

PVA BILL

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Presents

The 2021 HSPVA All-School Black History Production



ONCE

on this

ISLAND

a musical

HSPVA

Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

Book and Lyrics By
LYNN AHRENS

Based Upon The Novel "My Love, My Love" by Rosa Guy

May 2021

Music By
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

The Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Production of

ONCE on this ISLAND

A MUSICAL

BOOK AND LYRICS BY

LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY

STEPHEN FLAHERTY

BASED UPON THE NOVEL "My Love, My Love" By Rosa Guy

STAGE MANAGER

Katie Randall

COSTUME DESIGN

Layla Crear

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT &

SCENIC DESIGNER

Nicholas Lam

LIGHTING DESIGN

Lily Afghani

GRAPHIC DESIGN
& PUBLICITY

Alexa Halim

ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

Vineeth Nadella

VIDEOGRAPHER

Anna Marie Tobin

CONDUCTOR

Ian Dessauer

TECHNICAL/DESIGN SUPERVISORS

**Paul
Davis**

**Dana
Harrell**

**Travis
Horstmann**

**Claudia
Rodriguez**

PRODUCER

Jonathan Klein

MUSIC DIRECTION

Stephanie York Blue

VOCAL DIRECTION BY

Melanie C. Bivens

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Christian Warner

Originally Directed and Choreographed on Broadway by Graciela Daniele
Playwrights Horizons, Inc. Produced ONCE ON THIS ISLAND Off-Broadway
In 1990

Originally Produced On Broadway By The Shubert Organization,
Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.

Suntory International Corporation and James Walsh, In Association
With Playwrights Horizons

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MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI) New York, NY.

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Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. R. Scott Allen, Principal

Sean Tellez, Carol Salazar, Alyson Landry, Jeff Turner

HSPVA Friends

Alene Coggin, Charlotte Wyatt & Joan Murrin

Kinder HSPVA PTO

Georgia Lister, President

Bobbi Jo Miller & Christine Peters, Volunteer Coordinators

The PTO Black Legacy in the Arts committee

Kyra Hardwick & Rebecca Harrison, Co-Chairs

HSPVA Black Alumni Network

Denise Ward, Chair

Andrea Frierson and Quentin Earl Darrington

Alan Gonzales

Program Layout by Melissa J. Marek, Sunburst Designs (Theatre '86)

LETTER *from the* DIRECTOR

First and foremost, thank you for joining us for our 2021 Kinder HSPVA Black History hybrid production of *Once On This Island*! After just two weeks of virtual rehearsals and two weeks of in-person rehearsals, we are privileged to be able to share our production. What a whirlwind this has been!

Some of the last text in the show is as follows:

"For out of what we live and we believe, our lives become the stories that we weave."

After a year of unimaginable loss to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continual social strains within our communities, we felt it was important to remind ourselves and our audiences that through times of pain and grief that love and hope are powerful vehicles through which we remain vigilant in our quest to better understanding. Like Ti Moune, many of our ancestors did not get to bear the fruits of their labors. Through our stories, we honor them. Through our stories, we take inspiration from them in our efforts to create better conditions for those that come after us. Through our stories, we can heal.

To the cast, Melanie, Stephanie, the production team, band and crew, endless gratitude and thanks to you and your hard work from the beginning of our journey. The spirit that lives within the company has been nothing short of incredible. To the faculty and administration of HSPVA, thank you for your unending support towards myself and the company. Thank you to Alan Gonzales for your efforts and generosity. Thank you to the HSPVA Black Alumni Network for your support. To the parents and Black Legacy of the Arts, thank you for your support and entrusting myself and the creative team with your children... the future is bright!

We hope you enjoy our production of *Once On This Island*!

Enjoy the show!

