Book and Lyrics
JOE DIPIETRO

Music and Lyrics
DAVID BRYAN

Based on a Concept by
GEORGE W. GEORGE

Direction
DARYL BROOKS

Music Direction
JERMAINE HILL

Choreography/Assistant Direction
CHRISTOPHER CARTER

Assistant Choreography
RENEISHA JENKINS


Orchestrations by Daryl Waters and David Bryan

Scenic Design ............................................................................. JACQUELINE PENROD and RICHARD PENROD
Costume Design ........................................................................... BILL MOREY
Lighting Design ......................................................................... DENISE KARCZEWSKI
Sound Design ............................................................................ ROBERT HORBOSTEL
Properties Design ....................................................................... ANDREW ASHLEY HATCHER
Fight Choreographer ................................................................. CASIENA RAETHER
Technical Director ....................................................................... JOHNNIE SCHLEYER
Production Stage Management .................................................. MATTHEW McMULLEN
Production Management ............................................................. AARON SHAPIRO

Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of

Porchlight Music Theatre gratefully recognizes the contributions of all its donors for making this production of MEMPHIS possible.

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The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.
CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

White DJ ..............................................................................................................RYAN DOOLEY
Black DJ ..............................................................................................................JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT
Delray Jones ........................................................................................................LORENZO RUSH, JR.*
Felicia Farrell .......................................................................................................AERIEL WILLIAMS
Huey Calhoun ......................................................................................................LIAM QUEALY*
Gator ...................................................................................................................GILBERT DOMALLY
Mr. Collins ............................................................................................................RYAN DOOLEY
Clara ........................................................................................................................CASIENA RAETHER
Perry Como ..........................................................................................................KORAY TARHAN
Wailin’ Joe ............................................................................................................STEPHEN “BLU” ALLEN
Bobby ....................................................................................................................JAMES EARL JONES II*
Mr. Simmons ......................................................................................................JACOB VOIGT
Buck Wiley ..........................................................................................................ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY
White Mother ....................................................................................................CASIENA RAETHER
White Father ........................................................................................................RYAN DOOLEY
Gladys Calhoun ...................................................................................................NANCY WAGNER
Reverend Hobson ...............................................................................................JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT
Frank Dryer ..........................................................................................................KORAY TARHAN
Gordon Grant ......................................................................................................RYAN DOOLEY
Ethel .....................................................................................................................SHANTEL CRIBBS
Martin Holton .....................................................................................................ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY
Ensemble ............................................................................................................STEPHEN “BLU” ALLEN, SHANTEL CRIBBS,
RYAN DOOLEY, ARIEL M. DORSEY, JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT,
GRAHAM HAWLEY, KAYLA KENNEDY, NICOLE LAMBERT,
BERNELL LASSAI III, IVORY LEONARD IV, MALLORY MAEDKE,
MARVIN MALONE II, JOHN MARSHALL JR., CASIENA RAETHER,
ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY, AALON SMITH, and KORAY TARHAN

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudy performance will occur only with an announcement to the audience prior to the show.

White DJ/Mr. Collins/White Father/Gordon Grant: ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY; Delray/Wailin’ Joe: JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT; Felicia Farrell: SHANTEL CRIBBS; Huey Calhoun/Ensemble: KORAY TARHAN; Gator: BERNELL LASSAI III; Bobby/Black DJ/Reverend Hobson: STEPHEN “BLU” ALLEN; Mr. Simmons/Ensemble: RYAN DOOLEY; Buck Wiley/Martin Holton/Ensemble: GRAHAM HAWLEY; Perry Como/Frank Dryer/Ensemble: JOHN MARSHALL, JR.; Gladys Calhoun/Ensemble Swing: CASIENA RAETHER; Ethel/Ensemble: ARIEL M. DORSEY; Clara/White Mother/Ensemble: KAYLA KENNEDY; Ensemble: IVORY LEONARD IV, MALLORY MAEDKE, and AALON SMITH
Memphis

MUSICIANS

Conductor/Pianist ................................................................................................. JERMAINE HILL
Trumpet .................................................................................................................... PAUL BASA
Drums/Percussion .................................................................................................. MYRON CHERRY
Bass ......................................................................................................................... STEVE MANNS
Clarinet/Flute/Sax ................................................................................................... ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Electric Guitar/Acoustic Guitar ............................................................................. CESAR ROMERO

