D.S. competition, Mr. Bean has taught and choreographed nationally & internationally; offering master classes/workshops whenever available. Credits: Korresh Dance Co, Donn Arden's Jubilee!, Viking Ocean. Regional: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Once on this Island*. IG: EBJDANCE

**TYNIA RENÉ BRANDON** (*Ensemble/Understudy Shenzi*). A Charlotte, NC native, TyNia is fulfilling a dream with *The Lion King* Com-



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