

# AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

## THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW

Conceived by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Murray Horwitz  
Directed & choreographed by Jeffrey L. Page  
Co-production with Barrington Stage and  
Westport Country Playhouse

Geva THEATRE CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>th</sup> SEASON

JANUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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The set of the Barrington Stage production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Photo by Daniel Rader.

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*Artistic Director*  
**ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON**

*Executive Director*  
**CHRISTOPHER MANNELLI**

Presents

# **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**

## **THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW**

Conceived by  
**RICHARD MALTBY, JR. & MURRAY HORWITZ**

Created and Originally Directed by  
**RICHARD MALTBY, JR.**

Original Choreography and Musical Staging by  
**ARTHUR FARIA**

Musical Adaptions, Orchestrations & Arrangements by  
**LUTHER HENDERSON**

Vocal & Musical Concepts by  
**JEFFREY GUTCHEON**

Musical Arrangements by  
**JEFFREY GUTCHEON & WILLIAM ELLIOT**

Directed and Choreographed by **JEFFREY L. PAGE**

*Scenic Design*  
**RAUL ABREGO**

*Costume Design*  
**OANA BOTEZ**

*Lighting Design*  
**PHILIP ROSENBERG**

*Sound Design*  
**LEON ROTHENBERG**

*Music Director*  
**KWINTON GRAY**

*Vocal Arranger*  
**DEAH LOVE HARRIOTT**

*Associate Director/Choreographer*  
**FRITZLYN HECTOR**

*Stage Manager*  
**DARLENE MIYAKAWA\***

*Casting*  
**PAT MCCORKLE, CSA;  
REBECCA WEISS**

*Project Manager*  
**MARCUS KEARNS**

*Assistant Stage Manager*  
**JULIA BREGY**

Originally produced by The Manhattan Theatre Club  
Originally produced on Broadway by Emanuel Azenberg,  
Dasha Epstein, The Shubert Organization, Jane Gaynor & Ron Dante

*Ain't Misbehavin'* is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

**THE CAST**

*(in alphabetical order)*

- Miya Bass\*
- Paris Bennett\*
- Jay Copeland
- Judith Franklin\*
- Will Stone\*

**THE BAND**

- Conductor/Piano.....Kwinton Gray
- Bass.....KJ Gray
- Trumpet.....Kazunori "Kazu" Tana
- Trombone.....Phil Joseph
- Reeds.....Jonathan Mones, DeVaughn Durham
- Drums.....Jackie Whitmill

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*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

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- Assistant Music Director.....Geno Young
- Associate Lighting Designer.....Kirk Fitzgerald
- Assistant Sound Designer.....Samantha Eisensmith
- Costume Coordinator.....Karin Eckert

**In loving memory of Darius Barnes**



\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, an independent national labor union.



The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by the United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



Geva Theatre Center operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), a consortium of regional theatres throughout the nation; Actors Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States; the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), an independent national labor union; and United Scenic Artists (USA), a union of scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers.



Geva Theatre Center is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for the American Theatre.



Geva Theatre Center is an associate member of the National New Play Network, an alliance of non-profit professional theatres dedicated to the development, production, and continued life of new plays.



**Please note that the taking of photographs or use of recording devices during the performance is not permitted. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the theatre.**

## WHO'S WHO

**MIYA BASS** is a New York-based director, vocalist, and actor. She has been a contestant on *The Voice*, *X Factor*, and Steve Harvey's radio star competition. Miya has also performed leading roles in several musical theater productions: *Aida*, *Sister Act*, *The Lion King*, *Rent*, *Moana*, *The Wiz*, and many others. Outside of the performing arts industry, Miya is also a licensed psychotherapist and takes immense pride in mental wellness. She can be found on Hulu, Apple Music, Sound cloud, Spotify, and YouTube. Miya gives all honor to God for her gifts and would also like to show gratitude to her number one fan, mom.



**PARIS BENNETT** (she/her) At 5'3", Bennett may be pint-sized, but she has the undeniable ability to stand out like the brightest star in the sky. She has graced Broadway and Off-Broadway stages as the lead in *Rent*, Columbia in *Rocky Horror*, and Nell in *Ain't Misbehavin'*. She was a top-five finalist on season five of *American Idol* and has worked in film with Patti LaBelle, Ciara, and Lynn Whitfield. Bennett is putting the final touches on her much-anticipated sophomore album.



