



**September 19–28, 2025**

Proud to Partner with:



**Fullwood Theater**

Supported in part by:



**BNS PRODUCTIONS**

presents

Rory D. Sheriff's Award-Winning

# BE A LION

*The Generational Musical*

Inspired by *The Wiz*

DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

**TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!**

== BOOTH PLAYHOUSE ==

TICKETS: [BNSPRODUCTIONS.ORG](http://BNSPRODUCTIONS.ORG)





**Matthews Playhouse of the Performing Arts Mainstage Productions**



## **A Raisin in the Sun**

By

**Lorraine Hansberry**

**Director**  
**Dr. Corlis Hayes**

**Scenic Designer**  
**Bob Croghan**

**Costume Designer**  
**Emily McCurdy**

**Lighting Designer**  
**Alexandra Corbett**

**Stage Manager**  
**Marissa Gainey**

**Producing Partners at BNS Productions**

**Rory Sheriff, Chiletta Marie, Jermaine Nakia Lee, Ericka Cornick**

*A Raisin in the Sun* is presented by  
arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)



North  
Carolina  
Arts  
Council

This project is supported by the  
North Carolina Arts Council, a  
division of the Department of  
Natural and Cultural Resources.

**Matthews Playhouse is supported in part by:**



**KNIGHT  
FOUNDATION**

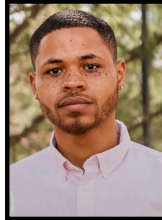


Town of  
**Matthews**  
North Carolina

# MEET THE GROVE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Ruth Younger.....Nasha Shandri  
Travis Younger.....Thaddeus Faustin  
Walter Lee Younger.....Justin Peoples  
Beneatha Younger.....Mikayla Broome  
Lena Younger.....Lillie Oden  
Joseph Asagai.....Kahlil Allen  
Mrs. Johnson.....Shar Marlin  
George Murchison.....Sha’Heed J. Brooks  
Bobo.....Bobby Tyson  
Karl Linder.....Henk Bouhuys  
Moving Men.....Robert Rankin  
Rory Sheriff



## CAST & CREW BIOS!

*Scan here to read bios from  
this incredible cast and crew!*



MEET THE REGAL CAST

(in order of appearance)

Ruth Younger.....Renee Welsh-Noel  
Travis Younger.....Solomon Doleman  
Walter Lee Younger.....Jonavan Adams  
Beneatha Younger.....K. Alana Jones  
Lena Younger.....Lillie Oden  
Joseph Asagai.....Dionte Darko  
Mrs. Johnson.....Ericka Ross  
George Murchison.....Sha’Heed J. Brooks  
Bobo.....Bobby Tyson  
Karl Linder.....Henk Bouhuys  
Moving Men.....Robert Rankin  
Rory Sheriff



CAST & CREW BIOS!

Scan here to read bios from  
this incredible cast and crew!



INTRODUCING  
OUR  
**30th**  
Season  
2025-2026

**4 SHOW  
SEASON  
TICKET  
PACKAGE**



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**S.M.I.L.E**  
TEEN  
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Marion Diehl Recreation Center  
2219 Tyvola Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210

 Dates (Saturdays):

November 8, 15  
December 6, 13, 2025

 Time:

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**BTimprov.com/teen**



# **Time: 1950's**

## **Location: South Side of Chicago**

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director.....Dr. Corlis Hayes  
Assistant Director/Dramaturg.....Tina Kelly  
Producing Partners at BNS Productions.....Rory Sheriff  
Chiletta Marie  
Jermaine Nakia Lee  
Ericka Cornick  
Choreographer.....Mikayla Broome  
Scenic Designer.....Bob Croghan  
Costume Designer.....Emily McCurdy  
Lighting Designer.....Alexandra Corbett  
Stage Manager.....Marissa Gaaney  
Assistant/Deck Stage Manager.....Jessie Hull  
Scenic Charge Artist/Props Designer.....Stacy Plumb  
Sound Designer/Engineer.....Neifert Enrique  
Hair/Wig Designer.....Gbale Allen  
Rehearsal ASM/Wardrobe Lead.....Robert Rankin  
Shop Manager/Lead Carpenter.....RJ Binford  
Shop Staff/Backstage Crew.....Will Lachlan Elliott  
Stacy Plumb  
Dialect Coach.....Marilyn Carter  
Vocal Coach.....Sherretta Ivey

