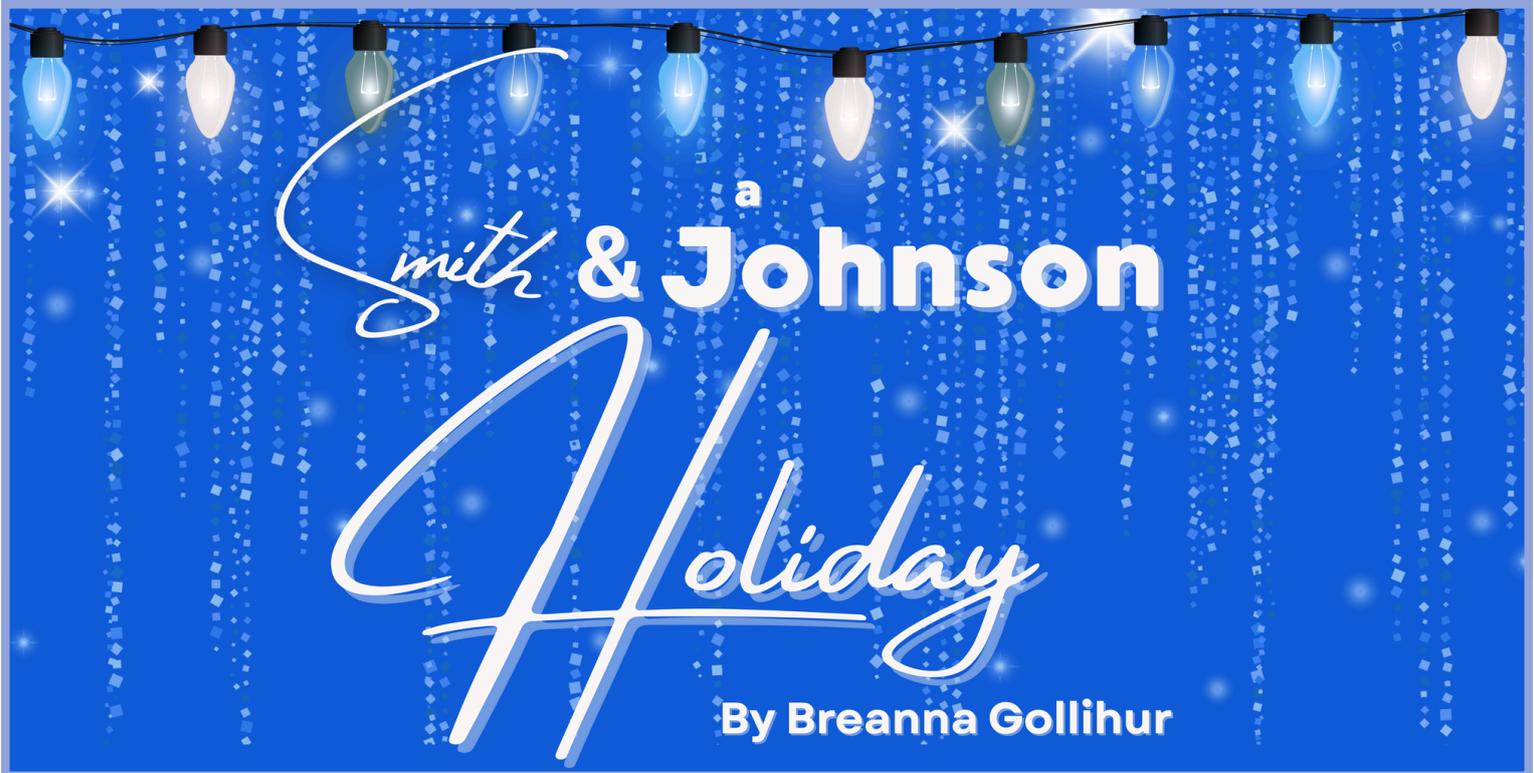


# 2025 FALL NEWSLETTER



**[CLICK TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!](#)**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 11:00 AM**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 3:00 PM**  
**@ ARIZONA OPERA - WITTCOFF BLACK BOX**

**Join us for a thrilling cabaret debut! This hilarious and heartfelt original show blends your favorite holiday songs with the chaos of two families meeting for the very first time.**

**Written by our own incredible talent, Breanna Gollihur, this full-length script is an impressive achievement. Our cast is bursting with energy, ready to bring this festive story to life.**

# THE ARTISTS' REVIEWS ARE IN!

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN DISNEY'S ALADDIN JR:



**“I LOVE TO MEMORIZE MY LINES AND I FEEL HAPPY AND PROUD OF MYSELF FOR BEING AN ACTOR. I FELT HAPPY FOR MY FAMILY TO CHEER ME ON AND TO BE PROUD OF THE MAN I HAVE BECOME.**

**- ERIC NUNN, AL**

**“IT FELT AMAZING GETTING TO PLAY JASMINE, A WOMAN EMPOWERMENT CHARACTER. I ENJOYED GETTING TO PRACTICE AT VOCAL LESSONS & GETTING TO WORK WITH MY CO-STAR ERIC WHO WAS MY ALADDIN. I HOPE TO CONTINUE IMPROVING MY THEATER SKILLS THROUGH EMPOWERED AS WE DO MORE SHOWS. - LEAH MAPSTEAD, JASMINE**



**“IT WAS FUN TO PLAY JAFAR. I LOVED ABOUT PLAYING JAFAR AND CHANNELING ONE OF MY ROLE MODELS VINCENT PRICE. MY GIRLFRIEND PLAYED JASMINE WITH HEART AS WELL AS WITH LINES, WHICH SHOWS HER BELIEF IN FEMININE RIGHTS.”**

**- PAUL COSTANTINI, JAFAR**

**“I LOVED BEING IAGO! IT GAVE ME MANY NEW CHALLENGES TO TRY WITH MY ACTING. I REALLY WANTED TO PERFECT NOT USING MY REGULAR VOICE AND DOING A BIRD VOICE AND STAYING IN CHARACTER THE ENTIRE TIME. IT WAS AN AMAZING SHOW AND I LOVED MY COSTUME!” - SYDNEY KRAMER, IAGO & GRAPHIC DESIGNER**



WATCH ETA'S  
ALADDIN JR ON YOUTUBE  
@EMPOWEREDTHEATERANDARTS



# A GUIDING LIGHT: VALUES MATTER

## BY LJ LAVANCIL

What really matters to me is diversity, growth, advocacy and representation, the powerful combination that shapes who we are, what we stand for, and how we move the world forward.

**DIVERSITY** matters because every voice, story, and background brings depth and meaning to the human experience, teaching us that strength is born from difference, not similarity.

**ADVOCACY** matters because *silence never changes systems*, and using our voices to stand up for justice, equity, and inclusion is both a responsibility and a privilege.

**GROWTH** matters because it is through learning, listening, and evolving that we become more compassionate, informed, and courageous individuals capable of creating real change.

**REPRESENTATION** matters because when people see themselves reflected in leadership, art, media and opportunity, they are reminded that they belong, that their dreams are valid, and that they are seen.

**TOGETHER THESE VALUES FORM A GUIDING LIGHT;** diversity expanding our perspectives, growth deepening our understanding, advocacy driving our action, and representation ensuring that everyone has a seat at the table. They remind me that progress is not passive but purposeful, requiring constant effort, humility, and empathy.



*LJ LaVancil is a singer, actor, musician, self-starter and advocate who is committed to growing his career as a musician and social media influencer.*

*LJ writes, “What truly matters to me is creating spaces where everyone feels valued, heard, and EMPOWERED to contribute their fullest selves. Where barriers are broken and bridges are built, and where we recognize that the future we dream of depends on our collective commitment to equality, respect, and inclusion—BECAUSE WHEN EVERY PERSON CAN RISE, OUR SHARED HUMANITY RISES TOO.”*

📸 by Michael Luna Photography

# Two Truths and A Lie

By Breanna Gollihur

- 1) Johnny Depp was born with blindness in one eye.
- 2) Whoopi Goldberg was diagnosed with dyslexia as an adult.
- 3) Bella Ramsey was diagnosed with autism.

**ANSWERS BELOW**



**DONATE HERE**

**SUPPORT EMPOWERED TODAY**

**Ha! I tricked you! They're all true!**

A lot of times it feels like people with disabilities are only represented in shows and movies that are focused on their disabilities. It can be great when the representation is accurate, but it's also nice to see that we are not defined by our disabilities whether they are visible or not. These are all VERY successful people who aren't just known for their disabilities



**YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR SUCCESS!  
YOUR DONATIONS FUND:**



## **COSTUMES**

Support our team of costumers who work countless hours to ensure each individual artist feels beautiful and is represented well.



## **ADVOCACY**

Help to change the narrative about people with disabilities.  
Help to ensure their voices are heard.

Visit [GoETA.org/Donate](https://GoETA.org/Donate) to support artists with disabilities.



## **WORKSHOPS & EVENTS**

Help artists grow their skills and build community and confidence with events led by trained theater professionals.



## **SETS & PROPS**

Bring joy through the unforgettable opportunities for artists with disabilities to shine on professional sets.