**JAY COPELAND** Jay is excited to be making his debut appearance at the Geva Theatre Center! Jay is a native of Salisbury, Maryland where he also attended Salisbury University. He received dual degrees in vocal performance and theatre and was also the first runner-up at the Irene Ryan National Theatrical competition. In 2022, Jay was a contestant on ABC's *American Idol*. Jay was the first ever contestant to receive a Platinum Ticket (awarded to the top contestant in each of the 3 cities where *American Idol* held auditions). During the *American Idol* season, Jay appeared on over 30 episodes and finished Top 7. Other stage credits include *Hairspray* (Seaweed), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas), and the guest opening act for *Patti LaBelle in Concert 2022*. Jay would like to thank the *Ain't Misbehavin'* creative team and casting for offering him this opportunity. Jay studies voice with Dr. John Wesley Wright. Instagram and TikTok:



theejaycopeland. Representation (management): Peggy Stamps, The SquarePeg Group, Inc.

**JUDITH FRANKLIN** Judith's interest in performing was ignited as a young girl while singing in her hometown of Missouri City, Texas in the Sunshine Choir at church. She later graduated from Houston's Grammy Award-winning High School for the Performing & Visual Arts as a vocal and dance major and received a music scholarship to Clark Atlanta University, graduating with a BA in Theatre Arts. Her Broadway dreams came true traveling in the National Broadway Company of *Motown The Musical*. Judith struck Broadway gold two years in a row as a company member of *Donna: The Donna Summer Musical* and shortly after performing on Broadway in the Original Broadway Cast of *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. She has performed throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and South America. Judith is a proud member of Broadway Inspirational Voices and serves as the NYC Coordinator for the Arts and Education Programs. Special thanks to her family, friends Ent Lab and DGRW for their continued love and support! "Matt 5:16" @judithfranklin



**WILL STONE** Off-Broadway: *Plays For The Plague Year*, *Hercules*. Regional: *Man of La Mancha*, *Richard III*, *Henry VI*, *Metamorphoses*, *The Oedipus Plays*, *King Lear*. TV/Film: *Pose*, *Wu-Tang: An American Stage*, *Law & Order*, *SNL*, *Michael & Michael Have Issues*, *Never Forever*. Concerts: World Pride 2019, Patti Lupone's 70th Birthday Concert, Broadway Backwards, *Tick, Tick Boom!* Netflix Premiere, Concert For America, A Tribute to Stephen Schwartz. Education: Juilliard (Group 35)



**DeVAUGHN DURHAM (Reeds)** DeVaughn Durham is a Dallas, Texas native who currently plays across the DFW metroplex. After attending the University of North Texas he quickly entered the scene and firmly implanted himself amongst some of the best musicians in North Texas. Playing all



genres of music has allowed DeVaughn to open for musicians such as Gerald Albright, KC and the Sunshine Band, and more.

**KJ GRAY (Bass)** KJ Gray is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, born and raised in Dallas, TX. KJ was homeschooled and began working as a full-time musician at the age of 15 and has since gone on to play various styles of music both locally and abroad. Locally, he has received nominations for "Best Bassist" (3), "Best Funk/R&B Act" (2), and "Best New Act" from the Dallas Observer Music Awards and the Central Track Music Honors. In 2017 he made his theater debut in the production of the critically acclaimed musical *HAIR!* at the Tony Award winning Dallas Theater Center, where he sang, played bass, and participated in comedic improv. He has since played, acted and/or composed for *A Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *A Christmas Carol* and the annual DTC Gala (3) at Dallas Theater Center. Based in Dallas, he continues to record, teach and perform weekly with his family band, The Grays (@wethemgrays).



**PHIL JOSEPH (Trombone)** Phil Joseph is a trombone player from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He has been playing the trombone for about 20 plus years and it's been an amazing experience. He gained a passion for music when he attended the University of Texas at Arlington. While attending, he met a few people along the way that showed him what the trombone could do for me in the real world. Since then, he's traveled to various countries and performed with many artists throughout his career, and it is a pleasure to be able to be performing this amazing play *Ain't Misbehavin'* featuring music by Fats Waller.



