

**PETER HARGRAVE** (*Scar*). Beyond a dream to be in the Pridelands. Credits Off-Broadway and regionally including Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Texas Shakespeare Festival, and Disney Cruise Line.TV: “Law & Order: SVU,” “FBI,” “Godfather of Harlem,” “Dynasty” and “Madam Secretary.” Training: CWRU/CPH MFA. Thanks isn’t enough for Harris, Mom, Dad, and *The Lion King* family. For my everything, Kat, and our wildest dream, Ivy.

**DAVID D’LANCY WILSON** (*Mufasa*) is truly honored to portray the iconic father figure, Mufasa, continuing to serve the rich legacy of *The Lion King*. Theatre credits Include: *The Lion King* (Toronto/ Mirvish) *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Toronto/Mirvish), *Hairspray* (ACC St. John’s). Film & TV credits include: *Trap*, “The Killer I Picked Up,” “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Designated Survivor,” “Murdoch Mysteries.” Always for Shannon and our cubs. IMDb: David D’Lancy Wilson | IG @daviddlancywilson | Jer 29:11

**NICK CORDILEONE** (*Timon*). OFF-BROADWAY: *Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd* (Mint Theater), *Hamlet* (Theatre by the Blind).REGIONAL: *The Alchemist* (Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Lobby Hero* (The Old Globe); *Crime and Punishment* (Cincinnati Playhouse and Actors Theatre); *Henry VI, Richard III* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *Comedy of Errors, Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey).FILM/TV: *Step Up 2*, “Warrior” Season 3 (HBO/Netflix). Upcoming “Crystal Lake” Season 1 (A24/Peacock). LOVE: ... Amy, Hero, & Guthrie. Instagram: @Milquetoastpoint

**NICK LAMEDICA** (*Zazu*). Broadway: Disney’s *The Lion King*. Broadway Tour & Tokyo: *WAR HORSE*. Off Broadway: *The Mint*. Regional: Denver Center, The Rep St.Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cleveland Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, TheaterWorks Hartford, City Theatre Company, Barrington Stage Company, Two River Theater. NY: American Globe Theatre. Television: “Chicago Fire.” BFA: Marymount Manhattan College.“...only through love.” [www.NickLaMedica.com](http://www.NickLaMedica.com)

**DANNY GRUMICH** (*Pumbaa*). is thrilled to be joining the Pridelands! TV: “FBI: Most Wanted” (CBS). Off-Broadway: *A Piece of My Heart, With or Without You*. Regional: *Newsies* (Wiesel, Stages St.Louis), *Kinky Boots* (Ogunquit Playhouse, ACT of CT), *Sister Act* (Engeman).Concerts: *Follies* (Carnegie Hall). Love to The Mine, family, and friends for their constant support. For Meryn and Gracie! @danny.grumich

**GILBERT DOMALLY** (*Simba*). Broadway: Disney’s *The Lion King*. Regional credits: *The Color Purple* (Goodman, The Muny & Drury Lane Theatre), *Choir Boy* (Yale Rep & Steppenwolf); *Madagascar* (Chicago Shakes); *Hairspray, The Little Mermaid, Legally Blonde, Cabaret, Elf* (Paramount Theatre); *Oliver* (Marriott Theatre); *Dreamgirls, Cabaret* (Porchlight); *Sister Act*

(Mercury Theatre), Wild Party, Dessa Rose (Bailiwick Chicago).TV: “Law and Order SVU,” “4400.” Gilbert is Grateful to God, his family and friends for the love and support. Follow him on Instagram @Gtdomally

**THEMBELIHLE CELE** (Nala). Born in Durban, South Africa. Credits Include: Disney’s The Lion King (Broadway, U.K & Ireland Tour, US Nat’l Tour), Mary Zimmerman’s Metamorphoses, Shakespeare’s Comedy of Errors, #D23EXPO 2017.TV Appearance: TV “Popstars.” For my angel mother, and my dad: VICO.MAGAYE ONGANGOLWANDLE! Endless thanks to my ever-loving husband and family. Nkulunkulu wemihlolo. Mafung’ angajiki. Instagram: @lihlecele91

**FOREST VANDYKE** (Banzai) is thrilled to be making his Lion King debut! Off – Broadway: Dog Man: The Musical (George/Chief, Lucille Lortel Theatre), Cadaver Synod (Pope Formosus, Playwrights Horizon).Regional: Mystic Pizza: A New Musical (Lionel Hampton, Ogunquit Playhouse), Choir Boy (David, Marin Theatre Company), Goddess (Mosi, Eugene O’Neill Theater).“I want to thank my parents who are my biggest cheerleaders!!”

