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STAGE

THE HOT WING KING

BY KATORI HALL
DIRECTED BY KENNY MOTEN

JUNE 3-28

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THE HOT WING KING

BY KATORI HALL
DIRECTED BY KENNY MOTEN

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CAST

Mathenee Treco* (he/him).....	Cordell
Jos N. Banks* (he/they)	Dwayne
Randy Chalmers* (he/him).....	Isom
Don Randle (he/him).....	Big Charles
Elijah Jordan (he/him).....	Everett “EJ”
Lance Felton (he/him)	TJ

CREATIVE TEAM

Kenny Moten (he/him).....	Director
Steven K. Mitchell# (he/him).....	Scenic Designer
Sam Doty (he/him).....	Lighting Designer
Wendell C. Carmichael (he/him)	Costume Designer
Tyrese Pope (he/him).....	Sound Designer
Marcus Wehby (he/him)	Props Designer
Chloe Dipaola* (she/her)	Stage Manager
Kylie Knickerbocker (she/her)	Costume Fellow
Ayla Albright (she/her)	Stagecraft Fellow
Kevin Commander (he/him).....	Stage Management Fellow

Members of the AEA are denoted with an asterisk (*)

Members of the United Scenic Artists Union are denoted with a pound sign (#)

Members of the The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society are denoted with a minus sign (-)



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

American Stage operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Mangers in the United States.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read *The Hot Wing King*, I was left asking myself: what does it cost to show up as yourself, and what becomes possible when you finally do?

This play is rooted in black queer life, but it never tries to explain that life from the outside. The men here are funny, difficult, sexy, loving, stubborn, wounded, and whole. What struck me is how rare this feels: watching black men create together, love each other, challenge each other, and build something in real time.

In this play, home gets built in the kitchen. That is where chosen family shows up. That is where care becomes visible. These men are not just cooking for a contest, they are trying to make a home that can hold their contradictions. A home where we get to be fully seen, not as an idea or an explanation, but as people. And making a home is always messy. That mess is not a flaw, it's the point.

My hope is that you see something in this kitchen that feels familiar. Maybe it doesn't look like your home, but the work does. The mess does. The care does. The fight to be known and the chance to stay are universal. We all want a place where we can finally be ourselves. And when we find that place, or build it from scratch, we arrive back where we started.

What does it cost to show up as yourself?

Everything.

And what becomes possible?

Home.

Kenny Moten

Director

CAST



Mathenee Treco* he/him

Cordell

Mathenee Treco, originally from Nassau, Bahamas, starred as Coach Ernie Ames in the video game NBA 2K20' and its follow-ups '2K21' and '2K22'. He starred in *Hamilton: An American Musical* originating the roles of Hercules Mulligan and James Madison in its first national tour. He was also a top 20 finalist on FOX's competition reality show, *American Idol*. A writer in LA, Mathenee is currently workshopping his new musical called *BULLY*, and is writing on the upcoming animated tv series "Breaking Bear" for The Cartel. Regional credits: Frank in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Bobby in *Memphis*, Wining Boy in *The Piano Lesson*. Mathenee is also a songwriter and music producer. SINGLES: 'Naughty or Nice' 'Crucial' 'It Don't Matter' STUDIO ALBUMS: Free High, Buried Alive. He is a proud graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama.



Jos N. Banks* he/they

Dwayne

Jos N. Banks is a multi- award winning Visual/ Performing Arts Artist, Costume Designer, Teaching Artist & LGBTQ+ trailblazer. Most known for his star turn as "LOLA" in the international tour of *Kinky Boots*, having performed over 387 performances! Tours: *Kinky Boots*, *Hair* & *The Color Purple*. Select Regional: Steppenwolf, Goodman, Yale, Chicago Shakes, Arena Stage, The MUNY, McCarter, Goodspeed, Drury Lane, Paramount, The Second City, Porchlight Music Theatre, Writers Theatre, Congo Square, Definition Theatre, Black Ensemble Theatre & many more. Film: Showtime's "The Chi" & "Work in Progress", Rise Against: "Make It Stop". 4X BTAA Nominee for "Best Costume Design". Curator of his Master Class, "#BeFEARLESS w/ Jos N. Banks" which he has instructed to young theatre artisans from grade school to collegiate. Jos also serves as Artistic Associate with About Face Theatre in Chicago, IL & was afforded the company's first ever costume designer residency. www.FearlessJos.com // @JosNBanks