### **Content Advisory**

This production contains mature subject matter, including the use of profanity, racial slurs, sexual content and references to abortion. We recommend this production for ages 13 and up.

### **Special Thanks**

Tom Henderson Photography, Chau Nguyen Photography, CPCC Department of Drama, Tom Hollis, James Duke, Theatre Charlotte, Chris Morgan, Ronald Shearin, Rod Oden, Lee Street Theatre, Piedmont Players, Robert Rankin, Roy Schumacher, Carolyn Sullivan, Kathleen Kostouros, Roosevelt Moss, ReachMore Media LLC, Ericka Cornick, & Uh Plugs Life LLC.

Welcome to your local NC Farm  
Bureau Insurance® Agency



AUTO, HOME, LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

## FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Tim Fincher  
534 W John St Ste 110  
Matthews, NC 28105  
704-841-8700

North Carolina Farm Bureau® Mutual Insurance Company Farm Bureau® Insurance of North Carolina, Inc. Southern Farm Bureau® Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS Life Insurance and Annuity products offered by SFBLL, Jackson, MS

[www.ncfbins.com/matthews](http://www.ncfbins.com/matthews)



Tom Henderson  
Photography

(704) 366-4807

[www.tomhendersonphotography.com](http://www.tomhendersonphotography.com)  
[henderson.tom@gmail.com](mailto:henderson.tom@gmail.com)

Contact us for all your heating & cooling needs!

# 704-324-1781

## McClintock

Heating • Cooling • Electrical

- 24/7 Emergency service available
- We service all makes and models
- Free 2nd opinion on major repairs\*
- Free estimates on new equipment

*\*Restrictions apply, call for details*



Visit our  
website for  
money  
saving  
coupons



[www.McClintockHVAC.com](http://www.McClintockHVAC.com)

Service • Repairs • Installation  
Residential & Commercial • Licensed • Bonded • Insured

# alphagraphics®

South Charlotte & Ballantyne

PRINT SIGNS MARKETING TECHNOLOGY

## Your one stop print shop.

At AlphaGraphics South Charlotte & Ballantyne, we provide custom print, signs, and marketing solutions to drive your business forward. From business cards to vehicle wraps, and everything in between. If you can dream it, we can print it.

ALPHAGRAPHICS  
SOUTH CHARLOTTE & BALLANTYNE  
9129 Monroe Road, Suite 160  
Charlotte, NC 28270  
704.849.9292  
[alphagraphicssouthcharlotte.com](http://alphagraphicssouthcharlotte.com)

[f](#) [@alphagraphicssouthcharlotte](#)





## **Matthews Playhouse of the Performing Arts Board of Directors and Staff**

### **Theatre Staff**

Executive Director.....	Sarah Baumgardner
Production Director.....	Cassie Prodan
Technical Director.....	Paul Swanson
Assistant Technical Director.....	Neifert Enrique
Development & Marketing Director.....	Gretchen Gaertner
Education Director.....	Stefanie Nicholson
Finance Director.....	Gretchen White
Education & Summer Camp Coordinator.....	Marisa Becker
Marketing & Communications Manager.....	Bradley Wolke
Resident Stage Manager & Website Administrator.....	Jessie Hull
Scene Shop Manager.....	RJ Binford
Patron Relations Coordinator.....	Tiffany Scienski
Finance Assistant.....	Raquel Navarro
Special Events Coordinator.....	Mikayla Broome
Operations Consultant.....	Cara Yara
Development & Communications Associate.....	Adrianna Eve

