

We Own Our FUTURE

*An original play collaboration with
YourWords STL
Dream Builders 4 Equity
Missouri Baptist University Theatre*

March 26 & 27, 2021

Audience members attending the in-person screening are asked to wear a face covering inside the building at all times. Please silence electronic devices that may distract your fellow audience members during the performance. No food, drink or smoking is allowed in the Pillsbury Chapel. The restrooms are located in the Mabee Great Hall just outside the auditorium. Please see one of our ushers if you have any questions or special needs.
Enjoy the performance—we are glad you're here!

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Keith Ross, Dr. Andy Chambers, Dr. Benjamin Lion, Dr. Jordan Cox,
Steve O'Neal, Alonzo Medcalf, Coral Christopher, Sister Gail

A very special thanks to St. Louis County Department of Public Health for helping us develop a plan to provide safe and healthy entertainment!

CAST

Junior	Greg Carr II
Jordan	Alexander Brown
Amiracle	Mali'a Gullet
Lauchon	Cameron Tyler
Mr. Gregory	Chris Moore
Narrator	Nikkirra Loyd

PLAYWRIGHTS

Jabari Aitch
Gerald Alonzo Burton Jr.
Scherica Amiracle Wilson
Allen Worth

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Chris Moore
Producer	Kasey Cox
Assistant Director	Lindsey Peters
Stage Manager	Rachel Yarbrough
Tech Director	Isabelle Scheibe
Assistant Stage Managers	Evan Clawson, Kaylin Penninger
Assistant Tech Director	Ashley Harris
Lighting Designer	Will Launsby
Set/Props Designer	Jenny Duncan
Costume Designer	Lauren Smith Bearden
Sound Designer	Haley Clegg
Video Editor/Livestream Director	Ross Munroe
Fine Arts Events Manager	Olivia Leek
Box Office Assistant	Karoline Ortiz

YOURWORDS STL

YourWords STL uses one-on-one tutoring, creative writing workshops, and collaborative writing projects to amplify the voices of St. Louis youth. We believe we can change St. Louis by empowering young people to tell their stories. Part of our mission is to provide a sense of consistency and security for these students by recruiting passionate, committed tutors and volunteers who are dedicated to attending every weekly session. We are committed to bridging racial, cultural, and economic divides, by honing the ability of people to tell their stories, while providing opportunities for the community to listen. www.yourwordsstl.org/

DREAM BUILDERS 4 EQUITY

Dream Builders 4 Equity (DB4E) believes equitable opportunities are foundational for youth to realize their fullest potential. We provide at-risk youth with access to a diverse and broad set of assets through **mentorship, entrepreneurship, scholarship, and leadership training**. Access to these assets provides young people with the necessary skills to succeed academically and professionally, and attain ownership in the development of low-income/highly distressed communities.

www.dreambuilders4equity.org/



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jabari Aitch, age 23, is a carpenter and in his spare time enjoys working out, playing video games, and sometimes writing poetry.

Gerald Alonzo Burton Jr. is an 18-year-old senior at Mehlville High School and a member of Dream Builders 4 Equity. In his spare time, he enjoys creating reflective poems as well as enhancing his journalistic abilities.

Scherica Amiracle Wilson is a 17-year-old junior at Lutheran High School North and a member of Dream Builder 4 Equity. In her spare time she enjoys practicing waxing and tinting eyebrows for her second business as well as exploring ideas to grow her boutique.

Allen Worth, age 20, is a Class of 2019 graduate and a member of Dream Builders 4 Equity. In his spare time, he likes to paint, shoot videos, and throw huge car events.

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Lauren Smith Bearden (Costume Designer) is a St. Louis based costume designer and technician. Recent local credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Q-Collective) *Guys and Dolls* (Stray Dog Theatre) and *King Lear* (Ozark Actors Theatre). She also serves as the Costume Director for Clayton High School, and the Jewish Community Center's Youth Theatre. Prior to moving to St. Louis, she completed her MFA in Theatre with an emphasis in costume design and technology at the University of Florida. You can view her work at www.thecostumesmith.com.

Alexander Brown (Jordan) has previously been The Lion (The Wizard of Oz), General Waverly (White Christmas), and Ensemble (Big Fish). He is also a strong advocate for civil rights and equal representation both amongst other cultures and his own. He's had the privilege to participate and even speak at several Black Lives Matter events and he's blessed with the opportunity to portray struggles a little more personal in this production.

