

PVA BILL®



THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

FEBRUARY 2019

Celebrating 30 Years of Black History Productions
2019 Spring All-School Musical



Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

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Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts presents
Celebrating 30 Years of Black History Productions
The 2019 Spring All-School Musical

FE!LA!
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

FEBRUARY 21 – 24, 2019

Book by
Jim Lewis & Bill T. Jones

Music and Lyrics by
Fela Anikulapo-Kuti

Additional Lyrics by
Jim Lewis

Additional Music by
Aaron Johnson & Jordan McLean

Based on the life of
Fela Anikulapo-Kuti

Conceived by
Bill T. Jones, Jim Lewis & Stephen Hendel

Scenic Designer
Zander Tate*

Sound Designer
Bryan Nortin

Production Stage Manager
Katherine Wallace*

Lighting Designer
Alex Arakelian*

Projection Designer
Nicholas Lam*

Costume Designer
Gabe Barron

Music Director
Stephanie York Blue**

Choreographers
Justin Prescott & Courtney D. Jones****

Producer
Jonathan Klein

Director
Mekeva McNeil**

**Current Kinder HSPVA Student*

***HSPVA Alumni*

As a courtesy to the audience and performers, tape recording, photography (flash or otherwise) or videography are not permitted during the performance without written permission.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINK INTO THE THEATRE.

To help insure an undisrupted, enjoyable live theatre experience for all, please turn off cell phones, beeping watches, etc. for the duration of the performance and escort squirming or noisy children to the lobby.

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Kinder High School
for the
Performing and
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SPECIAL THANKS

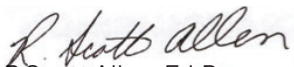
As principal of Kinder HSPVA, it is my pleasure to congratulate and commend the teamwork developed among our parents, families, students, community, and production staff to support our Spring All School Musical for 2019—*FELA!*. This year's production is especially important as we celebrate our thirtieth year of Black History productions at PVA. That our students are the first high school artists to produce the Broadway hit production as our inaugural event in the new, downtown Denney Theatre is also extraordinary! Any time our stakeholders join together, magic happens. The magic provides a life-time experience for students that they will always remember. Many people deserve accolades for their commitment and hard work in making this celebration of cultural diversity happen.

The production staff has worked diligently to make this year's celebration an outstanding work of art. We are fortunate to have a 100% PVA team production team of Mekeva McNeil (Director: '96 Theatre), Stephanie York Blue (Music Director: '81 Instrumental), and Courtney D. Jones (Choreographer: '99 Dance). They have brought a true sense of tradition to this year's show. Our parent and family group, HSPVA PBH Cultural Diversity and Inclusion has been working behind the scenes to support the company. This year's producer, Jonathan Klein, has been the liaison between all parties in ensuring success for the production. As always, the Kinder HSPVA students bring the talent that gives *FELA!* its heart! "Thank you" to all of you for the hard work that went into this production.

FELA! tells the true story of the legendary Nigerian musician, Fela Kuti, whose soulful Afrobeat ignited a generation. Motivated by his mother, a civil rights champion, Fela defied a corrupt and oppressive military government and devoted his life and music to the struggle for freedom and human dignity. *FELA!* is a spectacularly inspiring and triumphant tale of courage, passion, and love and I hope you are enthused and moved by our high school premiere production.

The 2019 Kinder HSPVA Black History Production is an important part of the culture of our school. We have celebrated Black History Month with this production at HSPVA for 30 years. Students coming together to entertain, remember, and celebrate is what this production is all about! I cannot think of a better show than *FELA!* to mark this 30th anniversary year. To our cast, crew, and band, I say, "Break a leg!" To everyone else . . . enjoy the show!

Sincerely,



R Scott Allen, Ed.D.
Principal



MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

Expensive Stuff (arr. by Ian Dessauer) No Agreement (arr. by Samson Dinkins)

ACT 1

Everything Scatter Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
BID (Breaking It Down) Ismael, Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
High Life (Medzi Medzi) Company
Yellow Fever Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
Trouble Sleep Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Funmilayo & Company
Teacher Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Funmilayo & Company
Lover Fela Anikulapo Kuti and Sandra
Upside Down Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Sandra & Company
I.T.T. (International Thief Thief) Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
Kere Kay Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company

ACT 2

Water No Get Enemy Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Sandra, Funmilayo & Company
Zombie Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
Trouble Sleep (Reprise) Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Funmilayo and Queens
Na Poi Fela Anikulapo Kuti and Queens
Sorrow, Tears and Blood Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
Dance of the Orishas (Shakara) Fela Anikulapo Kuti Company
Rain Funmilayo & Company
Coffin for Head of State Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company
Kere Kay (Reprise) Fela Anikulapo Kuti & Company

THE CAST

Fela Anikulapo Kuti.....	Preston Parker
Nigel Thornbill	Diego McKenna Borrero
J.K. Braimah.....	Royce Shaw
Ismael	Jordan Jones
Geraldo Pino/Egungun.....	Grant Eason
Funmilayo	Tomi Akinwade
Sandra Isadore	Alana Bright

-Queens-

Iona Ashé	Aspen Mason
Sasha Chapman	Maya Parker
Kira Daniel	Nia Paul
Sydney Harris	Tianni Robinson
Tori Hicks	Jada Walker

