

# the kokandy PRODUCTIONS WIZ

Book by **WILLIAM F. BROWN**  
Music by **CHARLIE SMALLS**

Direction by **LILI-ANNE BROWN**  
Music Direction by **JIMMY MOREHEAD**  
Choreography by **BREON ARZELL**

From the story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum

"Wiz, The" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Running time: 2 hours and 15 minutes including one 15-minute intermission.

Photographs and video recordings are strictly forbidden.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I remember the first time I saw *The Wiz*. I was very young, and my parents took me to see a touring production at Arie Crown Theatre. I loved the songs, the costumes, the dancing, and seeing a little girl who looked a lot like me at the center of it all. But somehow it didn't stick with me. A few years later, the movie of *The Wiz* came on television...and I became obsessed. I wore out the VHS tape I made of it until there were fuzzy spots that I had to get through by frantically adjusting the tracking. I realized years later: the key to the story that the movie unlocked for me was that they'd simply set it in A CITY. As a girl from the south side of Chicago, this was something I could relate to---scary train tunnels, weird street vendors and all.

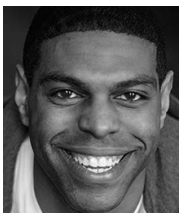
As a grown-up director, I thought a lot about how to bring the story to a modern Chicago audience so that they could feel the same way I felt back then. As always, the answers were right there on the page. Dorothy is a girl who's stuck, and finds herself in finding others, truly seeing them and helping them see themselves. The 'hood, and her friends, make great allegory---who is squandering his brain more than a corner boy; more heartless than the local player; more cowardly than a pimp? We found so much meaning, truth and joy in this timeless story and hope you enjoy easing on down this road with us!

- Lili-Anne Brown

## THE WIZ CAST



ANGELA ALISE



BREON ARZELL



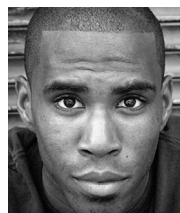
CHUCKIE BENSON



SYDNEY CHARLES



KYRIE COURTER



TJ CRAWFORD



ANNA DAUZVARDIS



GILBERT DOMALLY



DESMOND GRAY



JYREIKA EVELYN GUEST



NICOLE MICHELLE HASKINS



FREDERICK HARRIS



DE'JAH PERKINS



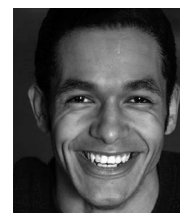
STEVEN PERKINS



TIA PINSON



MICHAEL RAWLS



DARREN PATIN



DARIAN TENE



JULIAN TERRELL OTIS

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Management.....Kait Samuels  
Scenic Design.....Arnel Sanciano  
Lighting Design.....Alexander Ridgers  
Costume Design.....Virginia Varland  
Sound Design.....Michael J. Patrick  
Prop Design.....Mealah Heidenreich  
Master Electrician.....Shawn Kronk  
Sound Engineer.....Kirstin Johnson  
Production Management.....Lindsay Brown  
Technical Director.....Alan Weusthoff  
Assistant Stage Management.....Ebony Chuukwu  
Paint Charge.....Emily Boyd  
Assistant Music Director.....Kailey Rockwell

## THE BAND

Conductor/Keyboard.....Jimmy Morehead  
Trumpet.....Adam Roebuck  
Trombone.....Beaushay Norton  
Drums.....Scott Simon  
Bass.....Mark Berls  
Guitar.....Kyle McCollough  
Reed 1.....Jay Gummert  
Reed 2.....Adam DeGroot

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## CAST BIOS

**ANGELA ALISE** (*Addaperle*) makes her Kokandy Productions debut! She hails from Kansas City, Missouri. She moved to Chicago to study Theatre, and she received her BA from Loyola University Chicago. Some of her favorite Chicago credits include: *The House That Will Not Stand* (Victory Gardens Theatre); *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning* (Prologue Theatre @ Steppenwolf Garage); *The Good Book* (Court Theatre); *Hairspray* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* (Chicago Children's Theatre); *Church* (Red Tape Theatre); *Parade* (Boho Theatre); *Love and Human Remains* (Cor Theatre); *Coming Home* (Erasing the Distance); *Rent* (Ouroboros/Big Noise Theatre). Love and thanks to her family, friends and Gray Talent Agency. [angelaalise.com](http://angelaalise.com)

