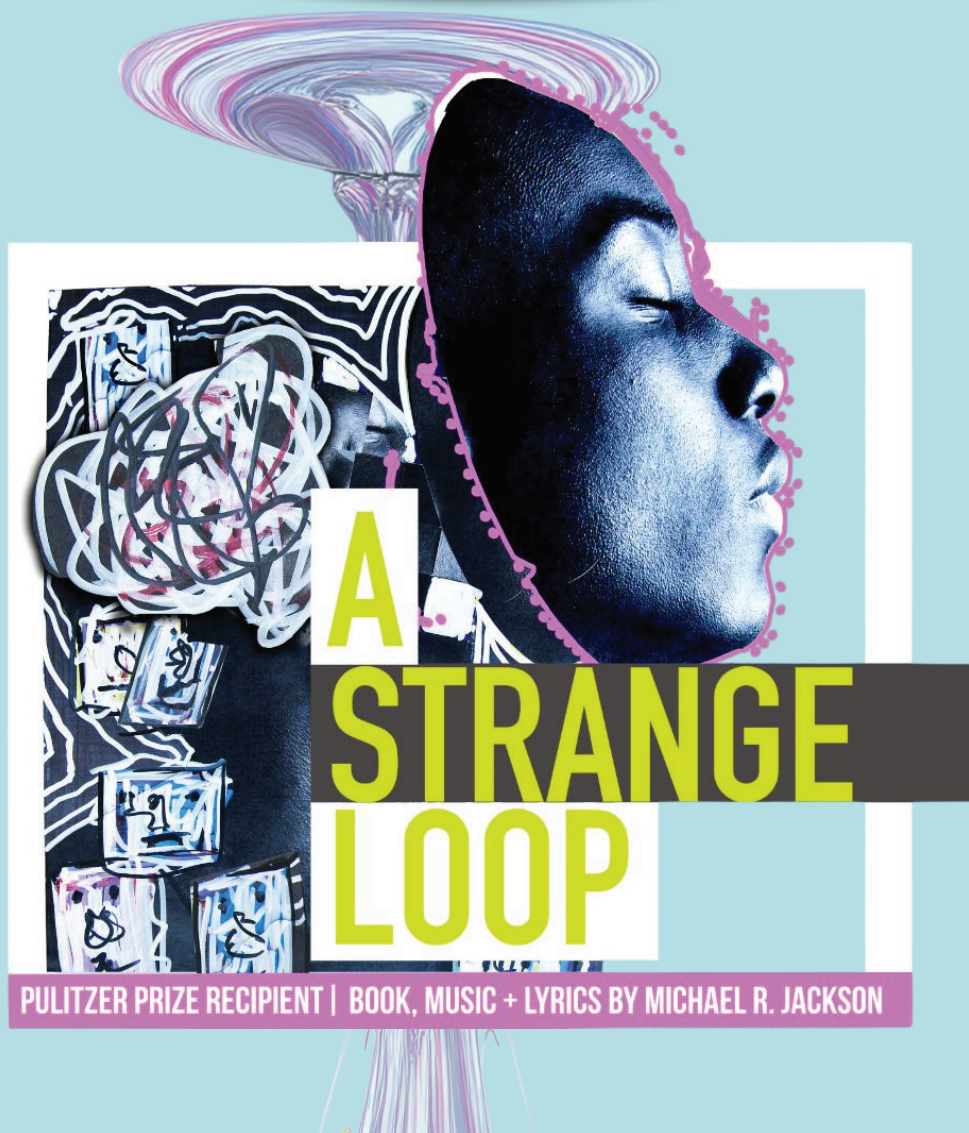


CIRCLE
THEATRE
PRESENTS



JUNE 19 - JULY 12, 2025
SEASON 2025: IGNITE



THE FUTURE DEMANDS DIFFERENT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



Funding for this production is provided by
The Rea Charitable Trust

A STRANGE LOOP

MUSIC, BOOK, & LYRICS BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON

Directed by vickie washington

STARRING:

Kiba Walker Usher
Kris Black Jasper Thought #1
Darius-Anthony Robinson* Thought #2
Landon Blanton Thought #3
J. Dontray Davis* Thought #4
Quintin Jones Jr.* Thought #5
Logan Rhys Thought #6

This production runs 1 hour and 40 minutes with no intermission.
Any video and/or audio recording of this production is stratically prohibited.

DESIGN TEAM: FULL CREATIVE TEAM ON PAGE 23

PRODUCTION + STAGE MANAGER REAGAN FITZGERALD*
MUSIC DIRECTOR DJORÉ NANCE
MUSIC SUPERVISOR CHERISH LOVE ROBINSON*
CHOREOGRAPHER KIANIRA BROOKS
SCENIC DESIGNER BRIAN PACELLI
LIGHTING + ASST. SCENIC DESIGNER AARON JOHANSEN
COSTUME DESIGNER KIERA POWERS
SOUND DESIGNER DAVID LANZA
PROPS DESIGNER RAYVEN HARRIS
INTIMACY DIRECTOR MITCHELL STEPHENS

A STRANGE LOOP is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

*Original Broadway Production produced by Barbara Whitman Playwrights Horizons, Inc. in
association with Page 73 Productions - produced the World Premiere of "A Strange Loop" in New
York City in 2019.*

Subsequently produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the United States (AEA)

+ Member Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)

This playbill is a production of **PERFORMING ADS** III

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SPECIAL THANKS

Jubilee Theatre, Theatre Wesleyan, Eric Canales as this show's Board Representative

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The Director-Choreographer is a member of the
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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

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CIRCLE THEATRE PRESENTS



**A
 STRANGE
 LOOP**



JUNE 19 - JULY 12, 2025

PULITZER PRIZE RECIPIENT | BOOK, MUSIC + LYRICS BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON



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JUNE 19 - JULY 12, 2025
PULITZER PRIZE RECIPIENT

A STRANGE LOOP

BOOK, MUSIC + LYRICS
BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON



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MICHAEL R. JACKSON

Michael R. Jackson holds a BFA and MFA in playwriting and musical theatre writing from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. As a songwriter, he has seen his work performed everywhere from Joe's Pub to NAMT. He wrote lyrics and co-wrote book for the musical adaptation of the 2007 horror film *Teeth* with composer and co-bookwriter Anna K. Jacobs. He wrote book, music, and lyrics for the musicals *White Girl In Danger* and *A Strange Loop* (2019 world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in co-production with Page 73 Productions). Awards and associations include: a New Professional Theatre Festival Award, a Jonathan Larson Grant, a Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, an ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, a Whiting Award, the Helen Merrill Award for Playwriting and a Dramatist Guild Fellowship. He has commissions from Grove Entertainment & Barbara Whitman Productions and LCT3. *via* pulitzer.org/winners/michael-r-jackson