-Male Dance Ensemble-

Mark Aguilar
Trevon Anderson
Rodrick Barnes
Joshua Francis
Diego McKenna Borrero

-Ensemble-

Ámbar Caldwell	Adora Goodluck
Alexandria Collins	Anayá Judson
Ayanna Denning	Racquel "Rocky" Leonard
Grant Eason	Kaleigh Medlow
Elise Gentry	Royce Shaw

-Vocal Ensemble-

Hezekiah Booker	Piper Hudson
Joshua Garvin	Jordan Jones
CJ Gilmore	Keri Palmer

THE BAND

Nino Aiyer	Percussion
Callum Curtis	Trombone
Heath DeGuzman*	Tenor Saxophone
Ian Dessauer	Piano
Samson Dinkins	Guitar
Davis Evans	Guitar
Audrey Foster	Trumpet
Matthew Fu	Percussion
Marwan Ghonima	Bass
Charlie Giannetti	Baritone Saxophone
Benjamin Gomez	Trumpet
Caeden Harrison	Trombone
Brandon Lazard	Percussion
Connor Loftin	Percussion
Apoorv Nednur*	Trumpet
Lily Peters	Trumpet
Lawrence Turner	Percussion
Max Whittaker*	Percussion

*Indicates Section Leader

INSTRUMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Seybe Diouf	Drum Consultant
Johnny Gonzales	Brass & Reeds Consultant

PRODUCTION TEAM

STUDENTS

Katherine Wallace.....	Production Stage Manager
Taylor Scott	Company Manager & Assistant Stage Manager
Zaryah Forde	Assistant Stage Manager
Zander Tate	Set Designer
Jordan Sheldon	Assistant Set Design
Amira Diaw	Scenic Artist
Ella Rodriguez	Scenic Charge
Alex Arakelian	Lighting Design
Alyssa Rivera	Publicity, Lighting Assistant, & Master Electrics
Nicholas Lam	Projections Design
Gabe Barron	Costume Design
Sarah Painter	Costume Shadow
Anna Grace Heathcox.....	Costume Shadow
Air'eanna Page-Wilson	Hair
Sarah Klein	Make-Up Design & Assistant Costume
Maddie Strug	Assistant Make-Up Design
Marla Gallardo	Properties & Set Dressing
Christina Eagleson	Documentarian
Abbie Bard	Documentary Photographer
Trevon Anderson.....	Dance Captain
Jada Walker	Dance Captain
Hezekiah Booker.....	Vocal Captain
Samson Dinkins.....	Student Musical Director
Ian Dessauer	Student Musical Director

FACULTY & CONSULTING TEAM

Dana Harrell	Technical Director
Travis Horstmann	Lighting & Sound Supervisor
Paul Davis	Scenic Supervisor
Claudia Rodriguez.....	Costume Supervisor
Melanie Bivens.....	Vocal Supervisor
Carolyn Johnson	Dialect Coach
Denise Ward	Vocal Coach Assistant
Shani Sterling.....	Audition Workshop Consultant



THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

STAGE CREW

Alejandro Arakelian	David Hulten	Alexander Powers
Emma Arriaga	Philip Hulten	Isabela Ramirez
Ethan Bard	Amaris Ikimi	Alyssa Rivera
Abigail Bard	Luca Jarosz	Rebecca Rock
Cassandra Barham	Juliana Johnson	Ellaynna Rodriguez
Gabriel Barron	Kael Juan	Taylor Scott
Rayne Beckman	Matthew Kalmans	Raymah Shaikhs
Ambar Caldwell	Sarah Klein	Jordan Sheldon
Dennis Cao	McKenna Leach	Corinna Snow
Alexandra Champion	Rory Leech	Charlotte Stallings
Chelsea Chilewa	Lilli Lemberger	Liza Stickney
Julian Cotom	Gina Matos	Madeline Strug
AnnaClaire Curl	Peyton May	Alexander Tate
Damon Diaz	Emma McDonough	Owens Taylor
Christina Eagleson	Anna Miller	Anna Tobin
Viola Fowler	Ariana Nelson	Nathan Touchet
Alexis Green	Josephine Nunn	Katherine Wallace
Grace Harrison	Molly Oubre	Magnolia Westfall
Anna Heathcox	Air'eanna Page-Wilson	Alissar Youssef
India Helzer	Sarah Painter	Francisco Zurcher
Ally Henson	Eliza Pillsbury	

FROM THE DIRECTOR

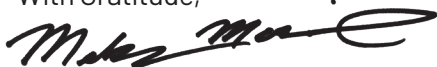
The process of choosing a production for this year's black history production was met with a desire to bring art that is invigorating and explosive. I believe that it is necessary to offer new material that many in the community have not been exposed to. As I poured over the canon of black musicals, I was left with an unsatisfactory feeling. But then a memory flooded my mind of the time that I saw *FELA!* (2012) at the Hirschfield Theatre in New York. I was already familiar with Fela Kuti's music. Yes, this musical defies the conventions of traditional theatre. *FELA!* deals with subject matters that are extremely political and irreverent at times. The narrative explores African culture through dance, Nigerian colloquialisms and spiritual veneration. *FELA!* allows for transcultural understanding in a global society. Houston is the most diverse city in the nation and boasts the largest Nigerian population as well.

During this production, we've had the privilege of connecting with Stephen Hendel, the producer and co-conceiver of the original production of *FELA!* Sharing Fela Kuti's life story became his passion project. With the assistance of Will Smith, Jada Smith and Sean "Jay-Z" Carter, his dream became a reality. Hendel has been a huge supporter throughout this entire process. Kinder HSPVA is the first high school in the country to mount a production of this musical. What an honor.