**MARTINA SYKES** (Shenzi) is elated to be joining the Pridelands! Native of St.Petersburg, Fla. and graduate of the University of Florida. Favorite credits: Motown The Musical (Broadway and First National Tour), Raindogs, Rent and Hairspray. I would like to thank God, my family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Ephesians 3:20.Instagram: Ladysykes1 [www.theheARTmission.org](http://www.theheARTmission.org).

**ROBB SAPP** (Ed) is a proud Clevelander rejoining the North American tour of Disney’s The Lion King directly from the Broadway company. Additionally, he has been a part of the 1st National and Las Vegas productions .Other credits include Boq in Wicked (Broadway), Pinocchio in Shrek (Broadway), Saturday Night Fever (1st National Tour). Syracuse University, BFA . Special heartfelt thanks to his friend and teacher Pat Haynish for her constant love, support and guidance.

**WILLIAM JOHN AUSTIN** (Standby Scar & Pumbaa). New York Theatre: Measure for Measure, On the Verge.Regional: Trinity Rep, Hartford Stage.MFA: Brown/Trinity Rep.Voice over artist: Nigel the Xyzal owl.WilliamJohnAustin.com

**TONY FREEMAN** (Standby Scar, Zazu, Timon & Pumbaa) played Zazu on Broadway and across the country for over 3,000 performances. Now he loves also getting to play Scar, Timon, and Pumbaa. He did Tony Kushner’s musical Caroline, or Change in Los Angeles and San Francisco with the original Broadway cast. Tony has performed guest roles on both “Law and Order” (twice) and “Law and Order, SVU.”

**DREW HIRSHFIELD** (Standby Scar, Zazu, Timon & Pumbaa) is happy to return to The Lion King. In addition to a previous stint as Zazu, he is lucky enough to have worked on plays by

Bertolt Brecht, Sandy Rustin, Arthur Miller, Robert Askins, Jordan Seavey, Lucas Knath, Steve Martin, Peter Shaffer, Lanford Wilson, Oliver Goldsmith, Tom Stoppard, Neil Simon, Kate Hamill, Shakespeare, and many others, at theaters large and small across the county .He's long served on the faculty at New York Film Academy. Thanks to A+S, WTG+LG.

**THOM CHRISTOPHER WARREN** (Standby Scar, Zazu, Timon & Pumbaa).22 years with The Lion King on Broadway, tour and Shanghai. B'way: Once Upon a Mattress. Regional: Hello, Dolly! (Horace), La Cage...(Albin), Ragtime (Tateh), Pippin (Charles/Berthe), Next to Normal (Dan), World premiere of Harmony (Harry), Peter & the Starcatcher (Black Stache), Fiddler on the Roof (Tevye) & Come From Away (Claude).IG: @Tcdubs.Host: Thank You, Half Hour podcast on Spotify & Apple podcasts. Love to Adam & Cbus family

**AARON CHAO** (Young Simba at certain performances) is honored to join The Lion King National Tour. Credits include the voice of Nemo in Disney's Nemo's New Year Shell-Abriation. He began performing at age 5 and has appeared in regional theatre productions, TV, and film. Grateful to his family, friends, coaches, and his agent at CTG for their support. IG: @i\_am\_aaron\_chao

**JOURNEY COMPAS** (Young Nala at certain performances).From South Florida, Journey is thrilled to make her national tour debut! She has performed in musical theatre since age three, appearing in local productions and national commercials. In her downtime, she trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and is a 3x season champion. Grateful to Disney and her family for their [support.@journeycompasofficial](#)

**MARLEY GOMES** (Young Nala at certain performances) is thrilled to make her national tour debut! Credits include Broadway: Gypsy (Baby June) and TV: "Sesame Street." Huge thanks to her amazing coaches, agents at The Osbrink Agency, managers at Ascend Talent Management, and her incredible family and friends. Follow her journey on Instagram @marleygomes.