The 2020 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics' Circle-winning *A Strange Loop* (which had its 2019 world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in association with Page 73 Productions) was called "a full-on laparoscopy of the heart, soul, and loins" and a "gutsy, jubilantly anguished musical with infectious melodies" by Ben Brantley for *The New York Times*. In *The New Yorker*, Vinson Cunningham wrote, "To watch this show is to enter, by some urgent, bawdy magic, an ecstatic and infinitely more colorful version of the famous surreal lithograph by M. C. Escher: the hand that lifts from the page, becoming almost real, then draws another hand, which returns the favor." *via* broadwayworld.com



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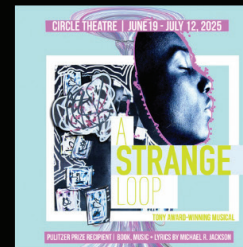
Attend *A Strange Loop* at **Circle Theatre** and receive 20% off tickets to *Ain't No Mo'* at **Soul Rep** and *Fat Ham* at **Stage West**!

AIN'T NO MO' | JUNE 5 - 8 WRITTEN BY JORDAN E. COOPER | SOUL REP THEATRE COMPANY



Premiering on Broadway in 2022 and nominated for six Tony Awards, *Ain't No Mo'* blends sketch, satire, avant-garde theatre, and drag to explore a bold question: What if the U.S. offered Black Americans one-way tickets to Africa? This unpredictable comedy keeps audiences laughing—and thinking through the tears.

A STRANGE LOOP | JUNE 19 - JULY 12 BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON | CIRCLE THEATRE



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and 2022 Tony Award for Best Musical, *A Strange Loop* is a bold, exhilarating dive into the mind of Usher, a Black queer writer crafting a show about his own journey. With raw themes, sharp storytelling, and an electric score, this groundbreaking musical is unforgettable.

FAT HAM | AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 14 BY JAMES IJAMES | STAGE WEST THEATRE



In this Tony-nominated, Pulitzer-winning play, Juicy, a queer Black man, grapples with family, fate, and his father's ghost at a backyard barbecue. A bold, hilarious reinvention of *Hamlet* that breaks cycles of violence in pursuit of joy.

LEARN MORE HERE

Promo code for discount will be sent in confirmation of ticket purchase for *A Strange Loop*





vickie washington

vickie washington (Director) Selected directing credits: *Primary Trust, Responders, The Mountaintop, Schoolgirls; or the African Mean Girls Play*, (TheatreSquared) *Blood Knot*, (Flat Rock Playhouse) *What to Send Up When It Goes Down, Are you now, or have you ever been...* (Stage West) *Whitelisted, Hairy and Sherri* (Salt Lake Acting Company) *Passing Strange* (Theatre Three) *Single Black Female, Sunset Baby*, (Jubilee) *Fabulation, Seven Guitars* (UNT) *The Ballad of Jane Elkins, Angela's Mixtape* (Soul Rep).

She is the recipient of the 2025 Irma P. Hall Lifetime Achievement Award, and as director has garnered two Irma P. Hall Black Theatre Awards along with recognition from the Dallas Observer for her direction of the world premiere of Jonathan Norton's *Mississippi Goddamn*.

Acting credits include: The TEAM's *Primer for a Failed Superpower*, directed by Rachel Chavkin; *Blood Work*, (National Black Theater); *A Raisin in the Sun*, (WaterTower); *POTUS*, (Stage West); *Healed* (Second Thought Theatre); *Dreaming Emmett* (DNA Works); *Crowns*, (DTC); *for colored girls...*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Piano Lesson*, (Theatre Three); *Contribution, From the Mississippi Delta* (Soul Rep); *The Tempest, Macbeth* (Shakespeare Dallas).

On-camera: *Random Acts of Flyness* (HBO); *With Ossie & Ruby* (PBS); Indie films: *Meta Care, They Charge for the Sun, Steps of Faith, Swimming in Your Skin Again* (official Sundance selection)

A proud member of Actors Equity and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, she deeply values the gift of theatre and the powerful ways in which it can be utilized to tell the stories of the African Diaspora. #onandup

from the Director

A STRANGE LOOP by Michael R. Jackson is
 “a musical about a Black, gay man
 who’s writing a musical about a Black, gay man
 who’s writing a musical about a Black, gay man, etc.”

Yes.

It is that, and so much more.