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America
^Denotes members of the United Scenic Artists IATSE, the Union and Professional Association of Designers, Artists, and Craftspeople
+Denotes Porchlight Music Theatre Artistic Associate

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

When Porchlight approached me about doing Memphis I was hesitant. Not because I was scared of it being such a big show, but the content. It is such a relevant story today, that it was scary to think about how to stage it without breaking down every rehearsal. Jim Crowe in the 50s and 60s was the law, and as I look around at our system today, I see traces of the same laws that my father and other family members fought when they were growing up. All of this, and in the midst of it all a love story for the ages. Love should never be forbidden, and Memphis is our reminder that who we are and who we decide to love is constantly and forever under attack. So, how could I not take on the task? This show is activism. It has made me grow as a person and grow stronger in my relationship. There were hundreds if not thousands of Hueys and Felicias in the 50s and 60s and this is their story. It’s because of them, millions of people are able to love who they want . . . almost. We will always have a big battle to fight for equality and justice, but each day I pray that we are getting closer and closer and maybe one day my 4-year-old daughter will be able to love who she wants without any restrictions, limitation or judgment. Until then, this raw and real version of Memphis will serve as our activism, pushing the needle in the right direction one performance at a time. To the phenomenal cast, crew, and designers thank you for your talent and your unmoving commitment to the story. To the audience all I can say is . . . buckle up!
1950s Rock ‘n’ Roll: A Social and Musical Revolution

Alan Freed is often thought of as the “inventor” of Rock ‘n’ Roll radio but Dewey Phillips, the inspiration for Huey Calhoun, was doing it first. From Dewey’s job at the W.T. Grant five-and-dime playing everything from Frank Sinatra to Wynonie “Mr. Blues” Harris over the store’s PA, to his three-hour nightly radio show, Red, Hot and Blue, Dewey drew in a large and diverse audience. He did so, not only because of the music he played, but because of the enthusiasm he played it with, singing along with some songs, and talking or even shouting over others.

“Dewey could convince you that if you missed what he did, you missed something good. And [if you failed to stay with him], you were going to miss the best because the next record coming up was going to be even better than the last — and that was the best!” — Sun Records founder Sam Phillips

Dewey was a new voice on the radio. While stations were still spending most of their time broadcasting soap operas and variety shows with radio announcers who spoke in slowly articulated phrases, Dewey, who had a hard time articulating simple sentences let alone trying to enunciate them slowly, was something of an anomaly, one that people connected with. In the 1950s, as many as a hundred thousand listeners tuned in to Dewey’s show. Dewey was the hottest thing on the dial and helped facilitate the Rock ‘n’ Roll revolution.

The reason 1950s Rock ‘n’ Roll was so important had very little to do with the music, as the music itself wasn’t all that new. To many, Rock ‘n’ Roll was just a new marketing strategy for R&B music that people had been playing for years. The significance of Rock ‘n’ Roll was that it was popular. It allowed R&B, Country and Western, and more music that, due to the discrimination and racism of the time, had been afforded limited audiences, to become a dominant force in the popular marketplace. It was also the first “popular” music that encouraged free expression and controversial ideas. Jim Crowe was the law in Memphis and music was as segregated as anything else, and in that climate, the bridge that Rock ‘n’ Roll created and the reactions and oppositions to it were immense.

“We started identifying with this music. And the music was saying things, talking about what was happening in lives of people we didn’t really know because they didn’t live in our neighborhood, in our world. Music gave us the opportunity to become human beings . . .” — American Radio performer and 1950s teenager, Bruce Morrow

All this was taking place in Memphis and Dewey was at the center of the city’s musical universe. Still, Dewey is best remembered, if he’s remembered at all, for one thing — being the first radio DJ to play Elvis’s music and interview him. Sadly, Dewey Phillips is not remembered today for the contribution he made to the social and musical revolution that was 1950s Rock ‘n’ Roll. But we hope with this performance of Memphis we can pay tribute to all the people who, through their music, moved Americans a little closer toward embracing each other.
TIME AND PLACE