Fela Anikilapo Kuti is a complicated individual. What human isn't? He can easily be ranked with the Mandelas, Kings and Tubmans of the world. Putting one's life on the line to speak defiantly and unabashedly about crimes against humanity takes fervor. I would say that it is a predestined spiritual calling. Kuti's unearthing of Afrobeat as a means of getting his message to the people is a testament of how music as a weapon is undeniable.

It is my hope that you leave the Denney Theatre sparked in some way. I am so grateful. I am proud. Our students and creative team have been committed to this journey from the start. We have the opportunity of honoring Fela Kuti, Funmilayo Kuti and countless other ancestors during our 30th year of Black History Productions. Remember, Black History is American history and must be acknowledged 365 days a year!

With Gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mekeva McNeil'.

Mekeva McNeil
Director

SPECIAL THANKS

Kinder HSPVA would like to thank many individuals from the original Broadway production of FELA! who helped guide us and make our production happen.

Stephen Hendel – Producer and Co-Conceiver

Ruth Hendel – Producer

Maija Garcia – Associate Choreographer

Aaron Johnson – Musical Director, Musical Arranger and Orchestrations

Peter Nigrini – Projection Design

C. Andrew Bauer – Associate Projection Design

Justin Prescott – Broadway Cast Member

Justin is an alumnus of HSPVA's Dance department. FELA! was his first Broadway show. He returned to HSPVA in January to recreate and adapt some of the original choreography.

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Alyson Landry, Box Office Manager

**HSPVA Friends: Alene Haehl Coggin, Matthew Jamison
& Joan Murrin**

Kinder HSPVA PTO – Maria Gomez, President

**PTO Parents of Black History – Cultural Diversity
& Inclusion Committee**

All of our amazing parents who helped support the production.

Kinder HSPVA Dance Department – Janie Carothers

Jeff Klein

The Kinder HSPVA faculty, administration and staff

Program Design by Melissa J. Mayo, Sunburst Designs

In celebration, gratitude and honor of 30 years of Black History Productions at HSPVA, the PTO Parents of Black History – Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) committee present:

30 Facts for Black History Month

1. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a civil rights organization, was founded in 1909
2. Black History Month began as “Negro History Week”
3. Negro History Week was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher
4. February was chosen to coincide with Frederick Douglass’ and Abraham Lincoln’s birthdays
5. Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the Black past [culture] to extend public study of Black History
6. The 1920s was the decade of the New Negro, the Post-World War I generation with rising racial pride and consciousness
7. In the 1940s, efforts increased within the Black community to expand the study of Black History in the schools
8. During the Civil Rights Movement in the South, some schools incorporated Black History into the curriculum with the hopes of advancing social change
9. As early as 1940s, Blacks in West Virginia began to celebrate February as Negro History Month
10. Negro History Month became a national month-long celebration in 1976
11. Canada also celebrates Black History Month in February
12. The U.K. celebrates Black History Month in October
13. In 1739, the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina became the largest slave revolt in colonial America
14. The first black U.S. senator was Hiram Revels in 1870
15. 1 in 4 cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies
16. Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavor in 1992
17. Thurgood Marshall was the first African American appointed to the United States Supreme Court

-
18. Jack Johnson was the first African-American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908
 19. Jazz, an African-American musical form born out of the blues, ragtime and marching bands, originated in Louisiana during the turn of the 19th century
 20. At a time when universities did not typically offer financial assistance to black athletes, African-American football star Ernie Davis was offered more than 50 scholarships
 21. Josiah Henson fled slavery in Maryland in 1830 and later founded a settlement in Ontario, Canada, for other black citizens who had escaped
 22. Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson helped establish the African American-owned and -controlled Freedom Bank
 23. John Baxter Taylor was the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal
 24. Alexa Canady became the first female African-American neurosurgeon in the United States
 25. Cathay Williams was the first and only known female Buffalo Soldier during the Civil War
 26. Quincy Jones is the most Grammy-nominated artist in the history of the awards with 76 nominations and 26 awards (at the time of this compilation)
 27. Scientist and mathematician Benjamin Banneker is credited with helping to design the blueprints for Washington, D.C.
 28. George Monroe and William Robinson are thought to be two of the first African Americans to work as Pony Express riders
 29. Inventor of the three-way traffic signal, Garrett Morgan, became the first African American to own a car in Cleveland, Ohio
 30. Satchel Paige was the first African-American pitcher to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame
-

PBH-CD&I salutes Mrs. Bobbie W. Moorehead for the inception of HSPVA Black History Productions, 30 years ago!

We're immensely grateful to everyone who has supported the Black History Productions throughout three decades... students, parents, staff and the Houston community.

We acknowledge Dr. R. Scott Allen for his commitment to continue the educational emphasis and experiences that Black History Productions afford our communities at large.

May all enjoy a truly enriching cultural experience.

WHO'S WHO

Elia Adams (Assistant Director) is a level 4 Acting Major in theatre. His past credits include (Bryant) *Baltimore*, (Paul) *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Colored Museum*, (Calvin) *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *At The Apollo*. He is very excited to be a part of *FELA!*.

Mark Aguilar (Male Dance Ensemble) is a junior in the Dance Department. This will be his second HSPVA all-school production. He was recently featured in the Fall All-School Musical *CHICAGO: The Musical*. He is excited to perform in *FELA!* and showcase the beautiful movement of this show. He would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him.