Come and be ushered into the whirlwind of Usher’s life—a life full of looking for love and acceptance in oh-so-many places, and from oh-so-many folk. A life full of hopes and dashed dreams. A life full of laughter and lust. A life full of too much overthinking and the peace that comes from finally coming to the realization that you are enough! I invite you to sit back, and lean in! And while you ride through Usher’s “Strange Loop”, breathe deep and think of your own strange loop(s) and your journey through...

~~~

This production is dedicated to Eddie Price and Benn Bell, along with ‘all those Black gay boys I knew who chose to go on back to the Lord.’

-vickie washington, director





# MICHAEL R. JACKSON'S INFLUENCES FOR

# A STRANGE LOOP



## WHAT SHAPES A MIND FULL OF LOOPS?

Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop* didn't appear out of thin air — it was built from a lifetime of listening, watching, feeling, and questioning. From gospel choirs and girl rockers to philosophical theory and queer Black identity, Jackson's influences are as layered and self-referential as the musical itself.



## MICHAEL R. JACKSON'S OWN LIFE

The show is not autobiographical, but it is self-referential. "For me, autobiography suggests that there's a one-to-one ratio of events to my life. And I would say it's more emotionally autobiographical. I felt everything that the protagonist feels, but we have different life experiences, and the details are different."<sup>1</sup>

## THE TRIFECTA

Liz Phair, Joni Mitchell, and Tori Amos are three women whose audacity and willingness to open themselves up really inspired me. Liz Phair's album *Exile in Guyville* for a time was the main engine for the piece. That album really knocked me out. In early versions I wondered: **How can I make my own accounting of my experience as someone who feels erased and is a queer black man?** Someone who is lost and feels ignored by the world?<sup>2</sup>

"[As a teenager,] I was just coming out and feeling sad and emo all the time. And of course, enter Tori Amos via my cousin who gave me her first two albums ... and I one night turned all the lights off, put my headphones on, [got] under the covers, and then Tori Amos [started] singing to me, and I was a goner."<sup>1</sup>

## GOSPEL MUSIC

"The piece features six- and seven-part harmonies and that comes from my love of gospel music."<sup>3</sup>

## THE CLARK SISTERS

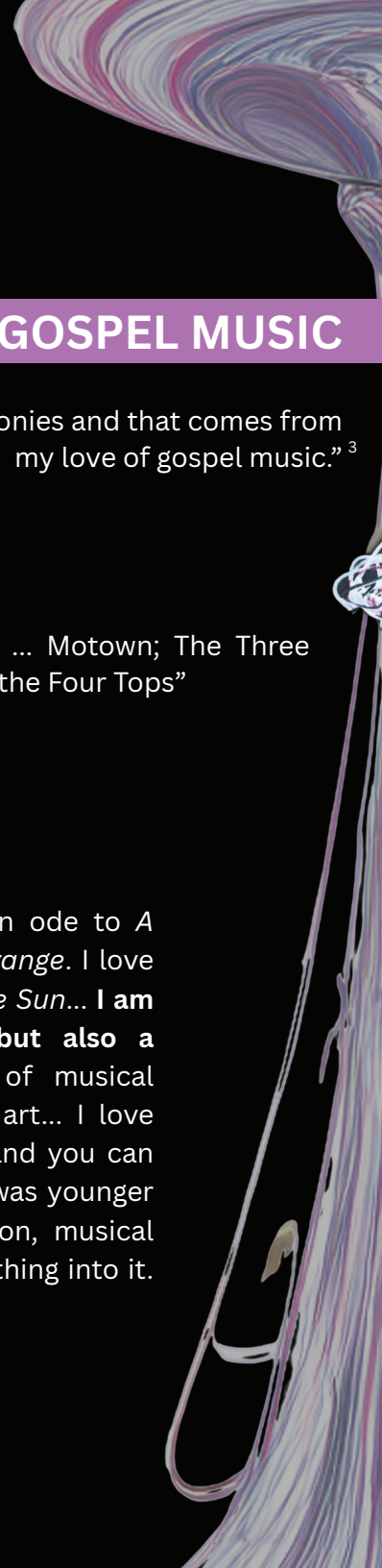
"The Clark Sisters are a big influence, as is ... Motown; The Three Degrees; Earth, Wind & Fire; The Temptations; the Four Tops"

## MUSICAL THEATRE

"I also love musical theatre. I have my own ode to *A Chorus Line*, I love *Company* and *Passing Strange*. I love *Raisin*, a musical adaptation of *A Raisin in the Sun*... **I am not only a creator of musical theatre but also a consumer.** I have studied the guardians of musical theatre. I have very strong opinions about art... I love musicals and think they can do everything and you can push the envelope and do so much. When I was younger and experienced being a marginalized person, musical theatre was a life raft for me. I can put everything into it. It's my sword and my shield."

1. Seth Meyers interview: [bit.ly/4kPPN67](https://bit.ly/4kPPN67)

2. TDF interview: [bit.ly/4kOTTvd](https://bit.ly/4kOTTvd)





## Eighteen Years in the Making: The Journey of *A Strange Loop*

Timeline condensed from the expansive version published by Vulture<sup>1</sup>.

The creation of *A Strange Loop* unfolded over 18 years, shaped by countless hours of writing, revisions, workshops, personal breakthroughs, and public milestones. This timeline traces the key moments in its evolution from a graduate school spark to a Pulitzer- and Tony-winning phenomenon. **It's a reminder that the path to meaningful art is often long, winding, and deeply worth the wait.**

2002

Michael R. Jackson earns a bachelor's in playwriting from NYU. While living in Queens, he writes a monologue called "Why I Can't Get Work" to vent his frustrations. **This piece eventually led to *A Strange Loop*:** "The core ideas and the feelings that I was trying to capture are the same."<sup>2</sup>

2004

Jackson begins grad school for musical theatre writing at NYU. A long-time piano player, he's never written a song. **"Memory Song" is the first one he writes.**

2006

At the urging of a producer at the Public Theater (Goyanes), **Jackson combines his 2002 monologue with his original songs.** He performs them Off Broadway as a one-man show called *Fast Food Town*. Jackson decides he wants to turn this cabaret act into a musical.

2011

By this time, the show is a mash-up of Jackson's songs with Liz Phair songs. It's called ***A Strange Loop***, a reference to a Phair song which is a reference to a cognitive theory by Douglas Hofstadter. **The theory describes self-referential systems, including in the way people perceive themselves and create identity.**

2012

Jackson asks Stephen Brackett to direct a workshop of *A Strange Loop*. Brackett suggests casting a chorus of queer Black actors to play everyone around the main character. Jackson takes the idea and calls the supporting characters "Usher's Thoughts."

2014

*A Strange Loop* is stuck in development, with Jackson and Brackett getting discouraged as theaters decline to produce the show.

2015-2016

Spurred by a breakthrough in therapy, Jackson has written the ultimate ending for the show. After another two-week workshop, the crew performs the musical for a small audience. In 2016, Broadway producer Barbara Whitman decides to produce. After receiving offers from three Off Broadway theaters, the team decides to join the 2018-2019 season at Playwrights Horizons.

2019

*A Strange Loop* premieres at Playwrights Horizons to great acclaim. Whitman proposes Broadway. With no theaters available in 2020, Whitman aims for 2021 and plans to take the show to Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. in fall 2020.

2020

COVID disrupts the team's plans, but the show wins many prominent awards, including the **2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama**, the tenth musical to win the award and the first without a Broadway run.

"For some people, the show is a mirror. For other people, the show is a window." -Michael R. Jackson



2021