**BREON ARZELL** (*Choreographer, Assistant Director, Ensemble, Lion u/s*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He was most recently seen in Pegasus Theatre's *Rutherford's Travels*. Theater credits include: *You on the Moors Now*, *All Our Tragic* (The Hypocrites, Jeff Award for Best Ensemble), *The Hairy Ape* (Oracle Productions, Jeff Award Nominee for Best Ensemble), *DFDR The Scottsboro Boys* (Raven Theatre, Jeff Award for Best Ensemble), and more. Choreography credits include: *The Scottsboro Boys* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Cinderella at the Theater of Potatoes* (The Hypocrites), *Julius Caesar* (Writers Theatre), *The House That Will Not Stand* (Victory Gardens Theatre), and *The Mojo and the Sayso & The Hairy Ape* (Oracle Productions, Jeff Award for Artistic Specialization, Choreography). Detroit native and graduate of Miami of Ohio University, his talents have allowed him to perform in London, Wales, Denmark, Singapore, and all across Italy, Germany, and the U.S. Breon is represented by Lily's Talent. "Humbled and sincerely grateful." [breonarzell.com](http://breonarzell.com)

**CHUCKIE BENSON** (*Lion*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He was recently seen as "Tom Collins" in *Rent* at Theo Ubique Theatre in Chicago! He has since had the honor of playing some of his favorite roles at The Wagon Wheel Theatre including, "Coalhouse Walker Jr." in *Ragtime*, "Curtis" in *Sister Act* and "Teen Angel" in *Grease!* Favorite Credits: (Regional): "Tom Collins" in *Rent* (Wagon Wheel Theatre), "Jim" in *Big River*, *Big Fish*, *Hairspray*, *Peter Pan* (Timber Lake Playhouse). (Educational): "The Dryer" in *Caroline or Change*, "Hud" in *Hair*. Received his BFA in Music Theatre Performance from Western Michigan University. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, Kayta, and Ashley; because of you, "I'm standing strong and tall."

**SYDNEY CHARLES** (*Dorothy*) makes her Kokandy Productions debut! This Jeff-Nominated and BroadwayWorld.com-Nominated Actress was most recently seen in *Octagon!*, the critically-acclaimed *PROWESS* (Jackalope Theatre), and *The Fly Honey Show* (The Inconvenience). She also lives in the world of musical theater, where she was featured in *Bells are Ringing* (Porchlight Musical Theater) and *Myths and Hymns* (BoHo Ensemble Theater). It was a great honor for her to portray "Sarah" in *Ragtime* (Big Noise Theater) and the titular character in *Dessa Rose* (Bailiwick Chicago). Other credits include: *The Color Purple* (Mercury Theater), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Theo-Ubique), *Cats* (Theo-Ubique), *Hairspray*, and *Nunsense*. Sydney is represented by Stewart Talent.

**KYRIE COURTER** (*Ensemble, Dorothy u/s*) is making her Kokandy Productions debut! She is thrilled to be working on this production of *The Wiz* alongside such an amazing cast! She is currently a senior at Roosevelt University, majoring in Musical Theater. Favorite credits include: "Michelle Morris" (*Dreamgirls*), "Fran Kubelik" (*Promises, Promises*), "Sheila" (*Hair*), "Marta" (*Company*), "Ti Moune" (*Once On This Island*), "Sarah" (*Ragtime*), and "Vanessa" (*In The Heights*). Kyrie would love to thank her family for their undying support and love. For Kevin.

**TJ CRAWFORD** (*Ensemble, u/s The Wiz*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He is an Alabama native and current Chicago resident and is grateful to be a part of this production.

**ANNA DAUZVARDIS** (*Glinda*) makes her Kokandy Productions debut! She recently appeared in *Red Velvet* and *Direct from Death Row: The Scottsboro Boys* (2016 Non-Equity Jeff Award for Best Ensemble) at Raven Theatre. Her portrayal of "April" in ETA Creative Arts Theater's production of *Liberty City* earned her a 2016 Non-Equity Jeff Award, a 2015 Black Theater Alliance Award, and a 2015 African American Arts Alliance Award. She also appeared in *Urban Love Story* and *Bobo the Bully* at Black Ensemble Theater. Proud graduate of Loyola University Chicago. Represented by Stewart Talent.