### **Board of Director Officers**

President - Michelle Armas
Co-Vice Presidents - Kristen Laatz & Stephanie Schmitt
Treasurer - Brittany Allgood
Secretary - Penny Higdon
Auxiliary Officer - Addie Rising

### **Board of Director Members At Large**

Shelby Annas	Kelly Young
Amanda Mooney	Ben Shelton

**Matthews Playhouse is a community based non-profit  
theatre committed to enriching the lives of children, adults,  
& families by inviting them to participate in the world of  
performing arts & education.**



# HAUNTED TRAIL

TRUNK OR TREAT, FUN | TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE  
ACTIVITIES, AND MORE | GATE CASH OR CARD ACCEPTED

**OCT 24-26, 2025**



tickets  
**\$10**

## HAUNTED TRAIL

FRIDAY, OCT. 24TH - SUNDAY, OCT 26TH

"Not So Spooky" Trail: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

"Full Fright" Trail : 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Thank you to our sponsor



matthewsplayhouse.com | 100 E McDowell St. Matthews, NC | (704) 846-8343



2945 Matthews Weddington Rd.  
Matthews, NC 28104

(704) 847-4884 [www.eatmariospizzeria.com](http://www.eatmariospizzeria.com)



The best  
Italian bar &  
restaurant in  
Matthews

Enjoy  
dining on  
one of our  
outdoor  
patios



We can cater & customize any size  
event! On or Off Premises!



Register NOW for private

# VOICE LESSONS



**SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

# THANK YOU



for supporting our  
Community



*Community  
Series*

Taking Live Theatre to Unexpected Places.

# MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE

*in the community*

In addition to our scholarship programs, Matthews Playhouse is involved with the community in many other ways!

We partner with local non-profits and assist them in their efforts to serve the community. Some of these community partners are:



Freedom  
School  
Partners



**MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE IS PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH**



Healing Vine  
Harbor, Inc.

## Contact Us:

704-561-1128

[admin@healingvineharbor.com](mailto:admin@healingvineharbor.com)

8920 Lawyers Road, #690483

Charlotte, NC 28227

Healing Vine Harbor, Inc. (HVH) was founded in 2013 by Tracey Questell in response to the critical need for support services for women experiencing housing instability. Drawing from her academic background in Psychology and Rehabilitation Counseling, and her mentorship experiences with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Tracey built HVH to address both immediate needs and long-term empowerment.

Since its founding, HVH has grown into a multi-service nonprofit assisting more than 300+ women annually across Charlotte and surrounding communities.

**We Cater!**  **MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE** 



NOTHING BUT  
**NOODLES**

Pastas • Salads • Soups • Desserts



Nothing but Noodles is a proud supporter of  
**Matthews Playhouse**

Stonecrest  
7930 Rea Rd.  
704.295.4961

Steele Creek  
12740 S. Tryon St.  
980.498.2880

[www.nothingbutnoodles.com](http://www.nothingbutnoodles.com)

## Matthews Playhouse & Chick-fil-A Matthews

Proud to be community partners.

LIGHTS  
CAMERA  
ACTION!



**Matthews FSU**  
9905 Matthews Park Dr.  
Matthews, NC 28105  
[www.chick-fil-a.com/matthews](http://www.chick-fil-a.com/matthews)  
[www.facebook.com/chickfilamatthews](https://www.facebook.com/chickfilamatthews)

© 2021 CFA Properties, Inc. Chick-fil-A® and Chick-fil-A Stylized® are registered trademarks of CFA Properties, Inc.



