

AGM THEATER COMPANY

Presents



The PotLuck Poets MUSIC IN US

**Directed by
Eric Coleman**

Works by
DFaye Anderson
Marsha Cann
Roger Parris
Ajene D. Washington
Pearl Y. Williams

Guest Artists
C. Kelly Wright
Richard Fairfax

June 13, 14, 15, 2025

Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm

Sunday @ 3:00pm

*Sunday's performance
with Talk Back
& Refreshments*



THE NEW BASEMENT OF DREAMS

130 Malcolm X Blvd. (116th and Lenox Ave) New York, NY 10026

(SEATING IS LIMITED)

ADMISSION: \$25 for ALL

SYNOPSIS

MUSIC IN US is an exhilarating, new theatrical work that celebrates the blues, classical, gospel, jazz, Latin jazz and R&B, through a fusion of original poetry, short fiction and song.

(ARTISTS ALPHABETICAL)



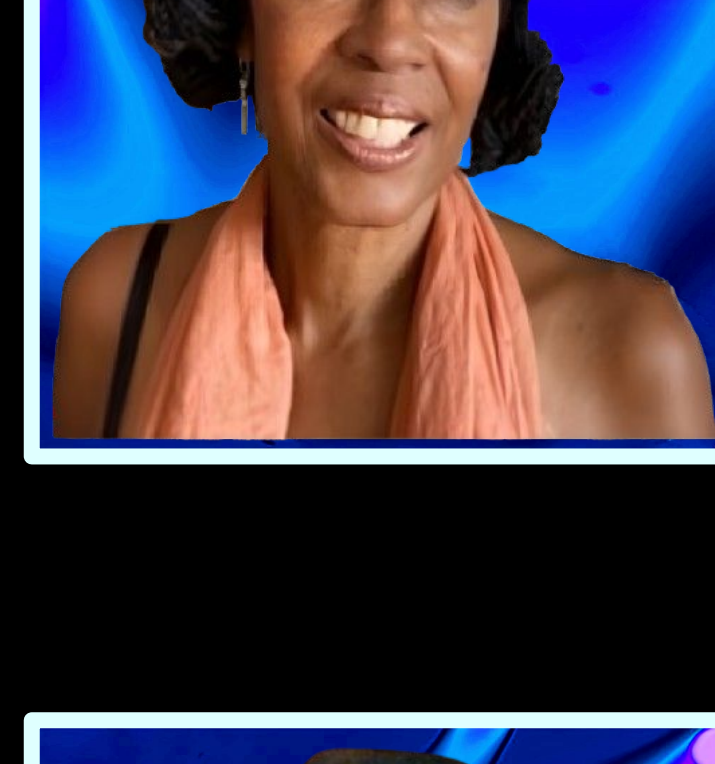
ERIC COLEMAN - (DIRECTOR/PERFORMER)

Eric is a veteran New York-born actor and director with numerous theater credits. He is pleased to once again be working with AGM Theater and the gifted PotLuck Poets. (colemanactor19@gmail.com)



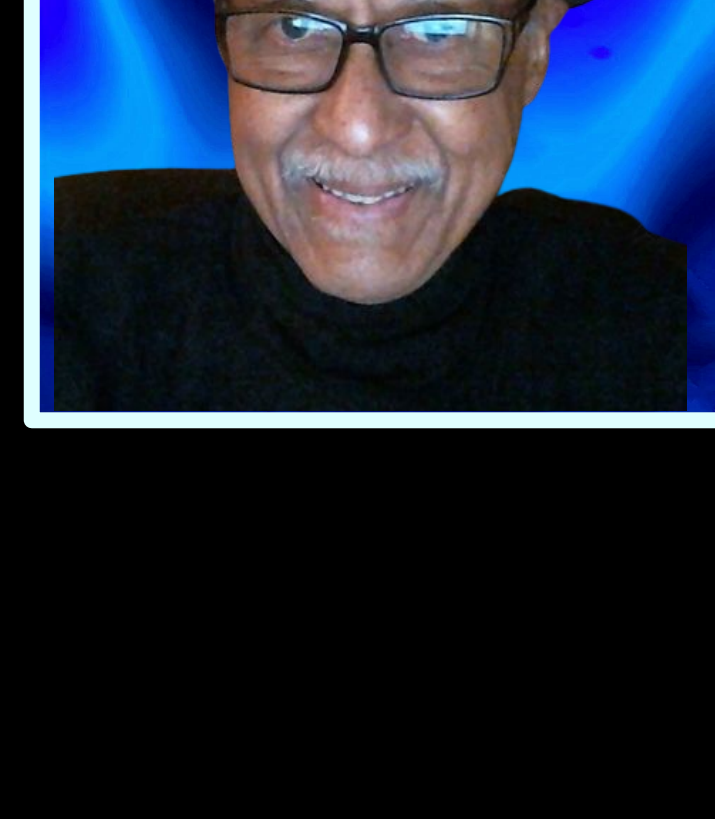
DFAYE ANDEERSON - (WRITER/PERFORMER)