**GILBERT DOMALLY** (*Scarecrow*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut and is excited to be playing the role of "Scarecrow!" He was recently seen as "Gabe" in BoHo's production of *Next to Normal*, "C.C." in Porchlight's production of *Dreamgirls*, and "Seaweed" in Paramount Theatre's production of *Hairspray*. Gilbert is grateful to God, his family, and his friends for their unending support.

**DESMOND GRAY** (*Ensemble, Tinman u/s*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He is thrilled to be working with Kokandy Productions for the first time on such an iconic show! Other Chicago theatre credits include: *Hit The Wall* (The Inconvenience); *The Wild Party* (Bailiwick Chicago); *You On The Moors Now* (The Hypocrites); *Hushabye* (Steppenwolf); *The Nutcracker* (The House); *The Misanthrope*, *Tartuffe* (Court). Television credits include: Chicago Med/Chicago PD as "Paramedic Desmond" and FOX's upcoming *A.P.B.* Thanks to Mom & Dad, Big Mouth Talent, and you folks!

**JYREIKA EVELYN GUEST** (*Ensemble, Dance Captain, Addaperle u/s*) is making her Kokandy Productions debut! She boldly made Chicago home performing her one-woman show 'Arn't I Still: Lessons of Her' for the Solo Chicago Festival three years ago. She's so thrilled to work with Kokandy Productions and join *The Wiz* cast! She's an active performer in the Chicago area and house ensemble member of Chicago Slam Works where she starred in three of their debut season of original shows, *Redlined*, *Have a Great Summer*, and *Incendium*. She's featured for several festivals in the Chicagoland area including Ravenswood Art Walk and was a RAW Artist in Spoken Word in Cincinnati, OH. She's obtained her Master's in Public History and a BFA in Musical Theatre. Other theater credits include: *Piece of My Heart* ("Steele") *Strong Women* ("Woman Two"), *Rhinoceros* ("Boss of Cafe/ Fireman"), 2009 YES Festival World Premiere of *Shock and Awe* ("Captain Martinez"), *Once on This Island* ("Peasant/Storyteller"), *Children of Eden* ("Storyteller"), *Freedom Speaks* ("Rosetta"), and for colored girls ("Lady in Blue"). Blessings!

**NICOLE MICHELLE HASKINS** (*Aunt Em / Evillene*) is beyond thrilled to be a part of this exquisite cast with Kokandy Productions. With a set of pipes built in the Motor City and a sense of humor fraying at the edges with unnecessary candor, she is proud to call herself a Chicago Actor. Most recent credits include: *First Lady Suite* (Circle Theatre), *Rent* (Theo Ubique Caberet Theatre), the Midwest Premiere of *MUTT* (Stage Left Theatre w/Red Tape Theatre), the World Premiere of *For her as a Piano* (Pegasus Theatre), and *Sounds So Sweet* (Black Ensemble Theatre). She's a 2014 School at Steppenwolf Acting Fellow and a MOSAIC Youth Theatre of Detroit Alum. So please, Enjoy Yo 'self, and secure your edges because we about to tear this up. Catch more at [NicoleMichelleHaskins.com](http://NicoleMichelleHaskins.com)

**FREDERICK HARRIS** (*The Wiz*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He was last seen in *Direct from Death Row the Scottsboro Boys* at Raven Theatre (Jeff Award winner, Best Ensemble) and *Nunsense the Musical & Ain't Misbehavin'* at the Beverly Arts Center. Frederick is also a story teller and does work with many children's theaters throughout the city. A teacher-artist extraordinaire, Frederick is happy to be onstage displaying the talent he demonstrates to his students. T.E.

