Steve Abrams & Kicky Productions presents

Lettin’ The Good Times Roll

Songs, Stories and Sass from Chicago’s Stage Divas

DECEMBER 15, 2017-JANUARY 7, 2018

-FEATURING-
E. Faye Butler  Felicia P. Fields

with
Justin Boyd  Ron Haynes  Frank L. Menzies
Ja’Bowen Dixon  Charles R. Heath IV  Norman Palm
Rajiv Halim  Jeremiah Hunt  Joey Woolfolk

Directed by
Kenneth L. Roberson

Music Direction by
Frank L. Menzies

Stage Manager/Lighting Designer
Julie E. Ballard

Lighting Designer/Audio Engineer
Keegan Bradac

Original Music
Felton Offard

Photography/Graphic Design
Vin Reed

Publicity
Dionne Williams  D. Williams PR Group

Media Sponsor
Chicago Defender
E. Faye Butler (vocals) Ms. Butler’s career spans over 39 years in the entertainment industry. Ms. Butler is an Actress – Singer who travels the country with her cabaret shows and concert series including: American standards, jazz, blues, R&B, gospel, musical theatre, An Evening with E. Faye, Just In Time, The Ladies Who Lunch, Happy Holidays, The Party’s Over, and Valentines For the Lonely Heart. She continues to create and develop new and captivating shows. The Kennedy Center, Harmon Hall, Mayne Theatre, Blues Alley, Strathmore Music Center, Beacon Theatre, Chicago Blues Festival, Ten Chimneys, Northlight Theatre, Centerstage, BET Soundstage Room 43, Sahara Hotel, Allegro Hotel, Marriott’s Lincolnshire, Midway Theatre, Butterfly Club, Warner Theatre, Teatro in La Habana are among the many concert venues, theatres, jazz clubs and music festivals E. Faye has performed. Ms. Butler has been seen numerous times at Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, Victory Gardens, Northlight Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Court Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Steppenwolf Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Signature Theatre, The Muny, Baltimore Centerstage, Chicago Shakespeare, Drury Lane Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Chicago Childrens Theatre, Congo Square, Marriott’s Lincolnshire Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Fulton Theatre, Maine State, Sacramento Music Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Olney Theatre and Paper Mill Playhouse, as well as Off Broadway National and Regional tours Mamma Mia, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Dinah Was, Nunsense and Nunsense II, and Cope….Recipient of seven Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, R.A.M.I. Award, John Barrymore Award, Ovation Award, Sarah Siddons Leading Lady Award, After Dark Award, Excellence in the Arts, four Black Theatre Alliance Awards, Black Alliance Award, Lunt-Fontaine Fellowship, Kathryn V. Lampkey Award, 2016 Rosetta LeNoire Award, The Guy Adkins Award for the Advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago and has been inducted into the Women in the Arts Museum in Washington D.C. Her CDs, A Circle of Firsts, E. Faye at the Midway Theatre and Second City Divas are available everywhere music is available.

Felicia P. Fields (vocals) is a Tony-nominated Broadway star who most recently appeared as the voice of Audrey II in Music On Stage’s production of Little Shop of Horrors and prior to that was last seen in How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying at Marriott Linconshire and recently returned from Alabama and Colorado in I’ll Take You There performing the roles of Etta James & Mavis Staples. Goodman Theatre credits include Crowns, The Rose Tattoo, The Amen Corner, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom and A Christmas Carol. Other Chicago credits include productions at Marriott Theatre Lincolnshire, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Northlight Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, Theatre at the Center and Apple Tree Theatre. She has performed in Hairspray and the tour of Love, Loss, and What I Wore. Production credits include Nunsense; Nunset Boulevard; Swinging on a Star; Some Like It Hot; Richard II; It Ain’t Nothing But the Blues; Low Down Dirty Blues; A Civil War Christmas; Hot Mikado; Show Boat; Ain’t Misbehavin’; Dreamgirls and Hello, Dolly!, among others. Ms. Fields earned a Tony Award nomination for her portrayal of Sofia in The Color Purple on Broadway. That performance also earned her a 2006 Theatre World Award, a Clarence Derwent Award, two Broadway.com awards, an NAACP nomination and a Denver Post Ovation Award. She was a 2006 Drama League honoree. Ms. Fields has received a Black Theatre Alliance Award and nominations, many Jeff Award nominations and the award for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance in Sophisticated Ladies. Her television and film credits include Chicago Fire, Doubt, Sense 8, Who Gets The Dog (with Alicia Silverstone & Ryan Kwanten) Early Edition, Save the Last Dance, The Knights of Prosperity, and Slice (with Chance the Rapper) and many commercials and voice-overs.

