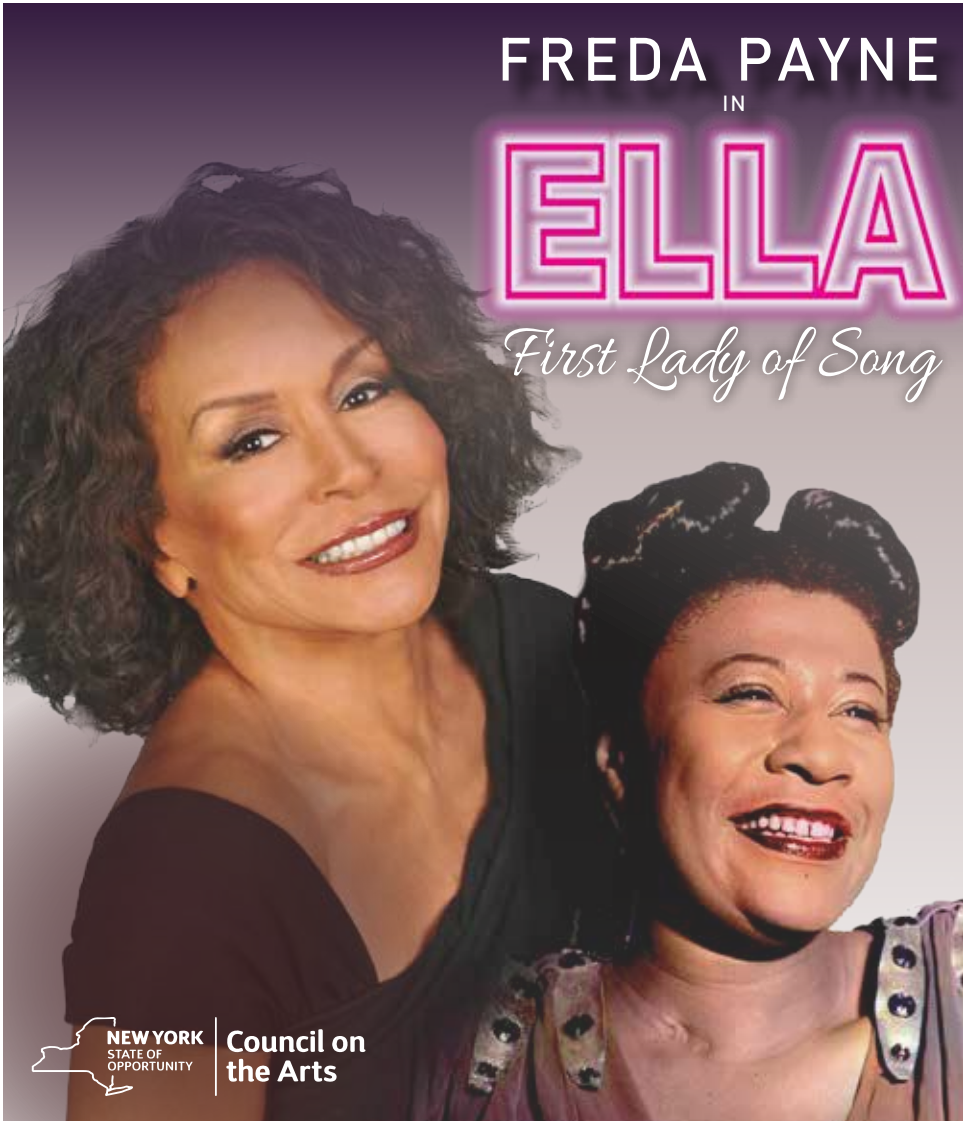
The Madison Theatre
at MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

Mount Sinai South Nassau



www.madisontheatreny.org

ABOUT

Inspired by & Featuring Songs
Made Famous by
Ella Fitzgerald

Book
by
Lee Summers

Conceived by **Maurice Hines**

Musical Direction and Conducted by
DJ Hendricks

Starring
Freda Payne*

Also Starring
Harriett D. Foy* **Debra Walton*** **Roger Gilbert Crane**

With
Willie Applewhite **Greg Bufford** **Dionne Hendricks** **Bobby LaVell** **Gerald Lindsey**