1950s Memphis, Tennessee

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT I

UNDERGROUND .................................................................Delray, Felicia, Company
THE MUSIC OF MY SOUL .................................................. Huey, Felicia, Company
SCRATCH MY ITCH .......................................................... Wailin’ Joe, Company
AIN’T NOTHIN’ BUT A KISS ................................................ Felicia, Huey
HELLO, MY NAME IS HUEY ............................................. Huey
EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE BLACK ON A SATURDAY NIGHT ...................... Company
MAKE ME STRONGER ...................................................... Huey, Gladys, Felicia, Company
COLORED WOMAN ........................................................ Felicia
SOMEDAY ............................................................................ Felicia, Company
SHE’S MY SISTER .............................................................. Delray, Huey
RADIO .............................................................................. Huey, Company
SAY A PRAYER .................................................................... Gator, Company

ACT II

CRAZY LITTLE HUEY ......................................................... Huey, Company
BIG LOVE ..................................................................... Bobby
LOVE WILL STAND WHEN ALL ELSE FALLS ................................. Felicia, Company
STAND UP ....................................................................... Delray, Felicia, Huey, Gator, Bobby, Company
CHANGE DON’T COME EASY ........................................... Gladys, Delray, Gator, Bobby
TEAR DOWN THE HOUSE ................................................ Huey, Company
LOVE WILL STAND/AIN’T NOTHIN’ BUT A KISS (REPRISE) ...................... Felicia, Huey
MEMPHIS LIVES IN ME .................................................... Huey, Company
STEAL YOUR ROCK ‘N’ ROLL ............................................ Huey, Felicia, Company

MEMPHIS

is presented with one fifteen-minute intermission

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts performing arts community, and an Artist In-Residence. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision and mission of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

Aeriel Williams
Liam Quealy

Stephen “Blu” Allen
Shantel Cribbs
Gilbert Domally
Ryan Dooley

Ariel M. Dorsey
Jared David Michael Grant
Graham Hawley
James Earl Jones II

Kayla Kennedy
Nicole Lambert
Bernell Lassai III
Ivory Leonard IV
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

Mallory Maedke
Marvin Malone II
John Marshall, Jr.
Casiena Raether
Lorenzo Rush, Jr.

Isaiah Silvia-Chandley
Aalon Smith
Koray Tarhan
Jacob Voigt
Nancy Wagner

Stephen “Blu” Allen (Wailin’ Joe) is excited to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he was previously seen in In The Heights and The Scottsboro Boys. Other credits include Jesus Christ Superstar (Paramount), Five Guys Named Moe (Court Theatre), and Violet (Griffin Theatre). He hopes the audience will be moved by this show. Stephen is represented by Paonessa Talent.

Shanell Cribbs (Ethel) is excited to make her debut with Porchlight Music Theatre. Cribbs has appeared in Hairspray (Windy City Music Theatre) and Marie Christine (BoHo Theatre). She has worked with Chet Walker, Bill Hastings, and Kyle Pleasant at Jacob’s Pillow, where she performed in A Jazz Happening at the Ted Shawn Theatre. Cribbs is originally from Clinton Township, Michigan and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Musical Theatre Performance at Columbia College Chicago.

Gilbert Domally (Gator) is excited to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he was last seen in Dreamgirls. Other select Chicago credits include: Hairspray, Little Mermaid, Jesus Christ Superstar, Elf, and Cabaret (Paramount Theatre), Madagascar (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Next to Normal (BoHo Theatre) and Dessa Rose and Wild Party (Bailiwick Theatre). Gilbert is grateful to God, and his family and friends for the unending support.

Ryan Dooley (White DJ/Mr. Collins/White Father/Gordon Grant) is thrilled to make his Porchlight Music Theatre debut with Memphis! Select Chicago credits include: “Bert” in Mary Poppins (NightBlue), “Robert Martin” in The Drowsy Chaperone, and “Clarence” in It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Metropolis). He has also been seen in shows at Drury Lane Oakbrook, Theo Ubique, and others! Select regional credits include: 1776 (Farmers Alley Theatre), The Fantasticks, and Spamalot.

ARIEL M DORSEY (*Ensemble*) is making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Ariel is a Chicago native, began her formal training at Chicago Academy for the Arts under the direction of Ana Peskevska and Randy Duncan. She went on to further her studies at SUNY Purchase College in New York where she graduated with a BFA in dance. Throughout her four years of study she worked with choreographers such as Nelly Van Bommel, Pam Tanowitz, Jonathan Alsberry, and Ori Flormen. Mrs. Dorsey dances with Winifred Haun and Dancers, Hot Crowd And Moonwater Dance project.