**JULIAN TERRELL OTIS** (*Scarecrow u/s*) is making his Kokandy debut! Julian was last seen in *Urban Love Story* (Black Ensemble Theatre) and *Diary of a Worm, Spider & Fly* (Emerald City Theatre). Other credits include *Rent* (Metropolis), *Fugitive Songs* (BoHo Theatre), *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Finish Line to Freedom* (South Shore Opera). This summer, he will give the West Coast Premiere of George Lewis' *Afterword, an opera* (Ojai Music Festival, CA). Innumerable thanks to family and friends for their support. Check out [julianterrellotis.com](http://julianterrellotis.com).

**DARREN PATIN** (*Male Swing*) is thrilled to be making his Kokandy debut! Darren is originally from Texas City, Texas, and is currently a senior BFA Musical Theatre Major at Columbia College Chicago, finishing up his degree in May. Some of his Chicago and college credits include: "Mohawk Guy" (*High Fidelity*, Refuge Theatre Project), "Noodler" (*Peter Pan*, Windy City Music Theatre), "Taxi Driver" (*Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, CCC), and CB (*Dog Sees God*, CCC). He would like to thank his family for their endless support, and his friends for constantly motivating him to be a better performer and believing in him.

**DE'JAH PERKINS** (*Ensemble, Aunt Em / Evillene u/s*) is making her Kokandy Productions debut! You may have seen her in Columbia College Chicago's mainstage productions *The Drowsy Chaperone* ("Trix") and *Once on this Island* ("Asaka"). Many thanks to her family, friends, inspiring mentors, and teachers for helping her "ease on down" her journey in Chicago theatre.

**STEVEN PERKINS** (*Tinman*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He is thankful to be making his return to the stage. He is a Jeff-nominated actor who has previously been seen on the stages of Second City, The Goodman, Bailiwick Chicago, The Hypocrites, and Theo Ubique, as well as several other companies throughout the Midwest. Some of his favorite memories onstage include: being a part of the award-winning *Smokey Joe's Cafe* ensemble, playing "Youth" in *Passing Strange*, and rocking out as "Tunny" in *American Idiot*. Steven would like to thank Lili-Anne Brown, Kokandy Productions, and his beautiful fiancé for reminding him to have a heart.

**TIA PINSON** (*Ensemble, Glinda u/s*) is making her Kokandy Productions and Chicago debut! Tia studied Music Theatre Performance at Western Michigan University. Credits: "Ensemble," *Spamalot*; "Chiffon," *Little Shop of Horrors* (Farmers Alley Theatre), "Alice's Daughter," *Big River*; "Tiger Lily," *Peter Pan*; "Lil Inez," *Hairspray* (Timberlake Playhouse), "Clarice," *King Stag*; "Emmie," *Caroline, or Change*; "Sophie," *Ruined* (Western Michigan University) Loads of gratitude to all who have supported along the way, especially Mom, Dad, and Joey T.

**MICHAEL RAWLS** (*Ensemble*) is making his Kokandy Productions debut! He is excited to be a part of this wonderful production! Past performances include: *Fable-Ous* with Lifeline Theatre, *Lorenzo the Rat Slayer* with Just Ranting the Blues Productions, and most recently in a film titled *Trust*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

**DARIAN TENE** (*Assistant Choreographer, Female Swing*) is making her Kokandy debut! She is excited join the Kokandy Productions family and has thoroughly enjoyed assistant choreographing and understudying with this amazing cast. Darian choreographed *Little Shop of Horrors* (American Blues Theater) last summer. She graduated from the University of Alabama where she appeared in *Chicago* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Theater Tuscaloosa). Other recent credits include: *Give It All Back* (Sideshow Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (American Blues Theater), and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Emerald City Theater).

Visit [kokandyproductions.com](http://kokandyproductions.com) for more information about the company and the rest of our amazing 2017 Season.

Spread the word!

As a storefront company, Kokandy relies on word of mouth, especially social media, to fill seats. Tag us on one of the platforms below, and use **#TheWizChicago** to spread the word! You can also sign up for special offers through our email list on our website [kokandyproductions.com](http://kokandyproductions.com).



