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lighting designer **Thomas Hudson** 

sound board operator Austin Barrick assistant director Dominique P. Denman

managing director Alec Skwara

lighting designer David Tyson

costume designer Erin Schaeffer-Felty artistic director Edward R. Fernandez

> scenic designer Jordan Janota

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Originally Produced on Broadway by Pamela Ross, Hunter Arnold, E. Clayton Cornelius, Leah Michalos, Kayla Greenspan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Nick Jonas, Mapleseed Productions, Curt Cronin, John Joseph, John Paterakis, Invisible Wall Productions/Blaine Hopkins

> CHICKEN & BISCUITS received its launch production at Queens Theatre (Taryn Sacramone, Executive Director), Queens, NY, on February 28, 2020

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### CAST OF CHICKEN & BISCUITS

Brianna Jenkins	Beatrice Levicoff
Baneatta Mabry	Raquel Richardson
Simone Mabry	Adaria McGill
Beverly Jenkins	Ashley Baker
Kenny Mabry	Robert Denzel Edwards
Logan Leibowitz	Sean Caldwell
Reginald Mabry	Reji Woods
La'Trice Franklin	Kimora Greggs

### **PRODUCTION TEAM:**

Kellie C. Turner	Director
Dominique P. Denman	Assistant Director
Edward R. Fernandez	Artistic Director
Alec Skwara	Managing Director
Nicole McCauley	Stage Manager
Thomas Hudson	Co-Lighting Designer
David Tyson	Co-Lighting Designer
Jordan Janota	Scenic Designer
Grant Patrick S	ound Designer/Sound Board Operator
Austin Barrick	Sound Board Operator
Erin Schaeffer-Felty	Costume Designer
Carlos Kohls	Light Board Operator
Keith Eyrich	Properties
Steve Schelling	Technical Director
Zach Haines	Media Director

# MEET THE CAST



**Ashley Baker (Beverly Jenkins)** - Ashley is so grateful to be a part of this production. She is a beautiful soul hailing from Wilmington, De. Ashley has studied theater and graduated from Grambling State University. You may remember her on this very stage not too long ago in The Color Purple (Sofia). Since that production she has had the opportunity to continue doing what she loves, performing for you all. Most recently she has graced the stage in Escape to Margaritaville (Marley) and Sweat (Cynthia) at Milburnstone Theater. Street Dreams (Rosella) at Wilm Drama League, The Little Mermaid (Ursula) at Del. Children's Theater, Wizard of Oz (Aunt Em/Guard). This lady is no stranger to the stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support. Thank you to those who support the arts. We do this for you all. Lastly, to those who can no longer fill seats but still hold a place in my heart, I love you and I know you're watching!



**Sean Caldwell (Logan Leibowitz)** - Seanis honored to join this talented group of artists for this show. Earlier this season, he appeared in EPAC's Angels in America (Joe Pitt) and the world premiere of Douglas Lyons' newest work Pure Glitter (Blair). Other favorite credits: Clybourne Park, 1776, Beauty and the Beast, Into the Woods. IG: sean\_m\_caldwell



**Robert Denzel Edwards (Kenny Mabry)** - Robert is a NYC based actor who is so excited to be making his official EPAC debut with this amazing show! Previous theatre credits include: Sanctuary City (Kitchen Theatre Company/Geva Theatre), Into the Woods (Playhouse on Park), Sister Act (Redhouse), Chicken & Biscuits (TheatreSquared), A Midsummer Night's Dream (CT Shakespeare Festival), The Fan (The Cherry Arts), Kinky Boots (Hangar Theatre), Waiting for the Host (Redhouse), A Christmas Carol (Hangar Theatre). Robert would like to thank God, and everyone else who has supported him and his career up to this point. This one's for you, Grandad! Instagram: @therobbierob



**Kimora Greggs (La'Trice Franklin)** - This is Kimora's fourth production. In the past, she was in Annie as July, The Extraordinary League of Horrible Monsters as Tasha, The Briefer Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet as Juliet, and Catherine in a short scene from Proof. Kimora is excited to be part of this production!

# MEET THE CAST



Beatrice Levicoff (Brianna Jenkins) - Beatrice is so excited to become a part of this family! She graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Temple University's Boyer School of Music. She was the 2015 recipient of the Esther M. Schulz award for choral excellence upon her college graduation. In 2014, she sang for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. She has been seen onstage at Ephrata Playhouse, Fulton Theater, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater, Footlighters Theater, Mount Gretna Tabernacle, Newtown Theater, Mickeys Black Box Theater, and has suna onstage at the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall, Academy of Music and Lincoln Center as well as sung the national anthem for the Lancaster Barnstormers many times. She is one of the 2010 Opera Lancaster competition winners and in 2020, she made her Opera Philadelphia debut. Favorite roles include The Witch (Into the Woods), Maria (West Side Story), Lady of the Lake (Spamalot), Annio (La Clamenza di Tito). She is also currently one of the Alto Staff Singers for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church choir in Flourtown, Pa. Beatrice is extremely grateful for her husband and family's support. This is for Jeanne.