JARED DAVID MICHAEL GRANT (*Black DJ/Reverend Hobson*) is a Chicago entertainer and 2013 graduate of Columbia College Chicago. Originally from Rochester, NY, Grant moved to Chicago 10 years ago. Grant is returning to Porchlight Music theatre where he has been seen in *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Dreamgirls*. Other credits include: *Christmas in Chicago: A Musical Revue* (Fine Print Theatre), *Jesus Christ Super Star* (Paramount Theatre), *Our Town* (Redtwist Theatre), *Nine Lives the Musical* (Chicago Musical Theatre Festival), and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Theatre Wit). Grant was a company member with Childs Play Touring Theatre. He thanks his family, select friends, and the beautiful people of Wakanda (You know who you are!). #WakandaForever

GRAHAM HAWLEY (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he was last seen as “Grandma Dancer” in *Billy Elliot the Musical* and “Yulnick/Junior” in *Little Me*. Other Chicago credits include “Policeman/Sweep” in *Mary Poppins* (Mercy Theater) and “Shane Stant/Dance Captain” in *Tonya and Nancy the Rock Opera* (Underscore Theatre Company). Regional credits include Carner and Gregor’s *Toast* (Bloomington Playwright’s Project), *Mary Poppins*, and *Shrek* (Cardinal Stage Company). He holds a BA in Theatre and Drama from Indiana University and is a proud alumnus of the Singing Hoosiers and Varsity Singers. Huge thanks to his parents, sister, and friends for their endless love and support.

JAMES EARL JONES II* (*Bobby*) returns to Porchlight Music Theatre where he was nominated for a Jeff Award for his role in *Sondheim on Sondheim* and a Black Theatre Alliance Award for his role in the Jeff Award-winning *The Scottsboro Boys*. Some Chicago/regional credits include *Carlyle* and *Wonderful Town* (Goodman Theatre), *She Loves Me*, *Ragtime*, *Madagascar*, *October Sky*, *Elf*, *Dreamgirls*, and *The Full Monty* (Marriott Theatre), *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Good Book*, and *Porgy and Bess* (Court Theatre), *Shrek* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Cymbeline* (First Folio Theatre), *Sweet Charity* and *Company* (Writers Theatre), *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting* (Lookingglass Theatre Company), *Porgy and Bess* (Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera), *The Wiz* (Theatre at the Center, Jeff Award nomination), *Aida*, *Spamalot*, and *Ragtime* (Drury Lane Theatre), *A Civil War Christmas* (Northlight Theatre), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Ravinia Festival), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Broadway in Chicago and Mason Street Warehouse). National tour credits include: *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess*. Television and film credits include: *Pokerhouse*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, and *Empire*. Mr. Jones is represented by Stewart Talent. For Semaje . . .

KAYLA KENNEDY (*Ensemble*) is very excited to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut and to be performing in the city proper after commuting out to the suburbs for so long! Those suburban credits include *Mamma Mia* (Marriott Theatre), *Mamma Mia* and *Disney’s The
Little Mermaid (Paramount Theatre), A Wonderful Life, The Tin Woman, Nice Work If You Can Get It, All Shook Up, Spampalot, Big Fish, and Women on the Verge (Theatre at the Center). Kayla earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Ball State University and is represented by Gray Talent! Hugs and kisses to Mom & Dad, Shannon, Richard, and Michael. www.kaylatkennedy.com

NICOLE LAMBERT (Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the Porchlight Music Theatre family where she was last seen in In The Heights. Her favorite Chicago credits include: Creatives (Chicago Workshop Theater), Godspell (St. Sebastian Players), Rent (Bright Side Theater), and Fame the Musical (Real Clear Theater). Nicole received her degree from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

BERNELL LASSAI III (Ensemble) is grateful to work with Porchlight Music Theatre again where he was last seen in Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot the Musical, and Porchlight Revisits The Rink. Regional credits include: Smokey Joe’s Cafe (Lifeline Theatre), A Christmas Carol (Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre), Antony & Cleopatra (Shakespeare Festival St. Louis), and work at Bigfork Summer Playhouse and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. Bernell is a graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

IVORY LEONARD IV (Ensemble) is making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Chicago area performances include Peter Pan (Music Theater Works). He appeared as “Joseph” in Black Nativity (Edmonds Stage), “Bottom” in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Ballet Arts Conservatory), and “Bobby/Ensemble” in The Color Purple (Charles Winterwood Theater). Leonard also performed with Danco II, Rennie Harris’s Awe Inspiring Works (RHAW), and tourned with Invincible: A tribute to Michael Jackson. His television and film credits include: Empire and Luv don’t live here anymore and is currently producing and directing his own independent films (check his professional work on Instagram: @ ivoryleonard). He is a proud 2015 graduate of Florida A&M University with a BA in Theatre Performance and a minor in dance.