Nino Aiyer (Percussion) is a junior in the Jazz Department. He enjoys the simple pleasures of life including (but not limited to): hacky sacking in parking lots, playing drums at school, recording group podcasts in practice rooms, and sleeping in hammocks. He has gained a notable amount of clout from his placement in the Thelonious Monk All-Star Tour. He is also a Young Arts Merit Winner. While he was not looking forward to leaving the Stanford Street campus, he had stated that "this new campus is aight."

Tomi Akinwande (Funmilayo) is a freshman at HSPVA. She will be debuting in *FELA!*. She is very excited to be working with the cast and is grateful for the opportunity.

Trevon Anderson (Male Dance Ensemble) has been training in dance since the age of three. Over the years, Trevon has had the honor of studying under some of the most renowned instructors and choreographers in the industry. He has had the pleasure of performing in venues all throughout the country. Most recently, Trevon worked on the set of FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*. Trevon currently dances background for a few artists, assists on the national tour stops at dance conventions, and competes with his home dance studio. Dance is his passion, and Trevon is thrilled to participate in another Black History Production here at HSPVA. This year is incredibly special for him, as it is his senior year.

Alex Arakelian (Lighting Design) is a sophomore. Previous show credits at PVA include (Assistant Lighting Design) *CHICAGO: The Musical* and (Ensemble, Lighting Design) *The Music of Stephen Schwartz*. He'd like to thank his family and friends for always being his biggest inspirations.

Iona Ashé (Queen) is a senior Dance Major at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She has been dancing from a young age and hasn't stopped. Iona is very excited to be in *FELA!*, she has wanted to be in the production after seeing her uncle perform the show on Broadway. This will be her third time being in an HSPVA production, and she is beyond proud for this production to be her last.

Rodrick Barnes (Male Dance Ensemble) is a dancer at HSPVA. He is extremely happy to be in *FELA!*. This is his first ever All-School Musical. He wants to thank his friends and family for encouraging him to step outside of his comfort zone.

Gabe Barron (Costume Design) is a sophomore designer in theatre and is super excited to be working on *FELA!*. Previously, he was (Assistant Costume Design) for *CHICAGO: The Musical*, (Costume Design) for *All in the Timing*, and (Shadow) for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Baltimore*.

Hezekiah Booker (Vocal Ensemble) is a senior vocalist at PVA. This is his second Black History Production following his first one as a background vocalist in HSPVA's *At The Apollo*. He is very excited to be a part of such an amazing cast while offering his help and experience as a classically trained singer studying R&B music. Once again, he is happy to join the Black History family.

Alana Bright (Sandra Isadore) is a Musical Theatre Major HSPVA's Theatre Department and is excited to premiere in the first production on the new Denny stage! She has previously performed as (Liz) in the Fall All-School Musical *CHICAGO: The Musical*, as (Monica) in the Black History Production *At The Apollo*, and as (Shelby) in the Theatre Department's Fall Main Stage Production *Baltimore*. She is forever thankful to her mother, aunt, grandparents, and God for all of her accomplishments.

Ámbar Caldwell (Ensemble) is a sophomore Theatre Major at HSPVA. Her previous credits include the Black History Production of *At The Apollo*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support as well as everyone responsible for making this show possible!

Sasha Chapman (Queen) is a dancer in the HSPVA Dance Department. This is her first Black History Production at the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and she is very excited to show what she and her fellow classmates have been working hard on. She looks forward to more opportunities to be a part of other all-school productions.

Alexandria Collins (Ensemble) is a Musical Theatre Major and is beyond excited to be in the production of *FELA!*. She has been featured in the HSPVA Theater Department Showcase of *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Bali Tales: The Mayayana*, *On Broadway*, and many other productions. She has also been featured in the 2018 HSPVA Black History Production of *At The Apollo*. She has been singing, acting, and playing the piano from a young age. She also enjoys dancing, drawing, and painting. She is thankful for her loving family and the opportunity to be in this production.

Callum Curtis (Trombone) is a sophomore trombone player who is excited to participate as a band member in this year's Black History Production *FELA!*. He has also participated in the all-school productions of *CHICAGO: The Musical* and *At The Apollo*.

Kira Daniel (Queen) is a senior Dance Major at HSPVA. *FELA!* will be her third Black History Production in addition to *Soul of the 70's* and *At The Apollo*, in which she participated in last year. She is very ecstatic to be dancing with the Black History family once again. She loves being exposed to new music and the historical context that comes along with being a part of the show. She can't wait to share her experience with you all.

Heath Cedric Robles DeGuzman (Tenor Sax) is a junior tenor saxophone player in the Jazz Department and is quite thrilled to partake in the production of *FELA!* among his peers. This is his third consecutive participation in the HSPVA Black History Production as he has also performed in 2017's *Soul of the 70's* and 2018's *At The Apollo*. Heath is particularly elated to see what *FELA!* has in store for him. Going into his fifth year of playing the saxophone and his second year of playing jazz, Heath is looking forward to contributing to the production by utilizing his growing musical aptitude. With other passions including playing guitar, fitness,

eating, and being Filipino, Heath likes to be a well-rounded person who can finesse any obstacle life throws at him.

Ayanna Denning (Ensemble) is a freshman in the Theater Department and is blessed and ecstatic to be a part of the 30th Annual Black History Production of *FELA!*. Previous theatre credits include (Director) *Beauty and the Beast* and *Inside Out* for the S.T.A.R program at Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance. She would like to thank her family and friends for encouraging her to pursue her career as a young actress.

