

PLAYBILL



ACTORS THEATRE OF LITTLE ROCK

PRESENTS

for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf

WITH

Verda Davenport Miki Gaynor Shamber Uzuh Belinda Devine Somerlyn G. Mason Alexandria Brown Evanee Dra'a Dokes Ja'i Dantzler Courtney "Coco" Briggs

Scenic DesignerDariane LyJoi Mull

Costume, Hair, & Makeup Designer Caelon Colbert **Lighting Designer**Sid McGough

Sound Designer
Allison Austin

Production Asst./
Asst. Scenic Designer
Quinton Sanders

Choreographer Daija Black

Stage Manager Kristen Kaye Asst. Stage Manager Twanda House **Dramaturg** Amaya Hardin

Technical DirectorSid McGough

Producers

Janelle Von Storch Marla Hardison Monica Bernard Reese Von Storch

DirectorDariane LyJoi Mull

CAST

Lady in Brown	VERDA DAVENPORT
Lady in Red	MIKI GAYNOR
Lady in Blue	SHAMBER UZUH
Lady in Green	BELINDA DEVINE
Lady in Purple	SOMERLYN G. MASON
Lady in Orange	ALEXANDRIA BROWN
Lady in Yellow	EVANEE DRA'A DOKES
Lady in Pink	JA'I DANTZLER
Lady in Black	

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE

Executive Producer	MARK A. BURBANK
Board Producer	JANELLE VON STORCH
Associate Producer	MARLA HARDISON
Associate Producer	MONICA BERNARD
Junior Producer	
Director	
Dramaturg	AMAYA HARDIN
Choreographer	DAIJA BLACK
Stage Manager	KRISTEN KAYE
Asst. Stage Manager	TWANDA HOUSE
Technical Director	
Scenic Designer	DARIANE LYJOI MULL
Production Asst./Asst. Scenic Designer	QUINTON SANDER
Costume Designer	
Lighting Designer	SID MCGOUGH
Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator.	ALLISON AUSTIN
Mental Health Specialist	EMILY SWENSKIE
Light Board Operator	SHAUNDRAYA JACKSON



VERDA DAVENPORT

Lady in Brown

Verda Davenport is excited to be back at ATLR. Previous credits include Spring Awakening (Actors Theatre of Little Rock), Steele Magnolias (Murry's Dinner Playhouse), Trifles (Central Arkansas Theater-CAT- Collective), The Crucible (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), To Kill A Mockingbird (Arkansas Repertory Theater).



MIKI GAYNOR

Lady in Red

Miki Gaynor is always pleased to perform on the Actors Theatre stage! Previous credits include directing How Black Mothers Say I Love You and performing in Dance Nation (Amina) and Breaking The Box (collaborator/storyteller). "Theatre is a place of magick—where lives change for the better—I am grateful to share this experience with you!"



SHAMBER UZUH

Lady in Blue

Shamber Uzuh (she/her) is excited excited to make their Actors Theatre debut! Shamber is a passionate actor, filmmaker, and director. With a love for storytelling, she has made her mark in several notable theatre productions How Black Mothers Say I love You and A Raisin in the Sun (The Weekend Theater). In addition to her work on stage, Shamber is a filmmaker in pre-production for her debut film, Room 422. Shamber has also gad the unique experience working as an on-set nurse for high-profile television and film productions, including projects for HBO, AppleTV, and Thunderroad Productions.



BELINDA DEVINE

Lady in Green

Belinda Devine is a seasoned actor with a rich background in stage, commercial, television, and print work. Hailing from Hollywood, CA, Belinda's career has spanned various mediums, showcasing her versatile talent. Beyond acting, she has also made her mark as a director, bringing her unique vision to numerous projects. After a long hiatus, Belinda has triumphantly returned to the stage with her recent portrayal of Mama Euralie (Once on This Island). Her passion for performing on stage remains undiminished, and she is thrilled to be back in the industry, sharing her love for theatre with audiences once again.



SOMERLYN G. MASON

Lady in Purple

Somerlyn is a multi-talented performer with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, covering Science, General Education, and Visual and Performing Arts. She recently made a memorable debut as Church Lady (Darlene) in "The Color Purple." By profession, Somerlyn is a dedicated second-grade teacher, but her passion for performing arts has been evident since she started singing solos at the tender age of 2, inspired by her talented musician parents. She actively served on the praise team at New Nation International Church, Somerlyn showcased her talents as a Stepp Sister and a member of Les Styles in the stage production of "Dreamgirls," and she also gained valuable experience on the production side of the show. Additionally, she played a significant role in "Black Nativity," further demonstrating her range and commitment to the performing arts. Her diverse experiences and profound love for the arts drive her to seek out her dream role, one that will allow her to display her versatility across genres, from comedy to drama. With a rich background in both education and performance, Somerlyn is poised to make a significant impact in the world of acting.



