



victoria theater
lizzie & jonathan tisch stage

February 9 & 10, 2023
10AM & 12:30PM

An NJPAC SchoolTime Production
TheaterWorksUSA presents

Warriors Don't Cry

**As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please be sure to silence all mobile devices.
The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs are strictly prohibited.**



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,
a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

meet the cast

Alphabetical by role

Nadel Henville, *Ya Girl/Emcee*, (She/They) is a multihyphenate artist who has found a space of love and a place to call home within the arts. She graduated from Emmanuel College in 2022 and, when she can, works with a wonderful group of souls in the Kennedy Center's Education Department. As an actor, playwright and producer, they strive to change the way that theater responds to the revolving world around us. This will be one of their first professional productions as an actor, and she cannot think of a better place to be.

Nya Sanaa Fedrick, *Ya Girl/Emcee*, is a young actress from Connecticut. She trained in theater for three years at a university, and is a Waterbury Arts Magnet School 2019 graduate. While studying, she could be seen in performances at various community theaters. A few include *Hairspray* as Little Inez (Thomaston Opera House), August Wilson's *Fences* as Raynell (Ridgefield Theater Barn) and Colmon Domingo's *Dot* as Averie (Brookfield Theater of Arts). Nya is also in a variety of film projects, some of which spread awareness of mental health struggles. She is excited to continue to spread hope, love and encouragement to everyone.

Kiara Vedovino, *Stage Manager*, will be touring for the first time with TheaterWorksUSA. She recently was the fall season stage manager at the Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill, NY. She has a degree in theater with specialization in technology and design from SUNY New Paltz.

Hope Rohrbaugh, *Assistant Stage Manager*, has been working in theater for over nine years. This is her second tour with TheaterWorksUSA, her first tour being stage manager for *Pete the Cat's Big Hollywood Adventure*. She has stage managed multiple shows in Pennsylvania, including *Newsies*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *1984* among others. She has also directed/ helped create a children's theater program in Harrisburg, PA. She is very excited to bring more theater to schools and theaters around the country. She will be joining TheaterWorksUSA again this March as stage manager for *Pout Pout Fish*. She wants to thank everyone who has supported TheaterWorksUSA in their mission to bring theater to children everywhere, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Adam D-F. Stevens, *Tour Director*, (*They/Them*), MA, RDT. They are a Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) who works at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a nonprofit organization that serves LGBTQIA+ youth in NYC. Their role includes supporting queer youth in transforming their loss and grief into unapologetic, abundant joy and empowerment. Previously, Adam worked at the Cooke School & Institute in NYC, guiding youth people with developmental and intellectual differences. They are an alumni of Marymount Manhattan College and New York University where their areas of study included theater arts and drama respectively. Adam serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Creative Arts Therapy programs at Antioch University in Seattle, WA;

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NYU and Marymount Manhattan College in NYC. They have sat on the Board of Directors for the North American Drama Therapy Association as Chair of the Cultural Humility, Equity and Diversity Committee.

Jeannie Otis, *Music Director*, is the Director of Music at Saint Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery where she is fulfilling an ongoing commitment to making art that is a catalyst for "changing hearts." She has worked with TheaterWorksUSA for 20 years along with many other organizations and artists including Pete Seeger and Elizabeth Swados. Anthony Tomassini of *The New York Times* described Jeannine's performance in *The Cradle Will Rock*, under the direction of Eve Ensler, as a "showstopper." She is a recording artist on Warner European records. Jeannine works as an arts consultant with the NYC Department of Education. She is an honor's graduate of both Wellesley College and Emerson College, and has been on staff at both Marymount Manhattan College and NYU. Recently, Jeannine was awarded a City Artist Grant for her projects *Living with Hope* and *Who Am I*, based on her book *The Gathering*.

Donnetta Lavinia Grays, *Playwright*, is a Brooklyn-based playwright and actor from Columbia, SC. Plays include *Where We Stand*, *Last Night and the Night Before*, *Laid to Rest*, and *The Review or How to Eat Your Opposition* among others. She's received The Whiting Award for Drama, The Helen Merrill Playwright Award, NTC's Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award, the Lilly Award, Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award and the Doric Wilson

Independent Playwright Award. She is also a Lucille Lortel, Drama League and AUDELCO Award Nominee. Commissions include Steppenwolf, Denver Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, WP Theater and True Love Productions. For television she has staffed on Spectrum Original/ Lionsgate's *Manhunt*, *Y: The Last Man* for FX Network and is currently the Executive Story Editor on *Joe Exotic* starring Kate McKinnon and John Cameron Mitchell for NBC Universal.

Tamilla Woodard, *Original Director*, is the Associate Director of Broadway's *Hadestown*, winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical. She is the Associate Artistic Director of WP Theater (Formerly Women's Project) and co-founder of PopUP Theatrics, creating immersive and participatory theater for international audiences since 2007. She is a 2014-2016 Time Warner Fellow at WP Theater Director's Lab, an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab and a graduate of The Yale School of Drama. Her work has been seen at such places as A.C.T., The Atlantic Theatre Company, The Working Theater, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, New York Theater Workshop, HERE Arts Center, New Georges, Culture Project, Cleveland Public Theater, Salt Lake Acting Company, The Actors Theatre of Louisville and The Kitchen Theatre. Recently named in *American Theatre Magazine* as one of Six Theater Workers to Watch, Tamilla is also the recipient of the Josephine Abady Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women, The Charles Bowden Award from New Dramatists and an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Show.