**JONATHAN MONES (Reeds)** is a woodwind multi-instrumentalist based in Dallas, Texas. Born and raised in the DFW area, Jonathan began playing piano at the age of 6 and picked up the saxophone at age 11, and has since also learned flute, alto flute, clarinet,



and bass clarinet. Upon graduating from the University of North Texas with a performance degree in Jazz Studies, Jonathan has toured all over the world with 7-time Grammy-winning artist Robert "Sput" Searight as a member of his funk-jazz supergroup Ghost-Note, as well as a freelance musician with many artists. Jonathan has performed in over 20 different countries around the world in Europe, Asia, and South America and has also composed, arranged, and produced music for many projects, including over 15 studio albums, commercials, and YouTube series amassing millions of views and thousands of fans worldwide.

**KAZUNORI "KAZU" TANA (Trumpet)**

Originally from Tokyo, Kazunori Tanaka (known in Japan as 田中一徳) has been a trumpeter in the US for over 6 years in addition to his career as a professional musician in Japan since 2010. He has done commercial work such as: recording sessions, tour support, live sessions, and performances – as well as teaching. His work in Japan includes playing for: Pokémon Omega Ruby & Alpha Sapphire Super Music Complete (OST for Pokémon Omega Ruby & Alpha Sapphire), Eric Miyashiro Band for TBS Broadcast Station, and Manhattan Jazz Orchestra Japan Tour at Billboard Osaka. He first came to Dallas-Fort Worth to pursue his master's degree in Jazz Studies from UNT, where he was a member of the One O'Clock Lab Band from 2016-2019. He recorded for Lab '18 and Lab '19. On Lab '18, he was featured for the tune with his name "Blues for Kazu" and recorded the cadenza with 4 octaves of D flat from pedal tone to double register. He chose to come to Dallas in order to experience how UNT trained legendary musicians such as: Frank Greene, Dan Fornero, Gary Grant, and John Thomas, as well as to follow the footprints of his favorite trumpeter – Roy Hargrove – who was based in Dallas. After graduation, he decided to make Dallas his home, and continues to play alongside Dallas native musicians, such as Shaun Martin (Snarky Puppy), Frank Moka (Erykah Badu and Chris Dave and the Drum Headz), Daniel Jones (Music Director of both Erykah Badu and Janet Jackson), Shelly Carroll (Duke Ellington Orchestra), and RC



A land acknowledgement creates a more accurate picture of the history of the lands and waterways we call home and pays respect to the Indigenous People who have stewarded them from time immemorial. At Geva, we offer this statement as part of our anti-racist values and to help us all unlearn and relearn the history that has brought us here to the land we call the United States. With this understanding, we can envision a new path forward, led by the principles of equity and justice.

American society as it exists today owes its identity and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams and resources to making the history that led to this moment. Some were stolen and enslaved here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in search of a better life, and some have stewarded this land for more generations than can be counted. Acknowledging the hardships and atrocities that many peoples have suffered on American soil is critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. By honoring this truth, we begin this effort to acknowledge what has been purposefully buried.

There are 567 federally recognized Indian Nations (variously called tribes, nations, bands, pueblos, communities and Native villages) in the United States. Additionally, there are tribes located throughout the United States who are recognized by their respective state governments.



Graphic by Eric E. Doxtator

### Geva's Acknowledgment

We are gathered in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Onöndowa'ga, or "the people of the Great Hill." In English, they are known as Seneca people, "the keeper of the western door." Together, with the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Tuscarora, the Seneca make up the sovereign Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We pay respects to their elders, past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, genocide and migration that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

To learn more about the Native people in our region and the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794, visit [ganondagan.org](http://ganondagan.org).



# TAKING CENTER STAGE

Nixon Peabody is proud to sponsor **Geva Theatre Center's** production of *Ain't Misbehavin': The Fats Waller Musical Show*. We celebrate Geva's 50-year tradition of bringing engagement, entertainment, and incredible stories to the Rochester community.



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