The show finally opens at Woolly Mammoth in D.C. in December.

2022

***A Strange Loop* opens on Broadway at the Lyceum Theatre on April 26 with a bevy of celebrity producers.** The show is half a block away from *The Lion King*, a show Jackson spent years ushering for in his twenties. Jaquel Spivey, playing Usher, is 23—the same as Jackson when he started working on the show in 2004. The show wins the Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical.

2023

The show closes on Broadway and runs Off West End at the Barbican Centre in London.

2024

The show has a notable co-production between the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles with the same creative team as Broadway and London.<sup>3</sup>

Circle Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas is screaming with excitement as they receive the news they've secured the rights to the regional premiere of *A Strange Loop*.

2025

Circle Theatre casts and begins rehearsals for the best musical ever.

In May, Circle's dramaturg started writing this timeline about how *A Strange Loop*'s development began in 2002 in NYC.<sup>4</sup>.

**Today, our favorite audience member finishes reading this timeline and gets ready for the experience of a lifetime.**

sources



1. Vulture



2. Seth Meyers



3. A.C.T.



4. This Timeline.

1. Intermission Song - Intro ..... Thoughts
2. Intermission Song - Opening..... Usher, Thoughts
3. Today ..... Usher
4. We Wanna Know ..... Thoughts
5. Inner White Girl ..... Usher, Thoughts
6. Didn't Want Nothin' ..... Thoughts
7. Exile in Gayville ..... Usher, Thoughts
8. Second Wave ..... Usher
9. Tyler Perry Writes Real Life ..... Usher, Thoughts
10. Writing a Gospel Play ..... Usher, Thoughts
11. A Sympathetic Ear ..... Thought #1
12. Inwood Daddy ..... Usher, Thoughts
13. Boundaries ..... Usher
14. Periodically ..... Thought #4, Usher
15. Didn't Want Nothin' - Reprise ..... Thought #5
16. Precious Little Dream/AIDS Is God's Punishment ..... Usher, Thoughts
17. Memory Song ..... Usher, Thoughts #2-6
18. A Strange Loop..... Usher, Thoughts







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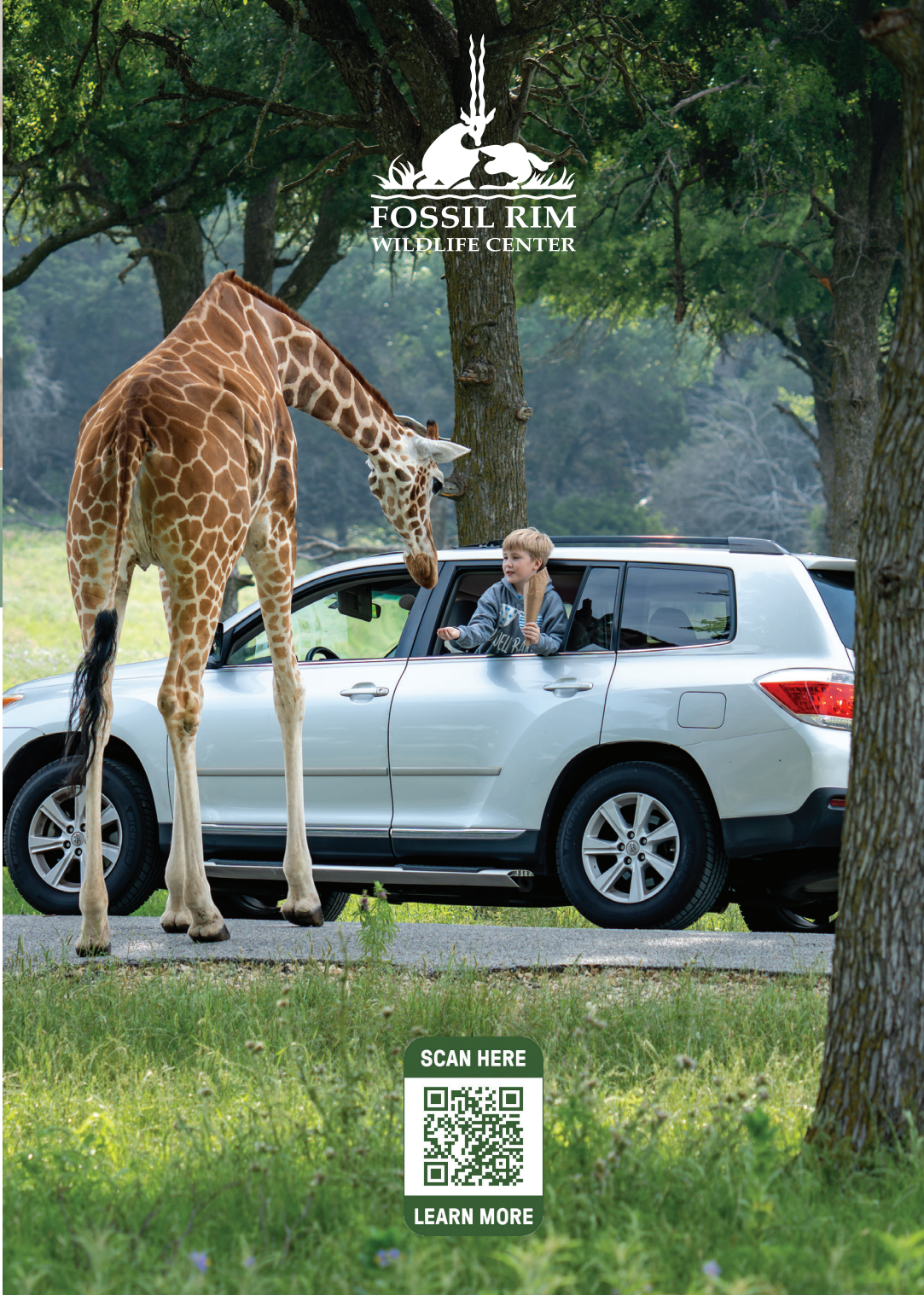


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**KIBA WALKER (Usher)** is making their Circle Theatre debut and is so excited! They are a professional voice actor (known for their work with Crunchyroll, Bang Zoom, Gearbox, and more) and drag queen (two time award winning Drag Queen, Salem Moon). Kiba has been involved with the entertainment industry since they were six years old, and has performed as Veronica Sawyer in *Heathers: The Musical* (Blue Firebox), Dr. Frank N. Furter in the *Rocky Horror Show* (NTPA), Gabe in *Next to Normal* (Lewisville Playhouse), St. Jimmy in *American Idiot* (TMCC), Carmen Ghia in *The Producers* (TMCC), and many others. Kiba has also served as a director, choreographer and advocate for equal opportunities for people of color and the queer community. Usher is their dream role and cannot wait to tell this big, black and queer story! IG: @kibathevoice @sailemmoondrag



**KRIS BLACK JASPER (Thought #1)** is making her Circle Theatre acting debut. She was the Stage Manager for Circle Theatre's recent production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and is beyond thrilled to now be on Circle's main stage. She is currently attending Southern New Hampshire University where she's working towards a Bachelor's degree in Creative Writing so she can keep fulfilling her dream of being an actress, author, playwright and director. She's been in nearly 30 productions across DFW including *Fabulation* (Jubilee Theatre), *Lil & Satchmo* (Jubilee), *The Color Purple* (W.E. Scott Theatre/Jubilee), *Sister Act* as Mother Superior (Bass Hall/Jubilee) and more. Kris' acting roles also include stage readings at Sammons Center for the Arts, Amphibian Stage, Plague Mask Players, The Black Academy of Arts & Letters, and Theatre Arlington. Production credits include: Assistant Stage Manager: *Dreamgirls* (Bass Hall/Jubilee); Stage Manager: *Take the Soul Train to Christmas* (Jubilee), *1619 Project* (Bishop Arts Theatre Center), *Bread 'N' Gravy: The Life of Ethel Waters* (The Modern Museum/Jubilee); directing credits include: Assistant Director: *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (Jubilee); Director: *Home* (Jubilee), *Black Nativity* (Bishop Art Theatre Center). She is excited to support the cast and crew of *A Strange Loop*. FB: Kris Black Jasper / IG: @iamkblackjazz



**DARIUS-ANTHONY ROBINSON\* (Thought #2/Dance Captain)** is an award-winning Singer, Dancer, Actor, Choreographer, Director veteran of stage and screen was recently seen performing as the Lead Drifter in *BEAUTIFUL: The Carole King Musical* at Titusville Playhouse; starring in *Sophisticated Ladies* as Gregory at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre; on Broadway at the Minskoff Theatre in the 34th Annual Easter Bonnet Parade with the Broadway cast of *PARADE*; as well as in the Broadway-bound musical, *The Preacher's Wife* with music and lyrics by Titus Burgess. Off-Broadway: *Drunk Musicals* (Resident Company Member); *RENT* - The 25TH Anniversary production; *Re-Designing Women* (Rose

Nagelberg Theatre); *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Second Stage Theatre). National Tours: *In The Heights* (Man 6/Dance Captain); *HAIRSPRAY* (Duane); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Trix the Aviatrix); *Re-Designing Women* (Anthony Bouvier). Select Regional Credits: Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre; NYMF; Dallas Theatre Center; Uptown Players; Casa Mañana Theatre; American Repertory Theater; WaterTower Theater; Theatre Three; Bass Hall; Divisionary Theatre; LaJolla Playhouse; Midtowne Arts Center; and TUTS. Performance Venues: Joe's Pub, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Feinstein's 54 Below, Highline Ballroom, Radio City Music Hall, Chelsea Table + Stage. Robinson has traveled all over the world not just performing but educating which they are also very passionate about and are currently a member of the Dance Faculty at The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. @thedariusanthony



