

SLOC MUSICAL THEATER

2025-2026 SEASON



Book & Lyrics by

Tom Eyer

Music by

Henry Krieger

Original Broadway Production Produced, Directed, and Choreographed by

Michael Bennett

September 12-21, 2025



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- Update and modernize our historic facility
- Expand and enrich our education programs
- Provide enhanced accessibility so *everyone* can experience the joy of theater

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www.sloctheater.org/centennial





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to SLOC for our 99th Season! After a productive summer that featured a theater festival, a 90's-themed fundraiser, and more improvements to our campus, we're thrilled to officially kick off this season with *Dreamgirls*. Directed by the incomparable Mani Velvet McCalmon, this beautiful show features vibrant storytelling and powerful music that explores themes of sacrifice, struggle, and ambition while educating and celebrating the cultural power of Black artistry. While you may recognize some familiar faces, a majority of this cast is new to the SLOC stage, and I can assure you, their voices will blow you away! *Dreamgirls* is rarely performed in the Capital Region, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to present it with such an impressive array of talent on stage and behind the scenes! I am so proud of the work this entire team has put into this production, and I know you'll have an amazing time!



As we approach the end of our first century of community theater, we are beginning to lay the groundwork for SLOC's future with some ambitious but important upcoming projects including new and improved ADA accommodations, a brand-new set-building and storage facility, energy-efficient technology, updated seating, and more. Our Centennial Campaign committee has set a goal to raise \$3.5 million toward these improvements.

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara and New York State House Speaker Carl E. Heastie visited our campus this summer. After learning of our ADA compliance issues preventing us from casting actors with physical disabilities, a commitment of \$2.5 million was made by New York State toward our Centennial fundraising goal! We are incredibly grateful for Assemblyman Santabarbara's support in securing this funding and for his staunch advocacy for accessibility and the performing arts.

While this funding will give us a great start to implementing these improvements, we will still have \$1 Million more to raise to reach our goal! Despite uncertainties regarding inflation and tariffs, I am optimistic that with the help of our generous donors, supporters, and patrons like you, we will be able to exceed this goal. To learn more about how you can be part of this project and create a lasting impact on our space and for our volunteers, please email centennial@sloctheater.org. Thank you and enjoy the show!

Warmest regards,
John Meglino
President, 2025-2026 Season



99th SEASON

2 0 2 5 - 2 0 2 6

DREAMGIRLS

SEPT. 12-21, 2025

HADESTOWN
TEEN EDITION

NOV. 7-16, 2025

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EDWIN DROOD

JAN. 16-25, 2026

Man of
La Mancha

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ten years ago, I stepped into SLOC for the first time as a teenager to audition for *Beauty and the Beast*. That youth program showed me what theater could be like when it becomes a home and served as a reminder to keep coming back whenever theater felt like anything less than one. In the decade since, I have worked in nearly every corner of this theater, from ushering to choreographing, performing, and now directing. But this production is not about my journey. It is about the voices, the stories, and the people who are so often pushed into the margins finally standing center stage where they belong.



Dreamgirls is not just a musical; it's a living testament to Black artists who dreamed in a world that denied them dignity, who fought for recognition when doors were slammed in their faces, and who defined themselves against a system built to erase them. It's a story of survival, love, betrayal, and resilience. It's a reminder of how much was taken, but also of how much could never be taken away. These stories are not easy, but they are vital. They deserve to be heard in every art form.

Too often, local theater neglects to prioritize safe spaces for BIPOC artists. The richness of their voices is overlooked or tokenized. *Dreamgirls* gives SLOC an opportunity to disrupt that and to hold space where artists of color are not an afterthought but are now the very heartbeat of the story. This cast, crew, and community are proof of what can happen when representation goes from optional to essential. They are proof that when we create space, people will step into it and shine.

My deepest gratitude goes to every person who has poured themselves into this production, onstage and off. To my friends and family, thank you for holding me up when I could not stand on my own.

And finally, to my mother: Thank you for always setting the example. When the world told me to shut up, you told me to yell louder. This show and the chance it has given to speak loudly through art, it is yours as much as it is mine. This one is for you.