Born in Bronzeville, Chicago, DFaye now calls Brooklyn home. A theater artist, former filmmaker and educator, she earned an MFA in Creative Writing and has performed her poetry, short fiction and plays, in bars, parks, schools, churches, parlors and theaters across New York state. She is an AUDELCO nominee, and has published in NOMMO: A Literary Legacy of Black Chicago and MERGE Literary magazine. The PotLuck Poets, a collective she co-founded in 2019, met the challenge of isolation from Covid by presenting free performances via Zoom. Thanks to AGM Theater and Eric Coleman. (DAnde41196@aol.com)



MARSHA CANN - (WRITER)

Marsha Cann, writer/poet/actor/educator, is a native of St. Louis, Mo. Her work has been published in Black Renaissance Noire and African Voices magazines, and she was recently nominated for a PEN American Award. A founding member of the PotLuck Poets, Marsha is also the founding director of The Young Artists for Justice and Peace-40 Corners Street Theater Project, a study and performance workshop for teens based in St. Louis, where she currently resides.



ROGER PARRIS - (WRITER)

I am a playwright, actor, poet and arts educator with over forty years' experience. Some have asked which one do you like doing the most. Whichever one I'm doing at the moment is always my reply. Love it all. During my pre-teen years, Rosetta LeNoire, acclaimed stage, movie, television actress and neighbor introduced me to the magical world of theater. She planted a creative seed in me that never ceases to grow.

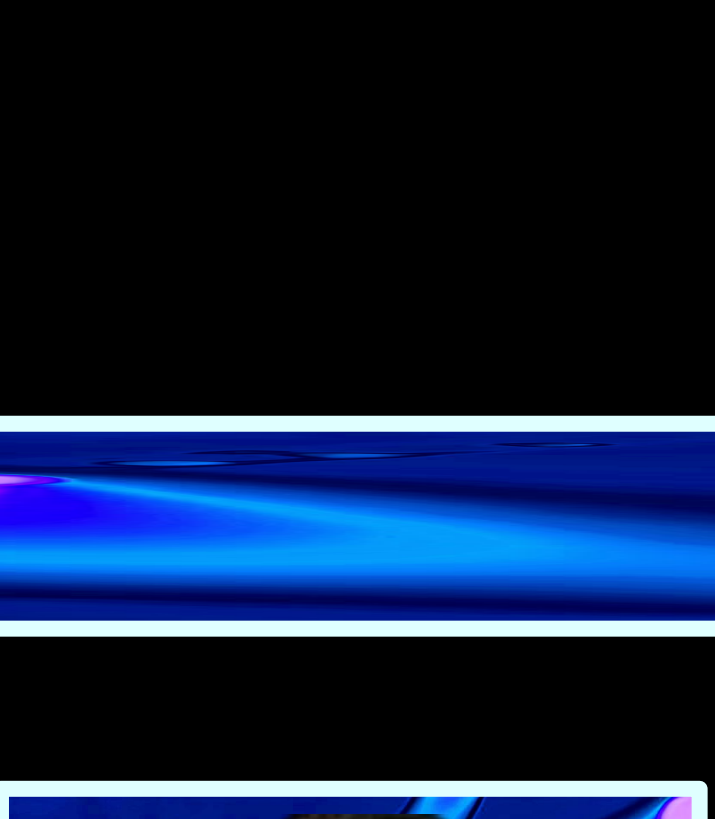
As an actor, performed in "Amen Corner", "Wine in the Wilderness" and "Nobody Knew Where They Was" to name a few. As a poet, my poetry has been published in six anthologies, most recently in Revelry, The Literary Voice Of The Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Association Of Florida and in Brilliant Flame, a literary tribute to Amiri Baraka. As a playwright, I've written twenty-five produced plays. Nominated three times for an AUDELCO award and received the AUDELCO Pioneer Award. Presently writing a new play, "I Can Feel the Moon." Passing it on has been a passionate goal in my life and I have tried to accomplish that working as an Arts Educator at the Lena McPhatter Youth Theater, Henry Street Settlement and various other organizations servicing our youth.