Christian Warner (Dance, '12)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

—ACT 1—

"We Dance"	Company
"One Small Girl"	Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, Little Ti Moune, Storytellers
"Waiting for Life"	Ti Moune, Storytellers
"And the Gods Heard Her Prayer"	Asaka, Agwe, Papa Ge, Ezrulie
"Rain"	Agwe, Storytellers
"Discovering Daniel"	Ti Moune, Storytellers
"Pray"	Ti Moune, Tonton Julian, Mama Euralie, Storytellers
"Forever Yours"	Ti Moune, Daniel, Papa Ge, Storytellers
"The Sad Tale of the Beauxhommes"	Armand, Storytellers
"Ti Moune"	Mama Euralie, Tonton Julian, Ti Moune, Storytellers
"Mama Will Provide"	Asaka, Storytellers
"Waiting for Life" (Reprise)	Ti Moune
"Some Say"	Storytellers, Little Ti Moune
"The Human Heart"	Ezrulie, Storytellers
"Gossip"	Storytellers
"Some Girls"	Daniel
"The Ball"	Andrea, Daniel, Storytellers
"Ti Moune's Dance"	Ti Moune, Grand Hommes
"When We Are Wed"	Andrea, Ti Moune, Daniel, Storytellers
"Forever Yours" (Reprise)	Papa Ge, Ti Moune, Ezrulie, Storytellers
"A Part of Us"	Mama Euralie, Little Ti Moune, Tonton Julian, Storytellers
"Why We Tell the Story"	Company

SETTING

Place:

An island in the French Antilles

Time:

Night, in a storm

THE CAST

Ti Moune	Tomi Akinwande
Mama Euralie	Cortlandt Barret
Daniel's Son	Ashton Booth
Agwe	Grant Easton
Daniel	Matthew Garza
Little Girl	Serenity Hughes
Gatekeeper	Elijah Islam
Tonton Julien	Jaden Madgett
Asaka	Lauryn Palmer
Papa Ge	Gabi Wager Saldívar
Andrea	Myranda Sánchez
Ezrulie	Niara Singleton

—ENSEMBLE—

Mariah Adeeko

Elijah Islam

Clarq Bishop

Skylar Jones

Ashton Booth

Seven Modad

Israel Fox

Troi Whitaker

ORCHESTRA

Brynn Carl Clarinet

Callum Curtis Trombone

Ian Dessauer Keyboard 1, Student Music Director

Matthew Fu Percussion, Assistant Music Director

Caroline Lawson Flute, Piccolo, Alto

Liam Mathus Soprano Saxophone

Hayden Miller Keyboard

Jack Rota Bass

Girasol Villatoro Guitar

Max Whittaker Percussion

Music Direction Stephanie York Blue

Woodwind Consultant Johnny Gonzales

Drumming Consultant Seyba Diouf

PRODUCTION TEAM

—STUDENT PRODUCTION STAFF—

Anna Marie Tobin	Videographer
Matthew Kalmans	Assistant Music Director
Ian Dessauer	Student Music Director
Matthew Fu	Assistant Student Music Director
Vineeth Nadella	Assistant Director
Jasmine Lin	Assistant Director Shadow
Ashton Booth	Dance Captain
Myranda Sánchez	Dance Captain
Alexa Halim	Graphic Design/Publicity
Nicholas Lam	Production Manager/Scenic Designer
Erick Arakelian	Scenic Designer
Layla Crear	Lead Costume Designer
Hazel Britton Dansby	Assistant Costume Designer
Simon Martin	Assistant Costume Designer
Rosalinda Joachim	Assistant Costume Designer
Lily Afghani	Lead Lighting Designer
Jupiter Zimmerman Yang	Sound Design
Robin Schaeffer	Sound Design

—MANAGEMENT TEAM—

Katie Randall	Production Stage Manager
Bella Guterrez	Assistant Stage Manager
Breylyn Brown	Assistant Stage Manager
Charlotte Stallings	Assistant Stage Manager
Jasmine Lin	Assistant Stage Manager
Natalie Linde	Assistant Stage Manager

—ADULT PRODUCTION STAFF—

Christian Warner	Director/Choreographer
Stephanie Blue	Music Director
Melanie C. Bivens	Vocal Director
Claudia Rodriguez	Costume Shop Manager
Alan Gonzales	Mask Design/Creation
Travis Hostmann	Technical/Design Consultant
Paul Davis	Technical/Design Consultant
Dana Harrell	Technical/Design Consultant
Jonathan Klein	Producer

WHO'S WHO

Mariah Adeeko (Ensemble) Adeeko is a senior in the creative writing department at Kinder HSPVA. She was nominated to participate in the Alley Theatre's Summer Conservatory Program in 2019, and renominated for the same program in 2021. Mariah loves to edit literature in her free time, sing when she has the opportunity, and act when given the chance. Aside from writing, she enjoys other activities such as playing Hearts the card game, listening to alternative music, and buying six-inch heels.