**JOSIAH WATSON** (Young Simba at certain performances) is thrilled to join The Lion King National Tour! Credits: Milo Imagines the World (Milo, Alliance Theatre) and Charlie & the Chocolate Factory (Charlie, Legacy Theatre). He is grateful to God, and thanks his family, ARC Casting, Disney, CBD (voice), and Landmark Christian Fine Arts program. IG: josiah.a.watson

**KAYLA ROSE AIMABLE** (Swing, Dance Captain).Glory! Theater: The Wiz, Arkansas Repertory, The Color Purple, West Coast Black Theater Troupe, Hairspray, Royal Caribbean. She would like to Thank God, family, and mentors for all of their love and support. Psalm 23.

**ELLEN AKASHI** (Ensemble). Honored to join the family! BFA Chapman University. Credits include San Diego Opera, Backhausdance, Laurie Sefton Creates, Dance Lab New York, Company XIV. All love to family, friends, and the team at MSA. @ellen.akashi

**AJA SIMONE BAITEY** (Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Sarabi) is excited to join the LK family! Credits include: Six (NCL), The Book of Mormon (Nat'l Tour), Jesus Christ Superstar (Nat'l Tour), Redwood (La Jolla Playhouse), Beautiful (Asolo Rep), The Color Purple (Casa Mañana). @ajasimonebaitey

**ERIC BEAN, JR.** (Swing, Understudy Ed). Originally from Bermuda, Eric attended the University of the Arts (Phila.PA) where he received his BFA in Dance Education & Choreography. A finalist in the Philadelphia A.W.A.R.D.S.competition, Mr.Bean has taught and choreographed nationally & internationally; offering master classes /workshops whenever available. Credits: Koresh Dance Co, Donn Arden's Jubilee!, Viking Ocean. Regional: The Little Mermaid, Beauty & the Beast, Once on this Island. IG: EBJDANCE

**VERNON BROOKS III** (Ensemble). Born and raised in New Orleans, Vernon is a graduate of Pace University and has performed with Martha Graham Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company and Parsons Dance Co. Vernon is honored to now be part of The Lion King.

**SHAQUELLE CHARLES** (Ensemble) is an Afro-Caribbean artist from Guyana who obtained his BFA at Marymount Manhattan College. Since then he has performed with Mark Morris Dance, the Metropolitan Opera, and Dianne McIntyre. He has presented works at La Biennale Dance Festival under Wayne McGregor, Symphony space and more.

**REOAGILE CHOABI** (Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki & Nala) is an actress, vocalist and songwriter and graduate of the National School of the Arts. Credits: The Lion King (Ensemble & Understudy Nala; Brazil & Asia tour) 2019 - 2024; performed National Anthem at Chinese Embassy (2018), backing vocalist in Afropunk (2018); guest on Yo-Tv (2017).

**DANIELA COBB** (Swing, Understudy Sarabi & Shenzi) is a graduate of Alabama State University. Théâtre: The Odyssey; Disney's Beauty and the Beast; The Wiz; The Winter's Tale; Roe (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); The First Noel (Kenny Leon's True Colors); Freak Friday (Horizon Theatre Co.); Black Nativity; For Colored Girls...; Dreamgirls;(Cloverdale Playhouse) and The Color Purple.

**MAURICE DAWKINS** (Ensemble). Broadway Tours: Cats, The Prom. Regional: West Side Story (Lyric Opera of Chicago), A Chorus Line (Cincinnati Playhouse) Cats (RCCL), Newsies. Alum of Sarah Lawrence College and LaGuardia Arts HS. Repped by The Mine Agency! Love you Mom, Laura, and my cats, Mr. Business and Luna Instagram: dawkinsmaurice.