Mani Velvet McCalmon
Director, *Dreamgirls*

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Gold Grandeur (\$2,500)



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SLOC MUSICAL THEATER'S

PRODUCTION OF

DREAMGIRLS

BOOK & LYRICS BY

TOM EYEN

MUSIC BY

HENRY KRIEGER

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION PRODUCED, DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY

MICHAEL BENNETT

Originally produced on Broadway by

Michael Bennett, Robert Avian, Geffen Records & The Shubert Organization

Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler

DIRECTOR: **MANI VELVET MCCALMON**

MUSIC DIRECTORS: **MICHAEL CAMELO & ALEX WALLEY**

CHOREOGRAPHER: **MAHOGANY AKITA**

PRODUCER: **MICHAELA TORRES**

STAGE MANAGER: **SARA FREDERICKS**

Dreamgirls is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

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CAST

(In order of appearance)

The Stepp Sisters	Tiffany Arroyo ♦, Sparkei McCloud ♦, Taylor Ramsey & Jalissa Watson
Charlene	Nikki Sanders ♦
Joann	Ella Mboma-Dorvil ♦
Marty Madison	Kay Whelan
Curtis Taylor, Jr.	Leo D’Juan ♦
Deena Jones	Alanna Aleece ♦
The M.C.	Regina Wright Robinson ♦
Tiny Joe Dixon	Makai McClinton ♦
Lorrell Robinson	Kiessence Polk ♦
C.C. White	Daryl T. Hirschfeld
Effie Melody White	Janae-Marie Smith ♦
Little Albert and the Tru-Tones	Elijah Kalinowski ♦, Kofi Opoku-Aning ♦ & Theo Aaliyah Rabii ♦
James Thunder Early	Zach Kaiser
Edna Burke	Tiffany Arroyo ♦
Wayne	Justin Nadal
Dave and the Sweethearts	Benji Hitrick, Claudia Bertasso & Arianna Dreher ♦
Announcer	Makai McClinton ♦
Frank (a press agent)	Makai McClinton ♦
Dwight (a TV director)	Kofi Opoku-Aning ♦
TV Stage Manager	Regina Wright Robinson ♦
Michelle Morris	Ki’Mari Lavender ♦
Jerry (a nightclub owner)	Jasmine Solana ♦
The Five Tuxedos	Elijah Kalinowski ♦, Makai McClinton ♦, Justin Nadal, Kofi Opoku-Aning ♦ & Theo Aaliyah Rabii ♦
Les Style	Tiffany Arroyo ♦, Ella Mboma-Dorvil ♦, Sparkei McCloud ♦ & Jalissa Watson
Mr. Morgan	Kofi Opoku-Aning ♦
Security Guard	Elijah Kalinowski ♦
Understudy for Deena Jones	Tiffany Arroyo ♦
Understudy for Lorrell Robinson & Michelle Morris	Olivia Pierotti
Understudy for Effie Melody White	Nikki Sanders ♦
Ensemble	Tiffany Arroyo ♦, Claudia Bertasso, Arianna Dreher ♦, Benji Hitrick, Elijah Kalinowski ♦, Ella Mboma-Dorvil ♦, Makai McClinton ♦, Sparkei McCloud ♦, Justin Nadal, Amanda Odum ♦, Kofi Opoku-Aning ♦, Imani Payne ♦, Olivia Pierotti, Theo Aaliyah Rabii ♦, Taylor Ramsey, Regina Wright Robinson ♦, Nikki Sanders ♦, Jasmine Solana ♦ & Jalissa Watson