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Toshi Reagon, *Instruments and Programming*, is a singer, composer, musician, curator and producer. Her career has landed her in residence at Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House and Madison Square Garden. Toshi has produced several projects solo and in collaboration with artists including Lizz Wright, Carl Hancock Rux, Allison Miller, Sweet Honey in the Rock and Meshell Ndegeocello. Dance and theater credits include *The Blues Project* with Michelle Dorrance and Dorrance Dance, *The Temptation of St. Anthony* and *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter*, both with Robert Wilson and Bernice Jonson Reagon. Her latest works are Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* and the recording *Spiritland*, available on bandcamp.com. Toshi is a 2015 Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, 2017 Andrew W. Mellon DistIL Fellow, 2018 United State Artist Fellow and a 2019 Andrew W. Mellon Creative.

Kathy Ruvuna, *Sound Designer*, is a New York-based sound designer and composer originally from San Antonio, Texas. Recent credits include *Radio Golf* (Everyman Theatre), *Read to Me* (Portland Stage) and *Good Faith* (Yale Repertory Theatre). She holds an MFA in sound design from the Yale School of Drama.

Jean Kim, *Set and Costume Designer*, trained as an illustrator at Rhode Island School of Design, as a set designer at Yale School of Drama and is currently a New York-based set/costume designer originally from South Korea. Through design, she is always eager to explore the caliber in the realm of tales. Her recent set design credits include *Actually* and *Constellations* at TheaterWorks-Hartford, *LunchBunch*

at Wild Project with Clubbed Thumb's SummerWorks Festival, *How We Got On* at Trinity Repertory Company, *Detroit '67* at Julliard School, *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Le Petit Theater, *The Comedy of Errors* at Two River Theater and *June is the First Fall* at Yangtze Repertory Theatre.

Elizabeth Mak, *Projection and Lighting Designer*, is an interdisciplinary theater artist and designer based in New York and Singapore. New York credits include *The Chinese Lady* (The Public Theater), *The Tricky Part*, *A Walk in the Woods* (The Barrow Group); *They, Themselves and Scherm* (Public Theater UTR Festival INCOMING!) and *Rocco, Chelsea, Adriana...* (HERE Arts). Regional credits include *Miss You Like Hell* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Tiny Houses* (Cleveland Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse); *Bridges of Madison County* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), *Square Root of Three Sisters* (International Festival of Arts and Ideas). She was a resident designer with Albany Park Theater Project and a graduate of Yale School of Drama. She is a member of IATSE Local USA 829 and Wingspace Theatrical Design. Elizabeth is the founder of Rainshadow Studios.

Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals, *Author*, began her work as a champion for civil rights at the young age of 15 when she became one of the Little Rock Nine who first integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. An acclaimed journalist, she's a former NBC news reporter and has worked for ABC Radio and *People Magazine*. Her memoir, *Warriors Don't Cry*, has sold over a million copies. In her newest book, *March Forward, Girl*, published in 2018, she reflects on what makes one young girl stand up against the injustice around

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her. In recognition of her role as one of the Little Rock Nine, Melba and the rest of the nine received this country's highest recognition, the congressional Gold Medal. A mother of three and a retired university professor, she now lives in California.

meet the company

TheaterWorksUSA has led the Theater for Young and Family Audiences movement in New York City and across North America for over half a century. At TWUSA, we believe that access to art — and theater, in particular — is vital for our youth. Since 1961, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit has captured the imaginations of 100 million new and veteran theatergoers with an award-winning repertoire of over 140 original plays and musicals. Acclaimed alumni include Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Disney's *Frozen*), Daphne Rubin-Vega (*Rent*), Jerry Zaks (*The Music Man*), Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*Dear Evan Hansen*), Miguel Cervantes (*Hamilton*), Kathleen Chalfant (*Angels in America*) and Chuck Cooper (Tony award winning actor, *The Life*). Prior to suspending live production due to the pandemic, TWUSA's 2019-2020 season included touring 11 shows around the country, the Broadway premiere of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* and three world premieres: *Warriors Don't Cry*, based on the autobiography of Melba Pattillo Beals; *Dog Man: The Musical Off-Broadway* and *The Pout-Pout Fish* which opened the New Victory Theater's season in October 2019.

new jersey performing arts center

njpac on the mic

For post-show resources, please visit:
njpac.org/education-program/theaterworks-usa-warriors-dont-cry-resources

acknowledgements

TheaterWorksUSA Staff

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acknowledgements

“Raise Your Hands Ya Girl” music and lyrics by Toshi Reagon

Percussion and beats sampled from the song “Land of my People” by Toshi Reagon

Recording and mixing by Nolan Theis, Bunker Studio

The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, *Co-producer*, located in Hartford, CT, is one of the nation’s premier touring Broadway theaters. Established in 1930, The Bushnell has self-produced or co-produced numerous shows, including an earlier version of *Warriors Don’t Cry* (2011-2019), *Miss Saigon* (2013), *Greater Tuna* (2009) and *The Music Man: A 50th Anniversary Tribute* (2007). The Bushnell is a founding member of Elephant Eye Theatrical, which has produced two Broadway hits, *The Addams Family* and *An American in Paris*. Winner of four Tony Awards.

The Actors’ Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the U.S. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. The association seeks to foster the art of live theater as an essential component of our society.

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), founded in 1959, is the theatrical labor union that unites, empowers and protects professional stage directors and choreographers throughout the United States. SDC’s mission is to foster a national community of professional stage directors and choreographers by protecting the rights, health and

livelihoods of all of its members. SDC seeks to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities while educating current and future generations about the role of directors and choreographers and providing effective administration, negotiations and contractual support for over 2,000 full members and over 800 associates.

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