Ian Dessauer (Piano) is a sophomore jazz pianist interested in music production and audio engineering. He loves jazz, funk, rock, soul, and almost anything with a beat.

Amira Diaw (Scenic Artist) is a sophomore in the Visual Arts Department.

Samson Dinkins (Guitar) is a senior in the Jazz Department.

Christina Eagleson (Documentarian) is thrilled to be documenting this production! She is currently the Historian on the Thespian Board. Previous HSPVA credits include (Stage Manager) for *Baltimore*, (Costume Design) for *A Wrinkle in Time*, (Props Design Shadow) for *The White Snake*, (Set Design Shadow) for *Cabaret*, and (Weaponry Shadow) for *Romeo and Juliet*.

Grant Eason (Gerald Pino) likes to skate and make music. Drama and music have always been a passion of his, and he plans on attending Juilliard in Manhattan.

Davis Evans (Guitar) has no theatre experience, seven hacky sacks, and four dozen pairs of novelty socks.

Zaryah Forde (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior in the Theatre Department and is so excited to be working on a masterpiece like *FELA!*. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting and encouraging her throughout this experience.

Audrey Foster (Trumpet) is a senior in the Instrumental Department.

Joshua Francis (Male Dance Ensemble) is a junior in the HSPVA Dance Department and is delighted to be participating in his very first Black History Production. *FELA!* has given him the opportunity to showcase his ability to feel free and express his emotions through the movements. He is very eager and hopes to perform in future productions at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Matthew Fu (Percussion) is a freshman drummer and a devoted cowbell enthusiast in the Jazz Department. This is his first HSPVA musical, and he is incredibly excited to participate.

Marla Gallardo (Properties and Set Dressing) is a freshman with a love for design, her friends, and her family. She loves *FELA!* and all that it stands for. She can't wait to design more in the future.

Joshua Garvin (Vocal Ensemble) is a sophomore vocalist. He is excited to be a part of this production. *FELA!* will be Joshua's fourth All-School Musical

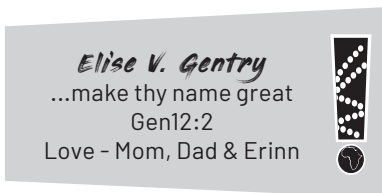
Amira "The Artist" Diaw

We are EXTREMELY
PROUD OF YOU!
Love, Mom, Dad, Adam & Family



production including his casting in *At The Apollo* last year. Performing gives Joshua a way to express himself in many ways. He has taken a lot of things away from the experience of this show. He thanks God for his talents and his family for all of their love and support.

Elise Gentry (Ensemble) is a sophomore in the Instrumental Department at HSPVA. She plays the harp in the Orchestra, Band, and Jazz Departments. Elise has previously played the role of (Dorothy Dandridge) in *At The Apollo* in 2018. Elise is delighted to be performing in this year's production. She would like to thank God, her family, and her friends for all of their support in her endeavors.



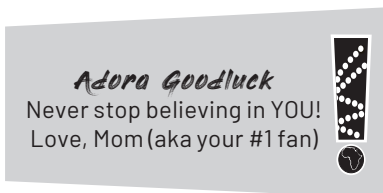
Marwan Ghonima (Bass) is a sophomore in the Jazz Department.

Charlie Giannetti (Baritone Saxophone) is a freshman who plays baritone sax in the Instrumental Department. They are super excited to be a part of *FELA!*. They would like to thank their friends and their family for helping them get to where they are today.

Craig "CJ" Gilmore (Vocal Ensemble) has been playing the piano since age six. He has been a featured performer in piano master classes with Tali Morgulis, Agnes Wan, and other accomplished musicians. As a piano and composition student at American Festival for the Arts (AFA) for four years, his original music was included in a promotional video for AFA in 2014. And, in 2015, his original composition "Box" was performed in concert by AFA faculty. His piece "Sights in Japan" was choreographed by Houston Ballet Academy, and he was an honorable mention for the Houston Music Teachers Association (HMTA) ensemble contest in both 2016 and 2018. CJ also sang in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region Choir; he placed top ten in 2016 and 2018. In addition to singing and playing piano, he enjoys studying calculus and physics hoping to study engineering in college.

Benjamin Gomez (Trumpet) is a freshman specializing in mariachi in the Instrumental Department. This is his first play, but he is happy to be here

Adora Goodluck (Ensemble) a sophomore in the Visual Arts Department is making her first appearance in the Black History Production. Adora is grateful to be a part of this production due to her passion for music and dance. She wants to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their support and involvement in her success. She loves being exposed to the amazing history and music that is affiliated with the production, and she can't wait to share the experience with you.



Sydney Harris (Queen) is a freshman in the Theatre Department at HSPVA and is thrilled to be working in the production of *FELA!*. Previous acting credits include (Ensemble) *The Wiz* at TUTS, (Ensemble) *All Shook Up* at TUTS, (Ensemble) *Memphis* at TUTS, and (Ensemble) *Once On This Island* at TUTS. She would like to

give thanks to her amazing family for supporting her dreams always.

Caeden Harrison (Trombone) is a sophomore in the Instrumental Department

Anna Grace Hethcox (Costume Shadow) is a Level One theatre student. She is very excited to be involved in *FELA!*, her second all-school production. She wants to thank everybody involved with this fabulous production, and she can't wait to go on to the next project!