Scenic Design
Michael Clark

Lighting Design
Ed McCarthy

Costume Design
Zinda Williams

Sound Design
Calvin Guevara-Flores

Wig & Hair Design
Wendy Evans

Production Stage Manager
Jaclyn Lusardi*

Assistant Stage Manager
Stevie Allen

Prop Supervisor & Scenic Assistant
Emily Frank

Wardrobe Supervisors
Shannon Rose McCann
Natalie Piperno

Public Relations
Sam Morris

Summer 2022 Music Supervisor
Aaron Gandy

General Manager
Kathleen Marino

Assistant Artistic Director
Bethany Moore

Artistic Director
Angelo Fraboni

Choreographer
Maurice Hines

Associate Director
Arelis Cruz

Director
Lee Summers

Registered with The Writers Guild of America, East.
Member: The Dramatists Guild ©2000

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The African American family act, "Hines, Hines and Dad," which featured late drummer, Maurice Hines, Sr. and his two, gifted, child-star sons, the late Gregory Hines and his older brother, Maurice, Jr, were often the opening act for the great Ella Fitzgerald. Between shows, young Maurice preferred to hang around with Ella in her dressing room, where he'd witness the rarely seen backstage persona of the first lady of song. Young Hines also observed Ella's interactions with her cousin/dresser, Georgiana and her manager Norman Granz. Years later, both brothers became even bigger stars (see "The Cotton Club" movie) and while performing in the tour of a Broadway show, Maurice overheard his co-star, recording artist and timeless beauty, Freda Payne, "scatting" as her vocal warm-up. He ran to her and said, "Freda, you sound like Ella!" In 2002, when Washington's Arena Stage commissioned a musical from Hines, he chose to celebrate the Ella Fitzgerald he'd known as a child - and he invited me to write the musical and Freda to play her. In the years since, we have shared several developmental productions as I have continued on my path as a dramatist, earning an MFA from NYU/Tisch's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program - and garnering recognition writing and directing, including winning the 2018 AUDELCO award for "Best Director of a Musical". Presently, as Hines' health prohibits him from joining us, I am blessed to continue his vision of Ella, alongside the incomparable Freda Payne. I would like to thank Molloy University, Angelo Fraboni and his amazing team for inviting me back, as, over twelve years ago, another of my shows, Off Broadway's From My Hometown, was the first musical he produced at the Madison Theatre. On behalf of the cast, creative and production teams, musicians, designers and house staff, we thank you for supporting our art as we celebrate the immeasurable contributions of the First Lady of Song, Miss Ella Fitzgerald.

ABOUT

CAST

Ella Fitzgerald ..... Freda Payne
Georgiana Henry ..... Harriett D. Foy
Frances / Young Ella ..... Debra Walton
Norman Granz / Joe Da Silva / Apollo McRalph Cooper ..... Roger Gilbert Crane
Duke Ellington / Piano ..... Dionne Hendricks
Chick Webb / Drums ..... Greg Bufford
Ray Brown / Upright Bass ..... Gerald Lindsey
Reeds ..... Bobby LaVell
Ella / Georgiana / Frances U/S ..... Icis Hammond
Norman U/S ..... Matt Kenna

ACT I

"It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" ..... Ella & Band
"Object of My Affection" ..... Young Ella
"It Don't Mean a Thing (Reprise)" ..... Ella & Band
"There'll Be Some Changes Made"" ..... Young Ella
"Goody, Goody" ..... Ella & Band
"Let's Get Together" ..... Band
"Yes Sir, That's My Baby" ..... Young Ella
"Sing Me A Swing Song and Let Me Dance" ..... Ella & Band
"You Can't Sing It, You'll Have to Swing It (Mr. Paganini)" ..... Ella & Band
"A Tisket, A Tasket" ..... Ella & Band
"My Buddy" ..... Ella
"Sweet Georgia Brown" ..... Ella & Band
" The Nearness of You" ..... Ella
"Any Place I Hang My Hat Is Home" ..... Frances, Ella, Georgiana
"Taking A Chance On Love ..... Ella, Ray
"Easy Living" ..... Ella & Band
"Oh, Lady Be Good" ..... Ella & Band

ACT II

"Oh, Lady Be Good (Reprise)" ..... Ella & Band
"I Found a New Baby" ..... Norman, Ella
"You've Changed" ..... Ella, Ray
"There'll Be Some Changes Made Today (Reprise)" ..... Ella & Band
"How High the Moon" ..... Ella
"Too Darn Hot / Come Rain or Come Shine / The Lady Is a Tramp" ..... Ella, Norman
"The Man I Love" ..... Ella
"Mack the Knife" ..... Ella & Band
"My Buddy (Reprise)" ..... Ella
"It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing) (Reprise)" ..... Ella & Band