Ja’Bowen Dixon (tap dancer) is a performance and visual artist based out of Chicago, IL. Since the age of 6, Ja’Bowen has been performing and producing dance, acting, music, writing, and design. He is most publicly noted for being a founding and principle member of the acclaimed tap dance company M.A.D.D. Rhythms, since its creation in 2001. As a tap dancer, he has performed at a multitude of
venues across the country for a wide array of events, including Halftime for the Chicago Bulls, featured roles in major motion picture films, national and international television spots. Currently, Ja'Bowen has re-directed his focus back to being a inter-disciplinary artist. That new focus is coupled with a new intention for his works to be a vital instrument in helping to elevate the collective consciousness, by entertaining, educating and/or inspiring audiences worldwide, with his art. As Ja'Bowen takes his many years of training and experience and expands beyond just tap dance, and back into other art forms, he is poised to parlay his already successful career as a dancer into even bigger success as an interdisciplinary artist.

Rajiv Halim (saxophone) is a saxophonist, composer, and educator from Chicago, IL. Internationally, Rajiv has performed at venues and festivals in Canada, Poland, Belize, and Taiwan. Nationally, Rajiv has performed and/or recorded with many great musicians: Jennifer Hudson, Chance the Rapper, Cory Henry, Von Freeman, Mike Stern, Martha Reeves, Bob Mintzer, The Four Tops, and others. A highlight of Rajiv’s recording career came in 2016 when he contributed saxophone parts to the composition “Finish Line” by Chance the Rapper for his project “Coloring Book”, which won the 2017 Grammy Award for “Best Rap Album”. Rajiv’s debut album, “Foundation,” was released in August 2015 and is available for digital purchase worldwide. Rajiv is an endorsing artist for Jody Jazz Saxophone Mouthpieces and plays them exclusively.

Ron Haynes (trumpet, vocals) Born and raised on the west side Chicago, Ron Haynes began his career as a trumpeter while in his teens, performing with various blues artists. He studied at Shaw university in N.C., then transferred to North Carolina Central University where he studied with under jazz great Dr. Donald Byrd. Amongst his achievements, Ron was horn section leader for the Bernie Mac’s HBO show Midnight Mac with Bernie Mac, later joining the Ohio-players. While playing with Liquid Soul, their CD Here’s the Deal was Grammy-nominated for best contemporary jazz Album in 2001. Ron has worked with Ramsey Lewis and is featured on Urban Knights IV and the Chicago project. Ron joined Lenny Kravitz in 2005 and participated in a world tour. Remaining busy with his solo career, Ron has released three CDs (Cool Work, Can You Hear Me and Journey Man) and the latest with his new band. The Chicago Game Changers. Ron also had a five-year run with the musical Ella, portraying Louis Armstrong and understudy and trumpeter in The Buddy Holly Story.

Charles Rick Heath IV (Drums) Originating from Chicago, IL, Charles “Rick” Heath IV is a versatile and renowned musician, educator, and producer from local to international levels. Currently, Mr. Heath serves as the drummer for piano jazz legend Ramsey Lewis and is the producer and founder of the (nfp) Ken Chaney Scholarship Fund which is designed to assist young jazz musicians attend jazz camps throughout the country, help with their college tuition, and maintain a free monthly mentorship jam session for young musicians and the community. Mr. Heath taught music in Chicago Public Schools from 1999-2007. He later on was asked to serve as the principle drummer for Oprah Winfrey and Quincy Jones national touring production of the Broadway hit musical “The Color Purple” featuring Fantasia and Michelle Williams of Destiny’s Child from 2007-2010. Although Charles is dedicated to educating the youth and serving the music community he is just as passionate and dedicated to his music performance capabilities on the drums, playing everything from Gospel to Blues and Jazz to Latin music. Heath has performed and recorded with Ramsey Lewis, Phillip Bailey of Earth Wind and Fire, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Ken Chaney, Donald Byrd, Robert Irving Ill, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and many others. Charles “Rick” Heath IV is continuously breaking barriers in his career as a musician, mentor, educator, producer and humanitarian. He is always leading with a cutting-edge approach with a passionate heart and professional class.