**CEDRICK EKRA** (Ensemble, Understudy Simba). National Tour Debut! Connecticut born - La Côte D'Ivoire proud. Select Credits: *The Preacher's Wife* (Alliance Theatre) directed by Tony Winner Michael Arden, *The Color Purple* (Ivoryton), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Playhouse on Park). Film: *Whitney Houston Biopic: IWDWS* (Net). Film *Emerson MT. bisou mama et emanuella*. @cedrickekra

**CAMRYN HAMPTON** (Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Sarabi) is excited to join the LK Tour! Off-Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Westside Theatre). Tour: *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. Regional: *Hair* (MTH Theatre). Thanks to family, friends, God and her team. IG: @camryn.hampton

**QUIANA ONRAE'L HOLMES** (Swing, Understudy Shenzi & Sarabi). You did your big one, God. Tours: *Hadestown*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Motown the Musical* Regional: *GOATS* (NYC), *Ain't Misbehavin* (REV) *The Wiz* (FTC). Eternal love to Mom, family, and Henderson Hogan @quianaonrael

**VALÉRIANE LOUISY LOUIS JOSEPH** (Ensemble). A Parisian with roots from Martinique. Ailey School graduate. Credits: *The Lion King* (Paris), Sony Music Entertainment, Classical Theater of Harlem, Shirley Black Brown, Christopher L.Huggins, Ronald K.Brown, Ruddur Dance, Creative Outlet. Featured in Omah Lay's "SOSO" music video, Asake's Barclays Center concert.@valerianellj

**JOEL KARIE** (Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa, Banzai & Ed) is happy to be returning to *The Lion King* after performing in the Broadway and German companies. Other credits include *Aida* (Germany), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (UK), *With A Song In My Heart* (UK), *Dancing in the Streets* (West End), *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (West End), and proud uncle to *Kennedi* (Tampa). After telling this story in 4 languages, in 3 foreign countries, Joel is thrilled to be performing on America's national tour.

**GABISILE MANANA** (Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki). Born in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, Gabisile has previously performed with *The Lion King* in Australia, Holland and Spain, and throughout the world with other international performing groups, including *Africa Umoja*, *Stamping* and *Mother Africa*.

**KEYVEONTAE' MARTIN** (Ensemble). From Oklahoma City, Keyveontae' received his BBA and BFA from the University of Oklahoma. It's his Broadway National Tour debut! Thanks be to God, family, and friends for your unwavering support. Credits: *Creative Outlet*, *Royal Caribbean Cruise Line*. @Keyve.Martin / Proverbs 3:5-6

**MORGAN REED MCDANIEL** (Ensemble). Proud Buffalo, NY native. Training: BFA from Ailey/Fordham. Stage credits: *Lyric Opera of Chicago*, *South Chicago Dance Theatre*.

*Film/TV: Netflix's "Monsters" S3. Endless gratitude to my family for their unwavering love!  
@morganreed888*

**JUSTIN MENSAH** (*Swing, Understudy Simba & Banzai*) is a Native New Yorker who at an early age fell in love with the stage. To further develop his craft, he studied at Harlem School of the Arts and the Institute for American Musical Theatre.

**AARON NELSON** (*Swing, Fight Captain, Understudy Scar, Simba & Mufasa*) is honored to be among the few in *The Lion King's* history to cover the "Big 3" roles and notably the first African American to perform as Scar on tour. Select Broadway/TV: *The Lion King* (Simba), "FBI: Most Wanted" (CBS), "Chicago Fire" (NBC). Aaron dedicates each performance to his children and loved ones. @theactlete // Psalm 9:2

**NTETHELELO NHLAPHO** (*Ensemble*). Originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, Lelo has presented original shows in Paris and teaches African music. He has worked on *The Lion King* (Paris, West End), *Rhythms of the Pride Lands* at Disneyland Paris, and is a former UJ Choir member.

**YUKA NOTSUKA** (*Ensemble*) is from Fukuoka, Japan. National Tours: *Cats* (Victoria), *South Pacific* (Liat), *An American in Paris*. Education: Luigi's Jazz Centre under Francis J. Roach, The Ailey School. She thanks her family, mentors, supporters and the LK team! @yukaaada

**SICELO NTSANGASE** (*Ensemble*). Originally from Mpumalanga Delmas in South Africa, Sicelo formed a band with close family friends in 2012, performing at weddings and events. In 2016 he took part in DStv's choir singing show "Clash of the Choirs" and in 2017 he joined *The Lion King's* Madrid Production.