Greg Carr II (Junior) is a sophomore Theatre major. He last appeared as Karl The Giant in Big Fish and is looking forward to doing more productions in the future. Some of his favorite roles include Kinesias/The Herald (The Birds), Featured Dancer (The Music Man), Mysterious Man (Into The Woods), Black Stache (Peter and the Starcatcher), and Nils Krogstad (A Doll's House). He would like to give a special thanks to this amazing cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

Evan Clawson (Asst. Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre major at MBU. Recently he has appeared in *Big Fish* (Don Price) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Aster). Other shows he has worked on include *Songs for a New World* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *A Doll's House* (Dramaturg).

Haley Clegg (Sound Designer) is ecstatic to be a part of crew for the first time! Working on sound has been a great experience and she's especially happy it was with this show. She hopes you'll enjoy watching 'We Own Our Future' as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it!

Kasey Cox (Producer) is the Director of Theatre & Dance at MBU. She is a 2010 graduate of MBU with a degree in musical theatre and a 2014 graduate of Fontbonne University with a master of arts in theatre. Kasey's directing credits include *Peter Pan* (MBU), *Romeo and Juliet* (Acting Out!), *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (Act Two Theatre Company) and *Steel*

Magnolias (Kirkwood Theatre Guild). Some of her favorite roles include Sally (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Rosie (*Bye Bye Birdie*) and Jo (*Little Women: The Musical*). She would like to thank her husband Jordan and kids, Noah, Jobi and Katy, for keeping her house full of joy.

Jenny Duncan (Set/Props Designer) is a freshman Theatre major and Dance minor. She has previously been in Songs for a New World and Jenny Hill in Big Fish. She would like to thank the production team for helping her along this journey and making her first time designing a fun one!

Cailey George (Script Editor/Poet) is a sophomore at Missouri Baptist university majoring in theatre and English. She has recently worked on assistant stage managing MBU's recent production of Big Fish, and is preparing to perform in their upcoming dance concert. Cailey has truly enjoyed bringing "we own our future" to life, and is inspired by the playwrights who crafted such a powerful work of art. She is honored to be a part of the production, and to have been asked to include an introduction piece to the performance. She hopes you enjoy the show, and come away from the experience with a passion for change and growth.

Mali'a Gullet (Amiracle) is a senior at Missouri Baptist University majoring in psychology and minoring in sociology. It is Malia's desire to work in the field of Christian therapy and counseling for sexually abused teens not only in St. Louis but all over the country. Her passion is to help those who are in need and to give them hope in Jesus Christ. Mali'a has been acting since the age of 6, other shows Mali'a had the opportunity to work on includes Cinderella (Cinderella), And then there was one (Mims the maid), Fairy tale goes to court (judge) and so much more. Not only does Mali'a act on stage but she is also a singer and dancer. She has opened up for Christian Gray, Dr. Dre, Jimmy Needham and has performed all over Missouri. Mali'a would like to thank her cast members and those working behind the scenes.

Ashley Harris (Asst. Technical Director) is a freshman at MBU majoring in Secondary Education for Speech/Theatre with minors in Dance and Stage Management. She feels honored to serve as Assistant Technical Director for this show. She was last seen in *Peter and the Starcatcher* as Mrs. Bumbroke, but for the most part enjoys working behind the scenes. She would like to take this opportunity to thank her mentor and good friend Isabelle Scheibe for teaching her so much this year and pushing her outside of her comfort zone. "You are truly a blessing in my life and I look forward to learning about the endless knowledge you have for me in my years at MBU."

William Launsby (Lighting Designer) is very excited to showcase this project! His past technical credits include *Music Man* (Master Electrician) and *Anything Goes* (Assistant Stage Manager). He is amazed by the cast and crew, and has had so much fun telling their story through lighting. Lastly, he would like to thank Kasey Cox for this incredible experience and God for the blessing of Theatre.

Nikkirra Loyd (Narrator) is so excited to be a part of her first collegiate theatre performance. In addition to theatre she also has a passion for singing. Her singing ability was showcased as early as six years old. As she matured, she sang at church, school, weddings, funerals, on television and at various other events. Nikkirra is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in music at Missouri Baptist University. With an emphasis in vocal performance.