Writing for Gallery & Studio Arts Journal has been an invigorating challenge and opportunity to interview and profile diverse artists whose commitment to their craft is extremely inspiring and affords me another creative space to hone my skills as a writer. (rogparon@verizon.net)



AJENE D. WASHINGTON - (WRITER/PERFORMER)

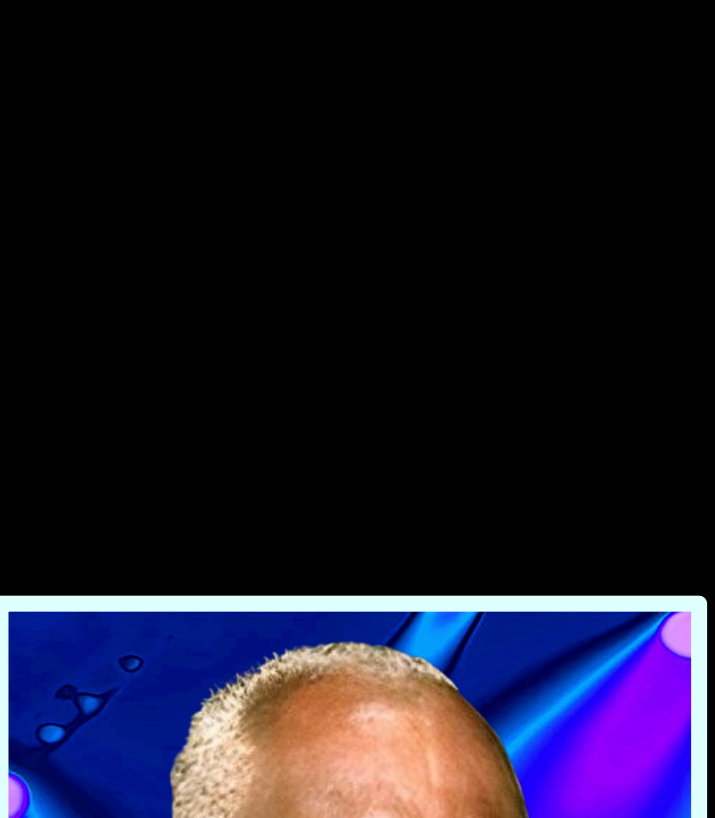
Ajene D Washington is a Playwright, Director, Actor, Set and Lighting designer along with being a percussionist. Glad to be a part of The PotLuck Poets. Thanks Jan.



PEARL WILLIAMS - (WRITER/PERFORMER)

