

**THE ZEIDERS AMERICAN DREAM THEATER**  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**ANTHONY WAYNE & KENDRELL BOWMAN / ANTHONYKEN LLC**  
PRESENT

# *A Soulful Christmas*

*A Groovy Musical Revue*



Tiana Ross &  
The Extremes



The Harlem 5



Claretha Franklin &  
Jeena Marie



Groovy Wonderland  
Dancers

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# WHO'S WHO



Brian Davis



Enga Davis



Nihl Epps



Carmi Harris



J'Khalil



Michael Lemelle



Gabriella Mack



Kendrick Marion



Cenophia Mitchell



Thomas-Matthew  
Shands



Kendrell Bowman  
**Co-Creator**



Anthony Wayne  
**Co-Creator**

# WHO'S WHO

**Brian Davis** - Brian Davis is an Apollo Talent Search Winner, Philadelphia Tap Idol and has been featured as The Executioner for the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night. An alumnus of the University of the Arts, Brian won the Award for Outstanding Performance in tap dancing and was also part of the inaugural cast of Broadway's "After Midnight" on the Norwegian Escape. He formed the Taptastic Network LLC, which hosts pop up performances as well as virtual/in person arts & education opportunities for NYC organizations. For more information visit [www.TapTastic.net](http://www.TapTastic.net). Instagram: @taptasticbriandavis

**Enga Davis** - Enga Davis is thrilled to be "back home in Hampton Roads." She has been blessed to do Broadway, TV/Film, voiceovers, radio & commercials. A proud graduate of Hampton University & grateful to God for all His blessings. Now, y'all ready to have a "groovy good time" tonight?!? Instagram: @engadavis

**Nihl Epps** - Nihl Amir Lewis Epps is an 11-year-old 6th grader, born and currently residing in Virginia Beach, VA. Nihl began dancing and singing at the age of 3 years old. He has performed with dance group Honey and the Rock throughout the Hampton Roads area including "The Glory of Gospel" at the Hurrah Players. Nihl enjoys singing, writing his own music and watching documentaries of musical legends who have paved the way for African American singers & dancers. Instagram: @epps\_nihl

**Carmi Harris** - Carmi Harris has performed in several musicals & plays including Roe, A Motown Christmas, Memphis, The Wiz, Beehive - The Musical, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and more. She has performed in several cabarets including Feinstein's/54 Below, Don't Tell Mama's & Birdland. The vocalist, actor & model has appeared in several short films, commercials and national networks including PBS, BET, HSN and more. Stay connected at [www.carmiharris.net](http://www.carmiharris.net) & Instagram: @carmi\_harris

**J'Khalil** - J'Khalil is a St Louis, Missouri native who has been performing for 8 years beginning with the Better Family Life Youth Ensemble as a principal dancer. He has performed at the St. Louis MUNY in the Teen Ensemble/Touring Troupe and recently graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (21'). He feels completely blessed and grateful to this entire team for this opportunity to learn and grow! Instagram: @iamj.khalil

**Michael Lemelle** - Michael Anthony LeMelle is an American actor, producer, singer, composer, film maker, voice talent and entertainment entrepreneur. With more than 35 years of professional industry experience in television, stage, film and music, Michael's distinctive voice has been heard on ESPN, Fox, Cox Cable, NBA, Kellogg's, and Gigunda Group (American Idol and Charmin). Michael is President and CEO of The LeMelle Group, LLC., an entertainment company that specializes in all aspects of film production, theatrical production, live concert audio/video support, artist management/development and show day consulting. Instagram: @michaellemelle. YouTube: ShuckinandJivin

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**Gabriella Mack** - Gabriella Mack is an award-winning performer, arts educator/coach, and choreographer currently based in NYC. Originally from Cleveland, she has performed regionally and in NYC in various musicals, plays, concerts and new works, as well as starring on the MTV docuseries "Wrong Distance Relationship." Special thanks to AnthonyKen LLC for having me as well as to this incredible cast and crew! Tune into "The Gab" on TikTok & Instagram: @gabulousworldwide