Lily Afghani (Lead Lighting Designer) has enjoyed her time lighting *Once On This Island*! This is her first time lighting a show, and the fourth musical she's worked on. She feels very grateful to have this opportunity.

Tomi Akinwande (Ti Moune) is an junior in the Theater Department at HSPVA. She has been in 3 All-School Musicals-Fame, *FELA*, and *The Color Purple*. Her most beloved roles were Funmilayo in *FELA* and Deloris in the trio from *The Color Purple*. She won a Tommy Tune Award for "Best Featured Performer" at the 2020 Award show. Tomi would like to thank her parents for their endless support. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for their creativity. And Lastly, she would like to thank her Director, Christian Warner, and Music Director, Melanie Bivens, for their courageous efforts into creating this show

Erick Arakelian (Scenic Design) is a sophomore in the theatre department at HSPVA. He was spotlight operator for *Mary Poppins* as well as sound board operator for Hedda Gabbler. He has also starred in acting roles, his favorite being Benjamin in *The Yellow Boat* for which he won best actor at UIL one-act competition, John in *Anything Goes*, and his magnum opus, a 2011 academy commercial in which he had over 5 seconds of screen time. He would like to thank his friends and family, not cause they inspired him to do this or anything, just for being cool.

Cortlandt Barrett (Mama Euralie) Cortlandt is excited to perform as Mama Euralie in HSPVA's production of *Once On This Island*. Prior to high school, she performed in seven HITS shows, including *Frog & Toad*, *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Crazy For You*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Aladdin* and *Heathers*. She has also starred in musicals at the Ensemble Theater, TUTS and Wildfish Theater along with numerous school plays, namely *Sound of Music*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Can You Believe It's Magic*, *Cinderella*, and *Camp Rock*. She loves everything about the arts and looks forward to continuing her theater training at HSPVA and beyond. She aspires to perform major roles on Broadway and become an expert in her craft. Her favorite pastimes include reading and writing, and she hopes to be a published author. She thanks her family for their love and support.

Clarq Bishop (Ensemble) is a junior Acting Major at PVA. She absolutely loves musicals and is so happy she is able to be a part of her favorite production. She is so excited to dance and share the story of Ti Moune!

Ashton Booth (Ensemble/Daniel's Son/Dance Captain) is a sophomore in the dance department and is excited to be in his first all-school musical at HSPVA. He is no stranger to musical theatre though, his love for the art form started at the

age of nine. Recent credits include: *Spring Awakening* (ensemble) at the Hobby Center and *Bring It On!* (ensemble) at Wildfish Theatre. When he's not in the studio or on stage, he enjoys bullet journaling and working on his vision board. Ashton would like to thank God and his amazing director and creative team for making this show possible! Break a leg everybody!

Breylyn Brown (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore tech elective in the HSPVA theatre department and is excited to work as an assistant stage manager for her first all-school musical. She has previously worked on the set and costume crew for *Tartuffe* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She hopes to continue with stage management and pursue on-stage roles. She is very thankful to the wonderful cast and crew of this production.

Brynn Carl (Clarinet) Carl is a sophomore in the Instrumental department. She has been playing the clarinet since 6th grade, has been in TMEA ensembles for the past two years and qualified for the all-state UIL solo competition. She is very excited to be a part of *Once On This Island*.

Layla Crear (Lead Costume Designer) is a Theatre Sophomore and is so excited to be Costume Designer for this production of OOTI. This is the first production she has fully worked on and is excited to be a part of this amazing team. She has loved to create since she was little and has loved working on this production even more. She is so thankful to her parents and brothers for all their help over these past weeks.