♦ SLOC Stage Debut

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Mani Velvet McCalmon
Music Directors	Michael Camelo & Alex Walley ♦
Choreographer	Mahogany Akita
Producers	Michaela Torres
Stage Manager	Sara Fredericks
Assistant Stage Manager	Hannah Wojcik ♦
Rehearsal Accompanist	Sean Koehler Obach
Set Designer	Marc Christopher
Master Carpenter	Jaime-Lee Dorvil ♦
Set Construction	Mahogany Akita, Tiffany Arroyo, Sean T. Baldwin, Michael Camelo, The Hogan Family, Ella Mboma-Dorvil, Mani Velvet McCalmon, Zilya McCalmon, John Myers, Imani Payne, Jeff Rauhauser & Jennie Sinnott
Set Painting	Aman Scott DeAmour, Elijah Kalinowski, Imani Payne, Regina Wright Robinson & Janae-Marie Smith
Lighting Designer	Haley Kastler ♦
Sound Designer	Katie Fitzmorris
Sound Assistant	Ben Amey
Costume Designer	Sean T. Baldwin
Assistant Costume Designer	Regan Zlotnick
Hair & Make-up Designer	Kini-Analysa McCalmon ♦
Property Designer	Hannah Wojcik ♦
Board Liaisons	John Meglino & Lindsey Dodd
I.D.E.A. Liaison	Mani Velvet McCalmon & Stephanie Saint Germain

♦ SLOC Production/Designer Debut

MUSICIANS

Conductor	Alex Walley
Keyboard	Sean Koehler Obach
Percussion	Robert Ackerman
Reeds	Jess FitzSisti & Joey Van Ullen
Trumpet	Peter FitzSisti & Thomas Coon
Bass	Maddie Civill-Mead

The cast & crew of *Dreamgirls* sincerely thank the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable contributions to this production:

- ❖ Schenectady Civic Players ❖ Jennie Sinnott ❖
- ❖ Colonial Little Theatre ❖ The Hogan Family ❖
- ❖ Matt Mascelli and the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District ❖

SCENES & SONGS

Act I

Time: The Early Sixties

Scene 1: The Apollo Theater

I'm Looking for Something The Stepp Sisters
Goin' Downtown Little Albert & The Tru-Tones
Takin' the Long Way Home Tiny Joe Dixon
Move (You're Steppin' on My Heart) The Dreamettes
Fake Your Way to the Top Jimmy Early & The Dreamettes
Cadillac Car Curtis, Jimmy, C.C., Marty, & Company

Scene 2: On the Road

Cadillac Car Company

Scene 3: Recording Studio

Cadillac Car Company

Scene 4: Limbo

Cadillac Car Dave & The Sweethearts
Steppin' to the Bad Side Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Wayne,
The Dreamettes & Company

Scene 5: A Hotel in St. Louis

Party, Party Company

Scene 6: Miami Beach

I Want You Baby Jimmy & The Dreamettes

Scene 7: Dressing Room, Atlantic Hotel, Miami Beach

Family C.C., Curtis, Jimmy, Deena & Lorrell

Scene 8: Cleveland, The Crystal Room

Dreamgirls The Dreams
Press Conference Company
Only the Beginning Curtis, Deena & Effie

Scene 9: A Television Studio

Heavy The Dreams

Scene 10: San Francisco, The Fairmont Hotel

Heavy The Dreams & Curtis

Scene 11: Las Vegas (backstage)

It's All Over Curtis, Effie, Deena, Lorell, C.C., Michelle & Jimmy
And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going Effie

Scene 12: Las Vegas (on stage)

Love Love You Baby The Dreams

15 minute intermission

Concessions provided by Ambition Café available at the rear of the theater

SCENES & SONGS

Act II

Time: The Early Seventies

- Scene 1: Las Vegas Hilton
Dreamgirls The Dreams & Company
- Scene 2: A Chicago Nightclub
I Am Changing Effie
- Scene 3: Vogue Magazine Photo Call
One More Picture Please Company
When I First Saw You Curtis & Deena
- Scene 4: National Democratic Fundraiser
Got to Be Good Times The Five Tuxedos
Ain't No Party Lorrell & Jimmy
I Meant You No Harm Jimmy
Quintette Deena, Lorrell, C.C., Michelle & Jimmy
The Rap Jimmy, C.C., Marty, Curtis, Frank, Lorrell & Company
- Scene 5: A Chicago Recording Studio
I Miss You Old Friend Effie, Marty, C.C. & Les Style
One Night Only Effie
- Scene 6: Los Angeles
One Night Only Deena Jones and The Dreams & Company
- Scene 7: Chicago
I'm Somebody Deena Jones and The Dreams
Faith in Myself Effie
- Scene 8: New York
Hard to Say Goodbye, My Love Deena Jones and The Dreams