Adaria McGill (Simone Mabry) - After spending recent years backstage, Adaria is excited to take her moment in the spotlight with so many familiar faces! Adaria's previous work includes *In the Midst of Faith*: *The Hazel I Jackson Story* (Stage Manager) and *Where Are You Christmas*? (Adult Ensemble). Off stage Adaria likes to read, cross-stitch, and watch K-dramas with her mom. Thank you to Kellie and Dominique for your wonderful direction and leadership, and to the cast for your support!



Raquel Richardson (Baneatta Mabry) - Raquel Raquel has graced the local stages of Lancaster County for four decades, however this will be her debut at the Ephrata Performing Arts Center. Raquel's humble beginnings in theater and dance began at the Crispus Attucks Community Center in the southeast section of Lancaster City. She later attended Temple University where she majored in Radio, Television and Film. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry, at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA, remotely. Her latest credits include Leaders and Liberators: Honoring Harriet Tubman and her Lancaster County Connections and an outstanding performance as Lena Younger in A Raisin In The Sun at Susquehanna Stage. This show marks a first for Raquel and her daughter, Adaria McGill, (Simone Mabry) who usually works backstage in production, but was chosen to co-star with the cast. Raguel is an exceptional cook and loves to travel. Her latest spirit of wanderlust took her to the country of Kenya. She hopes to travel to Sierra Leone, West Africa where her ancestral ethnicity was found, and Seoul, South Korea to find her 'K-drama man-crush". Raguel would like to thank her father and step-mom, Mervyn C., (June) Richardson for being the best Dad a girl could have. Mrs. Elizabeth McGill for her unwavering support throughout her life. 'I love you, Mom Liz"! Raguel would also like to thank the late Mrs. Jean Frazier for cultivating in her a love for telling the stories of African-American families on the thespian stage so that our collective artistic contributions of music, dance and prose would never be forgotten.

### MEET THE CAST



Reji Woods (Reginald Mabry) - Reji is thrilled to be making his EPAC debut. Having earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida Conservatory Theatre, he has performed throughout the United States as well as in Paris, Amsterdam, and India, Reii is the co-founder/owner Bending Threads Cabaret Company based in New York, NY, and the founder of Reji Woods Productions based in Lancaster, PA. Reji recently made his Broadway debut in Rocktopia, and has enjoyed an extensive New York/Off-Broadway, national tour and regional theatre acting career. He is also enjoying a burgeoning television career with featured roles in the sixth season of Orange Is The New Black, and the third season of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel. Reji's most recent film credit is as Darold Walton in the award-winning comedy, Tapawingo (with John Heder, Billy Zane, and Gina Gershon). Reji currently teaches voice and acting throughout Lancaster County and creates/directs cabaret and revue shows in the Lancaster County area. He is the Theatre Director at Ephrata High School and enjoys living in the Ephrata area with his wife, Audra, and their adorable cat, Molly.

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### MEET THE TEAM

#### Austin Barrick (Sound Board Operator)

**Dominique P. Denman (Assistant Director)** - Dr. Dominique P. Denman is excited to be making her Ephrata Performing Arts Center directorial debut alongside Dr. Kellie C. Turner. She has been featured onstage in Ain't Misbehavin, Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope (Houston), Crowns, and Black Nativity (New York). Dominique's work as director and producer includes Black Nativity, A Tribute to Broadway, The Mountaintop, A Raisin in the Sun, Crowns, Fame, Jr., and Chicken and Biscuits. Her behind-the-scenes work includes composer and lyricist for Stormy the Musical. Dr. Denman also sang with the Houston Grand Opera chorus for 14 seasons. She is the Executive Director of Erie Theater Company. Dominique is grateful for the love of Kellie, Cooper, and family, and gives special thanks to Ed Fernandez and the Board of Directors of EPAC for this amazing opportunity.

**Keith Eyrich (Properties)** - Well, someone's got to break the ice, and it might as well be me. I mean, I'm used to being a hostess, it's part of my husband's work. And it's always difficult when a group of new friends meet together for the first time, to get acquainted. So I'm perfectly prepared to start the ball rolling. I mean, I-I have absolutely no idea what we're doing here. Or what I'm doing here, or what this place is about, but I am determined to enjoy myself. And I'm very intrigued, and, oh my, this soup's delicious, isn't it?