**LANDON BLANTON (Thought #3, he/him)** is making his Circle Theatre debut. He is currently finishing up his degree in Theatre at UT Arlington. He was last seen in *Xanadu* as Thalia at Uptown Players, Assistant/Ensemble in *Natasha, Pierre...* (UTA), and Chip in *On The Town* (UTA). He is so excited to share this story with this team of artists. He also encourages everyone to go on this journey with them, look deeper into the story, and open a conversation to explore the lives outside of one's knowledge. He would also like to thank his family and friends for the continuous support and encouragement that he receives day to day. @landon\_blanton



**J. DONTRAY DAVIS\* (Thought #4, he/him)** is glad to be gracing the Circle Theatre stage again, he was last seen as Fats Waller in *Ain't Misbehavin'* and as Blind Lemon Jefferson in *Lonesome Blues*. J is a native of Mexia, TX by way of Waco TX, he moved to Dallas in 2012 and has had the pleasure of working not only as an actor but also as a scenic and costume designer all over the DFW metroplex. Some of his credits include *Shrek* in *Shrek the Musical* (GPAC), Mister in *The Color Purple* (DCT), Tom Collins in *Rent* (DCT), Tiny Joe Dixon in *Dreamgirls* (Dallas Theatre Center), Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* (Casa Mañana) Snyder in *Newsies* (Casa Mañana) and many more. J is a proud Circle Theatre board member, he's also the Geographical Based Communities (GBC) co-chair for Actors' Equity Association and the co-producer of Broadway on a Tuesday (BOAT) "I'm honored to be sharing the stage with these talented artists, telling this beautiful story. This cast and crew is Black Excellence at its best. I would like to thank my mother Rhonda Davis, my family and friends for their continuous love and support" J would like to dedicate his performance in the run of this show to his granny in heaven Wilma Brewer Smith. @jerebear1987





**QUINTIN JONES, JR.\* (Thought #5)** is an actor, dancer and choreographer. He attended the University of Tulsa as a Musical Theater and Dance major. Stage credits include *we are continuous* (Uptown Players), *White Rabbit*, *Red Rabbit* (Dallas Theatre Center), *The Manufactured Myth of Eveline Flynn* (Theatre 3), and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Dallas Children's Theatre). Quintin is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and is thrilled to be making his Circle Theatre debut in this evocative and hilarious piece with this fantastic cast, crew, and production team.



**LOGAN RHYS (Thought #6, he/him)** is making his Circle Theatre debut. He recently graduated from Baylor University, and plans to move to New York in September. He was most recently seen in *Othello* as Othello at Baylor, Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Central Texas Theatre, and in *Sweeney Todd* as Sweeney Todd at Baylor. He is very excited to create the world of this show with his castmates, artistic team, and audience. He would like to thank God, his Mom and Dad, as well as his sister, Emme, for always supporting him no matter what. He'd also like to thank his best friend Sonny, for his constant encouragement through it all, he wouldn't be here without his influence and kind heart. He would like to dedicate this performance to Britt. Logan is thankful for Britt's loving kindness, and constant desire to grow along with the beauty he exudes no matter what he does. Love y'all!

## THE BAND



**DJORÉ NANCE**  
Music Director,  
Keys 1



**ANTHONY HOLMES**  
Guitar, Keys 2



**BETH MCPHERSON**  
Bass



**JAMES HAYNES**  
Drums

|                                         |                                |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Director</b>                         | vickie washington <sup>+</sup> |
| <b>Assistant Director</b>               | Chris Sanders*                 |
| <b>Stage + Production Manager</b>       | Reagan Fitzgerald*             |
| <b>Asst. Stage Manager</b>              | Elise Fuselier                 |
| <b>Music Director</b>                   | Djoré Nance                    |
| <b>Asst. Music Director</b>             | Jason Philip Solís             |
| <b>Music Supervisor</b>                 | Cherish Love Robinson*         |
| <b>Choreographer</b>                    | Kiandra Brooks                 |
| <b>Intimacy Director</b>                | Mitchell Stephens              |
| <b>Scenic Designer</b>                  | Brian Pacelli                  |
| <b>Lighting + Asst. Scenic Designer</b> | Aaron Johansen                 |
| <b>Costume Designer</b>                 | Kiera Powers                   |
| <b>Asst. Costume Designer</b>           | Saul Ortiz                     |
| <b>Sound Designer</b>                   | David Lanza                    |
| <b>Props Designer</b>                   | Rayven Harris                  |
| <b>Master Carpenter</b>                 | Kae Stryon                     |
| <b>Master Electrician</b>               | Jamie Milligan                 |
| <b>Wardrobe</b>                         | Pearl Young                    |
| <b>Run Crew A1</b>                      | Lili Johnson                   |



**CHRIS SANDERS\* (Assistant Director, she/her)** - This is Chris's first time on the production team at Circle Theatre. Her directorial debut was with The Table Co/Lab's production of *The Danger Year*. Chris has also directed several staged readings, including *The Legend of Caeneus* with TTC, *Frozen Fluid* for Echo Theatre's Echo Reads series, *Ashes of Aquitaine* with Altered Shakespeare and *Parent, Legal Guardian, Angel*, *Other* with Undermain Theatre. Chris was the Assistant Director for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* at Shakespeare Dallas. She has also done dramaturgy with Echo Theatre and Turtle Creek Chorale. As an actor, she performed locally with Circle Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Theatre 3, Amphibian Stage Productions, Jubilee Theatre, Soul Rep Theatre, and Second Thought Theatre. Chris earned a MFA in Acting from SMU, is a member of Actor's Equity Association, and is represented by the Mary Collins Agency.