Justin Boyd (drums 12/15 & 1/5) Born in Chicago, IL drummer, composer and educator Justin Boyd developed an interest in music at a young age. He earned his Bachelors of Arts in Music from the
University of Illinois at Chicago and his Masters of Music in Jazz Studies (Composition) from Depaul University. He has directed the All-City Jazz Ensembles and New Music Ensemble in the Chicago Public School system. He teaches music theory, music composition and jazz theory. He performs all styles of music and teaches private and group drum lessons. In 2013 he founded STEREO GENIUS an alternative-jazz, r&b and hip-hop instrumental ensemble that focuses on original compositions and arrangements. He is a member of multiple Chicago based ensembles including Animate Objects, Chicago Afrobeat Project, Russoul, Treologic, Ugochi & A.S.E., Vertikal and Peven Everett. Over the course of his career he’s had the opportunity to perform with: Keyon Harrold, Sarah Marie Young, Common, Rakim, Ice Cube, Slum Village, Big Daddy Kane, Floetry, Andrew Ripp, Chicago Community Chorus, University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, Soul People, Carl Thomas, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Occidental, Tina J. Crawley, Dwele, Carolyn Malachi, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic and David Boykin. He is a member of the D’Addario Educators Collective and endorses Humes and Berg Cases.

 Jeremiah Hunt (bass) While attending Florida A&M University, Jeremiah Hunt was selected to be apart of the 2009 Disney All-American college band, where he worked with Wycliff Gordon, John Clayton, Gordon Goodwin, Rick Baptist, & Ron McCurdy to name a few. Since then, Hunt has traveled around Europe & Asia, working with various international bands. He now resides in Chicago, where he has thrived in the music scene, playing with Jazz Masters such as Victor Goines, Bobby Broome, Pharez Whitted & countless others. While working with producer Randy Jackson (American Idol), Hunt released his first album with fusion funk group ‘The Main Squeeze’. Jeremiah is currently one of the most sought after bassist in Chicago, where he currently resides.

 Norman Palm (trombone) who was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He studied at Roosevelt University’s music program The College of Performing Arts where he received his bachelors degree in Jazz Studies. Since his time at Roosevelt University, Norman has been fortunate enough to share the stage with many luminaries in the music world such as Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, The O’Jays, Wynton Marsalis, James Moody, Kurt Eling, Bob Mintzer, and countless others. Norman also has a plethora of experience working in the music theater world as a musician in the pit orchestra. He performed in a variety of shows at The Black Ensemble Theater to working “The Buddy Holly Show” at downtown’s Drury Lane Theater, and “The Rat Pack Tribute Show” at the Royal George Theater just to name a few. Norman’s mission statement as a musician/artist is to go out into the world and give joy to the people through his love and passion of music.

 Joey Woolfalk (guitar) is the recipient of the first ever received guitarist/ musician Stellar Award. This award was obtained in 2015. He was also the guitarist for the Stellar Award show from 2011 - 2015. Joey was the guitarist for Motown's 50th Year Anniversary salute to Berry Gordy. Joey has been the lead/ acoustic guitarist on several nationwide tours and has recorded with various artists including Beyoncé & Destiny's Child, Mary J. Blige, The O'Jays, Sheila E., Yolanda Adams, BeBe & CeCe Winans, and has played for Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Hudson, Jennifer Holliday, Janelle Monae, Brian McNight, Al Jarreau, Berry Gordy and many more. TV credits include The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Bobby Jones Show (BET), Front Row Live, Lou Rawls Parade of Stars, Stellar Awards (WGN). Joey is endorsed by DR Strings and Mesa Boogie.