Callum Curtis (Trombone) is a Senior in the Instrumental department for Trombone and is looking forward to playing in this year's Black History Musical, *Once On This Island*. Callum is a part of Orchestra, Band, and Jazz and is looking forward to a great performance. Callum has performed in many all-school musicals including: *At the Apollo*, *Chicago*, *FELA!*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple*, and *Fame*. Callum looks forward to another stunning performance tonight. Enjoy the show!

Hazel Britton Dansby (Assistant Costume Designer) has loved fashion design since she was young. She's performed in a couple of musicals, but *Once On This Island* was her first time being part of a costume team. She enjoys performing, as well as deciding what will be practical and look good on actors. She hopes to become a fashion designer and go to a design school, but as of now she practices by sketching and making her own clothing and costumes.

Ian Dessauer (Keyboard/Assistant Student Stage Manager) is a senior jazz pianist at HSPVA. This is his fifth and final musical, having worked as a keyboardist and student musical director for *The Color Purple*, *Fame*, and assistant music director for *FELA!* and *Mary Poppins*. Next year, Ian will be attending Berklee College of Music where he plans on studying screen scoring.

Grant Eason (Agwe) is a junior in the Theatre Department. In his time at HSPVA, he was in the ensemble for *FELA!*, and played Mister in *The Color Purple*. He's also done sound design for a few showcases, once in a while. He loves videogames and cartoons and Hell's Kitchen, for some reason. He hopes to continue to allow each role to teach him something new about his art and himself.

Israel Fox (Ensemble) is a freshman in the vocal department at HSPVA. She has been in multiple theater performances throughout her childhood to today. She played Rafiki in *The Lion King Jr.* in New Orleans, as well as being in ensemble for *Aladdin Jr.*, and *Willy Wonka Jr.* Her most beloved role was Dina in *School House Rock the Musical*, which unfortunately never showed due to the coronavirus. Israel has loved acting since the 3rd grade, but she also has many hobbies such as playing the guitar, drawing, and sewing.

Matthew Fu (Percussion/Music Director) is an junior at HSPVA. He has worked on *FELA!*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple* and one other that he can't think of right now playing drum set, percussion, and music directing. Although he enjoys having free time, he is excited to work on this production to a great extent as there is a large magnitude of cowbell and he gets free food. He must now write 2 more body paragraphs and source his documents.

Matthew Garza (Daniel) has been singing his entire life. He started performing all the time at home as a little kid. He has been in other musicals at PVA like *The Color Purple*. He is always looking for a new character to portray, and he puts his heart in it all the time. Matthew also is going down the path of making his own music and loves to make and express his feelings through his music and the musical he is a part of.

Bella Guterrez (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore in the theatre department at HSPVA. She has been acting and working tech since 6th grade, and her favorite hobbies are singing and painting. She also participated in last year's production of *Mary Poppins* as a stage management shadow. Now she will be catching up on homework.

Alexa Halim (Graphic Design/Publicity) is a senior in the dance department and she feels bittersweet working on her last all-school musical. She has previously been a part of *At the Apollo* (ensemble), collaborated on the promotional video for *Chicago*, created the trailer for *Mary Poppins*, and was publicity for *The Color Purple* and *Fame*. She would like to thank her friends, family, and all the wonderful people she has worked with throughout the years for their support.

Serenity Hughes (Little Girl) she/her freshman in the theatre department! She's been acting since she was young and singing since she started talking. She enjoys dancing, reading, writing, and a lot more! She would love to be friends with as many people as she can! Follow her on Instagram @ctrl.serenity

Elijah Islam (Ensemble/Gatekeeper) is a sophomore at HSPVA's theatre department. He won Best Actor(ress) in the 2017 UIL One Act Play Competition. He was an eager member of the ensemble during PVA's fall virtual production of *Fame* and is more than excited to be a part of the cast of *Once On This Island*. In his free time, Elijah enjoys writing music, drawing, and cosplaying.

Rosalinda Joachim (Costume Crew) is a freshman in the theatre department at HSPVA. *Once On This Island* is their first time working on a production at HSPVA. For them, working in costuming is a dream. They have always loved dressing up and have recently picked up cosplaying as a hobby.