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## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

**EMILY BOYD** (*Paint Charge*) originally hails from San Antonio, Texas but came to the second city for college and never left! Ms. Boyd attended The Theatre School at DePaul University, where she received her BFA in Scene Design, and abroad at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. Emily has painted for such companies as Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Broadway in Chicago, Porchlight, Metropolis Theatre, Trollwood Performing Arts School, Bailiwick, Haven Theatre, (re)Discover Theatre, Underscore Theatre Company, and The Circle Theatre. Current productions of Ms. Boyd's work include: *Venus in Fur* (Circle Theatre, scenic designer/charge artist,) and *The Book of Joseph* (Chicago Shakespeare, painter). Emily is also the founder and head artist at Sass Flash and Graphics.

**LILI-ANNE BROWN** (*Director*) makes her Kokandy Productions debut! A native Chicagoan, she works as a director, actor, and educator, and has performed in, directed, and produced many award-winning shows, both local and regional. She received the Joseph Jefferson Award in 2014 for her direction of Ahrens & Flaherty's *Dessa Rose*, and a BTA Award in 2011 for her direction of *Passing Strange*. She is the former Artistic Director of Bailiwick Chicago, an Artistic Associate of Timber Lake Playhouse, and a graduate of Northwestern University and St. Ignatius College Prep. She is a member of Actors' Equity, SAG-AFTRA, and an Associate of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SDC).

**LINDSAY BROWN** (*Production Manager*) is excited to work with Kokandy Productions for the first time! She is a proud Montana native and has called Chicago home for two years. She has worked with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Windy City Playhouse, Strawdog Theatre, BoHo Theatre, Grandstreet Theater and Merry-Go-Round Playhouse. She is a lover of all things dinosaur and sends big love to her family near and far, especially to M & S.

**EBONY CHUUKWU** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is proud to be working with an amazing company such as Kokandy Productions. She is a recent graduate of Grinnell College, receiving her Bachelors degree in Theatre. She most recently stage managed the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival for Underscore Theatre Company. She is thrilled to be assistant stage managing *The Wiz* and thanks her friends and family for all of their support!

**MEALAH HEIDENREICH** (*Props Designer*) Prop designs include: *Caged Dames* and *Miracle!* with Hell in a Handbag Productions, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Porchlight Music Theatre, *Really Really* with Interrobang Theatre Project and *Chalk* with Sideshow Theater Company. Mealah is an ensemble member with Hell in a Handbag Productions and owes most of her success to her bestie Isaac and wife Debbie.

**KIRSTIN JOHNSON** (*Sound Engineer*) is a graduate of The University of Iowa and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Her work has been heard many places, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Shakespeare & Company, Barter Theatre, Steppenwolf, the Hypocrites, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Thalia Hall.

**SHAWN KRONK** (*Master Electrician*) is a theater technician and director based in Chicago. He has previously served as Master Electrician for Sideshow Theatre Company, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Porchlight Music Theatre, and for Lookingglass Theatre Company's *Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure*. He also serves as the Managing Artistic Director of Dear Stone Theater Company, where he most recently directed *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*.

**JIMMY MOREHEAD** (*Music Director*) makes his Kokandy Productions debut! He is also the third Artistic Director of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, as well as music director for VOX3, choir master/organist at St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Burr Ridge, IL. He primarily works as a coach, accompanist, and music director for the Theater Conservatory of Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he has also served as Adjunct Professor of Music Theory/History and German Diction. James received his MM in Piano Performance and Music Theory from Roosevelt University and his BM from Duquesne University. As a Music Director, James has worked on *See What I Wanna See* in the 2013 Steppenwolf Garage, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, *bare* (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), *Passing Strange* (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), *Dessa Rose* (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), *AIDA*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *The Rainbow Connection*, *The Mikado*, *The Impresario*, *Barber of Seville*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Sondheim in the Park*, *The Wandering Scholar*, *The Bear*, *Reagan's Children*, *Something Schwartz*, *The Way We War*, *Copacabana*, *Cupid and Psyche*, *Promises, Promises*, *Screwed Up People*, *Flaherty and Ahrens On and Off*, *The Tony Goes To*, *The Tony Goes II*, and *Once, Twice, Three Times a Tony*, among many others. Classically, James has performed at the Auditorium Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, Rockefeller Chapel, Chicago's Gospel Fest 2012, Ravinia, and Harold Washington Theater, among many others. He has collaborated and performed with the Juliani Ensemble, the Grande Prairie Choral Arts Singers, Anaphora, Lyric Opera Kids, and ChiArts. He has also appeared as a featured pianist at the Green Mill, Mary's Attic, the Tavern, Gentry on Halsted, Spin Nightclub, Davenport's, the 410 Club, the Spot, and the Casino.