CAST & CREW



Standing: Sparkei McCloud, Taylor Ramsey, Sean T. Baldwin, Sean Koehler Obach, Jasmine Solana, Zach Kaiser, Michael Camelo

Sitting: Jalissa Watson, Regina Wright Robinson, Arianna Dreher, Alanna Aleece, Kiessence Polk, Alex Walley

Kneeling: Olivia Pierotti, Tiffany Arroyo, Benji Hitrick, Katie Fitzmorris, Kofi Opoku-Aning

Missing: Daryl T. Hirschfeld, Justin Nadal, Theo Aaliyah Rabii, Regan Zlotnick



Standing: Kini-Analysa McCalmon, Leo D’Juan, Imani Payne, Kay Whelan, Ella Mboma-Dorvil, Amanda Odum, Michaela Torres, Sara Fredericks

Sitting: Mani Velvet McCalmon, Janae-Marie Smith, Mahogany Akita, Ki’Mari Lavender, Hannah Wojcik, Makai McClinton

Kneeling: Nikki Sanders, Haley Kastler, Jamie-Lee Dorvil, Claudia Bertasso, Elijah Kalinowski



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

MAHOGANY AKITA (*Choreographer*) [she/they] is the choreographer of *Dreamgirls* and a passionate competitive dance educator at Spa City Dance and the Arts. They've performed on SLOC's stage as Joan in *Fun Home* and the Caterpillar in *Alice by Heart*. They also choreographed last season's production of *Pippin*. Other notable roles include Mimi in CDAI's *RENT* and being a featured dancer in various regional productions and showcases. Mahogany loves bringing vibrant storytelling and movement to the stage.

ALANNA ALEECE (*Deena Jones*) [she/her] is thrilled to be working with SLOC again—this time on stage. She previously stage managed *Violet* with SLOC and is excited to make her on stage debut. Her past credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Barbecue*, *Hairspray*, *Once on This Island*, *Castle Falderal*, and most recently, *Eclipsed* with BTTUNY.

TIFFANNY ARROYO (*Ensemble, u/s Deena*) is a powerhouse vocalist, songwriter, and proud mom of four making her dazzling debut on the SLOC stage. She performs with Skippy and the Pistons, writes original music, and is honored to serve as the understudy for the iconic role of Deena Jones in *Dreamgirls*. With roots in R&B, pop, and jazz, she brings passion and fire to every note, dedicating this performance to her children—her ultimate inspiration.

SEAN T. BALDWIN (*Costume Designer*) is relieved that he was paying attention when his grandmother explained how to use a sewing machine. His costume work was last seen on the SLOC stage in *Pippin*. He's grateful to Mani for this opportunity, Regan for the assistance, the production team for all their support, and the cast for being so talented. He enjoys marble cake and has never appeared on *Law and Order: SVU*.

CLAUDIA BERTASSO (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is a native of the Capital District and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in theater and stage combat from Barry University in Miami, Florida. Claudia has been previously seen in *Violet* and *Pippin* at SLOC. She also has been seen as Velma Kelly in *Chicago* at Colonial Little Theatre. Claudia expresses her heartfelt gratitude to her parents, fiancé, and best friends, Cody and Cyn, for their unwavering love and support.

MICHAEL CAMELO (*Co-Music Director*) [he/him] is a man of many talents, currently juggling the roles of Special Assistant to the President for University Business Operations at Excelsior University, Drama Club Director at Scotia-Glenville High School, and Artistic Director at SLOC Musical Theater. Past roles: Dr. Mendel in *Falsettos*, Barry in *The Prom*, Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, Matt in *The Fantasticks*, Austin Bennett in *I Love You Because*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, Reverend Shaw in *Footloose*, Jason in *Ordinary Days*, and Rod in *Avenue Q*. Michael directed *Sister Act* and *How to Succeed...* at SLOC and has Music Directed many shows in the area. He extends his gratitude to his family, friends, and friends who are like family, especially Nick and Estelle.