**REAGAN FITZGERALD\* (Stage + Production Manager) (they/she)** is the Production Manager at Circle Theatre and an Equity Stage Manager in DFW. Stage Management credits include: *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Circle Theatre); *Destroying David* (Circle Theatre); *Khan!!! A New Musical* (Presented by MusicalWriters.com); *Exit, Pursued By A Bear* (Texas Wesleyan University); *Christmas at the Southern Palace* (Six Flags Over Texas with WOW! Entertainment); *An Almanac for Farmers and Lovers in Mexico* (Oklahoma City University); *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Oklahoma City University). Assistant Stage Management credits include: *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Theatre Three); *Hundred Days* (Circle Theatre); *High School Musical Theatre Awards* (Broadway Dallas); *Head Over Heels* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma); *The Threepenny Opera* (Oklahoma City University). She sends love and thanks to her family, friends, and dog Lemonade!





**ELISE FUSELIER (Assistant Stage Manager, they/them)** is a Stage Manager/Asst. Stage Manager from Waco, Texas. Their Stage Management credits include *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Baylor University Theatre), *The Secret in the Wings* (Baylor University Theatre), *James and the Giant Peach* (Young Festival Stage), *Men on Boats* (Baylor University Theatre), *Cry It Out* (Baylor University Theatre), and *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (Waco Civic Theatre). Elise received their BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from Baylor University in May of 2025. They are so excited to join Circle Theatre and the cast and crew of *A Strange Loop* on this production. They would like to thank their friends, family, and girlfriend for their constant love and support.



**DJORÉ NANCE (Music Director)** is a multi-faceted artist who is recognized for his work as a singer, actor, composer, musician, and writer. Most recently, Djoré was seen at Jazz at Lincoln Center as a featured vocalist for the Max Roach Centennial Concert and Off-Broadway in *A Beautiful Lady* at LaMaMa ETC. On screen Djoré can be seen starring in episodes of HBO's *Random Acts Of Flyness*. He has performed as a Bass-Baritone soloist at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fischer Hall, and New York City Opera. Djoré is a graduate of The Juilliard School and is a member of Actors' Equity.



**JASON PHILIP SOLIS (Assistant Music Director)** earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Southern Methodist University and has spent the last 15 years music directing and performing across the DFW metroplex. They are currently the Creative and Educational Director of Newlook Performing Arts in Grapevine and teaches and directs all ages. Favorite roles include William Barfee, Dr. Frank-N-Furter, Matron Mama Morton, Bud Davenport, Ms. Trunchbull, Asaka, Gomez Addams, and the Genie. Special thanks to my family and friends who have been so supportive of me in all of my endeavors; thanks y'all. @canweduet



**CHERISH LOVE ROBINSON\* (Music Supervisor)** is a versatile artist with a career spanning over two decades in music, theatre, and production. She has worked with iconic artists like Erykah Badu and Elle King, and her work has appeared on TV shows such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Big Little Lies*, and the movie, *My Spy*. A celebrated theatre performer, Cherish has earned accolades for roles in productions like *Into the Woods* and *Sister Act*. Her debut holiday album, *\*Love's Holiday\**, released on November 26, 2024, created in collaboration with top Dallas-Fort Worth musicians. The album offers a unique holiday experience across different genres. In addition to her music, Cherish teaches voice lessons and is working on her forthcoming book, "The Artist's Parallel", set for release this year. [cherishloverobinson.com](http://cherishloverobinson.com)



**KIANDRA BROOKS (Choreographer)** is a multi-hyphenate artist from Miami, FL. Her choreographic style reflects a rich and diverse foundation, shaped by the teachings of Sylvia Padron and Bernadette Toussaint-Pierre. While earning her BA in English at Florida State University, she was a member of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University's Mahogany Dance Theatre, where she served as rehearsal director under the leadership of Shepiro Hardemon. She has choreographed many productions such as *The Color Purple* (Jubilee Theatre at W.E. Scott Theatre), *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (Jubilee Theatre), *Bread and Gravy* (Jubilee Theatre), and *Sister Act* (Jubilee Theatre at Bass Hall)—a production that not only marked her debut as Assistant Director but also earned her the 2025 Irma P Hall Award for Best Choreography. Most recently, she choreographed *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Circle Theatre). Committed to cultivating the next generation of artists, she strives to transform the world through movement and the power of artistic storytelling.



**MITCHELL STEPHENS (Intimacy Director, they/them)** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans both coasts. A proud Texas native, Mitch is happy to be a part of this amazing company and help tell this story. Immense gratitude to their family, friends and their cats.



**BRIAN PACELLI (Scenic Designer)** is a New York City-based projections, video, and scenic designer. His work focuses on bridging the artistic gap between digital and physical worlds, making stories more accessible and relevant to our modern life. Selected designs include Off-Broadway: *Welcome to the Big Dipper*, *Scarlett Dreams* (Lortel Award Nomination). Regional: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Broadway at Music Circus), *Dreamgirls* (White Plains PAC), *Elf* (BaMC), *The Steel Man* (Penguin Rep Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (BaMC), *Cinderella* (Theatre Under the Stars), *Tommy and Me* (Bucks County Playhouse), *Five Guys Named Moe* (Fulton Theatre), *The Adult in the Room* (Victory Gardens Theater). Associate and assistant Broadway credits include *SMASH*, *Pictures from Home*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Mr. Saturday Night*, *Harry Connick Jr...*, *Derren Brown: Secret*. See his work: @pacellistudios, [www.pacellistudios.com](http://www.pacellistudios.com)



**AARON JOHANSEN (Lighting + Asst. Scenic Designer)** is a Dallas based lighting designer for theater and live events. Aaron is thrilled to be a part of this production! Previous collaborations have included: Dallas Theater Center; Dallas Children's Theater; Second Thought Theater (artistic associate); Kitchen Dog Theater (Company Member); Theater Three; Circle Theater; Stage West; Uptown Players; Cry Havoc



Theater Company; Cara Mía Theatre Co and Sweet Tooth Hotel Art installation. Aaron is the resident lighting director for the Dallas Opera and also the Lighting Director for the Drone Racing League where he designs lighting for drone racecourses around the country. These races are shown on NBC sports network and various streaming platforms. Enjoy the show! @Famoustrendywizard