Anna Grace Hethcox
We're so very proud of you!
We Love You, Papa & Nana



Tori Hicks (Queen) is a junior in the Dance Department. She was recently in the Fall All-School Musical as (Mona) in *CHICAGO: The Musical*. She has also performed in HSPVA's past productions of *Soul of the 70's* and as (Nicki Sutton) in *At The Apollo*. Tori is ecstatic to perform in *FELA!*. Tori wants to thank God, her family, and all of her friends for all the love and support they've given her.

Tori Jewel Hicks
ALWAYS so PROUD of YOU!
Mom, Dad, Blake and CC



Piper Hudson (Vocal Ensemble) is a spectacular senior vocalist at the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The amazing production crew of the 2019 Black History Production *FELA!* has welcomed Piper into her first HSPVA school production that she will be a part of. She is thankful for all the sweet and fun memories that this beautiful show will leave with her once she has graduated. Outside of acting, Piper is a music producer, recording artist, and music teacher to kids on Sundays.

Piper Hudson
The World will know
your name!
Love, Mommy



Jordan Jones (Ismael/District Commander) is a junior in the Vocal Department and is elated to be a part of his third Black History Production at HSPVA. Previous productions include *Soul of the 70's* and *At the Apollo*. Prior to attending HSPVA, he lived in Saint Louis, Missouri where he sang as a principal character in Opera Theatre of Saint Louis's *Champion*. He also played (Ensemble) in *The Muny's Into the Woods*.

Anayá Judson (Ensemble) is a freshman in the Theatre Department. At an early age, Anayá expressed a flair and an innate grasp in the performing and visual arts. She has appeared in several plays at Hits Theatre including (Millie Dillmont) *Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr.*. In 2016 and 2017, she performed the role of (Spoiled Child) in Alley Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. She has studied dance at Met Dance and Houston Ballet Academy. Anayá is also a member of a local percussion ensemble and a recipient of the 2017 Bayou City Art Award. Anayá is delighted for the opportunity to join the HSPVA cast of *FELA!* allowing her to follow in the footsteps of her aunt, who performed in *FELA! on Broadway*. This is Anayá's debut HSPVA production, and she can't wait to continue studying, working, and performing at this magnificent institution.

Sarah Klein (Assistant Costume/Makeup Design) is a sophomore designer and is delighted to be working in *FELA!* Previously, she was (Makeup Design) for *CHICAGO: The Musical*. Previous acting credits at HSPVA include (Brahata) *Bali Tales: The Mayayana*. Outside credits include *Oliver!*, *James and The Giant Peach*, *Mary Poppins*, (Ester Jane) *A Christmas Story*, (young Nala) *Lion King Jr.*, (Fa Li) *Mulan*. Film credits include over a dozen iTheatrics/MTI Broadway Junior Choreography DVDs.

Sarah Klein
 "Music is the weapon
 of the future." –Fela Kuti



Nicholas Lam (Projections Design) is a freshman Theatre Major and is thrilled to be joining the company of HSPVA's *FELA!*. Past technical credits include the Fall All-School Musical production of *CHICAGO: The Musical*, (Lighting Design Shadow) *Baltimore*, and *Marisol*. Nicholas would like to thank the theatre department faculty for allowing him to tackle this monumental piece as well as his family and friends for supporting him along this journey. He hopes you enjoy this inaugural production of *FELA!* at the new HSPVA campus.

Brandon Lazard (Percussion) is a junior percussionist and is ecstatic to be playing in *FELA!*

Racquel "Rocky" Leonard (Ensemble) is a senior in the Vocal Department. She has been a part of *Ain't Mis'Behavin*, *Soul of the 70s*, *At The Apollo*, *CHICAGO: The Musical* and now *FELA!* She is very excited to be working alongside her peers one last time on the new Denny stage! She plans on studying Commercial Music during her college career. She would like to thank everyone that has supported her throughout her high school journey.

Connor Loftin (Congos) is a percussionist in the Instrumental Department and is excited about performing in his first musical.

Aspen Mason (Queen) is currently in her junior year as a Dance Major at HSPVA. Aspen recently participated in her first All-School Musical, *CHICAGO: The Musical*, and was ecstatic to be a part of the ensemble. She also closed her first concert with the Dance Department in November. Aspen is extremely grateful to be chosen for *FELA!* and would like to thank her mother for the endless love and support.

Diego McKenna Borrero (Nigel Thornbill/Male Dance Ensemble) is a junior in the HSPVA Dance Department. He is excited to be a part of *FELA!* He has performed in previous productions at HSPVA, such as *Soul of the 70's*, *At The Apollo*, and *CHICAGO: The Musical*. He would like to thank his family for all the love and unrelenting support they've given him. Enjoy the show!

Keyleigh Medlow (Ensemble) is more than happy to be making her HSPVA debut on the new Denney stage! She is a freshman in the HSPVA Theatre Department and would like to thank her entire family including her dog, Jazz, for always supporting her.

Apoorv Nednur (Trumpet) is currently a freshman trumpet player. This is his first musical. He is excited to be here.

Air'eanna Page-Wilson (Hair) is a senior designer in the Theatre Department. Air'eanna is currently the (Production Manager) for *The Wolves*. Previously, she was (Hair/Costume Design) for the 2018 Black History Production *At The Apollo* and (Hair/Makeup Design) for the 2017 Black History Production *Soul of the '70s*, (Assistant Stage Manager/Hair/Makeup Design) for *Romeo and Juliet*, and many more works. She would love to take this time to thank her mother and family for their support.

