



A HOLIDAY



SOUL

CELEBRATION

with CIRCLE THEATRE 



GENERAL INFORMATION

BOX OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 12PM - 5PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY PERFORMANCE DAYS | 12PM - CURTAIN

SATURDAY | 5PM - CURTAIN

SUNDAY | 12PM - CURTAIN

LATE ARRIVALS

Patrons arriving late will be seated at the House Manager's discretion.

NO STANDING

No standing is permitted in the back of the theatre. If you become uncomfortable and/or have to move out of your seat for any reason, you may stretch your legs in the upper or lower lobby.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all electronic devices that light up or make noise. Please, no texting. The taking of pictures and/or recordings (audio or video) is prohibited; the device may be taken from you and held until after the show.

EMERGENCY CALLS

If you anticipate the need to be reached in the event of an emergency, you may leave your name and seat number with the House Manager. A House Manager will also be available in the House during the run of the show. Our emergency contact number is **616 632 2996**. In the event that someone is not available at this number, Aquinas College Campus Safety's number is **616 632 2462**; a dispatcher is available 24/7.

YOUNG AUDIENCE

Most Main Stage productions are geared toward mature audiences and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Our Magic Circle productions provide wonderful family entertainment and an introduction to the live theatre experience. Please call the box office at **616 456 6656** for information on age appropriateness of any of our shows. Children below school age may not attend our Main Stage productions. Please, no babes in arms or toddlers. At no time can a child enter the auditorium without a ticket.

SPECIAL PATRON SERVICES

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." Handicapped and wheelchair seating is available and easily accessible. When reserving tickets, please notify the box office personnel of any special needs or seating requirements.

SMOKING

Aquinas College is a smoke-free campus.



CIRCLETHEATRE.ORG | 616 456 6656

BOX OFFICE | 1703 ROBINSON RD SE

CAST | VOCALISTS



Vanessa
Allen



Michelle
Covington



Autumn
Curry



Emily
Diener



Al
Hight



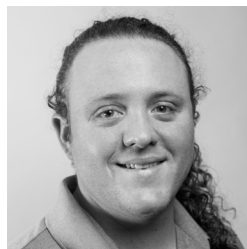
Lisa
Knight



Emmanuel
"Manny"
Phillips



Erica
Soto



Colin
Tobin

CAST | MUSICAL GROUPS



Kenneth & Chardonnay
Henderson

MORE ON NEXT PAGE -->

CAST | MUSICAL GROUPS



Girls Choral Academy



Majestic Praise



Xpressions of Praise Dancers

PRODUCTION STAFF



Lisa Knight



Annmarie Puzio



Debra Perry



Sam Verburg



DIRECTOR Lisa Knight
MUSIC DIRECTOR Debra Perry
LIGHTING DESIGNER/ TECHNICIAN Sam Verburg
SOUND DESIGNER / TECHNICIAN David "Duc" Vuong

MUSICIANS

KEYS Deb Perry
KEYS2/ORGAN Lamar James
BASS John Parker
GUITAR Joey Mankus
DRUMS Mark Weymouth
HORN Max Colley
SAXOPHONE John Gist
SAXOPHONE Alain Sullivan
TROMBONE Judah Guerra

WHO'S WHO | CAST - VOCALISTS

VANESSA ALLEN (Vocalist) has served as Music Director for Circle Theatre, Muskegon Civic Theatre, WMU Theatre, Muskegon HS Theatre, Muskegon Heights HS Theatre and Ottawa Hills HS Theatre productions. Circle productions include Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Crowns, Ain't Misbehavin', Smokey Joe's Cafe, The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps & Gowns, Carrie The Musical, A Chorus Line, Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Always Patsy Cline, The Music Man and Cabaret. Other area credits include The Wiz and Tambourine To Glory. A graduate of Muskegon Community College, Hope College, Western Michigan University, and Grand Valley State University, she is a fine arts/shared time teacher with Grand Rapids Public Schools who enjoys working within organizations that provide access and opportunities for equity and inclusion. Vanessa is the proud wife of Rev. Larry D. Allen for more than 34 years, the mother of DeShaun and Derek Allen, and the bonus mom of Darius Carson, Javonna Allen, and Ramon Allen. "A special thanks to my family for all their love and support."