 Frank L. Menzies (Music Director, Keyboards) is the Director of Instrumental Music at Jones College Prep in Chicago, Illinois. The department has a Symphonic Band, an advanced level Orchestra, a Jazz Program with a Piano Ensemble, a Guitar Ensemble, a Jazz Combo, and two sections of Beginning Instrumental: Band and Strings. Mr. Menzies attended Howard University, Vandercook College of Music, Governor’s State University, Chicago State University, and the American College of Education and holds a BA in Fine Arts,
and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership. He has performed on multiple airings with Roxanne Stevenson’s R.S.V.P., including “Windy City Live.” He has recorded with John Faddis, Ron Haynes, Michael Houston, and many others. Frank has toured China, Canada, and the U.S. Recently, over the last few years as Music Director for vocalist Tina Brown, Mr. Menzies has toured with that complement in Italy, Spain, France, and Switzerland. He was an Illinois All-State presenter in 2004, as well as a Golden Apple nominee that same year. His conducting has taken him to venues in Mexico, The Bahamas, and recently London and Iceland. In 2005, Frank was a Suave Award nominee, and was conferred an Honorary Commission from the U.S. Congressional Leadership Council. In addition, he is former Associate Conductor of the Chicago All-City Youth Orchestra and former Principal Conductor for the Chicago All-city Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Menzies has performed as a musician for Oprah Winfrey’s “The Color Purple,” the stage spectacular “Dreamgirls,” and much more!

**Kenneth L. Roberson**

(Director) Broadway Choreography: Avenue Q, All Shook Up, Purlie (Encores!), and Freak. Off-Broadway Choreography: A Boy and His Soul, Seven Guitars, Piano Lesson and George C. Wolfe’s Harlem Song. Off-Broadway Director/Choreographer: The Joint, Wycliffe Gordon’s Jazz a La Carte. Regional Theatre Director: Ethel, Frog Kiss, Crowns, Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Once on This Island. Regional Theatre Choreographer: Ray, The Color Purple (World Premiere) The Women of Brewster Place. Guys and Dolls and Thunder Knocking on the Door. Film and TV: HBO’s Lackawanna Blues, Preaching to the Choir, and John Leguizamo’s House of Buggin’, (Network Emmy Award nominee best choreography,) Currently, Professor of Practice at Indiana University, Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance Department. His work has been presented at; The Alliance, Arena State, Baltimore Center, Cincinnati Playhouse, The Goodman, The Guthrie, Pasadena and New York Public Theatre. Performance artist and writer, his solo shows have garnered a NYC cult following, and he is the winner of NPT’s New Writers Festival for the Gospel musical, WE AIN’T PERFECT. Kenneth is a graduate of the University of Georgia’s Henry Grady School of Journalism.

**Felton Offard**

(original music composer) Felton Offard is a guitarist/composer/producer and educator. A versatile artist, he has performed played for several Broadway shows including Hamilton: An American Musical, Motown The Musical, The First Wives Club, Oprah Winfrey’s Presents: The Color Purple, Jersey Boys, The Addams Family, Standing/The Shadows of Motown Live with Peabo Bryson and Leelah James, Crowns and numerous others. Felton has released two critically acclaimed gospel jazz cds, RISE and Invincible.

**Julie E. Ballard**

(stage manager/lighting designer) is a Chicago-based professional theatrical technician affiliated with IATSE Local 2 and Actors’ Equity Association, and the Stage Manager and Properties Master for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Additionally, Ms. Ballard is the owner/operator of OverlapLighting, a freelance production company specializing in production/stage management, lighting design and photography, and is the Technical Director, Resident Lighting Designer and Stage Manager for The Seldoms. Ms. Ballard was the Lighting Director at the Dance Center of Columbia College for nearly 8 years. She has freelanced for two decades in and around Chicago (Same Planet/Different World, RPM Productions, Kristina Isabelle Dance), Cleveland (Marquez Dance Project, Travesty Dance), and St. Louis, where she has worked as a visiting technician, designer, and stage manager for the Emerson Spring to Dance festival since 2011, in addition to touring domestically, nationally and internationally. Ms. Ballard has served as the Production/Stage Manager for the American Dance Festival (2003-2004) and Lighting Supervisor for David Dorfman Dance (2006-2008). Upcoming engagements include the JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Festival in Durbin, South Africa and a multi-city national tour with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Ms. Ballard holds degrees in Theater (BA, 1999) and Lighting Design (MFA, 2004) from Kent State University and the University of Florida, respectively. Visit her portfolio at www.overlaplighting.com