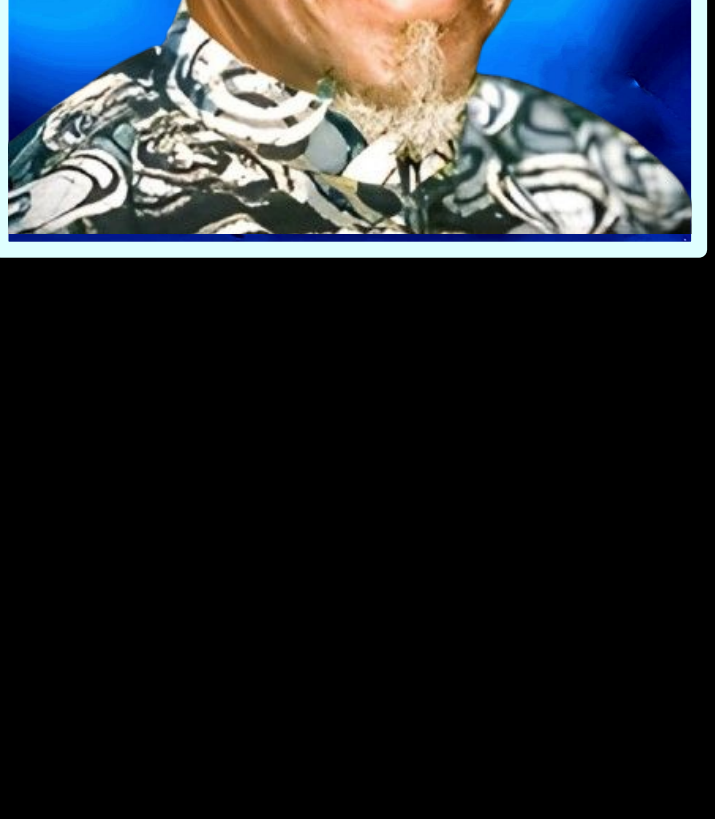
Pearl Y. Williams, Stage and House Manager. Dance Movement Therapist, School Counselor. Dance training at the Clark Center and in the studios in the city. Performances with: La Troupe Makandal and famed Haitian drummer Fishner Augustine, Variables of Seven Dance Company, We Owe Somebody Performance Company and a founding member of The PotLuck Poets. Executive Company Manager and AUDELCO nominated Costume Designer with Ty Stephens for On Kentucky Avenue, A Celebration of Atlantic City's Famed Club Harlem, created by JEREE Wade and the late singer, writer, and director Adam Wade. Stage managed for JEREE Lord, Lee Summers, Roger Parris, Eric Coleman, AGM Productions and Ajene D. Washington's A Shadow in Time (July 2025); LaVon's Urban Folk Arts Shows. House Manager for Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company, Enrique Cruz DeJesus/Donna Clark Productions. Thank you, Enrique, for the encouragement and choreography (Music IN US) in my coming back to dance. Eric Coleman, your expertise is evident. Thanks, Mom, for being forever loving. I know you are watching from above

(GUEST ARTISTS)



C. KELLY WRIGHT - (GUEST ARTIST/SINGER)

C. Kelly Wright is an actress, singer, and dancer. She has performed in Off-Broadway musicals and plays in New York City and in television and film in the U.S. and internationally. She first appeared in the award-winning As Thousands Cheer (2000) and the West Coast Premiere of Nambi E. Kelley's, Native Son (2017). Wright's work on Off-Broadway and theatrical stages across the country have garnered her much acclaim, including: Langston in Harlem (Urban Stages, NYC), The Scottsboro Boys (West Coast Tour), Black Pearl Sings! (Interact, Philadelphia) Caroline, Or Change and Radio Golf (TheatreWorks, CA). Wright's greatest love might be found developing new works. She has given voice to development of Broadway shows from Memphis to Mountaintop. Wright has worked for playwrights Aurin Squirr, Calvin A. Ramsey, David Lee Colston, Douglas Lyons, Larry Powell, Marcus Gardley, Nilan Johnson, Nina Mercer, Philana Omorotionmwana, and many more. Musically, Wright has developed with multiple award-winning writing teams. She is happy to be working with the PotLuck Poets and AGM Theater Company.



RICHARD FAIRFAX - (GUEST ARTIST/INSTRUMENTALIST)

Richard is a composer, arranger and woodwind instrumentalist. He first learned to play saxophone in elementary, junior and senior high schools in Roosevelt, Long Island, NY. He continued studies in instrumental performance, arranging and composition at the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury, focusing on the rich spectrum of music in the African American tradition.

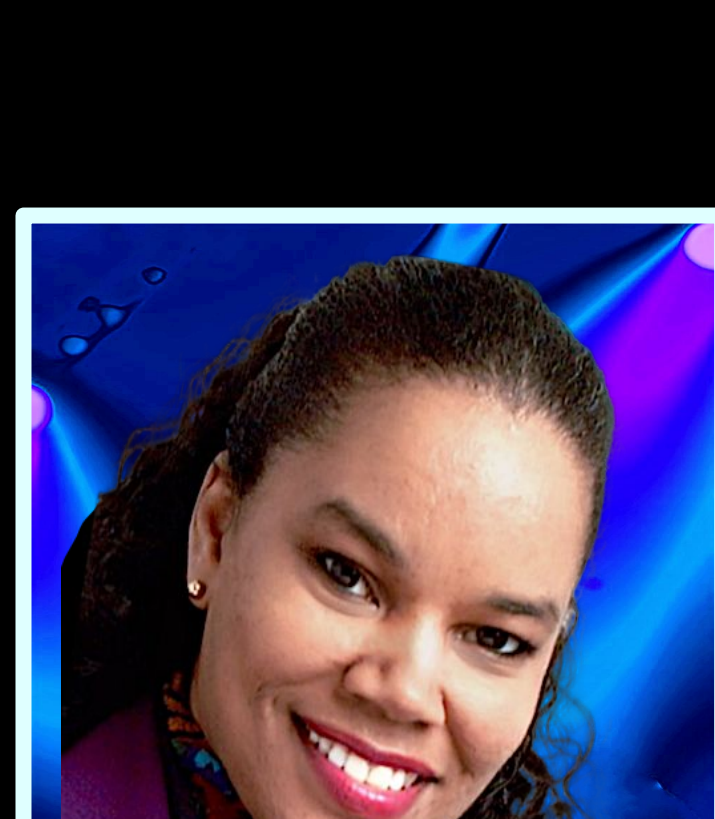
After graduating in 1977, he continued studies and performed with his mentor Professor Makanda Ken McIntyre.