**KIERA POWERS (Costume Designer)** is a Dallas native and recent graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, holds a BFA in Theatre Arts Design and Technology with a focus in Costume Design. Dedicated to uplifting Black artists and promoting accessibility in creative spaces, Kiera strives to cultivate inclusive environments where Black artists, actors, and audiences feel seen and celebrated. Their mission is to help shape a more equitable entertainment industry that reflects diverse experiences. While at UTA, Kiera made their design debut with *It's in My Blood* (SMU) and served as Assistant Costume Designer for *On the Town* (UTA). They made their professional debut with Soul Rep Theatre Company's *The African Company Presents King Richard III*, followed by work on Bishop Arts Theatre Center's *The Stamped Project*. Most recently, they designed *A Dallas Hedda* with Bishop Arts and are excited to debut with Circle Theatre on *A Strange Loop*. Kiera thanks their family, friends, and fellow creatives for their continued support. @designsunderlockandki



**SAUL ORTIZ (Assistant Costume Designer)** is a DFW-based costume designer and educator, but he can also be found backstage as crew, wardrobe, or stage management. Saul has worked with various organizations in the DFW Metroplex, including Theatre Three, Stage West, Circle Theatre, Theatre Arlington, Bishop Arts Theatre Center, the OMNI Hotel, Bath House Cultural Center, and Arlington ISD. Saul is excited to be returning to Circle Theatre to assist with costumes again on *A Strange Loop*, after previously working on *The Hatmaker's Wife*.

Costume design credits include: *High School Musical Jr.* (Theatre Arlington), *The Curse of Windhollow* (Stage West), *The Matters of Willie Hewitt's Heart* (UTA), *The Homecoming* (Auriga Productions), and DAP Costume Design Apprentice (Stage West). Assistant design credits include: *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Circle Theatre), *The Stamped Project* (Bishop Arts Theatre), *On The Town* (UTA), and *Godspell Jr.* (Theatre Arlington). Saul thanks his amazing family and friends for their continued support! Theatre and Crochet Content: @saul\_ortiz\_



**DAVID LANZA (Sound Designer)** is a freelance audio engineer and sound designer based in Fort Worth, TX. David has worked with various organizations including KWC Performing Arts, Amphibian Stage, Jubilee Theatre, Stage West, Watertower Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Booker T Washington HSPVA, All Saints Episcopal School, Keller ISD High Schools, Southwest Christian School, Shiny Box

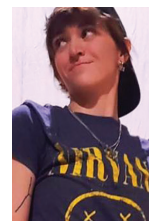
Productions, UNT Theatre, TCC Theatre, and TCU Theatre. David has also acted as production sound supervisor for national tours of *Menopause The Musical*, and as sound designer for *Menopause The Musical 2*. Additionally David has sound designed and mixed animated media projects produced for and by companies including Nickelodeon, Alfalfa Studios, Kate Spade, and The Ford Foundation. David holds a Bachelor of Science in Audio Engineering Technology from Belmont University. Love to Nikki, Maggie, Peter, and the Oxford comma. DavidLanzaAudio.com



**RAYVEN HARRIS (Props Designer)** is a DFW based artist, who is glad to be back at Circle! Credits include: Stage Manager for *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Second Thought Theatre), *East Texas Hot Links* (Jubilee Theatre), *Ada and The Engine*, and *Intimate Apparel* (MainStage Irving). Sound Designer for *Thunder Knocking On The Door*, *Thoughts of A Colored Man*, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Jubilee Theatre), *Into the Breeches* (Stage West), *The Odd Couple* (WaterTower Theatre). Sound Designer/ASM for *A Gospel Black Nativity* (Jubilee Theatre). Assistant Stage Manager for *Penelope*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical*, and *Church & State* (Stage West). Properties Designer for *H\*llo K\*tty Syndrome* (Undermain Theatre), *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Theatre Three), *Destroying David*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Circle Theatre), and *Intimate Apparel* (MainStage Irving).



**JAMIE MILLIGAN (Master Electrician)** is a DFW-based lighting designer and master electrician for theatre, dance, opera, and immersive performance art. Recent design credits include: *La Cenerentola* (Fort Worth Opera), *The Tragedy of Carmen* (Tulsa Opera), *Welcome Mat 2 - People 0* (Artstillery Dallas), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Circle Theatre), *Giselle* (Texas Ballet Theatre, associate designer), *Mozart + Stravinsky's: Petrouchka* (Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, associate designer), and *Natural Shocks* (Echo Theatre). He has been the resident Master Electrician at Undermain Theatre since 2019, and has acted as the Master Electrician at Circle Theatre since 2022. He received his BA in Theatrical Design from the University of North Texas.



**KAE STRYON (Carpenter)** is thrilled to join the team at Circle for *A Strange Loop*! Whether it be them or their work in the stage, Kae has made their mark on DFW theatre stages as a multifaceted theatre artist. For the past five years they have served as the Director of Production and resident Scenic Designer at Watertower Theatre, as well as a freelance scenic designer and technical director for multiple venues around the Dallas area. Much love and thanks to the wonderful team at Circle for holding their arms open to welcome me to the team, and to all of my friends and family for never wavering in their love and support for my pursuit of my wild, wacky passions. LETS GO THROUGH THE LOOP!



## **DIRECTOR (\$1,000+)**

Anonymous  
Anne Buller  
Roger Drummond  
In memory of Kenly Anne Drummond  