Skylar Jones (Ensemble) has been doing theatre since she was young and fell in love with performing. This is Skylar's first time being in a production at HSPVA,

but she did tech for *The Color Purple*. Musical theatre is a big part of Skylar's life, and she uses every role to learn more about her craft.

Matthew Kalmans (Assistant Music Director/Video Editor) is a senior in the Theatre department with a Musical Theatre emphasis. Past credits include: *Into the Woods* (Narrator), *Chicago* (Fogarty/Ensemble), *Be More Chill* (Rich), *A New Brain* (Minister/Assistant Director), and *Mary Poppins* (Admiral Boom/Ensemble). In his free time, Matthew enjoys hanging out with friends and, of course, mathematics, which he plans on majoring in in college.

Nicholas Lam (Production Manager/Scenic Designer) is excited to be back working in person for this year's Black History Production! After working on the last two productions of *The Color Purple* and *FELA!*, he's ready to take a turn and explore the Caribbean as the scenic designer and assisting on the lighting design. Nicholas cannot wait for y'all to see what alum Christian Warner brings to the table with this year's unique circumstances. He would like to thank the entire creative team (especially Christian, whose flexibility and support was endless, the theatre teachers (as always), his family, fellow designer Lily Afghani, and the HSPVA community. Enjoy the show!

Caroline Lawson (Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute) is a sophomore at HSPVA in the Instrumental Band department. She has played flute for 6 years and has placed in TMEA Region Band and Area Band. She won the Clear Lake Symphony Youth Concerto Competition in the Junior Division and was a finalist in the Houston Flute Club Young Artist Competition. She also won places in Solo and Ensemble Competitions in UIL and the Houston Flute Club. In the fall semester she participated in *Fame* and is excited to participate in *Once On This Island* as her second production in the pit orchestra.

Jasmine Lin (Assistant Director Shadow/Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman in the theatre department and is ecstatic to work on her first all-school musical production. Jasmine has competed at UIL One Act Play competition twice and won all-star cast as the lead in both shows. Her most beloved role she has played was Grusha in the *Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht. She currently attends Humphrey School of Musical Theatre where she studies jazz, ballet, and acting. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her, the fantastic cast and crew of this wonderful production, and most of all the astounding Christian Warner, our ingenious director.

Natalie Linde (Assistant Stage Manager) is an assistant stage manager for this year's production *Once On This Island*. She enjoys running and drawing, and hopes to use what she's learned from this amazing show to improve her management skills in the future.

Jaden Madgett (Tonton Julien) is elated to participate in the production of HSPVA's *Once On This Island*. He wants to thank his friends and family for conniving him to audition for a role, he is very grateful for the opportunity and is eager to see the success of the play.

Simon Martin (Costume Crew) is a freshman in the theatre department and is excited to be a part of his first PVA production. He has done theatre in the past at Main Street Theater and the Alley Theater but has never costumed before. His hobbies include cooking, painting, and listening to the same songs on repeat. He

is very thankful for the amazing costume team and doesn't know what he would do without them.

Liam Mathus (Soprano Saxophone) is a freshman in the instrumental department and is in the ensemble of an all-school musical for the first time. He has been playing the saxophone for over three years and loves listening to all kinds of music. Aside from playing sax, he also enjoys riding bikes and skating with friends, as well as traveling and going to concerts.

Hayden Miller (Keyboard) is a sophomore in the classical piano department who is delighted to be involved in his second production at PVA after playing keyboard in the *Fame* band. A TMTA Performance Competition winner, he has also won first place in numerous local competitions, including the CMTA Concerto, Multi-Era Solo, and Sonata competitions. In his spare time, Hayden enjoys baking macarons.

Mo Mitchell (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a junior in the creative writing department in HSPVA. He first worked on a middle school production of *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!* and totally fell in love with lighting design and behind-the-scenes work. Currently he's excited for community theaters to start opening up again so he can volunteer more.