**MICHAEL J. PATRICK** (*Sound Designer*) is a Chicago designer with recent credits including Theater at the Center's *Annie Warbucks* (Associate Designer), Theater at the Center's *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Associate Designer), Milwaukee Repertory Theater's *A Christmas Carol* (Assistant Designer), *Heathers* (Kokandy Productions), *Xanadu* (The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), *The Full Monty* (Kokandy Productions), Theater at the Center's *Spamalot* (Associate Designer), and several dozen other shows. He has designed and engineered countless corporate events for companies including Hospira, Pfizer, Baird, The American Heart Association, Abbvie, and President Obama's 2014 Labor Day speech in Milwaukee. He is also the president of Concert Sound Systems, a Chicago-based sound design, equipment rental, and installation company serving theatrical and corporate needs. [Michaeljpatrick.com](http://Michaeljpatrick.com)

**ALEXANDER RIDGERS** (*Lighting Designer*) is a lighting designer based in Chicago hailing from Edinburgh, Scotland. Alexander worked as Associate Lighting Designer with Sell A Door Theatre Company before moving to Chicago to study an MFA in Theatre Design at Northwestern University. Other UK credits include: Royal Opera House 2, British Youth Opera, National Youth Theatre of GB, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and many Edinburgh Fringe Festival productions. Since being based in the US, Alexander has designed with Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts in Indiana, American Theatre Company, Theatre Wit, Griffin Theatre Company, The New Colony Theater Company, Northwestern University, and assisted with Marcus Doshi Design.

Alexander is Adjunct Lecturer of Lighting Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago, as well as the 2016 winner of the Best Student Exhibit at the Michael Merritt Awards. For more information: [alexanderridgers.com](http://alexanderridgers.com)

**KAILEY ROCKWELL** (*Assistant Music Director*) Originally from Detroit, MI, Kailey began playing music at age 7 when her grandmother bought her the greatest gift of her existence: a piano. She moved to Chicago at 18 and studied at Columbia College Chicago earning a Bachelor of Music in Contemporary, Urban & Popular Music. Her time there inspired her love of songwriting and performance. Now, she heavily involves herself in the Chicago theatre scene where she music directs and accompanies a handful of theatre companies to aid performers in reaching their fullest potential. Notable companies Kailey has worked with include: Glenview Theatre Guild, Music on Stage, Stagedoor Fine Arts, Columbia College Chicago, Porchlight Music Theatre, American Theatre Company, Pride Films and Plays, and Tiffany Lawson Dance. It has been such a pleasure to help out with *The Wiz*. Thanks and love to Jimmy, Lili, Breon, Kait, Scot, and the cast for being so collaborative and inspiring.

**KAIT SAMUELS** (*Stage Management*) is starting her third season with Kokandy Productions! Chicago credits: KP's *Tomorrow Morning*, *Heathers: The Musical*, *A Kokandy Christmas*, and *The Full Monty*; the Non-Equity Jeff Awards, and the Chicago Humanities Festival. National credits: Emerald City Opera (Colorado), Opera San Antonio (Texas), Profile Theatre (Oregon), Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry's FLIGHT: a crane's story (first national tour), Cortland Repertory Theatre (New York), Microscopic Opera (Pennsylvania), Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), Alpine Theatre Project (Montana). Proud graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.

**ARNEL SANCIANCO** (*Scenic Designer*) Originally from San Diego, Arnel implanted himself at the heartbeat of theatre in Chicago. He's receiving his MFA from Northwestern and is currently designing Steep Theatre's upcoming thriller, *Hookman* as well as Gift theatre's *Pilgrims*. He recently designed the sets for *Peerless* with First Floor Theatre, *How We Got On* with Haven Theatre and *You on the Moors* Now with The Hypocrites and *Earthquakes in London* with Steep Theatre Co. Past design credits include: *Big Love* at Northwestern's Louis Theatre and *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Green Day's American Idiot* in the Barber Theater, *15 Breaths* (About Face), *End Game* (Right Brain Project), *Melancholy Play* (Northwestern), *Eurydice* (UC Irvine), and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (UC Irvine). For more of his work visit [ArnelDesigns.com](http://ArnelDesigns.com).