BIOS

CAST

Freda Payne (Ella Fitzgerald) is an award-winning singer, artist, actress, and best-selling author. As a recording artist she has been Grammy nominated, Gold record awarded, and a million-selling sensation. Her first albums and singles date back to the early 1960s, but she will always be associated with her million-selling Number One hit "Band of Gold" (1970). With a series of her recordings produced by legendary Motown production team, Holland-Dozier-Holland, it was in 1971 that Freda's Contact album became her biggest seller, containing several hits including her second Gold single, "Bring The Boys Home." While she is famous for her early '70s hits like "You Brought The Joy," and "Deeper and Deeper," she started her career as a jazz singer, and as a teenager she performed with Duke Ellington, and Pearl Bailey. She also later worked with Quincy Jones, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and Bob Hope. Once her recording career was established, she shifted gears and scored two disco / dance hits: "Love Magnet" (1977) and "In Motion" (1982). Freda is also an accomplished actress. She was Leslie Uggams' understudy in Hallelujah Baby! on Broadway in the 1960s, and she was called upon to as the star of the show on five occasions. In the early 1980s Freda starred in her own syndicated TV series, Today's Black Woman. Starting in the 1980s Freda began showing off her acting skills by staring in the touring companies of Tony Award-winning shows: Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies, Jelly's Last Jam, and Blues In The Night. She has also appeared in several films, including Book of Numbers (1973) and Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (2000). Her younger sister, Scherrie Payne, is an accomplished singer as well, and was a member of The Supremes in the 1970s. In 2021 Freda released her first book, the memoir Band of Gold, written with Mark Bego. Her latest album release is entitled Let There Be Love (2021), including a duet with Johnny Mathis. Freda lives in Encino, California.

Harriett D. Foy (Georgiana Henry) currently portrays Patrice Woodbine on the hit STARZ show, "PValley." Broadway: Amelie, Amazing Grace, The American Plan, and Mamma Mia. Off-Broadway: The House That Will Not Stand (AUDELCO Award, Drama Desk, Drama League, OCC Nominations), and X. Regional: Nina Simone: Four Women. Howard University "WGATAP!" www.harriettdfoy.com Twitter @divafoyh/Instagram @ harriett_d_foy

Debra Walton (Frances / Young Ella) Fresh off her Directorial debuts for the Wizard of Oz at MTW and Associate Director of Broadways THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN
Debra excitedly returns to the stage to join this phenomenal cast of Ella! Broadway/ National Tours include The Pajama Game, Chicago, The Bubbly Black Girl …, and Cookin' at the Cookery, in which Debra created award-winning roles that earned her a Drama Desk nomination and a Barrymore Award. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Alfred J. Walton the man who introduced Debra to the sounds of Ella at birth.This one's for you Pop!

Roger Gilbert Crane (Norman Granz) is thrilled to return to the stage for the first time since the pandemic! Past roles include Robert in Proof and Emperor Joseph in Marie Antoinette. Outside the theater, Roger is also an avid language-learner, French horn player, and occasional TV repairman.

Icis Hammond (U/S Ella / Georgiana / Frances) is a rising senior in the Molloy/ CAP21 BFA program. She recently starred at the Madison in Carousel: A Concert and All Shook Up. She is so excited for you to see what she and the team have put into this incredible work of art!

Matt Kenna (U/S Norman) is a recent graduate of the Molloy/CAP21 B.F.A. program. Past credits include Carousel (Enoch Snow), 9 to 5 (Dick/Bob Enright/Ensemble), The Wizard of Oz (Wicked Witch), The Olympians (Xander). For Mommy, I'll love you forever. Enjoy the show!

Dionne Hendricks (Musical Director / Conductor / Duke Ellington / Piano) is a music director, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, composer, lyricist and pianist in the New York City and Boston theater/jazz scenes. Re-

ceiving his Bachelor's Degree from Berklee College of Music Boston in Contemporary Writing and Production/Conducting May 2021, and his Masters in Writing and Design for Musical Theater from the BerkleeNYC graduate program, Hendricks has Music Directed various shows such as: Mamma Mia!, In the Heights, Little Shop of Horrors, Dear Edwina, and Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. He's also conducted Berklee's annual theater showcase, Curtain Up!. He has also worked as an arranger for multiple big bands, including the Shout Section Big Band in Chicago, and the Odeon Tanzorchester in Germany. He'd like to thank his Family and Friends, as well as all of his teachers, professors, and mentors who've supported him from the beginning of his career 'til now, and (hopefully) long into the future.