He has performed with social-politically minded poetry-dance-music-theatre groups, The Sedition Ensemble, the We Owe Somebody Collective, Craig Harris' Harlem Nightsongs Big Band, and has led groups which have performed his original compositions in concerts of the Harlem Jazz Series.

While employed for 40 years by the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP), he developed a broad musical knowledge and business skills, which, since his retirement, have enabled him to continue to write, perform and publish his own compositions with his establish company Fairfax Music: "In The Tradition & Beyond" www.fairfaxmusic.org.

Richard Fairfax is delighted to collaborate with his creative long-time friends in this production.

(STAFF & CREW)



JANET MITCHELL - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Janet Mitchell's work in the theater community spans four decades, she is an Actor, Producer, Director, and Playwright. Janet's career in theater began at the age of fourteen when she joined the "Little Theater" at the famed Harlem YMCA, and she continues to work in the theater. At nineteen, Janet produced her first theater project, Gertrude Greenridge's "The Gift from Saturday" with her parents, Clarence and Adrian Mitchell serving as her first Executive Producers. In 1986, Janet joined The Hadley Players where she appeared in several of their productions. At the Hadley Player, Janet served as a Board Member, Treasurer, Business Manager, and CEO. In 2014, Ms. Mitchell, founded, Mitchell Entertainment Group, LLC, a production company based in New York City. Under her leadership, Mitchell Entertainment Group has produced Marjorie Eliot's "African Life on This American Soil", "An Evening with Langston Hughes", "We Love You Shirley", a one woman play that celebrates the life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, and "An Afternoon of Poetry and Jazz". In addition, Ms. Mitchell is the Executive Producer and Creator of "Inspire!", an interview format presentation focusing on African American Artist sharing their extraordinary journey in the arts. Some of Janet's directing credits include, "An Evening With Langston Hughes", "Election 2020", "I Remember Harlem When", "Ain't I A Woman, Black Women Speaking Truth To Power", "Fire Can't Kill A Soul", and "Black Women In Motion".

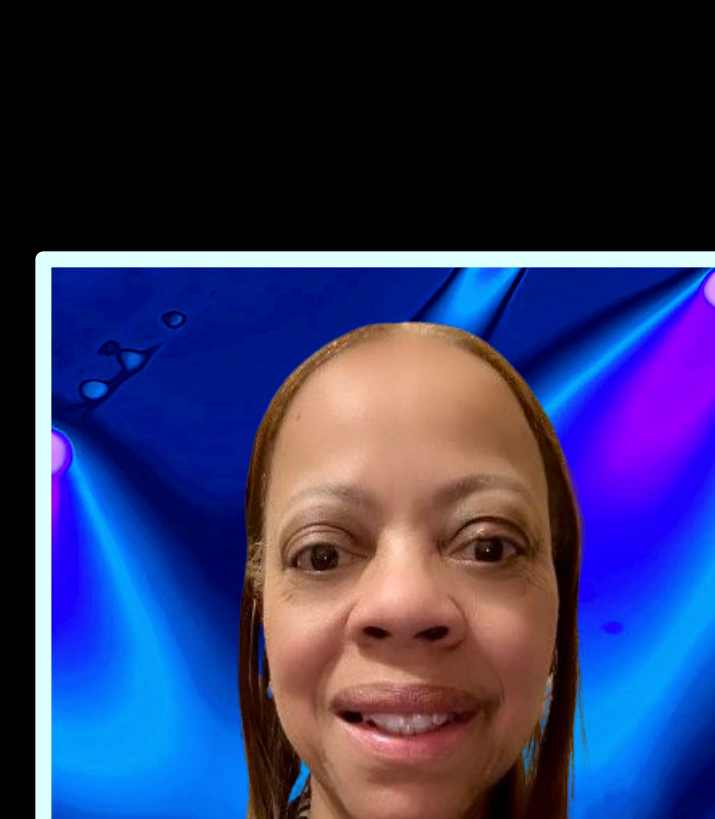
In 2017, Janet Mitchell founded AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company with Ka'Ran Bridges. Our vision is to provide opportunities for women of color to develop professional experience in performance, writing, directing, and technical positions.