MALLORY MAEDKE (Ensemble) was recently in Porchlight Music Theatre’s New Faces Sing Broadway 1959. Other credits include: Hair (Mercury Theatre), The Little Mermaid, Hairspray, Mamma Mia (Paramount Theatre), One Hit Wonders (Black Ensemble Theater), Cabaret (Theatre at the Centre), Beehive the Musical (Little Theater on the Square), and 42nd Street, All Shook Up, and The Addams Family (Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre). Maedke is originally from Green Bay, WI and graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a BFA in Musical Theater Performance in 2014. Spread love!

Marvin Malone II (Ensemble Swing) is making his Porchlight Music Theatre and Chicago area debut. He is a senior Musical Theatre, BFA major originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Favorite credits include “Oscar” in Sweet Charity, “Papa Ge” in Once on This Island (Columbia College Chicago), “Radames” in Aida (Playhouse Square Cleveland). Be sure to keep up with Marvin at MarvinMalone.com, and @ TheMarvinsRoom_ on Instagram & Twitter!

JOHN MARSHALL, JR. (Ensemble) is delighted to return to Porchlight Music Theatre after previously appearing as “The Three Legged Man” in Side Show. Most recently he was seen as “Artie” in Yank: A WWII Love Story (Pride Films and Plays). Other credits include: Mamma Mia! (Marriott Theatre), Hairspray (Paramount Theatre), West Side Story (Drury Lane)

CASIENA RAETHER (Clara/White Mother + Dance/Fight Captain) is delighted to make her debut at Porchlight Music Theatre with such a talented cast. She was recently seen in It’s a Wonderful Life the Musical and as “Fruelien Kost” in Cabaret at Theatre at the Center. Favorite roles include: “Jackie” in Mauritius, “Gwendolyn” in The Importance of Being Earnest, “Cassie” in A Chorus Line, and “Kitty” in The Drowsy Chaperone. Casiena holds a BFA in Acting from UW – Stevens Point and is happy to call Chicago home.

LORENZO RUSH, JR.* (Delray Jones) is back home at Porchlight Music Theatre where he previously appeared in Porchlight Revisits They’re Playing Our Song. “This one’s for anyone who loves to dance!”

ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY (Buck Wiley/ Martin Holton) is making his Porchlight Music Theatre and Chicago area debut. Regional credits include: Spamalot (Seacoast Repertory Theatre), The Young Americans (Music and Dance Outreach Tour — Japan, Europe, and US). He is a 2018 Musical Theatre Performance BFA graduate of Columbia College Chicago where he performed in Sweet Charity, Little Shop of Horrors, and Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown. www.isaiahsilviachandley.com @itszayzay_

AALON SMITH (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Aalon is originally from Denver, Colorado and is currently a junior BFA Musical Theatre Performance major at Columbia College Chicago. She has performed regionally as “Tribe” in Hair (Metropolis Performing Arts Center) and some of her favorite Columbia College Chicago productions include Sweet Charity, Caroline, or Change, Little Shop of Horrors, and Once On This Island.

KORAY TARHAN (Perry Como/Frank Dryer) is thrilled to be working once again with Porchlight Music Theatre after debuting earlier this year with Porchlight Revisits They’re Playing Our Song. Hailing from Los Angeles, Koray is a Columbia College Chicago graduate with a passion for combining his expertise in music, physical theatre, and acrobatics. Tarhan recently completed an acting internship with the Cincinnati Playhouse where he performed in Jane Eyre, A Christmas Carol, and A Prayer for Owen Meany. Other credits include: “The Unknown Man” in the World Premiere of The Boy Who Danced on Air, “Emcee” in Cabaret (The Lewis Family Playhouse), and “Roger” in Rent (Columbia College Theatre), Big Fish, All Shook Up, and Nice Work If You Can Get It (Theatre at the Center). “This one’s for anyone who loves to dance!”