**CANTINA**

**LOUIE**

**MEXICAN STREET FOOD**

2225 MATTHEWS TOWNSHIP PKWY  
CANTINALOUIE.COM (980) 339-3007

Thank you to  
our website  
sponsors



zenbusiness



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## The Courtney Leigh Ballard Fund

On October 15, 2003, the Playhouse lost one of our most beloved players, **Courtney Ballard**. In 1995, Courtney was cast in Alice in Wonderland, the first play ever produced at Matthews Playhouse. She was 11 years old. Since the Playhouse's inception, Courtney was involved in every production. She helped with auditions, worked in the Box Office, built sets, helped with costumes and props, and of course, performed on stage. Courtney and her Family are, in large part, responsible for what we are today. The **Courtney Leigh Ballard Fund** is used to assist with classes and summer camps. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this fund enables us to award scholarships to every child in need.

## Sponsor-A-Student Fund

The magic of live THEATRE can ignite a spark for learning within a young child! THEATRE can play a significant role in the continual development of vocabulary, reading comprehension, and the ability to understand and become effective oral communicators. Matthews Playhouse offers "School Show" field trip opportunities for children/teens through our SPONSOR-A-STUDENT fund. This program YOUR generous donation of ONLY \$10 provides funding for students at Title I schools to attend a live theatre performance at Matthews Playhouse.

Since we began our Sponsor-A-Student initiative in 2015, thousands of students from Title 1 Schools have attended a live theatre performances at Matthews Playhouse.

*If you would like to contribute to Courtney's memory or Sponsor-A-Student, please write your check to Matthews Playhouse and note the fund of your choice.*

## BECOME A MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE DONOR

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

EMAIL

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NAME TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM:

I pledge a total gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_, designated as follows:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ General Fund (use where needs are greatest)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Courtney Ballard Scholarship Fund (for camps & classes)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor-A-Student Fund (assists with field trips for Title 1 schools)

My employer will match this personal gift:

Make checks payable to  
Matthews Playhouse & mail to:  
Matthews Playhouse  
100 E McDowell Street  
Matthews, NC 28105

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!  
Matthews Playhouse is a 501(c)3  
tax exempt organization.

Scan HERE  
to give  
online:



# Thank You to Our Annual Donors

## **THEATRE VISIONARY \$5000+**

Sarah Pons

## **PRODUCER'S CIRCLE \$2500-\$4999**

Steven & Julia Poindexter

## **DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE \$1000-\$2499**

Troy & Sarah Baumgardner

Jeffrey & Marie Gaskin

Alissa & Scott Hammersmith

Tom Henderson

John & Penny Higdon

Joshua Marshman

Eleanor & Dick Morris

## **LEADING ROLE \$500-\$999**

Colby Anderson

Susan Davis

Amber Morris

Camilla Miskovich

Gretchen Naff

Mary Beth Roth

Christina Wilder

Alston Wolf

## **SUPPORTING ROLE \$200-\$499**

Michelle Armas

Paula Baldwin

Taylor & Betty Brown

Anthony Depersia & Miles

Steenbergen

Susan Davis

Gail Halverson

Timothy Huffman

Virginia Kern

Pat & Ed Laskowski

Amy & Matthew Martin

Tamika McPherson

Charles Moger

Samantha Morris

Katherine Price

Elizabeth Reimer

Kathleen Royall

Bob & Diana Schmiesing

Ted Tozer

David Ucen

Lisa Ulanow

Hank West

Thomas & Linda Wilbor

## **THEATRE FRIEND \$50-\$199**

Barbara Anderson

Philip Arnome

Barbara Barden

David Bartko

Gene & Johnita Baumgardner

Karli Baumgardner

Thomas Bohardt

Christine Boone

Jennifer Brown

Angela Byers

Mary Campanola

David Carr

Ruth Clark in Memory of Brynn Gross

Robert Clifford

Barbara Comin

Lara Correll

Traci Cross

Deborah Currier

Ted Dale

Vanessa & Jamie Davis

Mary De Mase

Diana DeTomaso

Dennis Delamar

Lisa Dubois

Henderson & Karen Duke

Stephanie Dunn

Amy Dunn

Ben & Rosemary Dunn

Kate Ermolovich

Lydia Fargas

David & Gretchen Gaertner

Celia Gray

Gerald & Linda Grube

Alissa Hammersmith

Myra Heath

Pat Heiss

Robert Heselbacher

Gretchen Hesketh

Timothy Huffman

Maureen Hussey

Linda Jacoby

Elizabeth Jarvis

Armine Jones

JoAnn Kalman

Janet Kamenick

Glen & Benjamin King

*(Theatre Friend continued)*

Barbara Knowles

Miles Kucera

Kristin Kucmerowski

Kristen Laatz

Charles LaBorde

Pat and Ed Laskowski

Kimberly Lewis

Dave & Carol Lyke

Tiffany Matchett

Tammy Matula

Barbara Miller

Amanda Mooney

Jacqueline Mooney

Amber Morris

Pat Mulcrone

Paul O'Shaughnessy

Peter Oliver

Heidi Ordway

Beth Pesakoff

Kurt & Addie Rising

Wendy Roberts

Sarah Samples

Susan Smith

Stephanie Schmitt

Hib Shelton

Ava Smigel

Mark Spaulding

Henry Spicer

Deborah Stevenson

Daphne Taylor

Matt Thompson

Vic & Elise Venturo

Ronald Vien

Ormel Walker

Chiletta Walls

Carol Weiner

Dorene Welch

Rosemary Werner

Gretchen & John White

Chuck Wiedenhoef

Robert Wilder

Louise Wood

Carrol Williams

Cara & Jake Yara

Christine Zettler

## **BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION DONORS**

AlphaGraphics

McClintock HVAC

Farm Bureau Insurance:

Fincher Agency

Resilient Hope Counseling, PLLC

Zip Sprout

Adobe

ZenBusiness

OneHour Heating & Air

Novant Health

Brakeman's Coffee

Matthews Presbyterian Church Women's Group

Bob & Maxine Stein Endowment

for Arts and the Environment

HEMA Foundation

Spartanburg County Foundation

NWSA Thespian Troupe #5634

Matthews Masonic Lodge No. 461

Donations include general operating support and/or scholarship support. We do our best to ensure that our donor list is as up-to-date as possible and that donor names are listed correctly in the program. If you feel that your name does not appear correctly in this program, please contact us at: [contact@matthewsplayhouse.com](mailto:contact@matthewsplayhouse.com)

UP NEXT AT

**MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE**



**SCROOGE!**  
THE MUSICAL

DEC 12-21, 2025

Get your tickets TODAY!  
MatthewsPlayhouse.com  
704-846-8343

*Date Night*  
**THEATRE**



Join us at the  
Matthews Ballroom

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets,  
and performances you'll never forget!

 *The*  
**GIN GAME**

OCT 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

 **EDUCATING** **RITA**

NOV 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Get your tickets TODAY!

**N: NOVANT<sup>®</sup> HEALTH**

*Community Series*  
Taking Live Theatre to Unexpected Places



**SAVE THE DATE**

FOR OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> GALA CELEBRATION!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**30 YEARS**  
OF

**MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE**

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE EVENTS THIS SEASON

**MATTHEWS GOT TALENT! – FEBRUARY, 2026**

**VELVETEEN RABBIT TEA PARTY – APRIL, 2026**







# MATTHEWS PLAYHOUSE

INTRODUCING  
OUR

**30th  
Season**

September 19-28, 2025



December 12-21, 2025



Jan 16-Feb 1, 2026



April 24-May 3, 2026



July 10-26, 2026



## School of THEATRE

*All the world's a stage*

**2026 PROGRAM  
PRODUCTIONS**

MARCH 28



GRADES TK-2ND

MARCH 28 & 29



GRADES 3-5

MARCH 20-22



GRADES 3-5

MARCH 27 & 28



GRADES 6-12

MARCH 21 & 22



GRADES 6-12

**MATTHEWSPLAYHOUSE.COM**  
**OR 704-846-8343**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION!**