Randy Chalmers* he/him

Isom

Randy Chalmers he/him (Isom) is making his American Stage debut after most recently portraying Bob & Others in the Arvada Center for the Arts production of *Come From Away*. He has performed on stages across the US and Canada, performing with symphonies alongside Broadway's Capathia Jenkins (*Newsies*; *The Civil War*; *Caroline, or Change*). Other Credits: Dog/Bear/Tooth Fairy-*Goodnight Moon* (DCPA Theatre Company); u/s *Lola-Kinky Boots* (Arvada Center for the Arts); Jamal-*Escape to Margaritaville* (Theatre SilCo); Curtis-Sister Act (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center); Narrator/El Gallo-*The Fantasticks* (Town Hall Arts Center); Ozie/Ruby-*The Scottsboro Boys* (Vintage Theatre); Seymour-Little Shop Of Horrors (Theatreworks); Man 1-Songs For A New World (Aurora Fox Arts Center); Vocalist/Himself-Ain't Misbehavin' (Town Hall Arts Center) @ranran426



Don Randle he/him

Big Charles

Don is thrilled and grateful to be a part of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play. His recent credits include *Fat Ham*, Aurora Fox *Happy To Be Nappy*, (Manos Sagrados), *Clybourne Park*, (The Arvada Center), *The Last Night of Red Barker*, (The Catamounts), *Sweat* (Openstage Theatre), *The Odd Couple* (Firehouse Theatre), and *Aubergine* (TheatreWorks) in Colorado Springs. When not on stage this sports junkie spends his time as a Podcast Host, voice-over creative, and Firehouse Theatre board member. He'd like to thank his wife, Tracie, and kids, Jaelin and Stephen, for their unwavering support of his artistic passions.



Elijah Jordan he/him

Everett "EJ"

Elijah Jordan currently receives training at Johnathan C. Gibbs High School as a member of the PCCA Program. He has participated in various productions at Gibbs High School and currently is participating in the production *The Laramie Project*. In his younger years he performed as Travis in *A Raisin in the Sun* here at American Stage and attended summer camp at American Stage. He will graduate high school in May 2026 and his next endeavor will be at Columbia College of Chicago where he hopes to continue to hone his craft.



Lance Markeith Felton he/him

TJ

Lance Markeith Felton is an American actor, rapper and playwright. He is known for his involvement in artist development and training for theatre, film and music. He began recording at the age of sixteen years old, and released his first full-length project, *FREELANCE* May 5, 2023. He has performed as Dasher in *When the Righteous Triumph* produced by Stageworks Theater and as Rashad in *The Light* produced by Studio@620.

CREATIVE TEAM



Kenny Moten he/him

Director

Kenny Moten is an award-winning director, vocalist, and writer who has produced and performed on stages across the country. He is the co/writer and co/director of *The Bright Lights of Denver* (Denver Center), director and co/producer of *Motones & Jerseys* (National Tour). Other directing credits: *Miss Rhythm* (Stages Houston), *Beauty and the Beast* (American Stage), *Caroline, or Change* (Aurora Fox Arts Center), *Dreamgirls* (Lone Tree Arts Center), *Clybourne Park* (Arvada Center), *Pippin* (Little Theater of the Rockies), and *Sweat* (Openstage). When he is not directing theater, he is developing new projects with his company: Narrative Creative. @kmofofo



Sam Doty he/him

Lighting Designer

Sam Doty's work has been seen by millions in over 65 countries. Credits include multiple productions of *Disney on Ice*, *PAW Patrol Live!*, *Disney Live!*, *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus*, *The Alton Brown Edible Inevitable Tour*, *MythBusters Behind the Myths Tour*, *Cirque Dreams*, *Bello Mania*, *Sgt. Pepper Live* featuring Cheap Trick at the Las Vegas Hilton, and several shows at sea for Royal Caribbean. Sam is a graduate of Valparaiso University, where he studied theatre, television, and radio production. He is an instrument-rated private pilot and splits his time between New York City and St. Petersburg. More at kr38iv.com.