MICHELLE COVINGTON (Vocalist) has been performing in West Michigan for over 20 years. She has done musical theatre, Opera Grand Rapids, summer stock and opened for such artists as Aretha Franklin, Kool and the Gang, and the Spinners. She has performed several Circle Theatre productions and was a past board member. Michelle is originally from Long Island, NY. She is a graduate of Ithaca College where she received a Bachelor of Science in Communications and a Minor in Vocal

Music. She is the proud mother of one daughter, Courtney Nicole and the "Mimi" to her very cute, lovable, curious grandson Sloane Krystopher Watkins.

AUTUMN CURRY (Vocalist) is excited to share some Christmas Soul with Circle Theatre! During the holiday season she enjoys hot chocolate, peanut butter graham crackers, and singing Christmas songs with her husband. This is her first time performing on Circle's stage, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

EMILY DIENER (Vocalist) past credits include Sweeney Todd (Mrs. Lovett) at Circle Theatre, Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, On Golden Pond (Chelsea) at Circle Theatre, Magic Circle: Dogs Love Cupcakes (Director) at Circle Theatre, Freaky Friday (Katherine) at Circle Theatre, The Little Mermaid (Ursula) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Yitzhak) at Actors Theatre. By day, Emily works for Dematic in administration.

AL HIGHT (Vocalist) was seen last season in Circle Theatre's Songs in the Key of Stevie Wonder concert and is an alumni of Air University Huntsville Alabama, Spring Arbor University, Michigan Defense Equal Employment Opportunity Institute, Coco Beach, Florida Diversity, Equality & Inclusion University of Souther Florida. He is a Toast Master Silver & Gold Master Speaker. Some of his hobbies include reading, writing, music and travel.

LISA KNIGHT (Vocalist & Director) is a longtime Circle favorite, Lisa knew

WHO'S WHO | CAST - VOCALISTS

what she wanted to do for the rest of her life after appearing in her first production (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs) at 4 years old. Past Circle concerts include last season's Ladies of Soul and Holiday concerts. Other Circle concerts include this season's Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond. Previous concert appearances include Uptown Funk, Ladies Night and Divas of Soul. Past Circle performance productions include To Kill A Mockingbird, Ain't Misbehavin', Rock of Ages, Bingo: The Musical, Beehive: The 60's Musical, Once On This Island, The Wiz and Little Shop Of Horrors. Lisa also directed the Circle concert Soul Groove. She is the mother of 9 adult children, 12 grand babies and 2 great grand babies and is also a member of the Circle Theatre Board of Directors. She is owner of DV Apple Logistics, COO at Public Thread (an Upcycling Textile business), runs a consulting business (LMK Consulting), is a Voice Over Artist, is the Grand Rapids 2nd Ward Commissioner and is the Executive Director of Girls Choral Academy.

EMMANUEL "MANNY" PHILLIPS (Vocalist) is thrilled to be back at Circle theater after appearing in last year's concert Songs in the Key of Stevie Wonder, Soul Groove: The Hits of Soul and R&B and in Ain't Misbehavin' in 2009. He moved from Chicago to Grand Rapids in 2000 and also performed at Circle in Smokey Joe's Café and Men of Motown concert. Other area shows include A Christmas Story, Shrek The Musical and Black Bold and Beautiful: Onward Together at GR Civic Theatre. Manny is excited to embark on a new journey as the business owner of Lee Suits LLC,

where (Vocalist) is thrilled to be back at Circle theater after appearing in last years concert, Soul Groove: The Hits of Soul and R&B and in Ain't Misbehavin' in 2009. He moved from Chicago to Grand Rapids in 2000 and also performed at Circle in Smokey Joe's Café and Men of Motown concert. Other area shows include A Christmas Story, Shrek The Musical and Black Bold and Beautiful: Onward Together at GR Civic Theatre. Manny is excited to embark on a new journey as the business owner of Lee Suits LLC, where they "Tailor to Perfection". Manny is also involved with many Grand Rapids community activities and loves to service at his home church.

ERICA SOTO (Vocalist) is a commercial actress and appeared at Circle last year in The Music of Moulin Rouge, Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond, Divine Divas: Iconic Women of Pop, The Music of Motown, Soul Groove, and Little Shop of Horrors (Ronnelle). Other Circle work includes Cabaret (Sally Bowles) and the virtual production of The Spoon River Anthologies (Margaret Fuller Slack/Elizabeth Childers). Erica has opened for Leslie Odom Jr. in the Grand Rapids Symphony of Soul, and was featured in Black, Bold and Beautiful: Onward Together and Broadway at the Ballpark at GR Civic Theatre. Erica is a local artist, bi-lingual educator, community activist, and President of the nonprofit organization, BL²END. They are passionate about performing and are excited to join this incredible cast! "Special thanks to my amazing children and support system!"