MARC CHRISTOPHER (*Set Designer*) [he/him] has designed sets locally for several companies, including NSCP, SLOC, HMT, and Playhouse Stage. He is currently making his National Tour debut as Amos Hart in *Chicago*, coming soon to a city near you. Passat Carolyn, ILY. Love you to the moon and back, Mom. TikTok/IG @marcittymarcmarc

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

LEO D'JUAN (*Curtis Taylor, Jr.*) is a passionate artist known for his talents in music, acting, and creative direction. Leo has been developing his skills for acting, directing, and musical arrangement from a young age. Starting as a choir director at 13, he's received many awards for his leadership and impact in the Black community. Leo has performed at many major venues, released two albums, and earned an Eddies Award nomination, but even with his many accolades, Leo considers his greatest blessing to be his son, Jeven, saying, "When God blessed me with my son, He saved my life."

JAMIE-LEE DORVIL (*Master Carpenter*) [she/they] This is Jamie's first time as Master Carpenter at SLOC, though she has been a part of numerous set build crews for previous shows like *Falsettos* and *Mean Girls*. She is looking forward to her involvement in future shows here at SLOC. A special thank you to her partner Ella Mboma-Dorvil.

ARIANNA DREHER (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is delighted to make her SLOC debut as a Sweetheart in *Dreamgirls*! She studied for two years in NYC at the Institute for American Musical Theatre. Previous credits include Lauren (*Kinky Boots*) and Wendla (*Spring Awakening*) at Fort Salem Theater. Arianna is deeply grateful to this cast and creative team for their warmth and light, and she feels truly honored to contribute to such a powerful and meaningful story.

KATIE FITZMORRIS (*Sound Designer*) [she/her] is so happy to be back at SLOC! She has previously worked on shows such as *Pippin*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Mean Girls*, *School of Rock*, *The Wild Party*, *The Addams Family*, *9 to 5*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Once*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Matilda*, *Fun Home*, and *HAIR*. She has also worked with NSCP, CTG, BP, and CDAL. Katie would like to thank Mani, Michaela, and the rest of the team for this opportunity.

SARA FREDERICKS (*Stage Manager*) [she/her] is a proud board member of the SLOC family! She currently serves as co-chair of the Membership Committee and has also contributed to committees such as Show Recommendation, PR & Marketing, and Membership. Her production credits at SLOC include *Pippin*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Mean Girls*, *Alice by Heart*, *Fun Home*, *First Date*, and *RENT*. Outside the theater, Sara is a NYS Licensed Medical Aesthetician. She is also on the production teams for *Hadestown: Teen Edition* and *American Idiot*.

DARYL T. HIRSCHFELD (*C.C. White*) is no stranger to the SLOC stage and is happy to return after several years! Some of his favorite roles include Collins in *RENT* and being a featured dancer in *Cabaret* and *In The Heights*. You may have also seen him in *1776*, *Hair* and *Hairspray* as Gilbert/Featured Dancer. Daryl would like to thank his family for the love and support.

BENJI HITRICK (*Ensemble*) [he/him] is excited to return to the SLOC stage! Past credits include *Spring Awakening* (Melchior), *A Little Night Music* (Lindquist), *The Glorious Ones* (Francesco), and *The Wild Party* (Oscar). He's thrilled to be a part of *Dreamgirls* and grateful to share the stage with such an incredible cast and creative team.

ZACH KAISER (*James Thunder Early*) [he/him] moved to the Capital Region in 2021 and has been involved with SLOC ever since. He has served on the I.D.E.A. Committee, Show Recommendation Committee, and Membership Committee. His SLOC credits include *Violet* (Flick), *Dog Sees God* (Van), and *First Date* (Waiter). Zach also performed with Fort Salem Theater, Harbinger, and Not So Common Players. When not on stage, Zach enjoys napping, hanging out at coffee shops, and playing volleyball. Enjoy the show!