Seven Modad (Ensemble) is a sophomore in the theatre department and is so excited to be in their very first HSPVA production. Along with their time at HSPVA, Seven has also done theatre work at HITS and in middle school, performing in musicals such as *Grease*, *Seussical*, and *Hairspray!*. In their eight years of musical theatre, this will be Seven's second time performing in *Once On This Island*.

Vineeth Nadella (Assistant Director) Nadella supported by the love of his family has been able to make many amazing productions happen. He has played many roles in the world of theatre and hopes to do so in the future. He has been the Stage Manager of a musical to now the Assistant director. He's enjoyed time in all aspects of theatre. Currently he stars in Kinder HSPVA's production of *Godspell*, as Jesus Christ. He has enjoyed his time working as the Assistant Director for *Once On This Island*.

Lauryn Palmer (Asaka) is a 14-year-old freshmen in the theatre department at HSPVA. This is her first HSPVA musical. Her musical theater debut began at the age of seven in *Aladdin*. However, her favorite show has been *Shrek*.

Katie Randall (Production Stage Manager) is a sophomore in the theatre department. This is her fourth All-School Musical at HSPVA. She is so thankful for the opportunity to do a show in this crazy year.

Jack Rota (Bass) is a junior in the jazz department at HSPVA. This will be their 4th all-school production in the orchestra. They enjoy eating, sleeping, drinking water, and other basic human activities. They are definitely not an alien spy sent from the Planet K2R-6 to gather information for a coming alien invasion, which is definitely not happening on July 26th, 2021. Definitely. Not. Trust me.

Gabi Wager Saldívar (Papa Ge) is honored to be included in his first Black History Production and second PVA show. He is a sophomore in the Theatre department and a fifth-year student at TUTS HSMT. Credits include HITS: *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin), *Shrek* (Donkey), *Sweeney Todd* (Title Role); HSMT: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh); PVA: *Fame* (Joe

Vegas). Gabi would like to express his sincerest gratitude to the cast and crew for their tireless hard work, infectious energy, and boundless creativity. He feels truly blessed to be a part of such beautiful art in a time when it is so desperately needed and to finally be back on stage after such a crazy year.

Myranda Sánchez (Andrea) is an upcoming junior in the theatre department who is beyond ecstatic to be in this production. She has been on stage since the age of three and has such a deep love for the performing arts. She dedicates this beautiful story to her beloved abuelitos, who she misses everyday.

Robin Schaeffer (Sound Design) is a junior in the HSPVA theatre department and Sound Designer for *Once On This Island*. This will be Robin's first main stage production as a sound designer and has been interested in the craft throughout their many years at HSPVA. Robin enjoys researching theories and topics beyond their understanding, reading on rainy days and relaxing! Robin would like to give a special thanks to her family and best friends for always supporting and encouraging her in everything she does.

Niara Singleton (Ezrulie) is very excited to reimagine the beautiful goddess of love, Erzulie. Besides actively pursuing a career as a musical theatre performer, she is also practices lyricism, dramaturgy, playwriting, and American Sign Language. She is proud to have been a part of HSPVA's first All-School Musical during the Covid-19 pandemic, *Fame*. Her other roles include *Seussical*, *Sister Act*, *Lady Meresvale* from *The Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, and *Helena* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also done short film and staged reading work.

Charlotte Stallings (Assistant Stage Manager and Covid Compliance Officer) is thrilled to work on her fourth All-school musical, she previously has worked on the HSPVA productions of *Chicago* (ASM), *Mary Poppins* (PSM) and *Fame* (PSM). She would like to thank Christian Warner for the opportunity, and thank her parents, Marykate Stallings, Conner Ewing, and the Tobin family for their support.

Anna Marie Tobin (Videographer) is a senior in the theatre department. Main Stage productions at Queensbury Theatre include *Wait Until Dark* (Gloria) and *Whistle Down the Wind* (Louise); past credits at HSPVA include *Fame* (Assistant Director), *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Brill), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Chicago* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *A Grand Night for Singing* (Vickie). She would like to thank every member of the cast and crew for such a great end of her high school career.

Girasol Villatoro (Guitarist) is a senior in the jazz department at HSPVA. She goes by the name "Bleu". Bleu is excited to be a part of the All-School Black History Production and is grateful for the opportunity. She is thankful for all her teachers and close friends that she has met in her last two years of high school at PVA.