**Kendrick Marion** - Kendrick Marion is thrilled to work with this wonderful cast and crew in A Soulful Christmas. From Charleston, South Carolina, Kendrick is a recent graduate from the American Music and Dramatic Academy in New York. Kendrick is represented by MMV Talent, Inc. He would like to thank his mom and wonderful family for their continued support. www.KendrickMarion. Instagram: @marionkj

**Cenophia Mitchell** - Cenophia Mitchell is a NYC based voice actor who's love of harmonizing lead her to perform in "Kings and Queens of Soul". She's performed in venues throughout NYC from The Bitter End to Radio City Music Hall. You can currently hear her voice in the shows "Caillou", "Polly Pocket", and "Emojitown". She is happy to join the cast of "A Soulful Christmas". www.cenophia.com. Instagram: @missnophi2u

**Thomas-Matthew Shands** - Based in Newark, NJ, Thomas-Matthew Shands is a singer, songwriter, model, pianist, poet, and children's book author. He recently released his debut children's book, "Thomas and the Baby Bear" and his debut single "Push and Pull" available on all music streaming platforms. He's excited to be involved in "A Soulful Christmas" with such an incredible and inspiring cast. You can find him across all social media platforms. Instagram: @ohthomasmatthew

**Kendrell Bowman (Director / Co-Creator / Exec. Producer)** - Kendrell Bowman co-created "Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical" as well as "An Evening With Phyllis Hyman" serving as the director, costume designer and producer for both shows. Mr. Bowman is an alumnus of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. In 2010, he opened the doors to his own styling company, I AM KENDRELL, and he has worked with many artists in his career such as Kanye West, K. Michelle, Dawn Richard & Lauriana Mae. Along with Anthony Wayne, Mr. Bowman founded the production company AnthonyKen, LLC. Mr. Bowman wrote and published his first book "HOW TO PRODUCE A SHOW FROM YOUR COUCH" which is a detailed, step-by-step guide for aspiring producers. His book is currently available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com. "This is our 5th Year of "A Soulful Christmas" and I'm excited for Virginia Beach to boogie with us!" Bowman is currently nominated for Best Director for "A Soulful Christmas" from BroadwayWorld! Follow Mr. Bowman online www.IAMKENDRELL.com Instagram: @IAmKendrell

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**Anthony Wayne (Co-Creator / Exec. Producer)** - Anthony Wayne (Green) is a Norfolk, Virginia native raised in the Norview area of the city. After graduating from Maury High School and Shenandoah University in Winchester, he moved to New York to pursue his dream of being on Broadway. He has appeared on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning shows of "Once On This Island", "PIPPIN", "Anything Goes", "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and "TOOTSIE-The Musical". On tour he has appeared in A Chorus Line, The Color Purple, and Fame – The Musical. He has, also, received nationwide critical acclaim for creating the title role of SYLVESTER in "Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical". Along with his producing partner, Kendrell, he is the co-creator of this current show, "An Evening with Phyllis Hyman" & "Kings & Queens of Soul". Anthony is so thrilled to bring "A Soulful Christmas" home to his hometown of Hampton Roads. "So much love & thanks to the Hurrah Players, The Governor's School, CenterStage, Inc., Norfolk Rep, First Baptist-Bute Street and all who have poured into me from day one. Elaine Gary Green shines always." #EGG. [www.MrAWayne.com](http://www.MrAWayne.com). Instagram: @MrAWayne.

**Stephanie P. Freed (Lighting Design)** - Stephanie P. Freed is a freelance lighting designer based in NYC who spends a lot of her career traveling. Her design credits within the last year include shows in Washington DC, Atlanta GA, Charleston, SC, Harrisonburg, VA, New York City, and at sea with Disney Cruise Line. She spends summers at Spoleto Festival USA, most recently as the resident lighting designer at Woolfe Street Playhouse. She has also toured internationally as an electrician with American Idiot, Mamma Mia and was the Head Lighting Designer for MIGHTY REAL: A FABULOUS SYLVESTER MUSICAL for the past few years. More information and photos can be found at [www.stephaniefreed.com](http://www.stephaniefreed.com).