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DREAMGIRLS
SEPT. 12, 2025

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

ELIJAH KALINOWSKI (*Ensemble*) has been overjoyed working with his talented cast mates and insightful production team of *Dreamgirls*. Elijah's previous roles have included Kevin in NSCP's production of *The Prom* and Uncle Fester in Scotia-Glenville High School Drama club's production of *The Addams Family*.

HALEY KASTLER (*Lighting Designer*) is proud to be making her SLOC debut as Lighting Designer! You may have seen her on SLOC's stage as Clarissa/Caterpillar 2 in *Alice by Heart* or Chris Hargensen in Steamer 10's *Carrie*. In the lighting booth, Haley has worked with NSCP and Shenendehowa High School, most recently designing *Legally Blonde*. She'd like to thank Jim Mackenzie for inspiring her and her friends and family for all their support.

KI'MARI LAVENDER (*Michelle Morris*) [she/her] Originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, 26-year-old performer, Ki'mari Lavender, is thrilled to make her SLOC debut as Michelle Morris in *Dreamgirls*. A passionate singer, actor, and dancer since childhood, she trained at a performing arts high school and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts summer program. Inspired by icons like Beyoncé and Aretha Franklin, she writes and records R&B music, has worked as a film extra, and built a beauty-focused social media presence. Becoming a Dreamgirl is a dream come true.

ELLA MBOMA-DORVIL (*Ensemble*) [she/her] has been involved in hair and make-up at SLOC since 2018 and this is her first time being a cast member. She has been wanting to audition for community theatre for a long time and luckily her first show has been a success! This has been an experience that has changed her, and she is incredibly grateful to be involved. She would also like to give a special thank you to her fiancé Jamie-Lee Mboma-Dorvil, who is our Master Carpenter, for supporting her every step of the way!

KINI-ANALYSA MCCALMON (*Hair & Make-up Designer*) [they/them] is a professional model, makeup artist, and hairstylist based in the Capital Region. For the past five years, they have built their career as a model, working with photographers, creatives, and brands to bring bold concepts to life. With eight years of experience in make-up artistry, Kini-Analyssa has developed a versatile skill set, creating looks that range from natural beauty to high-impact editorial styles. In addition to modeling and make-up, Kini-Analyssa has spent the last four years styling hair for theatrical productions with SLOC, contributing to the transformation of characters and storytelling on stage.

MANI VELVET MCCALMON (*Director*) [they/them] is a dynamic dancer, choreographer, performer, and professional model based in the Capital Region. Their SLOC stage credits include performances in *Pippin* as Leading Player, *HAIR*, *Cabaret*, and *In the Heights*, among others. You may have also seen them onstage with CDAI as Joanne in *RENT*! On screen, they have brought various characters to life, such as Raya in *Road Trip* and Macy in *Final Girl* (Sweet Dreams Studios). Off stage, Mani is a passionate advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, striving to create welcoming and representative spaces in every room they enter. They also share their artistry through teaching dance, collaborating with local photographers, and modeling for various magazines and creative projects. Mani extends heartfelt thanks to their friends and family for their unwavering love and support.

MAKAI MCCLINTON (*Ensemble*) [he/him] has been in the theater world for five years now, starting from his sophomore year in high school. He's been in productions such as *RENT*, *Rodger and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and many others. In addition, he's been a part of several

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

productions with Proctors Collaborative School of the Arts, and has been nominated twice for the HSTMAs. *Dreamgirls* is his first show at SLOC, and he's excited to help put this show on its feet.

SPARKEI MCCLOUD (*Ensemble*) [they/she] feels blessed to have been a part of this production! They previously worked backstage on *Mean Girls: High School Edition* at SLOC in 2024, which sparked a huge love for the company. This summer, they were in the ensemble of Proctors Collaborative School of the Arts production of *Urinetown*. Fun fact, *Urinetown* was only one of four shows she was a part of this summer alone!