Troi Whitaker (Ensemble) is a sophomore in the dance department at HSPVA. She has been dancing for almost 12 years. Her favorite performance was when she performed with the Dance Theatre of Harlem at the Miller Outdoor Theatre. Troi enjoys entertaining and performing, whether it be dancing, singing, or acting.

Max Whittaker (Percussion) is a senior at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He has participated in every musical from *Chicago: High School*

Edition up until now. He is excited to be perusing composition in college and thinks that graduation cannot come soon enough. Save the turtles.

Nia Yero (Costume Crew) is a senior in the creative writing department at HSPVA. She excited to design and construct the costumes for *Once On This Island*. Her creative influences include the early 2000s, Lee Krasner's paintings, and Japanese street style.

Jupiter Zimmerman-Yang (Sound Design) is a freshman in the Creative Writing department at HSPVA. He makes music in his free time – writing, producing, and recording songs that he sometimes shares on his YouTube channel. When he isn't making music, he enjoys writing poetry and biking around Houston.

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE TEAM

Christian Warner (Director/Choreographer, Dance '12) is a New York based artist with a career that spans over dance, musical theatre, and film. His company credits include *Boca Tuya*, *Deeply Rooted*, and *TU Dance* (Saint Paul, MN) in which he not only performed concert dance works by artists such as Alvin Ailey and Kyle Abraham, he was also a founding dancer in "Come Through" – an evening-length collaboration with the Grammy award-winning band, Bon Iver. Christian also provided background vocals for the recent Bon Iver album "i,i" for the track "Naeem." Other dance credits include repertoire acquired by Aszure Barton, Troy Powell, Sonya Tayeh, Dwight Rhoden, and Luke Murphy. His musical theatre credits include productions such as Disney's *The Lion King* (Broadway and national touring productions), *Oliver! The Musical* (National Tour), and *Hairspray!* (Regional/Houston).

Stephanie York Blue (Music Director, Instrumental '81) is a native Houstonian. She is a 1981 graduate of the High School for Performing and Visual Arts and has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Texas Southern University. She has been teaching in Houston ISD for 35 years and is currently the piano instructor at Henry F. MacGregor Elementary School. Stephanie first served as pianist and organist at Bethel IMBC and then later at Windsor Village UMC where she accompanied several choirs. She is currently on the music staff at Jones Memorial UMC and has served as Music Director for the show *Motown and More* for Bace Productions, and most recently, the Music Director for HSPVA's Black History Production of *The Color Purple*. Stephanie's love for all types of music has afforded her opportunities to be involved in many different genres of music. She has been involved in the musical theatre community through Theatre Under The Stars for 16 years. Stephanie has toured Canada with blues singer Ruthie Foster. She has also worked with many gospel recording artist including Kathy Taylor, Lamar Campbell, and DeWayne Woods. She also wrote and co-wrote several songs in *Sunday, The Musical*, which was later made into a motion picture titled

"Church" that premiered on BET. Be it Sunday morning worship, or playing the piano with the Conrad Johnson Jazz Orchestra, Stephanie enjoys sharing her musical talents and gifts with the Houston community.

Melanie C. Bivens (Vocal Music Director), a Fort Worth Native, is excited to work with such talented artists at HSPVA. Her previous shows with HSPVA as Vocal Music Director were *FELA!* & *The Color Purple*. She is currently the Fine Arts Director for Energized for Excellence Academy, Inc. and Energized For STEM Academy, Inc. Melanie has performed in various shows on stage at Jubilee Theatre, Fort Worth Opera Company, Bass Performance Hall, Soul Rep Theatre. Musical Director for *God's Trombone* (which received Best Musical Award), *Crowns*, African American Repertory Theatre, (founded by actress Irma P. Hall); *Mahalia & Da Kink In My Hair* (2018-2019 Season Opener) *School Girls or The African Mean Girls*, The Ensemble Theatre; *Next To Normal*, Bayou Theatre Company for which she won "Best Musical Director" (Broadway World); Vocal Director for *Dancing In The Streets Motown Revue* at Miller Outdoor Theatre; Voice Instructor & Musical Director/Conductor *Once On This Island* TUTS (Theatre Under The Stars) and was the featured pianist for TUTS promo commercial for their Broadway production of *Into The Woods*. Melanie's original song "Have Thine Own Way" is featured in the Women of Worship GMWA Songbook, and "Trust In The Lord" on the late Dr. Wilma Bivens latest CD Project.

