

# DREAMGIRLS

September 10-28



Produced by AnsariSaxon Productions  
& Shea's Performing Arts Center  
2025-26 Season



## George L. Brown\* (Curtis)

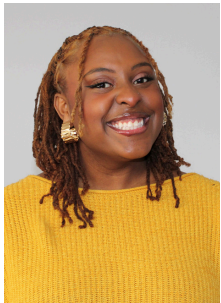
George is thrilled to be back on stage in his hometown! He is truly thankful for the support from family and friends and gives all glory and honor to God! Founder and director of God's Purchase gospel choir (national recording artist out of Buffalo, NY). Off-Broadway: Goddess (The Public Theatre); National tours: Once on This Island (Armand), Elf: The Musical (Mr. Greenway). Regional: Rent (Tom Collins), Color Purple (Mister), Sight and Sound Theatres, Memphis: The Musical (Delray). Thanks to the team at Avalon Artists! @Downtowngebrown

\*The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



## Damario Burks (Ensemble)

Damario Burks is a multi-talented performer and creative artist born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He began his theatrical journey with the Buffalo State Theatre Company, where he honed his craft on and off the stage before taking his talents to Disney, performing in dynamic roles that showcased his charisma and versatility. In addition to performing, Damario is a passionate costume designer and stylist, bringing bold visual storytelling to life through fashion. With every role and design, he hopes to inspire others to boldly pursue their passions.



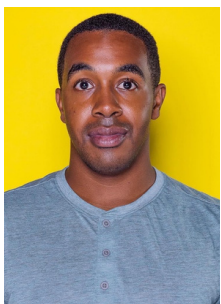
## Dasia Cervi (Effie)

Dasia is joyous to be working with Sheas710 and AnsariSaxon productions in their production of Dreamgirls. Some of her favorite roles she's played include Deloris Van Cartier in SISTER ACT, Crystal in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, Uhura in KHAN!!!, and more. Dasia is also known on Tik Tok as "Dasia Karlee", a singer-songwriter and music performer @dasiakarlee27. Dasia would like to thank her friends & family for their continuous love & support and for just being plain awesome.



## Jacqueline Cherry (Ensemble)

Jacqueline Cherry is a versatile artist with a diverse background spanning dance, graphic design, and event organization. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University at Buffalo, specializing in Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, and Jazz styles, from 2019 to 2022. Her journey into dance began at Miss Barbara's School of Dance at a young age. After a brief break from dance she returned to Buffalo State College, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Arts and Letters, majoring in Dance and Theater, regaining her love for movement. With a passion for dance and arts management, Jacqueline has organized events, such as Embodiology at Juneteenth, Space Artist Workshops, and Center Dance Youth Performance Workshops. You can find her work by visiting @jacqwae on instagram.



## Augustus Donaldson (Jimmy)

Augustus Donaldson brings a unique blend of on-screen talent and live tv expertise to his work. An Artie Award winner and B.A.V.P.A. graduate, he has cultivated a comprehensive understanding of film and television production through roles in Wardrobe, Office, and COVID coordination. This diverse experience fuels his dedication to acting, which remains his primary focus. Currently he is starring in the Amazon Prime series DATING Seasons 1 and 2. He is thankful for this opportunity and expresses his appreciation to the director, his unwavering support system, and industry figures Paulette Harris, Carlos Jones, and Cheryl Diggs.



## Shylah Douglas (Lorrell)

Shylah Douglas is currently a freshman at the University at Buffalo, where she is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. She is a proud alumni of the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts (BAVPA), with notable roles including Cady in Mean Girls, Jackie in Disaster!, and Kendra Ellis Connor in American Son. Shylah made her professional stage debut in Once on This Island at Shea's 710 Theatre. She extends her deepest gratitude to her family and friends for their constant love and support, and she dedicates this performance to the memory of her beloved great-grandmother. Follow Shylah's journey on Instagram: @Shylah\_Akiya



## Connor Graham (M.C. / Ensemble)

Connor Graham is an actor, director, magician, and hypnotist specializing in devised solo and ensemble theatre. Credits include Gruesome Playground Injuries (The Sound Company); The Full Monty, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Subversive Theatre, ARTIE nomination); Design for Living, The Yeats Project (Irish Classical Theatre Co.); Over the Tavern (Kavinoky Theatre); The Thanksgiving Play, The African Company Presents Richard III, Free Fred Brown! (Ujima Co. Inc.); Stupid Fucking Bird (ART/WNY); Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook (Theatre of Youth); The Bowling Play (Second Generation Theatre); and The Comedy of Errors, Richard III (Shakespeare in Delaware Park). Connor teaches and directs at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts. Upcoming: Straight White Men (Ujima) and directing Corduroy (Theatre of Youth, Spring 2026). BFA: University at Buffalo, SUNY. MFA: The Ohio State University.



## Jonise Hall (Ensemble)

Jonise Hall began her training at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, where she studied theater and appeared in several productions, including A Streetcar Named Desire (Stella) and West Side Story (ensemble). Jonise earned a BA in Theatre with a minor in Dance from SUNY Buffalo State, where she performed in various productions and was inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. After graduation, Jonise collaborated with the Denman Theatre and Dance Company on work sessions for the dance-theatre piece Resilience: The Donner Party. She is currently a dance artist with the MahatmaMmoho Collective, performed in works such as Sahdiji and Find Your Beat. Jonise also is the Assistant Director for the Anne Frank Project at SUNY Buffalo State University.