**VIRGINIA VARLAND** (*Costume Designer*) is excited to join the Kokandy Productions team for the first time working on *The Wiz*. She is a MFA candidate at Northwestern University, where recent designs include: *The Tempest*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, and *Hit the Wall*. Recent Chicago designs include: *Tonya and Nancy* (Underscore Theatre) and *Farewell My Friend* ((re)discover theatre).

**ALAN WEUSTHOFF** (*Technical Director*) This is Alan's second show with Kokandy Productions where he previously built the set for *Heathers the Musical*. As a freelance Technical Director, Alan has most recently built the sets for *Venus in Fur* with Circle Theatre and *In The Heights* with Porchlight Theatre. Other Chicago credits include: *Winterset* (Griffin Theatre), *How We Got On* (Haven Theatre); *Sister Cities* (Chimera Theatre); *Caught* (Sideshow Theatre); and *Once In A Lifetime* (Strawdog Theatre). Alan is a graduate of the theater program at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO.

## DONORS

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ANY TIME  
ANY SHOW  
AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE

## At Theater Wit

We are a theater company within a building, within a community, within a world.

As a production company, Theater Wit's mission is to be the premier "smart art" theater in Chicago by producing humorous, challenging, and intelligent plays that speak with a contemporary theatrical voice.

As an institution, Theater Wit seeks to be the hub of the Chicago neighborhood theater scene. In our three spaces, we bring together Chicago's best storefront theater companies. Here you will find a smorgasbord of excellent productions, see the work of a parade of talented artists, and mingle with audiences from all over Chicago.

## In the Middle of a Community

Everyone here: folks in the audience... the person who handed you this program... somewhere on or off the stage there are actors... if you look up in the corner you might get a glimpse of the stage manager in the booth... We're all in this room for the same reason: to be a part of this shared experience. No matter who they are or where they come from; no matter if they are complete strangers or familiar faces; no matter how different the age, the race, or the walk of life; after this performance, you will have something in common. So, strike up a conversation in the lobby, introduce yourself to someone new. Meet our staff, shake hands with an actor, get a drink from our bar. We're all in this together.

## Part of the Chicago Scene

Theater is part of the Chicago experience. Each year, over 200 theaters present thousands of shows to Chicago's loyal and enthusiastic theater-going audience. Chicago's theater community is recognized around the world for its talent, its innovation and its power to entertain and enlighten. If Tony awards were sports championships, our artists would beat out the combined efforts of Michael Jordan, Bobby Hull, Jim McMahon, Jermaine Dye, and the entire Chicago Cubs roster going back 100 years. This stage is a Chicago stage, contributing to the vibrant artistic life of our city and the economic development of our neighborhood. Very few cities on the planet offer the theatrical richness and diversity of Chicago. But you get to share in it. Because you are here.

# THEATER WIT MEMBERSHIP

\$29/month

See any play in our building, any time, as often as you like for one flat monthly fee.

Reserve a ticket for any production in our facility. Do it in advance or just drop by on impulse.

Free ticket exchanges and replacement tickets.

Attend as many different shows as you want each month. Come once, twice or five times a week at no additional charge.

No initiation or startup fee, but members must agree to a three-month minimum.

Twice a year, bring a friend for free.

Great deals at local businesses!

GIORDANO'S • THE BAGEL • CHEESIES • CHICAGO BAGEL AUTHORITY • FLAT TOP GRILL • CRISP • LOOSELEAF LOUNGE • MATILDA'S WINE STYLES • SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW • ACCELERATED REHABILITATION CENTERS • AROUND THE WORLD TOBACCO • SUBURBAN SECRETS • WITT'S • BOURGEOIS PIG CAFE

## FLEXPASS 10 tickets for \$225

- See anything in the building at a dramatically reduced price.
- See 10 shows, go on 5 dates, or just bring your 9 closest friends with you to one show.
- After ordering, you get a card in the mail within a week with your Flexpass code which can be used online, over the phone or at the box office