COLIN TOBIN (Vocalist) Circle Theatre credits include Guys & Dolls, How To

WHO'S WHO | CAST - VOCALISTS

Succeed in Business.....Trying and Hair. Colin, a longtime Circle concert favorite, is a member of the band The Soul Syndicate. Past Circle concert appearances include Blue Collar Rock, Hits of the 90s, The Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond, Harmonizers, Hits of the '80's Vol. 1, Take It To The Limit: The Music of the Eagles, Singer/Songwriters of the '70's, Arena Rock Anthems, Go Your Own Way: The Music of Fleetwood Mac, Silver Screen, Imagine All The People, The Music of Dirty Dancing, Freebird: Classic 70's Rock, Hits of the '80's Vol. 2 and ABC: Boy Band Evolution.

WHO'S WHO | CAST - MUSICAL GROUPS

GIRLS CHORAL ACADEMY (Musical Group) Founded in 1997, Girls Choral Academy provides a nurturing and creative space where girls of all ages regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status can experience the rewards of a successful musical education. The program encourages girls to respect the uniqueness of others, to take risks that foster individual growth, and to collaborate as a team to create something bigger than themselves. The singers that make up the Downtown Choirs come from all over West Michigan and represent a wide variety of school systems (public, private, charter, and parochial schools as well as home-school students). The after-school choirs are located in neighborhood elementary schools in Grand Rapids. These Neighborhood Choirs operate in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Public School System, and currently include Southwest Academy-Bilugual, Buchanan Elementary, and Cesar

E. Chavez Elementary serving 3rd through 5th grade girls.

KENNETH & CHARDONNAY HENDERSON (Musical Group) Locally renowned worship leaders and gospel vocalists.

MAJESTIC PRAISE (Musical Group) Majestic Praise, (Debra Perry, Vanessa Allen, Robert Kelly, Kelvin Jackson, Dorcas Jones, Marie Matthews, and Carolyn Allen) is a group that shares the common thread of their faith and are from various ministries in the greater Grand Rapids area. Debra has utilized her record label Joint Heir Music Group and recording studio to produce the unique sound and blend of this group. The successful debut project entitled "Forever He Reigns" produced many hits, which were written and arranged by Debra and her brother Gerald Perry. Debra Perry introduced Majestic Praise to the music industry in 2002 at the Gospel Music

WHO'S WHO | CAST - MUSICAL GROUPS

Workshop of America (G.M.W.A.) at Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan. Since then, the chorale has made numerous appearances, including the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Westshore Symphony, and Chicago's famous House of Blues. Majestic Praise has also shared the stage with some of Gospel's greatest artists such as Kirk Franklin, Dr. Marvin Sapp, Fred Hammond, John P. Kee, and countless others. In addition, their single "No Not One" appeared on John P. Kee's New Artist compilation album, which was released in 2005 on Verity Records. As a result, the group has been blessed with various artists from around the nation. In 2010, the ensemble was also recruited to sing background for Lyle Lovett when his nationwide tour came to Grand Rapids. Last year they were also featured on background vocals for Blacksmoke's Records debut artist, Zacardi Cortez.

XPRESSIONS OF PRAISE DANCERS (Musical Group) Xpressions of Praise CPAA is designed to build character and self-esteem in the lives of each student. They dance technique styles, the discipline of movement and the education of Christian Dance. The choreography and dancing, in its essence, is always symbolic. Xpressions of Praise CPAA strongly believes in providing platforms for students to share their gifts and talents with the world. Annual opportunities are given at the Bi-Annual Recital Showcases, GR Festival of the Arts, The Balloon Festival, Organizational, church, and school programs to name only a few.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lou VanderHave
Suzanne Liebeck

CIRCLE THEATRE

circletheatre.org | 616.456.6656

OUR 2024 SEASON IS HERE!

Curious George
and the
Golden Meatball

**MONTY PYTHON'S
SPAMALOT**

**TICK,
TICK...
BOOM!**

**You Can't
Take It
With You**

**A RAISIN
IN THE SUN**

**URINETOWN
THE MUSICAL**



Scan to visit our website (circletheatre.org)
for the announcement and ticket information!