Jonathan Klein (Producer) has been producing Kinder HSPVA's all-school productions since 2017, including *Soul of the '70s*, *At the Apollo*, *Chicago*, *FELA!* (high school premiere), *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple* (three Tommy Tune Awards), and virtual productions of *Fame* and *Once On This Island*. Originally from New York, he moved to Houston in 2010 to pursue a career in education. He joined HSPVA in 2015 as a math teacher and has been magnet coordinator since 2017.

Alan Gonzales (Mask Design/Creation, Theatre '12) is a New York-based designer and founder of Alantude, a fashion brand specializing in custom women's evening wear. He is now making costumes for TV shows such as HBO's *Legendary*. Alan's work has become a nationally recognized brand that has gathered press attention and been shared on countless runways. Some of his most notable moments were starring on season 18 of Bravo's *Project Runway* and working closely with the city of Houston to make face masks during the pandemic and provide to those in need.

Lynn Ahrens (Book and Lyrics) won Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards and received two Grammy nominations for Broadway's *Ragtime*. For Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature film *Anastasia*, she was nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globes. She and longtime collaborator Stephen Flaherty received the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, and in 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. Broadway: *Anastasia*; *Once On This Island* (Olivier Award, Best Musical; Tony nominations, Best Book and Score); *Seussical* (Grammy nomination); *My Favorite Year*; *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*; *Rocky*; Madison Square Garden's *A Christmas Carol*; *Ragtime* (2010 Broadway revival). Off-Broadway and regional: Lincoln Center Theater's *Dessa Rose*, *The Glorious Ones* (both Drama Desk-nominated) and *A Man of No Importance* (Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Musical); *Lucky Stiff*; *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center world premiere). Film and television credits include *A "Christmas Carol"* (NBC-TV); *Camp* (IFC Films); *"Schoolhouse Rock"* (ABC-TV) and others. (Emmy Award and four Emmy nominations). She is a Council member

of the Dramatists Guild of America, a co-founder of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program, and a Lilly Award winner for Lyrics. www.ahrensandflaherty.com

Stephen Flaherty (Music) is the composer of the Broadway musicals *Ragtime* (Tony, Drama Desk, OCC Awards, two Grammy nominations), *Seussical* (Grammy, Drama Desk nominations), *Once On This Island* (Tony nomination, Olivier Award, Best Musical) and *Rocky*. Additional Broadway includes *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* (original songs) and Neil Simon's *Proposals* (incidental music). Stephen has also written four musicals at Lincoln Center Theatre: *The Glorious Ones* (OCC, Drama Desk nominations), *Dessa Rose* (OCC, Drama Desk nominations), *A Man of No Importance* (OCC, Best Musical, Drama Desk nomination) and *My Favorite Year*. Other theater includes, *In Your Arms* (Old Globe), *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center), *Lucky Stiff* (Playwrights Horizons) and *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* (Chicago's Jefferson Award, Best New Musical.) Film includes *Anastasia* (two Academy Award and two Golden Globe nominations), the documentary *After The Storm* and *Lucky Stiff*. Mr. Flaherty's concert music has premiered at the Hollywood Bowl, Boston's Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Guggenheim Museum and Symphony Space. This year celebrates Stephen's 32-year collaboration with lyricist-librettist Lynn Ahrens. Stephen and Lynn are members of the Dramatists Guild Council and co-founders of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program. In 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall Of Fame. Upcoming: the stage adaptation of *Anastasia*. AhrensAndFlaherty.com.

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Rodolfo Morales, <i>Instrumental Music</i>	Dan McCommis, <i>Math</i>
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Add BLA to Your Calendar!

- June 7th, 6:30 pm - Virtual

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