#### Edward R. Fernandez (Artistic Director) - See Artistic Director section.

**Thomas Hudson (Co-Lighting Designer)** - Thomas serves as a Production Account Manager at 4Wall Entertainment in Rock Lititz. He most recently designed Rock of Ages and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at EPAC, Mamma Mia! at Ephrata High School, Chess: In Concert at Gretna Theatre, and Beautiful at Genesius in Reading. He also owns Scary Good Productions in Ephrata, which specializes in Lighting Design, Rentals, Sales and Installations. Previously, he served as the Master Electrician at American Music Theater from 2018 to 2019. Thomas currently serves as EPAC's Master Electrician and Technical Consultant. If you are interested in checking out any of his work please visit www.thomashudsonlighting.com or scarygoodpro.com.

Jordan Janota (Scenic Designer) - Jordan is thrilled to be back at Ephrata Performing Arts Center. Past EPAC Designs Include: Clybourne Park, The Little Dog Laughed, The Spongebob Musical, Hedda Gabler, The Boys in the Band, The Guys, The Glass Menagerie, Death of a Salesman, Fun Home, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Doubt. Prior design credits include, Buyer and Cellar, Noises Off, Hound of the Baskervilles, and Into the Woods at Northern Stage, Kinky Boots, The Scottsboro Boys, Once, In the Heights, and Carrie the Musical with Baldwin-Wallace at The Beck Center for the Arts in Cleveland OH, the TYA World Premier of Madagascar: Live and Beat Bugs, the Musical as well as the World Premier of Becoming Martin at The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City. www.jordanjanota.com

#### Nicole McCauley (Stage Manager)

#### Carlos Kohls (Light Board Operator)

**Grant Patrick (Sound Designer/Board Operator)** - Grant, our Lead Audio Engineer here at EPAC, is excited to bring *Chicken and Biscuits* to the EPAC stage. He is a local sound designer from the Lancaster County area and was recognized for Best Sound Design of a Play or Musical in 2022 by Broadway World for his work in EPAC's *Amadeus*. Grant designs and sponsors these shows through his audio business, Anarchy Sound LLC. After seeing Douglas Lyons's new show, *Pure Glitter*, come together at our Queer Voices staged readings, Grant is excited to put on another of Douglas' works. Grant would like to thank his outstanding girlfriend Rachel for always supporting him in everything he does.

### MEET THE TEAM

Erin Schaeffer-Felty (Costume Designer) - Erin is thrilled to be returning for her second show EPAC, designing costumes and wigs for Chicken and Biscuits! Erin holds a BFA in Theatre with a Design and Technology option emphasizing in Costume Design, along with being the recipient of the Oliver Smith Award for Outstanding Costume Design in 2015. Over the past several years, she has been designing and creating costumes with several entertainment and education institutions such as the PA Renaissance Faire, Penn State Altoona, Cavod Performing Arts, Servant Stage, Reading Civic Theatre, EPAC, Sight and Sound Theaters as well as Sight and Sound Films. After working several years as part of the Costume and Wig Department at Sight and Sound Theatre, Erin now proudly serves as the Administration Coordinator for Sight and Sound Conservatory, where she also has the opportunity to continue her passion for designing costumes for the student's play and musical each spring. When not working in theatre, Erin also runs her own design and alterations business, TailorMade Designs, focusing on wedding and formal wear alterations and custom millinery projects. After designing Clybourne Park with EPAC last year, Erin is excited to be back and add Chicken and Biscuits to the list of wonderful shows she has gotten to be a part of. Erin would like to thank her family along with her husband for their continued support and love each day! Enjoy the show!

#### Steve Schelling (Technical Director)

Alec Skwara (Managing Director) - Alec is pleased and honored to have assisted in presenting Chicken & Biscuits on the EPAC stage. This heartwarming comedy by Douglas Lyons is sure to showcase the tension and triumphs that occur when family comes together to celebrate life, faith, and love for one another. He's sure you'll find moments to laugh, tear up, and even reflect on your own relationships with family—both related and found. Alec would like to thank his own family, his best friend Thomas, and his partner Sarah for their unyielding support and love. Enjoy the show!