**J. Rafael Carlotto (Sound Design)** - Mr. Carlotto is a veteran of Broadway and has been involved in hundreds of productions over the last 25 years. He is credited with the original Digital Sound Effects Design for Disney's Beauty and the Beast as well as many Broadway and Off-Broadway Sound Designs. He has worked for Sound Associates, Inc., since 1988.

**Hollie E. Wright (Co-Choreography)** - Hollie E. Wright began her training with The Arthur Hall African American Dance Theater in Philadelphia, PA & studied with Marion Cuyjet (mentor) at La Cher Tari School of Dance while earning her BFA in Dance Education. Miss Wright joined the first company at Philadanco working with choreographers including George Faison, Ron Brown and Louis Johnson. Broadway: Hot Feet & Amazing Grace – The Musical. Off-Broadway: Cabin In The Sky (Encores). First Nat'l Tour: The Color Purple feat. Fantasia (Olivia). Regional: Jesus Christ Superstar Gospel, Sophisticated Ladies, Oklahoma (Arena Stage/Dream Laurey). Film/Television: Bridezilla Commercial, Beloved, Glee and Black Girls Rock with Jennifer Hudson. She is currently on faculty and is the Jazz Chair at the Ailey School.

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**Christopher Figaro Jackson (Co-Choreography)** - Christopher Figaro Jackson is currently on faculty at The Ailey School as well as an Adjunct Professor of Dance at NYU. Dance credits are Camille Brown & Dancers, Ailey II & Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Theatre credits include Disney's The Lion King (Nat'l Tour), The Wiz, Dreamgirls, On The Town, Dorothy Dandridge-The Musical (NYC) & recently FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES (The Met Opera). He's Co-Choreographer of MIGHTY REAL and is happy to be part of A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS. Instagram: @cjacks30

**Porsche Waldo (Hair & Wig Design)** - With over 20 years of experience in the industry, Porsche Waldo has established herself as a premier hair stylist in New York City. Her artistry has afforded her the opportunity to travel the world. In addition to jet-setting, she has also had the pleasure of working with Mary J. Blige, Tyra Banks, Chanel Iman, Faith Evans, Fantasia, Teena Marie, Mo'Nique, C.Vivian Stringer, Lala Anthony, Laila Ali, Lisa Leslie, Condoleezza Rice and was the Hair/Wig Designer for Cast of MIGHTY REAL: A FABULOUS SYLVESTER MUSICAL as well as AN EVENING WITH PHYLLIS HYMAN. For more information, please contact Porsche Waldo at 212.741.5050 or ebonydesign@mac.com.

**Richard Gross (Costume Design)** - Richard Anthony Gross is one of the best kept secrets keeping stars like Faith Evans & Tracie Thoms looking amazing. From Broadway to Hollywood, Richard has been the go-to guy for women whose business it is to look great around the clock. Richard has the ability to see what takes good to gorgeous. He brings almost four decades of experience in theatre, music world tours, television and film. He is an expert in fit for all figures and acknowledges that beautiful comes in all sizes. Mr. Gross provides the missing pieces to bring out the best in each client he has without hiding your individuality. His goal is to celebrate your style with a nod at making sure you are accentuated by staying fresh and modern. Instagram: @thatsmyrichard

**Gabriella Pennetti (Stage Manager)** - Gabriella Pennetti is a Stage Manager from Long Island, NY. She is currently training at SUNY Purchase in their Theatre Design/Technology BFA program. Some of her past credits include "As You Like It" (SM), "Bibles And Candy" (ASM), as well as the developmental reading of "Once Bitten" (ASM). She is very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of "A Soulful Christmas".

# WHO'S WHO

## **BAND:**

KEYBOARDS / Music Director: **Alonzo Harris**

GUITAR: **Davy Levitan**

BASS: **Ian Jesse**

DRUM: **Whisper**

TRUMPET: **James Cage**

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