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Production). He would like to thank his family, friends, and lovely girlfriend, Josephine, for their continued love and support!

**JACOB VOIGT** *(Mr. Simmons)* is grateful to return to Porchlight Music Theatre following his performance in *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Previous New York City roles include: “Lord Capulet” in *Romeo and Juliet*, “Bradley Headstone” in *Our Mutual Friend*, “J.P. Morgan” in *Ragtime*, and “Edna Turnblad” in *Hairspray*. He is a proud graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, and has performed in concert at Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall. @ thejacobvoigt www.thejacobvoigt.com

**NANCY WAGNER** *(Gladys Calhoun)* is making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Chicago credits include: *Relativity* (U/S, Northlight Theatre) and *El Words* (Fury Theatre). Regional credits include: *Little Women* (including National Tour) and *Puss In Boots* (Minneapolis Children’s Theatre Company). Television: *Home Improvement* and *Carol & Company*. Michigan: *Cabaret*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Oklahoma!* *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Mousetrap*, *Stupid F**king Bird*, *Harvey*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Barefoot in the Park*. www.nancywagner.net

**AERIEL WILLIAMS** *(Felicia Farrell)* is overjoyed to be cast in this role in Porchlight Music Theatre's *Memphis*. Williams recently played “Young Josephine Baker” in *The Black Pearl*. Other credits include: “Lourelle” in *Dreamgirls*, “Squeak” in *The Color Purple*, “Paulina” in *The Winter’s Tale*, and “Vera” in *Seven Guitars*. Recently Aeriel has been seen as Shante in The *Chi* and *Empire*. Ariel would like to thank God for every opportunity, and the love and support from her family and friends. Philippians 4:6.

**DAVID BRYAN** *(Books & Lyrics)* is a Grammy Award-winning keyboard player and founding member of Bon Jovi. Over the past twenty-six years the band has sold more than 130 million records and toured the world, playing to millions of people. Their recent Lost Highway Tour was the #1 grossing tour in the world. David and Joe DiPietro have also co-written the award-winning musical *The Toxic Avenger*, currently playing at New World Stages. David is a National Spokesperson for VH1’s Save The Music Program. Much Love to Lexi, Colton, Gabby, Lily, and my family.


**DARYL BROOKS** *(Director)* is excited to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre directorial debut. Daryl has been a visible part of the Chicago theatre scene since 1999, performing and directing all over the city. He is currently the Associate Director at the Black Ensemble Theater where recent projects include writing and directing *Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis Jr*, *The Black Pearl: The Story of Josephine Baker* (Winner Best Production and Director Black Excellence Awards 2017), and *Men of Soul* (Jeff-nominated best review and best director, Winner Black Excellence Awards best director). Daryl would like to thank
Michael Weber for the opportunity to tell this story, Brenda Didier for keeping the door open, and also Denise, his friends, and family for their continued support and patience. Maya, Daddy loves you!

JERMAINE HILL (Music Director/Conductor) is originally from New York City and received his Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College and a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory. Recent Chicago credits include serving as musical director and piano/conductor for Ragtime (Griffin Theatre) and Madagascar (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), performing onstage in Breathe With Me (Erasing the Distance), and a recent guest spot on NBC’s Chicago Med. Equally at home on theatrical and concert stages, he has appeared at New York’s Carnegie Hall, Boston’s Jordan Hall, Chicago’s Symphony Hall, The Lost Colony (NC), Rome Capitol Theatre (NY), and the Aldeburgh Festival in the UK. He is an assistant professor and music director for the theatre department at Columbia College Chicago. He is a member of the Chicago Federation of Musicians and is proudly represented by Gray Talent Group.

CHRISTOPHER CARTER (Choreographer/Assistant Director) is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a liberal arts degree in dance. Carter has traveled all over performing, directing, and choreographing. Some of his credits include: Porchlight Revisits They’re Playing Our Song, Dreamgirls, and In The Heights (Porchlight Music Theatre), Five Guys Name Moe (Court Theater), Hair (Mercury Theater), The Legend Of Georgia McBride (Northlight Theater), Sweeney Todd (Grand Valley State University), Oklahoma (Lyric Opera Chicago), Show Boat (San Francisco and Houston Grand Opera), Hairspray (Drury Lane Oakbrook), Joseph . . . (Paramount Theater), Duke Ellington’s Queenie Pie (Chicago Opera Theater), Oliver (Light Opera Works), The Wiz (Theatre at the Center), Smokey Joe’s Café (Circle Theatre), and The Wild Party (Actor’s Theater). Carter has been the choreographer for the Grand Rapids Civic’s SRT for the past five years. Carter is a former Debbie Allen Dance Academy scholarship student. Other credits include national tours, commercial, industrial, and concert work.