ALEXANDRIA BROWN

Lady in Orange

Alexandria Brown (she/her) is excited to make her Actors Theatre of Little Rock debut! Brown has been in plays and productions since she was 8 years old, but found a deeper passion for acting in 2018 when she was featured in a couple of student films at her alma mater, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in mass communications. Because of those opportunities, Brown has had experience in modeling, film writing, improv, hosting, and assistant stage managing. Some of her favorite works include being a part of How Black Mothers Say I Love You (The Weekend Theater), a Sam's Club Commercial, and Corduroy (Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts). Thank you to a Dariane Mull and the entire cast and crew for an unforgettable experience. All glory to God.



EVANEE DRA'A DOKES

Lady in Yellow

Evanee Dra'a Dokes is very excited to make her Actors Theater debut! She has previously been seen as Heather Duke (Heathers), Hamlet (Hamlet) and Elsa (Frozen). She is currently studying theater as a freshman in college. "I hope you enjoy the show!"



JA'I DANTZLER

Lady in Pink

Ja'i Dantzler in "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide", is honored to be part of this production and grateful for the opportunity to bring this story to life. She's been acting since the ripe age of 6 but made her grand public debut as the female lead (yes, you read that right) in the musical Hats. Since then, she's graced the stage in many roles, including Annie in The Play That Goes Wrong, where—ironically—they totally meant to trip over that prop. While she continues her lifelong commitment to theatrical chaos, she molds young minds everyday as a preschool teacher, while pursuing her Masters in Elementary education, when not performing, she can be found passionately delivering dramatic interpretations and persuasive speeches, making every conversation feel like a nationally ranked performance. She'd like to thank her mother and her older sisters for everything they've ever done for her." Enjoy the show!



COURTNEY "COCO" BRIGGS

Lady in Black

Courtney "Coco" Briggs (She/Her) is a native of Fredericksburg,VA, but was raised in the small town of Helena-West Helena, AR. She currently resides in Little Rock, AR. She is a dedicated singer, song writer, actress and performer who loves to touch others through her gift of song. She recently made her theatrical debut in "Dreamgirls" as Effie White (Actor's Theatre of Little Rock). Courtney aims to continue to establish her career as an artist, performer and actress.

DARIANE LYJOI MULL

Director

DARIANE LYJOI MULL, a native of Little Rock, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Clinton School of Public Service earning a BA in Theatre Arts, Masters of Public Service, and a Masters of Education in Secondary Education. She is now the Drama Teacher at Pinnacle View Middle School and co-founder and board president of Actors Theatre of Little Rock. She was last seen on stage in Hello Dolly (First Cook/Ensemble) with Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and prior to that, Rent (Ensemble u/s Joanne) with Argenta Contemporary Theatre, and The Color Purple (Sofia), & Next to Normal (Diana) at Studio Theatre. Outside of acting, her most recent projects include stage managing and scenic designing What the Constitution Means to Me (Actors Theatre of Little Rock), co-directing Hunchback of Notre Dame (Royal Theatre), assistant directing and scenic design for Once On This Island (Studio Theatre), co-directing Black Nativity (Actors Theatre of Little Rock) and assistant directing One-Ninth (Argenta Contemporary Theatre). She is incredibly honored to play another one of her "dream" roles and looks forward to continuing to claim space for Black Women here in our theatre community.

AMAYA HARDIN Dramaturg

Amaya Hardin (she/her) is so excited to help share the story of For Colored Girls. Her previous credits include TiMoune (Once on this Island), Urleen (Footloose), and Ariel (The Little Mermaid). However, this is her first production as a Dramaturg! She has learned so much from this process and she hopes you do too.

KRISTEN KAYE

Stage Manager

Kaye Knight is honored to be working with this incredible cast and crew. She wishes to thank Dariane, Sid, and Twanda for always rockin' with her! Also catch her this summer singing for the AR Travelers games!

DAIJA BLACK

Choreographer

Daija Black is honored to serve as the choreographer for 'The Color Purple' and is excited to collaborate with the talented cast and crew. A native of Houston, Texas, Daija now resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she immersed herself in choreography and dance—her true passions. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Dance at St. Mary's College of California while teaching Dance within the Little Rock School District. This production marks her inaugural collaboration with the Pine Bluff theatre community, and she looks forward to contributing to future endeavors. Choreographic works include "Choir Boy" (The Studio Theatre) and "For Colored Girls..." (Actors Theatre of Little Rock). Daija dedicates this message to her students, encouraging them to relentlessly pursue their dreams and aspirations in the arts. She would also like to thank her family, friends and colleagues for the push she has needed to make her dreams come true.