Greg Bufford (Chick Webb / Drums)

Gerald Lindsey (Ray Brown / Upright Bass)

Willie Applewhite (Trombone)

Patrick Adams (Trumpet) is a trumpeter, composer, and producer who has performed worldwide. His most recent project, Lynx, features him and his brother in a duo context re-imagining jazz standards, and was released by Sunnyside Records to critical acclaim. Patrick is originally from Prescott, Arizona and currently resides in Brooklyn.

Bobby LaVell (Reeds) Born in Memphis, Tennessee Bobby LaVell gained an interest in music while in high school. He became proficient on the Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet and Piano while pursuing formal musical studies at Memphis State (now the University of Memphis), and Shelby State College. He has performed with BB King and Ray Charles. Bobby has also performed with such fixtures as The Temptations, The Four Tops, and The Nicholas Brothers. Additionally, there have been performances with Harold Mabern and George Coleman. He is regular member of The Jimmy Heath Big Band. For a while he performed with The Chico O'Ferell Big Band. He performed with Slide Hampton's Jazz Masters for three years until the band was shut down. Bobby still maintains a close working relationship with Mr. Hampton. He is also a member of The Manhattan Symphony Jazz Orchestra conducted by Dennis Mackrel. He was a member of The Duke Ellington Orchestra for almost 20 years. With his own intuition Bobby founded and leads "The Bobby LaVell Jazz Orchestra", formally "The Hudson River Jazz Orchestra". He worked with a Big Band conducted by Benny Golson. And for the last four years he has been a member of Ron Carter's Great Big Band.

CREATIVE TEAM

Lee Summers (Director/Book) Lee Summers returns to the Madison Theatre at Molloy University, having recently directed Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. In June, Summers premiered a reading of his newest musical about gay civil rights leader, Bayard Rustin - and in July, he served as a guest director at Berklee College. Awarded 2018's AUDELCO award for "Best Director of a Musical" for On Kentucky Avenue, Summers has directed works for numerous New York and regional theatres and universities, nationwide. He has also directed numerous short films and virtual productions. Summers made his Broadway debut in the original Dreamgirls–and for which he later reprised his role in the Dreamgirls 20th Anniversary Concert, alongside Audra McDonald, Billy Porter, Heather Headley and other Broadway notables. He got his start as an actor at HBCU, Tennessee State University while simultaneously singing and dancing at Opryland, U.S.A. Since then, Summers has performed On and Off-Broadway, and in major American repertory theatres and numerous roles for daytime and primetime TV, including, "Blue Bloods," "Boardwalk Empire," "New York Undercover," "Law and Order" and in films such as "Malcolm X" directed by Spike Lee. These days he admits he landed on the cutting room floor of "Head of State," starring and directed by Chris Rock. As a writer, lyricist and composer, Summers' works have been produced in New York and

by numerous regional theatres. Notably, he served as conceiver/co-writer/co-composer and lead producer for Off-Broadway's From My Hometown, which was later produced at the Madison Theatre at Molloy and soon to be published by Broadway Musicals. Presently, Summers serves as adjunct faculty at NYU's Steinhardt Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. After Tennessee State, Summers earned his BA from SUNY Empire State College and his MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Special Thanks to the best director's assistant ever, Arelis Cruz; endless gratitude to the Dramatists Guild and my legal teams, Gray/Schwartz and Storch/Byrne. He dedicates this production to his Mom, family, and Todd. Member: AEA, SAG/AFTRA, SDC, DG. Leesummersshows.com.

Arelis Cruz (Associate Director) (she/her): is a graduate student at NYU Steinhardt studying Vocal Performance with a concentration in Musical Theatre in the studio of David Sisco. She received her Bachelor's degree from Skidmore College in 2017 where she studied Sociology and Theater. She is extremely excited to be a part of the Ella family and is grateful to Lee Summers for the opportunity.

Michael Clark — 5th Wall Designs (Scenic Design) Rumors abound that Michael now only exists from the shoulders up in the virtual realm. Frequently seen on Zoom, Discord, FaceTime and other outlets of social media. Actual physical sightings have become on par with Neesie and Sasquatch. Undisclosed sources speculate that he is involved in fostering a new relationship with the AI supercomputer at University of Florida, yet some have reported seeing a spectral apparition of him in the Molloy Production Booth. Michael serves this year as Resident Scenic Designer, helping the other collaborators realize new artistic visions.