Janet is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College and holds a master's in social work Degree from Yeshiva University.



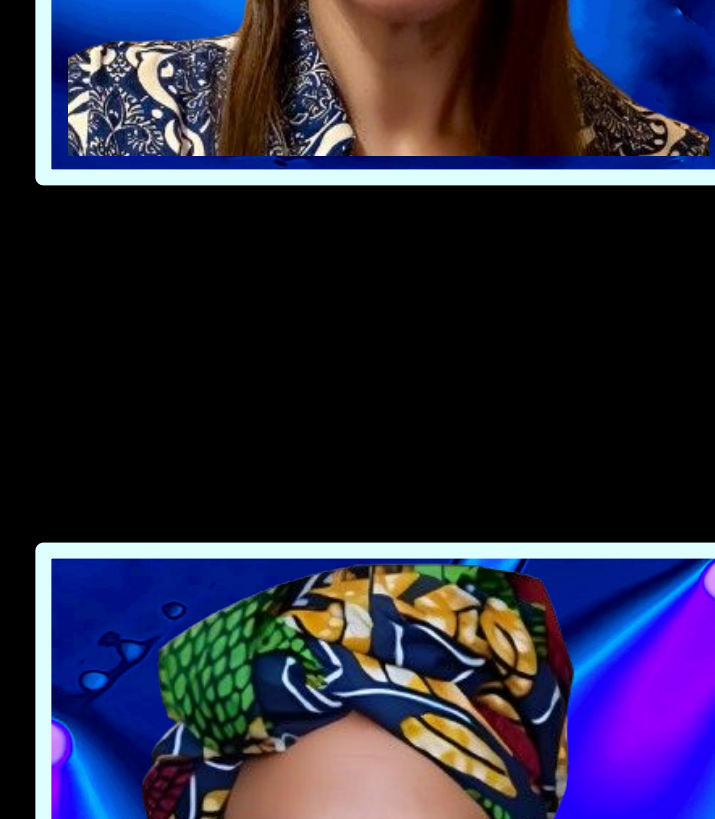
KA'RAN BRIDGES - PRODUCER / FLYER & POSTCARD DESIGN

Ms. Bridges has been active in the Theatre Community for over 40 years. She is an Actress who has also donned the hats of Stage Manager/Lighting Designer/Costume Designer/ and Voice-over Artist, for numerous theatrical companies, both in and out of New York. She wrote, choreographed, and directed a Children's Theatre Musical called "ROADS" for the Santa Barbara Children's Theatre. Her most noted honors include the "First Place Award" in the California Regional Competition of the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts (NASDA) for which she had the honor of studying with the late Dame Judith Anderson, and winning the 1995 AUDELCO Judy Dearing Costume Design Award for the AUDELCO nominated Play "In Pursuit of Justice." She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and holds a B.A. and M.A. in Theatre from Lincoln University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, respectively. She studied Acting at Teri Hayden's Theatre School in New York City with Alan Langdon, Jackie Brooks and Ceri Hayden, and is a Founding Member of the AGM (Adrian Graham Mitchell) Theater Company.



NATHAN PRINCE - (SOUND DESIGNER /SOUND TECHNICIAN)

I, Nathan Prince, have worked the sound for Director Eric Coleman on several occasions. Prior to that, I was and still am a digital sound guy. That's how Eric found and recommended me for the production this weekend. I was a teacher for more than two decades. I taught the children everything, however, what they loved most was when we put on theatrical productions. After retiring from teaching I went back to my first love, which is creating sounds from a digital perspective. I am glad to be back to working on this theater production, and possible future opportunities to work with your company. Thank you.