JUSTIN NADAL (*Ensemble*) [he/him] is ecstatic to be returning to SLOC's stage! His other credits at SLOC include featured dancer in *Pippin*, Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby Jeremy in *Fun Home*, Nigel/Dormouse in *Alice by Heart*, and the ensemble of *The Wedding Singer*. He has also worked with other theaters in the Capital Region, including BTTUNY, CDAI, and SLCA. Justin would like to thank his wife for her continued support as he pursues acting.

AMANDA ODUM (*Ensemble*) Amanda's love for music and theater began in the crib, dancing to Van Halen's "Jump." Growing up, she sang in church choir, played saxophone, and performed in school groups and competitions. A lifelong harmonizer with icons like Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston, Amanda's vocal talent and genre-spanning passion shine through every note. By day, she works at the Department of Labor; by night, she's a guest lead singer with The Rhythm Piolets and a karaoke enthusiast with family and friends.

KOFI OPOKU-ANING (*Ensemble*) [he/him] is making his SLOC debut in this production of *Dreamgirls*. Kofi's last role was as Damian in his high school's production of *Mean Girls*. Kofi

loves to write lyrics and hopes to make a career out of musical theater in the future. Kofi would like to thank his mom and dad for helping him make the rehearsals and Peyton VanDerheyden for recommending he do the audition for this show.

IMANI PAYNE (*Ensemble*) [she/her] While this is Imani's SLOC debut, as a pastor, worship leader, activist, and Ultimate Hype Woman (self-proclaimed), she is certainly no stranger to the stage! Born in Schenectady, NY, SLOC is close to Imani's heart, and she is so honored to be a part of such a stellar show. You can often find Imani driving, bumping music, and on an adventure—likely to the movies! She'd like to extend a huge thanks to God, her family, and her friends for their love, encouragement, and unending support! GO BILLS!

OLIVIA PIEROTTI (*Ensemble, u/s Lorrell, u/s Michelle*) [she/her] is excited to be in this year's production of *Dreamgirls*. She was previously involved in SLOC's production of *Mary Poppins* (Katie Nanna/ensemble). She performed in musicals in high school such as *Mamma Mia* (Rosie), *Ordinary Days* (Warren), as well as being involved in many musical activities throughout the Capital Region. She would like to thank her family for their support and is sending love to her sister Mia while she's at college.

KIESSENCE POLK (*Lorrell Robinson*) [she/her] also known as Niavoy, is a talented artist from Albany, NY, known for her soulful voice and captivating stage presence. A mother of three, educator at KIPP Albany Elementary, and psychology major at UAlbany, she's passionate about youth empowerment and community engagement. From Columbia's Teen Idol to performing at the Apollo Theater, Kiessence continues to inspire through her music and mission, using her voice to uplift and bring positivity wherever she goes.

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THEO AALIYAH RABII (*Ensemble*) [they/them] is a certified yoga instructor, mindfulness practitioner, poet, author, actor, director, dancer, and choreographer whose artistry is rooted in healing and self-expression. They've practiced yoga and dance all their life—mostly self-taught, with guidance from inspiring mentors—and their movement blends modern, contemporary, hip-hop, voguing, and African styles. Recently, Theo began exploring theater with BTTUNY and continues to grow in that space. Through storytelling, performance, and mindful practice, they aim to spark deeper love, awareness, and social change. Theo uses their platforms to uplift voices, challenge norms, and celebrate the beauty of authentic human expression in all its forms.

TAYLOR RAMSEY (*Ensemble*) [she/her] was last seen on the SLOC stage in *The Wedding Singer* (ensemble) and is happy to be back with this amazing cast of *Dreamgirls*. She previously performed in *Once on this Island* (Andrea) with BTTUNY, *RENT* (Joanne's Mom) with CDAI, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chiffon) with NSCP. A big thanks to all her family and friends for all their love and support!

REGINA WRIGHT ROBINSON (*Ensemble*) is a Creative Artist and Alum of BTTUNY. An Albany native, she has appeared in several BTTUNY plays over the years with her most recent credits as Erzulie in *Once On This Island* and Faye in *Skeleton Crew*. *Dreamgirls* will be her debut performance at SLOC. An avid lover of the arts, she enjoys sharing with others what brings her joy through self and life expression in her poetry writings, singing, and dance.