**SAYIGA EUGENE PEABODY** (*Ensemble*). Raised in Stevensville, MI of Liberian descent. T.V.: *Fosse/Verdon* Series on FX. Tour: *An American In Paris* (1st National). Regional: *Cats*, *Sister Act*, and *Evita* (Marriott Lincolnshire). Thanks to Binder Casting. Here to Persevere!

**Yael PINEDA-HALL** (*Swing, Understudy Rafiki, Shenzi & Sarabi*). Disney's *The Lion King*: Broadway, North American Tour, Singapore, London, Shanghai, Melbourne and Sydney (since 2003); *A Christmas Carol* (2013-14), *Festival of The Lion King*, Hong Kong (2007-08). Part of various Musicals in the Philippines (2000-14) and *Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company* (1985-94). Thank you family and friends for your utmost support.

**POSELETSO SEJOSINGOE** (*Ensemble, Understudy Rafiki, Nala & Shenzi*) is a South African singer and actress. International theater credits: Disney's *The Lion King* (West End), *The Magic Flute*, *The Mysteries*, *Aesop's Fables*, *A Christmas Carol*. Television: "M-Net's *Idols*" (Runner-Up), "Forced Love" (SABC1 mini-series). Poseletso has performed with international artists Michael Bolton, Josh Groban, Beyonce and Westlife.

**AVILON TRUST TATE** (Ensemble, Understudy Simba). NC native. Broadway: *The Wiz* (U/S Tin Man). Tours: *MJ the Musical 1st Nat'l Tour* (Jermaine), *The Wiz* (U/S Tin Man), *Mean Girls 1st Nat'l Tour* (U/S Mr. Duvall). Regional: *Chess* (Muny), *R+H's Cinderella* (NSMT). BFA MT '24 UNCG. Tate gives all thanks to God, Family, and Agency — The Collective. IG: @avilon.tate

**JENNIFER THERIOT** (Sarabi, Ensemble, Understudy Nala & Shenzi) is overjoyed to join this production. Attended: American Musical and Dramatic Academy NY. Regional credits: *TARZAN*®; *Dreamgirls*; *Hairspray*; *Little Shop*; International: *Beauty and the Beast Tour* and Disney cruise lines. “I thank my family and friends for their constant and overflowing prayers and support!!”

**BRENA K. THOMAS** (Ensemble). Native of Chicago IL. Grateful to be a part of *The Lion King!* Training: The Ailey School (Scholarship Program) Concert Dance: PHILADANCO! Ailey II, Barnes Museum, Guggenheim Works & Process.TV/Film: “POSE” (FX). Thanks to my family/friends. This is for you Grandma! IG: brenakthomas

**COUR ThanksMAS** (Swing, Dance Captain, Understudy Ed) is incredibly humbled to be rejoining *The Lion King National Tour*. Born in Atlanta, Ga he began dancing at North Atlanta High School at 16 under the direction of Tracy Vogt and immediately fell in love with arts. He studied dance at AREA (Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment and Arts) under the direction of Jai Jones and is humbled that *The Lion King* is his first professional work as a dancer. Insta: @cthomdance94

**BEN TOOMER** (Ensemble, Understudy Mufasa) Broadway: *Girl from the North Country*. TV: “Law & Order.” National Tour/Regional credits: *Swept Away* (Berkeley Rep—World Premiere), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (National Tour), *Jubilee* (Arena Stage). Thanks to his family, CGF and the creatives. BFA in Musical Theatre from Texas State [University.@B\\_toomer](mailto:University.@B_toomer)

**JORDAN NICOLE WILLIS** (Ensemble). Native of Dallas, TX, Jordan Willis received her education from Booker T. Washington HSPVA and Point Park University. Since graduating she's performed with *The Black Iris Project*, *Houston Contemporary Dance Company*, *Open Dance Project* and *B.MOORE Dance*.