Chris Moore (Director) is honored to partner with Missouri Baptist University, YourVoice and company on this production. Born and raised in St. Louis, he has found a great passion for the arts and creative world. He has done work in vocal performance, theatrical direction/ production, dance and composition. Most recent credits include, *Head Over Heels* (New Line Theatre), *Dreamgirls* and *Guys & Dolls* (Stray Dog Theatre), *Bridges of Madison County* (Alpha Players) and *A Soldier's Play* (Clayton Community Theatre). In addition to acting, Chris has a growing social media platform where he enjoys creating content for self love and acceptance while being your most Authentik self.

Kaylin Penninger (Assistant Stage Manager) is a transfer student at MBU and is majoring in Musical Theatre with a minor in dance. Some of her favorite roles so far are: Jo March in *Little Women*, Heather Chandler in *Heathers*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, and the Witch in *Big Fish*. Kaylin is very excited to be assistant stage managing for the first time!

Lindsey Peters (Assistant Director) is so blessed to work on this production. She is a current senior Theatre major with a minor in dance. Some of her favorite roles have been Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (MBU), Wendy Jo in *Footloose the Musical* (Paul Bunyan Playhouse), and Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* (MBU.) She would love to thank God for the vast growth and calling she has experienced in the arts, and her family and friends for their constant love and support.

Isabelle Scheibe (Tech Director) is a graduate of Stephens College with a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Management. Theatre has always been a passion of hers and she is blessed to be able to create theatre with MBU Theatre. Isabelle is currently the Shop Manager at Missouri Baptist University, along with mentoring the student stage managers. Isabelle also works as the Production Manager at DaySpring School of the Arts. She has recently staged managed MBU's productions of *Into the Woods*, *Peter & The Star Catcher*, *A Doll's House*, and *Big Fish*. She also was the production stage manager for Dayspring's productions of *Frozen Jr*, *Big Fish*, *Taking Flight*, *Mary Poppins Jr*, and *Les Miserables*, which is coming this April.

Cameron Tyler (Lauchon) is very excited to be part of this production! He is in his senior year at Missouri Baptist University, majoring in Musical Theatre with a minor in dance. He spent the summer of 2019 performing in Bemidji, Minnesota with Paul Bunyan Playhouse, in Smokey Joes Cafe and Little Shop of Horrors. Some other past productions include Billy Elliott (Muny in St. Louis), Shrek (Larry D Clark Summer Repertory Theatre), and Anything Goes (Missouri Baptist University).

Bekah Williams (Assistant Costumer) is a senior at MBU. Most recently she was the Costume Apprentice for *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Sound Apprentice for *Songs For a New World* and *Big Fish*. She wants to thank her husband, Alex, for his unending support, her family and friends for their encouragement, and her God for His unfailing love. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

Rachel Yarbrough (Stage Manager) is a senior Theater and Psychology major. She has stage managed many shows at MBU, including *The Music Man* and *Anything Goes*. Some of her favorite roles include Grusha (*The Caucasian Chalk Circle*), Ronnette (*Little Shop of Horrors*), and America (*The Amish Project*). Rachel would like to thank her directors and teachers for giving her many opportunities to grow in her art.

MBU Music & Theatre Scholarship Auditions

Auditions are for freshman and transfer students who want to pursue any of the following majors:

Theatre
Musical Theatre
Speech/Theatre Secondary Education
Music
Music Education
Commercial Voice
Vocal Performance
Piano Performance
Music with elective studies in Business
Worship Leadership

We also offer scholarships for select performance ensembles—these scholarships are available to majors and non-majors.

Please contact the Fine Arts office at 314-744-5364 to receive more information or to schedule an audition.

THE MBU THEATRE MISSION

MBU Theatre is a Christ-centered program that challenges our students to view their work through a Biblical vantage point. We believe that all truth is God's truth, and therefore all great and truthful works of theatre carry within them glimmers of God's redemptive plan.

Because of this foundation, we believe that storytelling through theatre is a calling worthy of intensive training. Graduates from our theatre program will have knowledge of theatre history; acting methods of Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Meisner, Strasburg, and many others; directing technique; and a variety of design areas. We purposefully want education to be broad, but deep - giving students the opportunity to thrive in a transient job market that requires theatre students to work in a variety of positions.

Additionally, we give students ample opportunity to practice these skills. We produce six shows every year, allowing our students to choose design, tech, or performance in each production, allowing them to tailor their education to their needs.

Dancing in the Light



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