## Nelquan Jones (Marty)

Hailing from the East Side of Buffalo, NY, NelQuan Rashad is an actor, singer, songwriter, and multimedia artist. NelQuan is thrilled & deeply honored to join this iconic show. BA in Music Business from Manhattanville College. Buffalo Comedy Sportz Improv Member '24 - '25. Music: Issa Rae ("I Hate LA Dudes"), Epic Records (Bobby Shmurda, Meghan Trainor & Future), & Primary Wave Music (Jagged Edge, Deborah Cox & Goapele). Please check out NelQuan's two studio albums: "NelQuan Rashad: The Album" & "NelQuan Rashad 2" Available on all streaming & music retail platforms. @NelquanMusic



## Austin Marshall (C.C.)

Austin Marshall is so excited to be a part of the amazing cast and crew of Dreamgirls. He is so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing people and bring this show to life! He would like to thank everyone who has supported him and his close friends, who are like family to him. Instagram: @austintmarshall and Facebook: Austin Marshall.



## Talia Mobley (Deena)

Talia Rose Mobley has been singing at her church, Mt.Olive Missionary Baptist church, since she was five years old, and eventually it inspired her love for theatre and music. While in high school, Talia took part in regional productions including "Hairspray" (Lil Inez) at Kavinoky Theatre. She also has worked with MusicalFare on a live high school showcase hosted by Dudley Joseph Jr. and then sang during the intermission for a live night with Zachary Noah Piser and Adam Rothenberg. Talia is finishing up her Acting BFA degree at SUNY Fredonia, where she has learned so much not only about her acting but the type of performer she is and the performances she wants to give her audiences.



## Taliyah Oaks (Ensemble)

Taliyah Oaks began her dance journey at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, where she majored in dance. She has trained in Buffalo, NYC, and Toronto in Ballet, Modern, West African and Musical Dance. Her performance credits include *The Nutcracker*, *The Lion King Jr.*, *Cinderella*, and *Chicago*. She won a position on the Texas State University Majorette team before returning to Buffalo State University, where she created "The Fabulous Tigresses" Majorettes and graduated with a BA in Media Production. In addition to dance, she is continuing to grow her modeling career and has an upcoming podcast.



## Anika Pace (Ensemble)

Short Bio: Anika Pace (She/Her) is a Buffalo native and holds a BFA in Theatre Performance and a minor in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies from Niagara University. Some of her regional credits include: Nettie in *The Color Purple* at Shea's 710 Theatre, Ann Johnson in *African Company Presents Richard III* at Ujima Theatre, May in *Junie B. Jones* at Batman Smells at TOY Theatre and Zoe in *The Niceties* at Second Generation Theatre. In addition, Anika is a teaching artist at various theatres around Buffalo and a member of the MahatamMoho Collective Dance Company. Anika would like to thank God and her tribes for their endless love and support. FB: Anika Pace IG: theanikapac



## Nahiem Paris (Ensemble)

Nahiem Paris, a 24-year-old Buffalo native, is a proud alumnus of BAVPA and SUNY Purchase, where he earned double bachelor's degrees in Theatre and Arts Management and was honored with the Samara Joy Award for exceptional promise in his field. As a dancer, actor, and choreographer, he founded the Fusion X Dance Team, which has thrived for over three years, and director credits for *Poof!* by Lynn Nottage. His credits include performing in *We Are Proud to Present...* by Jackie Sibblies Drury and many other productions. Nahiem thanks his family, friends, and mentors for their unwavering support.



## Megan Rakeepile (Ensemble)

Megan A. Rakeepile is the Founder, Director, & Lead Choreographer of MahataMmoho Collective. A Buffalo native, Megan brings over three decades of dance expertise, with a particular specialization in Afro-Caribbean & Afro-Fusion techniques. Megan's formal dance training began at Miss Barbara School of Dance, Buffalo City Ballet, & the NYS Summer School of the Arts, culminating in a dance degree from Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts. In Toronto, she joined the Professional Training Program at Ballet Creole, earning certifications in modern, classical, traditional, & folkloric dance. Later returning to Western New York to dance with Garth Fagan Dance Co. in Rochester. Megan's work in the Buffalo community is driven by a passion to foster unity through the arts.



## Zhanna Reed (Michelle)

Zhanna Reed is a multi-modal performing artist, model, & educator. She is an Artie Award winner, SUNY Chancellor's Award recipient, & graduated Magna Cum Laude. Her standout roles include Celie in *The Color Purple*, Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act*, Ti Moune in *Once on This Island*, and Jeanette in *Crowns*. Zhanna has toured internationally and collaborated with Mwenso and the Shakes, Electric Root, Mahatammoho Dance Collective, the Movement of Joy, and The Anne Frank Project. She is a former Miss Queen City (Miss USA system) and Miss Congeniality, earning multiple talent and evening gown awards in the Miss America Organization. IG: @zhelre | @themultimodalmogul | @thezhenu | @livelabwithme



## Kendric Warrick (Ensemble)

Kendric Warrick, is 18 years old actor, painter, art major at Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts. He has been cast in many shows in Western New York such as a lead role in *RICHARD III* as "Lord River/Anthony" and "Prince Henry Tudor", as well as roles at Peace Of The City, at ujima's theater back in August of 2024. He has spent his early career in Buffalo as an actor from doing shows in school and outside of school. He will be starting as a musical theater major at UB's this Fall