Sarah Painter (Costume Shadow) is a freshman and is thrilled to be in *FELA!*. This is her first time working on a production at HSPVA, and she is so grateful to be able to spend time doing what she loves.

Keri Palmer (Vocal Ensemble) is 16 years old and attends The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts as a junior vocalist. Keri expressed a love for dancing, singing, and acting at an early age. Keri's theatre credits include *FELA!*, *At The Apollo*, *High School Musical Jr.*, *Piano Lessons*, *The Last Prince of Soulville*, *Mary Did You Know*, *Who is this Baby*, *The Real Deal*, *Family After All*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Wonderland*, *Fences*, and *Anne of Avonlea*. Keri also modeled for Illusion Model Management and studied acting at Charnelle Brown Acting School and Talented Tenth Theatre. Keri has also had the opportunity to be in a filming for a national commercial.

Maya Parker (Queen) is a senior Dance Major. She has been training with the Metropolitan Dance Studio for over 14 years and hopes to one day join a professional company after college. Maya has participated in the All-School Musical *CHICAGO: The Musical*. This will be her first time performing in an HSPVA Black History Production.

Preston Parker (Fela Anikulapo Kuti) is a senior in the Vocal Department and is excited to be playing his first lead role in a show as demanding as *FELA!*. He knows for a fact that he could not have been successful without the continued support from his amazing directors, cast members, family, and friends.

Preston Parker
We like to say "Yeah Yeah!"
Your biggest fans,
Mom & Dad



Nia Paul (Queen) is a junior actress and is so excited to put on a fantastic show! Previously, she has performed in The Ensemble Young Performers Production (Myrandy) *Myrandy and Brother Wind*, HSPVA's Black History Production (Margaret) *At the Apollo*, and HSPVA's departmental shows (Ensemble) *The Stars Look Up*, (Golden Deer) *Bali Tales: The Mayayana* and (Ensemble) *On Broadway*. She would like to thank her parents, her brothers, and the HSPVA Staff for their endless support.

Lily Peters (Trumpet) is a sophomore in the Instrumental Department.

Alyssa Rivera (Lighting Assistant/Master Electrics/Graphic Designer) is a junior Performance Major in the Theatre Department. Alyssa's previous credits include (Homeless Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager/Publicist) *Marisol*, (Publicist) *CHICAGO: The Musical*, (Assistant Director/Dramaturg/Publicist) *Peter Pan*, and (Reader #10/ Publicist) *A Wrinkle in Time*. She also currently serves as the Junior Publicist for the Thespian Board. She would like to thank her family, her friends, and the theatre faculty for their never-ending support in her artistic endeavors.

Tianni Robinson (Queen) is a junior in the Dance Department and is elated to be performing in her second Black History Production. Last year, she was featured in *At The Apollo*. She enjoys singing, acting, and dancing. She would like to thank the director for this opportunity and experience in this production.

Ella Rodriguez (Scenic Charge) is a sophomore in the Theatre Department.

Taylor Scott (Company Manager/Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior designer in the Theatre Department and is ecstatic to be working on *FELA!*. Taylor is currently the Production Manager for the Thespian Board. Previous technical theatre credits include (Lighting/Set Design) *Marisol*, (Lighting Design) *The Bald Soprano*, (Lighting Design/Assistant Choreographer) *On Broadway*, (Lighting Design) *At the Apollo*, and (Scenic Design) *Soul of the '70s*. Previous acting credits include (Peter) *Romeo and Juliet*, (Medea) *The Colored Museum*, (Alien/Jim) *Tales of the Lost Formicans*, and (Ensemble) *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*.

Royce Shaw (JK Braimah/The General/Ensemble) is a senior vocalist and is very excited to be in *FELA!*. Royce is currently a part of the Thespian Society. Prior to *FELA!*, Royce was (Ralph Cooper/Pip) in *Gladys Knight and the Pips*, (member of BBD) in the 2018 Black History Production *At The Apollo*, and (Uncle Archie, Don Cornelius) in the 2017 Black History Production *Soul of the '70s*. Other acting credits include the 2018 All-School Musical *CHICAGO: The Musical*.

Jordan Sheldon (Assistant Set Design) is a sophomore designer and is thrilled to be working in *FELA!*. Jordan is currently on the 2019 UIL Design Team for HSPVA. He has been (Assistant Scenic Designer) for *Sweeney Todd* at Frenchwoods Festival, and (Scenic Shadow) for *Cabaret* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Acting credits include (Toby) in *Sweeney Todd* and (Minstrel) in *Once Upon a Mattress*.

Maddie Strug (Assistant Makeup Design) is a sophomore at HSPVA and is beyond ecstatic to be working in the 2019 Black History Production of *FELA!*. Previously, she was (Assistant Costume Designer) for *At The Apollo*, the 2018 Black History Production. She would like to thank the amazing design team, cast, and crew for being a dream to work with.

Zander Tate (Set Design) is a sophomore in the Theatre Department who is thrilled to be working in *FELA!*. His previous HSPVA productions include (Curly) *Peter Pan* and (Scenic Design Shadow) *CHICAGO: The Musical*. Zander would like to thank his friends and family for their support and this incredible school for the opportunity!

Lawrence Turner (Percussion) is a sophomore at HSPVA in the Jazz Department. He is from Houston and is currently performing all across town.

Jada Walker (Queen) is a senior in the Dance Department.