RENEISHA JENKINS (Assistant Choreographer) is excited to return to Porchlight Music Theatre as assistant choreographer for Memphis. She recently served as dance captain for Porchlight’s production of Dreamgirls. Other recent dance theatre credits include dance captain for Paramount’s production of Jesus Christ Superstar, dance captain for Theatre at the Center’s Annie Warbucks, assistant choreographer for The Wiz at South Bend’s Civic Theatre and choreographer for Seussical for CMC in Peoria, IL. Other external dance credits include head coach for Bradley University dance team and founder and choreographer of NFINIT HipHop Dance Troupe. Thanks Chris for the opportunity to work with you again. Love you Bro!

JACQUELINE and RICHARD PENROD (Scenic Designers) are very happy to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre on this production of Memphis. Jacqueline and Richard Penrod’s award-winning design work has been seen throughout Chicagoland and regionally. Some of their recent designs include: The Book of Will, The Legend of Georgia McBride, and Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley for Northlight Theatre; The Legend of Georgia McBride and West Side Story for Cardinal Stage in Bloomington, IN; Pygmalion, Love and Information, Northanger Abby, and The Importance of Being Earnest for Remy Bumppo; Stick Fly for Windy City Playhouse; Richard III for Gift Theater, produced at Steppenwolf Theatre; Wonderful Life, Nice Work If you Can Get It, Big Fish, All Shook Up, and Christmas Carol for Theatre at the
Center; Hank Williams: Lost Highway for American Blues Theatre, Mud Sky Blue for A Red Orchid Theatre; Welcome Home Jenny Sutter for Next Theatre. They take great pleasure in being part of the rich mix of artists that creates the theatre community of Chicago.

BILL MOREY+ (Costume Designer) is an Artistic Associate at Porchlight Music Theatre. Bill is a 12-time Jeff Award Nominee in Costume Design and has won the Equity Jeff Award for Porchlight’s productions of Nine, The King and I, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and Dreamgirls. He is also the recipient of two After Dark Awards and the BroadwayWorld Chicago Award for Costume Design. His work has been seen at Theo Ubique, TimeLine, Lifeline, Piven, BoHo, and Off Broadway at the York Theater. www.billmorey.com.

DENISE KARCZEWSKI (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to return to Porchlight Music Theatre after designing Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot the Musical, In The Heights, and Dreamgirls. Denise is the resident lighting designer at Black Ensemble Theater where she received BTAA awards for her designs of Indigo Blues and One Name Only as well as an African American Arts Alliance Award for her set and lighting design of Ella: the First Lady of Song. Karczewski is one of the technical directors and designers at New Trier Township High School. She would like to thank Michael for the opportunity and Daryl for all his love and support. Maya, Mommy loves you!

ROBERT HORNBOSTEL (Sound Designer) is excited to be back for his third season with Porchlight Music Theatre and this amazing team! Recent Porchlight credits include Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot the Musical, In The Heights, Dreamgirls, End of the Rainbow, Far From Heaven, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Side Show, Porchlight Revists Babes in Arms, and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Robert is a freelance composer, designer, and engineer in Chicago, including work with New Millennium Theater, Raven Theater, Eclectic Theater, First Floor Theater, Roosevelt University, and many others. Robert would like to thank his fellow designers, friends, and family for their continued support. Selections of his previous work can be found at www. TechmagicDesigns.com. Enjoy the show!

ANDREW ASHLEY HATCHER (Properties Designer/Assistant Stage Manager Swing) is a stage manager, props designer, and general theater-maker. A recent transplant from Austin, TX, this is his second show with Porchlight Music Theatre and fourth in Chicago — following the well-received productions of Merrily We Roll Along (Porchlight), Sex With Strangers (Citadel Theatre), and Becky Shaw (Windy City Playhouse). His work can also currently be seen in Frost/Nixon at Redtwist Theatre. Austin-area credits include numerous award-winning shows with Salvage Vanguard Theater (where he remains a company member), Austin Playhouse, Breaking String Theater, Doctuh Mistuh Productions, Fusebox Festival, Mary Moody Northen Theatre, TexArts, Texas Performing Arts, and Trouble Puppet Theater.