NIKKI SANDERS (*Ensemble, u/s Effie*) is so thrilled to be appearing on the SLOC stage for the first time in this fantastic production of *Dreamgirls*. Nikki is currently a Pre-K Teaching Assistant in the Schenectady School District and a mother to 3 beautiful children when she

is not sharing her talents at the theater. Nikki wants to thank her amazing family for supporting her as she tries something new. She also wants to give a very special thank you to her mother for encouraging her and helping her through this beautiful journey.

JANAE-MARIE SMITH (*Effie Melody White*) [she/her] is thrilled to be making her leading role debut as Effie Melody White! This is her first production with SLOC. She first hit the stage as part of the ensemble in *Once on this Island* with the BTTUNY and has been hooked ever since. When she's not belting out powerhouse ballads, she can be found singing in the choir and leading praise and worship at her home church, Metropolitan NTM Baptist Church. Janae-Marie is also an aspiring artist who enjoys many forms of creative expression! She would like to thank her family, friends, church family and this amazing cast and crew for their love and support!

JASMINE SOLANA (*Ensemble*) [she/her] After a 20+ year hiatus from theater while focusing on family, Jaz is over the moon with rekindling her lifelong passion for singing and dancing on stage. Inspired by her son's vibrant musical performances, she's embarking on a new chapter of artistic expression. Making her debut at SLOC, she's thankful for the support of her son Tyler, nieces Ariel & Ava, and supportive friends.

MICHAELA TORRES (*Producer*) [she/her] is thrilled to be opening SLOC's 99th season with this production of *Dreamgirls*! Michaela considers SLOC her second home and, although she loves being on stage, she's immensely proud of all the work she's done behind the scenes. This season, Michaela is also serving as SLOC's Membership and Volunteer Director, as well as part of the I.D.E.A. and Finance Committees. She is overwhelmed with happiness and pride to see this production

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come together thanks to the dedication of the entire production team (aka her closest friends). Honestly, she could not be prouder of the work they've done, and she hopes you all enjoy the show! She'd also like to give a huge THANK YOU to the entire cast and crew for being so understanding and welcoming as she comes in and out of rehearsals with her new baby, Violetta!

ALEX WALLEY (*Co-Music Director*) [he/him] is a North Country, NY native and making his SLOC music directorial debut! He was last seen in the titular role of SLOC's 2025 production of *Pippin*. He studied classical singing at Binghamton University, appearing as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute* and Arnalta/Nutrice in *The Coronation of Poppea*, as well as various ensemble roles at Tri-Cities Opera. He is excited to return to SLOC as the Music Director for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* in January 2026. He gives special thanks to his family and friends for supporting his passion for music.

JALISSA WATSON (*Ensemble*) [she/her] is a Schenectady native. She is thrilled to be on stage with this incredible cast. She was last seen on SLOC's stage as Petra in *A Little Night Music* and has performed in the past with SLOC Musical Theater, Capital Repertory Theatre, Not So Common Players, and CDAI. She would like to thank her husband and village for taking such good and generous care of her and her sweet baby Lily at home.

KAY WHELAN (*Marty Madison*) [they/them] is glad to be back with SLOC after recently performing in *Pippin* (Ensemble)! SLOC credits include *Mary Poppins*, *West Side Story*, and *Footloose*. Other performance credits include *Aida* (Nehebka), *RENT*, and *Les Misérables*, with Proctors Collaborative School of the Arts, among others. They hope you all enjoy the show!

HANNAH WOJCIK (*Property Designer, Assistant Stage Manager*) [she/her] is thrilled to be involved in her first SLOC production! As a Capital Region native, she is proud to support the local theater community in any way she can. Outside of theater, Hannah works as both a full-time and freelance science writer. Special thanks to Alex for introducing her to this wonderful group and to Sara for being her Type A kindred spirit.



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