Katherine Wallace (Production Stage Manager) is a junior designer in the Theatre Department and is so excited to be a part of *FELA!*. Technical credits include (Props Manager) *Marisol*, (ASM, Props Manager) *Chicago: The Musical*, and (Stage Manager) *Peter Pan*. Acting credits include (Ensemble) *Marisol*, (Alien) *Tales of the Lost Formicans*, and (Sponge) *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*. She'd like to thank Nathan Shu for his amazing mentoring and her dog, Teddy.

Max Whittaker (Percussion) is a jazz and classical percussionist at HSPVA. Previous acting experience includes *CHICAGO: The Musical*.

CONGRATULATIONS

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*To our Awesome
daughter and sister,*

Amira Diaw

*Congratulations to you
and the entire cast and
crew of **FELA!***

*You make us extremely
proud.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad & Adam*

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**We would like to recognize this year's
PTO members at the Star level and above.**

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Thank you PTO Members! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.
Dena Linda, VP Membership



Kinder High School
for the
Performing and
Visual Arts

2018-2019 SEASON

ALL SCHOOL

- March 20** Women's History Celebration, **6pm**
- March 29** Kinder HSPVA Fringe Festival, **6pm**
- April 17** Kinder HSPVA Film Festival, Studio Theatre, **6pm**
- April 23** Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration, **6pm**

CREATIVE WRITING

- April 25** Off the Page, Recital Hall, **6pm**
- May 14** Fish Fry (Freshmen Reading), Studio Hall, **6pm**

DANCE

- March 7-8** ■ Spring Dance Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**
- April 27** ● Dance with Houston Symphony – Once Upon a Time, **10am & 11:30am**, Jones Hall
- May 2** Senior Dance Recital, Denney Theatre, **4pm**
- May 3** Dance Showcase I & II, Denney Theatre, **2:30pm**

VOCAL MUSIC

- April 16** Spring Concert, Denney Theatre, **6pm**
- May 10** Pop Concert, Denney Theatre, **4:30pm**
- May 11** Pop Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**

-
- Tickets at HSPVAboxoffice.com
 - Tickets & registration at hspvafriends.org
 - Tickets at houstonsymphony.org | Performances at Jones Hall

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

- Feb. 26** Wind Chamber Music, Recital Hall, **7pm**
- Feb. 28** String Chamber Music, Recital Hall, **7pm**
- March 8** Spring Piano Recital, Recital Hall, **6pm**
- March 22-23** Jazz Spring Festival, Denney Theatre, **7pm**
- March 28** Symphony Spring Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**
- April 9** Percussion Ensemble Concert, Recital Hall, **7pm**
- April 12** String Orchestra Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**
- April 16** Wind Chamber Music, Recital Hall, **7pm**
- April 25** Band Spring Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**
- May 2** String Chamber Music, Recital Hall, **6pm**
- May 3** Piano Ensemble, Recital Hall, **6pm**
- May 15** Mariachi Concert, Denney Theatre, **6pm**
- May 17** Symphony Concert, Denney Theatre, **7pm**

THEATRE

- April 18** □ Theatre Guild Gala, The Ballroom at Bayou Place, **7-10pm**
- April 22-24** Theatre Level 1 & 2 Showcases, Studio Theatre, **6pm**
- May 2-3** ■ *The Crucible*, Black Box, **7pm**
- May 4** ■ *The Crucible*, Black Box, **2pm & 7pm**
- May 8-11** ■ Gray Studio Series, Studio Theatre, **6pm**

VISUAL ARTS

- March 5** Junior Summer Scholarship Show
- March 26** Focus Series I
- April 6** □ Art Guild Print Show, Three Allen Center, **4-7pm**
- April 9** Focus Series II
- April 30** Focus Series III
- May 14** Young Curators Exhibit



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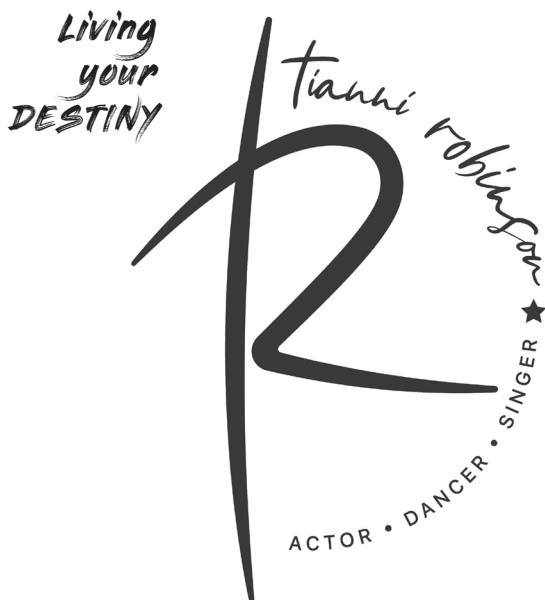
Everyone who played a part in
making our production a success.

JADA... You are and will be Everything God wants
You to be! As You go out on Your Next Journey of
Life...Remember to Always put God First... Always
Pray to have eyes that see the best in People,

A heart that forgives the worst,
A mind that forgets the bad,
And a Soul that Never Ever loses
Faith or Focus in God Almighty!

Love You,
Daddy, Mommy, Jam,
A'laysia & Family





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Levy
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To the HSPVA PBH Cultural Diversity & Inclusion Committee Members

To be a volunteer it takes...

- Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others
- Understanding, because their lives might be very different from your own
- Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel
- Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better
- Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might
- Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

You've shown these qualities and so much more, so thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,

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