Steven K. Mitchell* he/him

Scenic Designer

This marks Steve's 19th production for American Stage. Thank you as always for the opportunity. Credits include: *The Three Sisters* (Prospect Theatre Company); *American Bullfighter* (The Mark Taper Forum's New Works Festival); *The Einstein Project* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Exit The King* (The Actor's Gang); *Anything Goes* (City Springs Theatre); *Acts of Faith*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Bad Jews*, many more (American Stage); *Job* (Urbanite Theatre); *All My Sons*, *A Doll's House: Part 2* (Tampa Rep); *Shear Madness*, *Crowns* (Straz Performing Arts Center Jaeb Theatre); *Dancing Lessons*, *Venus In Fur* (Orlando Shakes); *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Cabaret*, more (Freefall Theatre); Art Direction/Illustration for themed entertainment: Walt Disney Imagineering, Universal Creative (Universal Osaka, Beijing, Tokyo DisneySea, Shanghai Disneyland); Film/TV as Set Designer, "Dolphin Tale", "What's Cooking?"; Member USA 829, Local NYC. Thank you Mom for season's tickets to Bob Carr when I was 12. Changed my life.



Tyrese Pope he/him

Sound Designer

Tyrese Pope is musician and content creator in the St. Petersburg area. This is his fifth show working on sound design at American Stage, most recent of which was *Hundred Days* and *This Girl Laughs*, *This Girl Cries*, *This Girl Does Nothing*, but this is his twelfth show at the theatre, including being on stage as an actor, or backstage. He is grateful for the opportunity to continue telling stories. None of us are free until we're all free. Keep creating. Art Matters.



Wendell C. Carmichael he/him

Costume Designer

Wynningz by Wyndell Carmichael is a west-coast based free-lance costume designer/stylist/wardrobe master who designs for film, television, theatre and dance. He has recently finished working on three award-winning short-feature films, and has taught and designed at Azusa Pacific University, and University of Southern California. 2018 and 2023 Stage Raw winner – Costume Design, three-time L.A. Ovation Award nominee, 2017 Orange County's Best Costume Designs, 2015 NAACP Theatre Award winner. Member of Local 768, the Theatrical Wardrobe Union/ LA Opera.



Marcus Wehby he/him

Props Master

Marcus Wehby is thrilled to return as Props Master for *Into the Woods* this season, and to collaborate with a cast and crew he truly values. With over 25 years of professional experience, Marcus brings a steady hand, clear communication, and deep organizational expertise to every production. His background includes works ranging from *Hamlet* to large-scale dance and musical productions, and he is passionate about supporting artists, and he is passionate about supporting artists and creating a smooth, focused rehearsal and performance process.

STAGE MANAGEMENT



Chloe Dipaola* she/her

Resident Stage Manager

Chloe Dipaola has been an active part of American Stage since the 2022 season. As a Production Stage Manager, her credits here include shows such as *American Idiot*, *Ragtime in the Park*, *Indecent*, *Beauty and the Beast in the Park*, *The Figs*, *Ring of Fire*, *This Girl Laughs*, *This Girl Cries*, *This Girl Does Nothing*, *The Mountaintop*, *Hair in the Park*, *Fat Ham*, *The Good Peaches*, *Hundred Days*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *Into the Woods...in the Park*. Based in the vibrant theater communities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota, Chloe is known for her dedication and the heart she brings to every production. She would like to thank Kevin Commander for being a great ASM Fellow this whole season. To continue American Stage's 48th season, she hopes you enjoy *The Hot Wing King*. May the best sauce win. Email: chloedipaola@gmail.com



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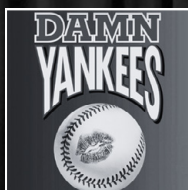
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