MATTHEW McMULLEN* (Stage Manager) is delighted to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he previously stage managed Merrily We Roll Along! Previous stage management credits include Million Dollar Quartet, Fiddler on the Roof, Route 66 (Paramount Theatre), Chicago, A Christmas Carol, Sleeping Beauty (Drury Lane Theatre), Big Fish, The 39 Steps, Nice Work If You Can Get It (Theatre at the Center), and Red (Goodman Theatre). He has also worked at Silk Road Rising, Chicago Children’s Theatre, and Provision Theatre Company. In addition, Matthew can be seen (from the booth) as a part-time SM for Blue Man Group Chicago. Thanks always to Missy for her long-suffering support. Proud Equity member.
MARY ZANGER* (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to work with Porchlight Music Theatre again following *Merrily We Roll Along*. Previous stage management credits include: *Puff: Believe it or Not* (ASM — Remy Bumppo), *The Civility of Albert Cashier* (Permoveo Productions/PFP), *Candide* (Music Theater Works), *The Fantasticks* (ASM — Quest Theatre Ensemble), *Cinderella* (Metropolis SOPA), *Children of Eden, TARZAN, The Music Man, and Hairspray* (Rising Star Theatre Company). Proud graduate of Clarke University and member of Actors’ Equity.

MATT NADLER (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back with Porchlight Music Theatre where he worked on *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Dreamgirls*, *In The Heights*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, and *Marry Me A Little*. He graduated from Emerson College in 2015 with a BFA in Stage Management. Much love to his family for always supporting him in his goals.

JOAQUIN GOMEZ (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on his third mainstage show at Porchlight Music Theatre! A Chicago native, he recently worked with Porchlight on *Merrily We Roll Along* (Child Supervisor/ASM Swing), *New Faces Sing Broadway 1959* (Stage Manager), Porchlight Revisits *They’re Playing Our Song* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Billy Elliot the Musical* (Child Supervisor/ASM Swing).

MICHAEL WEBER (Artistic Director) most recently directed *Merrily We Roll Along* for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of *Woman of the Year*. His productions of *End of the Rainbow, Side Show, Forum, Sweeney Todd, Pal Joey, and Assassins* at Porchlight Music Theatre, *Grand Hotel* at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and *She Loves Me* at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production — Musical. Other directing credits include *Living the History—125 Years of the Auditorium Theatre* starring Patti Lupone, John Mahoney, and stars of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and others, *Filth of July and Talley’s Folly* at the Oak Park Festival Theatre, *The Petrified Forest* at Theatre at the Center, *Beauty and the Beast* at Marriott Theatre, *Over the River and Through the Woods* at Mercury Theater, and *Cirque du Symphony* at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he has written and directed the past twelve Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies. Weber’s regional acting credits include *The Merry Widow* and *The Sound of Music* at Lyric Opera, *42nd Street* at Paramount, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy* (both starring Patti LuPone) at Ravinia, *Disney’s My Son Pinocchio* at First Stage Milwaukee, *Around the World in 80 Days* at Cleveland Playhouse, *The Winter’s Tale* and *Henry V* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Angel Street* at First Folio Shakespeare, and *The Gifts of the Magi* at Indiana Repertory. Weber served previously as artistic director of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and Theatre at the Center. He is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11.

JEANNIE LUKOW (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre’s board of directors serving on the board for 19 years, six of them as its president. She was thrilled to join the staff in September 2014 as the company’s first Executive Director. Prior to taking the helm at Porchlight, Jeannie ran Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago’s leading cooking party venues, which she co-founded/owned for 12 years. Before the hospitality/food business, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position was as Managing Director of Marketing Communications for the National Association of Realtors, one of the nation’s largest trade associations. She is a native Michigander and graduate of Michigan State University.
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Mission Statement
Porchlight Music Theatre is Chicago’s home for music theatre, providing performance, education and appreciation opportunities that celebrate and sustain this unique American art form. With special opportunities for underserved communities, we nurture young artists and new works, and redefine the classic music theatre genre in our signature intimate style.

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For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact Lisa Torgerson, Director of Development, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call 773.777.9884.

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