**Lettin’ the Good Times Roll**
Keegan Bradac (sound designer/audio engineer) is a Chicago-based theatre sound designer and engineer, with a B.A. from Columbia College in Audio Arts & Acoustics. Recent design credits include Violet (Griffin Theatre); The Scottsboro Boys, Marry Me a Little, and Little Me (Porchlight); Bullets Over Broadway (NightBlue); and All Shook Up (Casting Auction). His Sound Engineer credits include Fun Home (Victory Gardens); It's a Wonderful Life (2016 & 2017, American Blues); Little Fish (Kokandy Productions); Thrones! The Musical Parody (Apollo Theater); In the Heights, Dreamgirls, Far From Heaven, Ain't Misbehavin,’ Applause, Chess, and The Rink (Porchlight).

Steve Abrams (Executive Producer) has been a driving force in Chicago’s diverse cultural landscape for almost the last three decades. Having had a celebrated career that took him from the exciting nightclub and restaurant scene of the 90s through senior and executive leadership positions at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park and Chicago Children’s Theatre, he served as the first Resident Artistic Director of Navy Pier, pioneering its newly formed arts & discovery programming to solidify its role and prominence as the town square of Chicago’s cultural district. He is the principal at Kicky Productions, an innovative arts management and production company and partner at TADA Theatricals, a commercial theatrical producing entity. Abrams has created, produced and collaborated on a wide array of projects with Laurie Anderson, Alan Cumming, Stephen Sondheim, Kathleen Battle, John Waters, Sweet Honey and the Rock, Gary Griffin, Fran Lebowitz and many of Chicago’s top artistic organizations. Steve is the recipient of the Actors’ Fund’s 2016 Encore Award for extraordinary dedication and commitment to the performing arts by supporting those who bring spectacular performances to our stages and screens.

Kicky Productions (producer) is thrilled you are part of our inaugural show Lettin’ the Good Times Roll. Kicky is Chicago’s newest artist management, event and production company. We love artists and creating experiences that are creatively fulfilling and uniquely entertaining for audiences and artists alike. Great art makes us want to share, so Kicky donates 10% of our net proceeds to socially responsible organizations doing public good. Thank you for sharing the love with Kicky, and supporting Chicago’s abundant talent. For more information, follow us on Instagram.com/kickyproductions and at facebook.com/kickyproductions. #keepitkicky

SPECIAL THANKS


This production is dedicated to the memory of Danny Morales. He would have loved it.
AMERICA’S DOG & BURGER

ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT

STEVE ABRAMS & KICKY PRODUCTIONS

LETTIN’ THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE AND EXELON PRESENT

TOO HOT TO HANDEL

THE JAZZ-GOSPEL MESSIAH

January 13
7:30PM

January 14
3:00PM

TICKETS START AT ONLY $29! :: DISCOUNT AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF 10+
AuditoriumTheatre.org :: 312.341.2300

PHOTO BY PAUL NATKIN

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO’S LANDMARK STAGE
AUDITORIUM THEATRE EST. 1889

50 E Congress Pkwy | Chicago, IL

LETTIN’ THE GOOD TIMES ROLL
Next up at

YOUR WORLD ON STAGE

VICTORY GARDENS THEATER

BREACH:
a manifesto on race in america through the eyes of a black girl recovering from self-hate

FEBRUARY 9–MARCH 11, 2018

BY

ANTOINETTE NWANDU

DIRECTED BY

LISA PORTES

What happens when a woman trapped in a dead-end job and a fizzling relationship accidentally gets pregnant by a man that she’s not dating? A coming-of-age story about race, class and motherhood, BREACH by Antoinette Nwandu (Pass Over) and directed by Lisa Portes, examines how hard it is to love others when it’s you that you loathe most of all.

GET TICKETS: VICTORYGARDENS.ORG OR 773.871.3000

2433 N LINCOLN AVE • 1 BLOCK FROM THE FULLERTON RED/PURPLE/BROWN LINE “EL” STOP