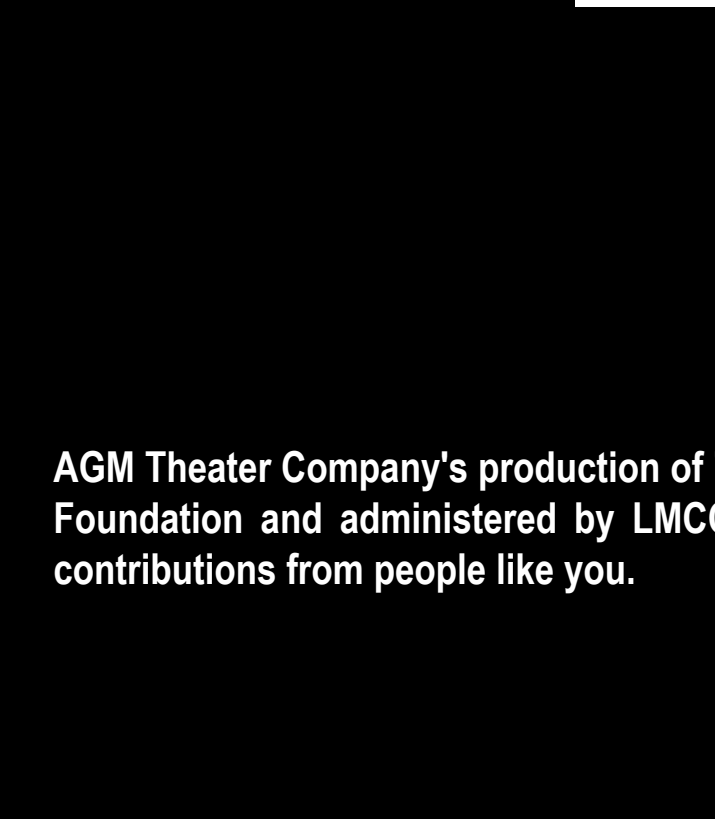
JANICE JENKINS - (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Janice Jenkins is an actress, playwright, and native New Yorker. She was formerly the Artistic Director of The H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players

She has received two AUDELCO Awards: Best One Person Performance for "In Pursuit of Justice" by Wendy Jones, directed by Bruce Edwin Jenkins, and Best Lead Actress for "A Bolt From The Blue" written and directed by Gertrude Jeannette.

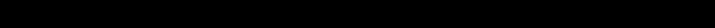
Since 2016, Janice has embarked on the new challenge of writing for the stage. She is currently finishing her first full-length play as a member of the Advanced Playwriting Class of the New Federal Theatre in New York City.

Janice is thrilled to be working with AGM again.



LUCY MONGES - (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Lucy Monges is loving the world of theater and we love having her. She has worked with us in numerous productions over these past few years, and is an extremely valued member of the family of AGM Theater Company. Lucy is also a world traveller and loves to go on cruises! She loves music and loves to dance!! But most importantly, she loves spending time with her Family - her daughter, her grandson, and all of her loved ones.



GIOVANNA KANU - (PRODUCTION ASSISTANT)

Giovanna is excited to be a part of the stage production for the PotLuck Poets again. This is her fourth time assisting the PotLuck Poets. Her interest in theatre and stage production has led her to work on the musical "On Kentucky Avenue" and the production "Musical Mingle" in New Jersey. Giovanna has worked for twenty-five-plus years in research and development in the pharmaceutical industry. Giovanna's longtime interest in interior design, combined with her analytical abilities and natural tendency for creating solutions, helps her in her interest and joy in stage design. When she is not working on stage productions, she collects ideas and sharpens her eye for staging by attending theatre in the Tri-state area. It is an asset to have Giovanna on board as a Production Assistant in Music in Us.

AGM Theater Company continues to honor the memory of our Treasured Production Manager Cynthia Kitt whose light will shine forever in our hearts.

Rest in Power Our Dear Beautiful Sister Kitt.

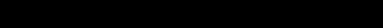
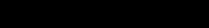
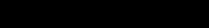
With Eternal Love,

Janet and Ka'Ran

and

The Entire AGM Theater Company Family

"Please Support AGM Theater Company by Making A Donation"



AGM Theater Company's production of "THE MUSIC IN US" is made possible in part with funds from: Creative Engagement, a grant program supported by funding agency Howard Gillman Foundation and administered by LMCC; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; and individual contributions from people like you.