Kellie C. Turner (Director) - Kellie C. Turner is happy to be returning to EPAC to direct Douglas Lyons' Broadway hit, Chicken & Biscuits. She made her EPAC directorial debut earlier this season as part of the Queer Voices Festival in the staged reading of Mr. Lyons' most recent work, Pure Glitter. Kellie has been featured both onstage (Broadway: ShowBoat, Regional: Intimate Apparel, Crowns, The Wiz, Dreamgirls, Porgy & Bess), in front of the camera (T.V.: Modern Love, Sopranos), and behind the scenes as playwright (Stormy, Jimmy Earl's Defense, Birds Flyin' High: A Night with Nina), and producer (Black Nativity, Crowns, Son of A Preacher Man, A Raisin in the Sun). She has been featured on the international stage with Harlem Gospel Singers, New York Harlem Singers, The Harlem Messengers and the musical, Hair. Her directorial credits include productions of Crowns, Shrek, Jr., The Mountaintop, The Brief(er) Tragedy of Romeo & Juliet, and Into the Woods. Jr. Kellie's next work will be as director for a production of Beauty and the Beast Ir. in the spring. It has been a joy to bring these characters, a brief glimpse into a rich yet complex culture, and themes of navigating family dynamics, love, acceptance and forgiveness to life. Thank you to Ed, Andrea, Alec, Douglas, Nicole, this amazing cast, and the entire staff at EPAC for allowing this story to be told. Grateful to and for Nikki and Cooper. Peace and Love.

**David Tyson (Co-Lighting Designer)** - David is a lighting designer and electrician from Harrisburg, PA. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from York College of PA. His designs for Scary Good Productions include Kinky Boots, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Clybourne Park, Anything Goes, Mamma Mia, Finding Nemo, Jr., Seussical, Jr., and Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. He has also been in numerous plays, musicals, and a film. He would like to thank his girlfriend and his family/friends for all their continued support! YEAH!

### EPAC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Edward R. Fernandez (Artistic Director)** - This is Ed's 28th year as Artistic Director of the Ephrata Performing Arts Center. A native of New York City, Ed studied theatre arts at the Leonard Davies Center for the Performing Arts at the City College of New York, as well as Acting and Scene Study with the renowned acting teacher and theorist Herbert Berghof at his studio in Manhattan. In 1987, he came to Lancaster to perform in the EPAC (Ephrata Performing Arts Center) production of *The Mousetrap*, fell in love with EPAC, and decided to move to Lancaster County.

After two years of acting in the Lancaster and Berks County area, Ed was asked to perform the leading role in Edward Albee's *The Man Who Had Three Arms* at the Albee Festival at Albright College. The production was moved to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland), where it took the First Fringe Award. Upon returning to Lancaster County, Ed directed his first show at EPAC, *Golddust*, and a western musical based on Moliere's *The Miser*. After the opening of *Golddust*, Ed went on to become one of the most prolific directors of musical theatre in the Lancaster Area. In 1996, Ed took over the reins as Artistic Director at the Ephrata Performing Arts Center.

His EPAC directing credits are too numerous to mention, besides producing all the productions over his 28 years as Artistic Director, he has directed most of them. In addition, he has directed Pacific Overtures, Macbeth and Oedipus Rex for Theatre of the Seventh Sister, Cinderella, Pippin, Wizard of Oz, Man of La Mancha, Fiddler on the Roof and Peter Pan for the Fulton Opera House, and Bus Stop and Dancing at Lungasha for the York Little Theatre, now known as The Belmont. Ed's commitment to theatre education is reflected in the classes he has taught, including Basic Acting Technique, Advanced Scene, Monologue workshops, and Musical Theatre Technique.

Ed has seen the Ephrata Performing Arts Center grow incredibly over the 35-plus years that he has been here, from a small hot barn to the beautiful year-round facility you are sitting in tonight. It was a long hard road but a wonderful, fun one as well, filled with laughter, love, creativity, and great memories.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**



**Douglas Lyons** is a multi-hyphenate artist. As a writer, he earned a GLAAD nomination for his Broadway playwriting debut, Chicken and Biscuits, which was the 2nd most produced play in America in 2022-23. Douglas served as a writer on both seasons of Apple TV's Emmy award winning series Fraggle Rock. His Broadway acting credits include the Book of Mormon, the Original Casts of Beautiful and the Tony award winning Broadway revival of Parade. Doualas has also toured in Rent. Dreamairls and Book of Mormon. As a composer-lyricist, his music and lyrics have been featured on Nickelodeon, BET Plus, Apple TV, CBS's Sunday Morning Show, and more. His musicals include Polkadots (Off Broadway Alliance Winner Best Family Show, Atlantic Theater Company), Beau (Adirondack Theatre Festival), Breathe (Audible), The Moon and The Sea (Constellation Stage) and the world premiere of Five Points (Theater Latté Da). He is currently developing television with Sky Dance and Ryan Reynolds' Maximum Effort. His upcoming projects include: The world premiere of Table 17 at MCC, as well as the film adaptation of Big River. With composing partner Ethan D. Pakchar, Douglas is a 2020 Jonathan Larson Grant finalist

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