Ed McCarthy (Lighting Design) *Unmasked:The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber at* Paper Mill Playhouse; Kathleen Turner-Finding My Voice. Public Theater: Southern Comfort. Over 80 Broadway, Off-Bway and regional shows. Associate Lighting Designer for all companies of Mamma Mia! in the Western Hemisphere, and many others. Television:21Tony Awards (5 Emmy nominations) Live from Lincoln Center, Grammys, Prairie Home Companion, and more. Graduate of, and teacher at, NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Zinda Williams (Costume Design) started designing costumes in 1983 while touring with "Garth Fagan Dance". Although she has done extensive work in dance, this is not her first foray into the world of theatre. In 2004 she designed costumes for "Infertility, The Musical That's Hard To Conceive" and she's excited to be at it again with "Ella"!

Wendy Evans (Wig Designer) Wendy Evans has been a celebrity hair stylist working on Broadway, film and television for over 25 years. She's been a part of the Emmy Award winning hair team at SNL for 10 seasons. Wendy is happy to be a part of this production of Ella, First Lady of Song.

Calvin Guevara-Flores (Sound Design) is a Long Island native, working in theatre/events for over 10 years now. Calvin has a degree in Theatre Technology/Design from Adelphi University '17 with a concentration in Sound and Lighting. He is excited for the things to come!

Jaclyn Lusardi (Production Stage Manager) is a NY based Stage Manager and a Long Island native. New York credits include: SM for NAMT Festival of New Musicals 2018-2021, ASM on Fern Hill, Smart Blonde, Unraveled (MBL Productions), SM on Indigo reading (Sing Out Lousie! Productions), ASM on Interstate (NYMF, NYSF). Regional credits include: PSM for In the Heights, All Shook Up (Madison Theatre) PSM Replacement for Aida, Million Dollar Quartet (John W. Engeman Theatre). BFA from Adelphi University

Stevie Allen (Assistant Stage Manager) (she/they) is an NYC-based actor, writer, and creative. Stevie is a rising junior in the CAP21 Musical Theatre BFA program and is set to graduate in May of 2024. She can be seen at the Madison Theatre onstage, offstage, and at the box office desk at basically any given time. Past Credits: Christmas at the Madison, Lizzie (NY premiere), Carousel: A Concert, GUMMIES (in arnership with the Schubert Organization's Artistic Circle), In

the Heights, Squirrel Screams and Other Dating Sounds, Xanadu. Her endless gratitude to Lee, Arelis, DJ, Jaclyn, and the entire cast & crew (especially T-Payne). To their professors, family, and friends (especially her mom)— all the love in the world. Enjoy the show! Instagram: @stevieeallen | sarahstevieallen.wixsite.com/stevie

Nina Sadowski Smith (COVID Compliance Officer)(she/her) is thrilled to have had her spreadsheet dreams come true as the Covid Compliance Officer for this fabulous production of Ella, First Lady of Song! Nina is a rising sophomore in Molloy's CAP21 program and looks forward to spending as much time at the Madison as Kathleen and Angelo will let her. Shoutout to T-Payne! Thanks to Kathleen, Angelina, and Angelo

Matt Gibbons (House Manager) recently earned his Master's of Business Administration in Finance from Molloy's School of Business. Matt has been involved in the Madison Theatre in many different capacities from box office, to spot light operator, to now the House Manager. Matt is most proud of being the human to the cutest golden retriever, Duke. Hi Anne!

Angelo Fraboni (Artistic Director) produced & directed the Opening Gala in 2011 and has continued to present, produces, and directs entertainment for the Molloy Community over the past 10 seasons. He won the 2009 Drama Desk Award for the critically-acclaimed series Celebrity Autobiography and has produced dozens of shows and events in NYC before coming to Molloy. He continues to create and develop new work at the Madison Theatre to help develop professional opportunities for the Molloy CAP21 Theatre Arts students including new plays, musicals, and short films. Mr. Fraboni enjoyed a long performance career that includes 6 Broadway shows, 4 Encore shows at City Center, the Radio City Christmas Show, multiple national and international tours, and as a principal dancer in a Ballet company. He has worked in film and commercials work, as well

Bethany Moore (Assistant Artistic Director) NYC and Broadway credits include *Pippin* (original Revival cast), *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* (OBC), *Into the Woods* (Public Theater), and *Call Me Madam* (Encores!). She was also a member of the first national tour of *A Chorus Line* the 25th Anniversary tour of *CATS*. She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Theater from NYU. Madison Theatre credits include *The Christmas Spectacular*, *West Side Story* (dance supervisor), *Give Our Regards to Broadway 1960's and Silver Screen* (director/choreographer) and *A Chorus Line* (Cassie). Special Thanks to the cast, creative team and crew, especially to Angelo and Kathleen.