MARK A. BURBANK

Executive Producing Artistic Director of ATLR

Mark A. Burbank is a multi-hyphenate creative (producer/ director/ performer/designer), educator, and artivist. They hail from Little Rock, AR, but have directed, performed, and taught around the country. Mark is also the Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Actors Theatre of Little Rock. Mark is no stranger to the stage having over 80 production credits ranging from community, education, and professional productions. Previously, they were the Associate Artistic Director and Executive Director of The Studio Theatre, where they have directed and produced eleven productions, including Songs for a New World, Mamma Mia, A Christmas Story: the musical, and Dogfight, Other directing projects include Parade and Mary Poppins at the Royal Theatre, Young Frankenstein with the Community Theatre of Little Rock, and Johnny Appleseed with Missoula Children's Theatre. Mark spent the covid year teaching theatre at Little Rock Central High School, and has taught classes and workshops in acting, dance, singing, and auditioning with schools and theaters around the country. Mark is also an accomplished designer, choreographer, musical director, and actor. Favorite acting credits include Tony (West Side Story), Squidward (The Spongebob Musical), Anthony (Sweeney Todd), Prince Dauntless (Once Upon A Mattress), Jeffery (Godspell), Prince Topher (Cinderella), Enjolras (Les Miserables), and Rolf (The Sound of Music). Mark is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas.

SID MCGOUGH

Technical Director

Sid McGough, a Hendrix College alum from Texarkana, TX, is the Resident Lighting Designer and Technical Director for Actors Theatre of Little Rock. A Founding Artist with ATLR, Sid is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the theatre's artistic vision and its commitment to fearless works. Sid's recent projects with ATLR include Lighting Design for Dance Nation, Lighting Design for What the Constitution Means to Me, and Prop Design for Chicago.

JAKE COFFMAN

Graphic Designer

Jake Coffman is an Arkansas native with a long history in the Arts, including a background in singing, graphic design, and marketing. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Music and Mass Communications from Ouachita Baptist University, and is a classically trained vocalist. He currently serves as the Graphic Designer for Actors Theatre of Little Rock, and is also the Director of Marketing and Branding at Nexus Coffee and Creative in downtown Little Rock. Jake also has a history on stage! Past favorite stage credits include Billy Crocker (Anything Goes), The Escapologist (Matilda the Musical), and Larry the Lobster (The Spongebob Musical).

SPECIAL THANKS

ACTORS THEATRE OF LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ACTORS THEATRE OF LITTLE ROCK STAFF

Mark A. Burbank, **Executive Producing Artistic Director**Sid McGough, **Technical Director**Jake Coffman, **Graphic Designer**

INVEST IN THE ARTS!

There are many opportunities to support ACTORS THEATRE OF LITTLE ROCK with your gifts - a vital part of keeping our unique company alive!

All donations are tax deductible and welcome at any time.

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Receive a half page ad in our program, social media shoutouts, shoutout at the beginning of the show, 6 reserved seats to one performance.

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$2,000

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PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

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Actors Theatre of Little Rock is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has emerged as a beacon of creativity, providing a space for bold artistic works to Central Arkansas!

Questions? Email <u>info@actorstheatrelr.org</u> to learn more about Actors Theatre of Little Rock and more ways to support us!

If you would like to support our mission, you can donate today at https://donorbox.org/brighten-the-stage



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Introducing our 2025 "Other" Season! After Season Two, we have revitalized, new programming that engages our artistic community and beyond past the perimeters of our mainstage shows



OTHER SEASON



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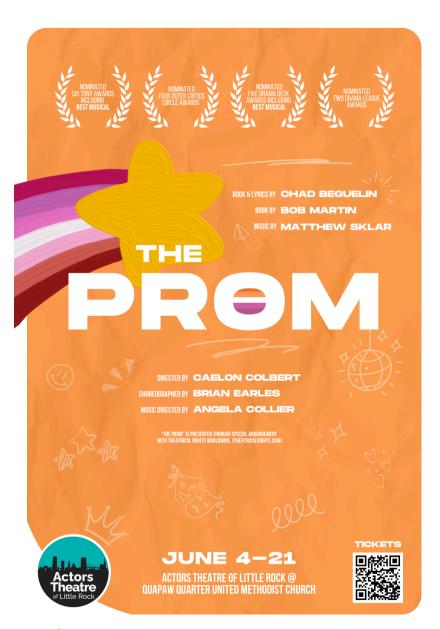
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