## THEATER WIT STAFF

## YOU ARE HERE WITH US

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### STAFF

JEREMY WECHSLER – Artistic Director

DAVID WECHSLER – Company Manager

ELIZABETH LOVELADY – Development Coordinator

JOSH NORDMARK – Office Manager

MAJEL CUZA – Bar Manager/  
Production Manager

KRISTOF JANEZIC, NEAL JAVENKOSKI – Facilities Manager

CLARE COONEY, REBECCA FLORES,  
RICHARD EISLOEFFEL, SARAH LUSE,  
JACKELYN NORMAND – Bar

ALEXA ULRICH, EVAN BELL, MADDIE SACHS – House Management

JYREIKA GUEST, ANNELEA BOOTLE,  
CORRIE GLANVILLE – Box Office

### E-NEWS

Stay up to date on all the happenings at Theater Wit. Sign up for our e-newsletter. Get the latest info on show openings and schedules; eavesdrop on production gossip and artistic plans; see behind-the-scenes photos.

- Get a free piece of chocolate when you fill out a mailing list insert and give to any bartender, usher or house manager.
- Sign up online at theaterwit.org/join
- Mailings twice per month. We don't deluge you with messages and we don't sell your name to other lists.

Facebook: facebook.com/theaterwit

### DONATE

Theater Wit is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation supports Theater Wit and supports this building in its role as an artistic home for Chicago's best storefront theaters.

- Donate online at theaterwit.org/donate
- Make an instant donation at the box office, the bar, or with our house manager.
- Donate your time and talents! Theater Wit welcomes volunteers for office work, community outreach, building improvements and special events.

## COCKTAILS at the THEATER WIT BAR

### Spicy

#### BIBI, VIDI, VICI

Mezcales de Leyenda Guerrero, Blaum Bros Hellfyre, Koval Ginger, Fresh Lemon, Cinnamon

#### KRISTOF'S LIFTOFF

1921 Aged Tequila, Blaum Bros Hellfyre, Roses Lime, Combier Triple Sec, Cranberry Juice

#### THE LUSE CANNON

Blaum Bros Hellfyre, Sparkling Pompelmo, Roses Lime, Vermut

#### TO MAJEL AND BACK

Blaum Bros Hellfyre, Roses Lime, Sparkling Clementina

### Creamy

#### LOVE BE A LADY

Coffee, Shipwreck Coffee Rum, Baileys, Jameson

#### MILKY WAY

Coffee, Shipwreck Coconut Cream, Bicerin Chocolate Liqueur, Frangelico

### Boozy

#### CHOCOLATE CAKE

Frangelico, Belvedere Vodka, Koval Walnut Liqueur

#### IF I WERE A GINGER

Koval Bourbon, Koval Ginger, Ginger Beer

#### THE LAKEVIEW

1776 Rye Whiskey, Spirit Works Sloe Gin, Orange Bitters

#### THE NORDMARK 21

Belvedere Vodka and Koval Ginger

### Raggle-taggle

#### JEREMY'S LAST WORD

North Shore #6 Gin, Chartreuse, Drambuie, Fresh Lime

#### EAU DE CLARE

North Shore #6 Gin, Cava, Fresh Lime

#### TIM'S TOTALLY ADULT WHISKEY SOUR

Jameson, Spirit Works Sloe Gin, Belvedere Citrus Vodka, Roses Lime

### Citrus

#### MOSCOW MULE

Belvedere Vodka, Ginger Beer, Fresh Lime

#### OLD FASHIONED

Fresh Lemon, Koval Bourbon, Orange Bitters

#### THE MUSCLE CAR

Tesseron Cognac, Combier Triple Sec, Sparkling Limonata, Orange Bitters

#### TIM'S TOTALLY MACHO GIRLY DRINK

Belvedere Vodka, Koval Orange Blossom, Orange Juice

#### REBECCA'S FLORAPOLITAN

Belvedere Citrus Vodka, Combier Triple Sec, Sparkling Aranciata Rossa

#### WICKED JAIQUIRI

Shipwreck Spiced Rum, Combier Triple Sec, Fresh Lime, Pineapple Juice

Libations or concessions purchased at the bar are always allowed in the theater.