Jim McBride & Stan Graner  
Konrad Hartmann  
Betty Korenek  
Maria Ostand  
In memory of "Crazy Jerry" Ostand  
Gregory Phillips  
Dick and Bette Ramsey  
Bruce & Hollace Weiner  
Dale Wheeler

## **DESIGNER (\$500+)**

Jeff & Ashley Babb  
Cynthia Belden  
In honor of Shannon Belden  
Jaime & Nancy Dickerson  
Roger Drummond  
Doris & Gary Futoma  
Lauren Gunderson  
Ricki & Ethan Klos  
Jay Isham & Linda Lee  
Christopher & Janet Moore  
Mark Rasmussen  
Gregg & Tina Stewart  
Sherry Vetter  
Dave & Julie Wende  
Riki & Michael Zide

## **STAR (\$250+)**

Claire Brennan  
Eric & Alex Canales  
Jay & Sherri Hunter  
Yvonne Johnson  
Dan Johnston  
James & Stephanie Long  
Larry & Donetta Ludwick  
Lynn Morgan  
Harry & Karen Parker  
Brad & Cindy Vetter  
Connie Whitt-Lambert  
Marianne Wilson  
Michael Zerbach & Jeff Heald

## **CHORUS (\$100+)**

Jeanette Bell  
Lee & Missy Blankenship  
Kathryn Bryan  
Margaret Coleman  
Lisa Dalton  
Gay Davidenko  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ehrlich  
Lisa Fairchild & Kim Titus  
Larry & Mary Goodman  
James & Sharon Greenstone  
Ashleigh Herron  
Parris Jones  
Marilyn Kocian  
Stephen Koons  
Sandra Marshall  
Mary Marvin  
Michael McFarland

Carroll & Malinda Merlick  
Tom Meyer  
Diane Michelle  
Kawana Moore  
Helen Gay Ogden  
Alice & Monty Phillips  
William & Evelyn Raecke  
Ron & Melanie Rosen  
Terry & Susan Schedeler  
Lewis & Dee Dee Schwartz  
Walter & Linda Shaw  
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Linda Siy  
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Mary M. Williams  
Greta Zeimet  
Mark & Roberta Zeitlin

## **UNDERSTUDY (\$35+)**

Barrie Alguire  
J. Mark Alland  
Jenna Anderson  
Jennifer Andrews  
Susan Bartlett  
Shane Beeson  
David Benson  
Jim Benton  
Darie Berube  
Patrick Bynane  
Barbara Carmean  
Sandie Conner  
Julie Crawford  
Jill Freer  
Desirée Fultz  
Robert Hess  
Paul Jones  
Donald Jordan  
Rhoda Keptra  
Blake Lentz  
Barbara McCarthy  
Mary & Steve Meisinger  
Cathy O'Neal  
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Bonnie Rea  
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Jane Staniforth  
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Jeanette Bell  
Caroline Carter  
Annie Costello  
Stephen Ehrlich  
Allison Fitzgerald  
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Betty Korenek  
Blake Lentz  
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## Performance Schedule and Pricing

|                       |        |           |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Thursday evening..... | 7:30pm | \$40-\$55 |
| Friday evening.....   | 8:00pm | \$40-\$55 |
| Saturday matinee..... | 3:00pm | \$40-\$55 |
| Saturday evening..... | 8:00pm | \$40-\$55 |

## Box Office

When a play is in performance, the box office opens one hour before show time.

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Phone.....  | 817.877.3040           |
| Online..... | CircleTheatre.com      |
| Hours.....  | T-F   10:00am - 4:00pm |

## Ticket Policies for Main Season Shows

### ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL AND NON-REFUNDABLE.

Reservations must be paid in advance. Only one discount may be applied to each ticket. Discounts or special offers may NOT be used for opening night performances.

**Season ticket-holders** receive a \$10 VIP discount when purchasing additional guest tickets.

**Student Rush:** In addition to Friday Night School Nights, students and staff may also purchase tickets for half price at half-hour before show time, with valid school ID. (Subject to availability)

**Seniors (65+) and Military:** 10% off all performances.

**Groups:** Discount varies based on size — check circletheatre.com or call our box office.

## Parking and Safety Policies

Due to changes in Sundance Square, Circle is no longer able to validate valet parking. **There is a FREE parking garage, The Tower Garage, on weekends and on weekdays after 6pm.**

We can still validate up to 2.5 hours of parking in Sundance Square Garage #3 (corner of Taylor St. and 3rd St.), just ask for a validation code from staff. Visit [sundancesquare.com/parking](http://sundancesquare.com/parking) for further information regarding parking updates. Please note, we encourage all guests to be vaccinated when attending a show.

Questions? Email [boxoffice@circletheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@circletheatre.com) | Call 817.877.3040

## ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?

Sign up at the box office or go online to [CircleTheatre.com](http://CircleTheatre.com) to receive information about upcoming shows or events.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*A Juneteenth Celebration*

JUNE  
19

**BLACK OUT NIGHT**  
All three of our previews offer \$20 tickets using code **PRE** at checkout

Doors 6:30 PM | Show 7:30 PM



JUNE  
20

**SECOND PREVIEW + HAPPY HOUR FRIDAYS**  
• \$20 tickets using code **PRE** at checkout  
• Preshow drink specials

6:30 PM



JUNE  
21

**OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION**  
• \$20 tickets using code **PRE** at checkout for matinee  
• Complimentary toast & desserts after evening show!

2:00 PM | 6:30 PM



*Yay! Opening Night!*

JUNE  
24

**VIBES + VIBRATO with Cherish Love**  
Head to Circle on a Tuesday for live music lead by **THE Cherish Love**, bar open!

Doors 7:30 PM | Show 8:30 PM



*Circle On A Tuesday!*

JUNE  
27

**PRIDE WEEKEND KICKOFF + HAPPY HOUR FRIDAYS**  
• Celebrate **PRIDE** with Circle Theatre!  
• Preshow drink specials

6:30pm



*PRIDE WEEKEND!*

JUNE  
28

**PRIDE DAY**  
• Themed Cocktails  
• Share What **PRIDE** Means to You  
• Celebrate with the community and **#LoopWithPride**

2:00 PM | 6:30 PM



*Meet TRINITY PRIDE*

JULY  
3

**TRINITY PRIDE TALKBACK**  
• Post-show talkback discussing queer themes with Trinity Pride Board President **Roger Calderon**

After 7:30pm Show



JULY  
12

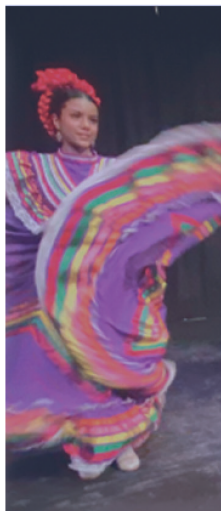
**DRAG QUEEN KARAOKE**  
• Join us for a post-show party hosted by **Salem Moon!**  
• Bring your singing voice, leave your worries at the door, and don't forget to tip!

After 8:00pm Show



*Closing with a BANG!*

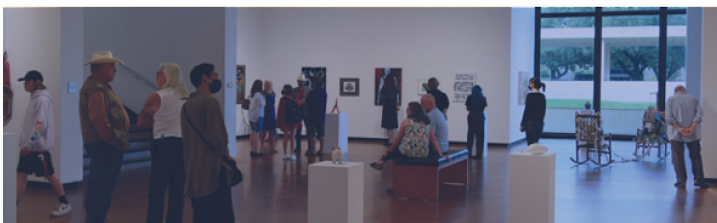
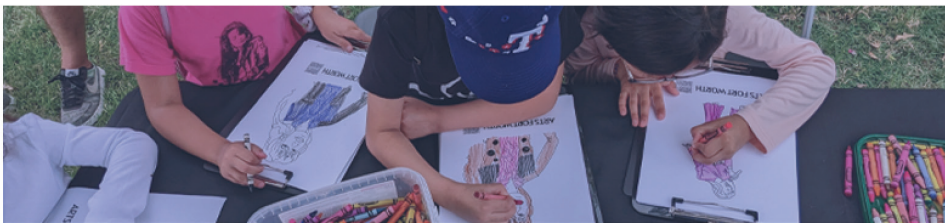




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