Aaron Gandy (Summer 2022 Music Supervisor) NYC credits include The Lion King, Urinetown, Just Jim Dale at Roundabout and London's West End, The Shaggs at Playwrights Horizons, Dora the Explorer Live! at Radio City Music Hall. Recent concert appearances include A Band Called Honalee's current international tour, My Fair Lady in concert at the Milwaukee and North Carolina Symphonies, and frequent appearances as Principal Pops Conductor of the South Shore Symphony. As composer, his shows include the forthcoming Samantha, Single-Handed, and The Crinolynns. His recordings include Life Begins at 8:40, Through The Years, JuleStyne In Hollywood, The Shaggs, Busker Alley, and The Musicality of Vincent Youmans. As Artistic Advisor to The Kay Swift Trust, he co-edited The Kay Swift Songbook and conducted the 2004 premiere cast recording of Fine & Dandy. Visit www.aarongandy.com.

Kathleen Marino (General Manager) recently earned her Master's of Business Administration in Management from Molloy's School of Business and holds an Associate's degree in Culinary Arts and Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management from the New York Institute of Technology. She's been instrumental in the success of the Madison Theatre for eleven years. In her spare time, you can catch Kathleen riding her Peloton with Tunde and Emma, join her for a spin @K_Mar!

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Artistic Director ..... Angelo Fraboni
General Manager ..... Kathleen Marino
Assistant Artistic Director ..... Bethany Moore
House Manager ..... Matt Gibbons
Technical Director, Lighting ..... Chris Wolf
Technical Director, Audio ..... Calvin Guevera-Flores
Technical Director, Logistics ..... Angelina Meccariello
Head Carpenter ..... Thomas Rubin
Lighting Supervisor ..... Maria Bevilacqua
Vice President for Advancement ..... Edward Thompson
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Director of Public Relations and Marketing ..... Jacquie Martin-Rath
Senior Graphic Designer ..... Francis Bonnet
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Executive Assistant ..... Eileen Sweeney
Administrative Coordinator ..... Marilyn Marra
Marketing & Web Design ..... The Pekoe Group

Theatre Crew: Dana Augello, Ariana Augello, Natalie Neubert, Nicole Temprano, Samantha Eagle, Ian Underhill, Kyle Pearson, Timothy Thomas, Alexa Celso, Gianna Celso, Nikki Rinaduo-Concessi, Stevie Allen, Samantha Sloane, Hannah Lehrer, Abigail Redlich, Grace Estes, Zach Poore, Jordyn Schneider, Grace McNally, Carlie Shaw, Icis Hammond, Carly Murray, Gianna Iovino, Isabelle Oliver, Christopher DeAngelis, Taylor Bentze, Willow Chamblin, Madison Chamblin, Gianna Bacchi, Eliza Stoehrer, Tobi Berman, Andrew McNamara, Thomas Moreira, Patrick Bruno and Jaylin Thomas

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HEADSHOTS

Freda Payne

Harriett D. Foy

Debra Walton

Icis Hammond

Roger Gilbert Crane

Matt Kenna

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEXT SEASON

2022-23 AT THE MADISON THEATRE

SEP 24	**A TASTE OF GOSPEL**
OCT 1	**DON GIOVANNI**
OCT 2	**DON GIOVANNI**
OCT 8	**GERALD ALBRIGHT**
OCT 9	**GIVE OUR REGARDS TO BROADWAY:** Salute to Sondheim
OCT 9	**LAURA BENANTI & SETH RUDETSKY** in An Evening of Entertainment
NOV 12	**SOUTH SHORE SYMPHONY**
NOV 13	**DANCING LOTUS:CELEBRATING ASIAN CHOREOGRAPHIC VOICES**
NOV 19	**KIRK WHALUM**
NOV 27	**DOO WOP PROJECT**
DEC 2, 3, 4,	**NUTCRACKER**
DEC 17-23	**ELF**
MAR 16	**WINGS IRISH DANCE**
MAR 25	**SOUTH SHORE SYMPHONY**
APR 15 & 16	**A DREAM IS A WISH PRINCESS CONCERT**

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: 516.323.4444

MADISONTHEATRENY.ORG

The Madison Theatre at MOLLOY UNIVERSITY