

Boston Arts Academy Foundation in Partnership With Boston Arts Academy Presents

# PIPPIN

Book by ROGER O. HIRSON - Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

**March 20 • March 21 • March 22**  
at 7:30pm                      at 7:30pm                      at 2:00 pm + 7:30pm



DESIGNED BY  
**Liam**  
ROTH

**BOSTON**  
ARTS ACADEMY

**BOSTON**  
ARTS ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION

Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stuart Ostrow  
Originally directed on the Broadway stage by Bob Fosse  
2013 Broadway revival directed by Diane Paulus  
Pippin is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

SCAN THE QR CODE

**GIVE THE GIFT OF  
OPPORTUNITY**



**BOSTON  
ARTS ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for our 2025 Champion Reception and all-star performance of Pippin!

We are delighted to honor and celebrate Pamela E. Allara and Raynya & Omar Simmons. Each year, Champion awards are presented to members of our community who embody the school's commitment to the arts, scholarship, and citizenship. This year's honorees represent our students in so many ways and are recognized for their incredible passion and love for young people, education, and the arts.

We also extend our gratitude and appreciation to Chair, Dylan Leavitt, and our Champion Committee for their outstanding commitment to making this event a tremendous success.

We invite you to enjoy an all-star performance of Pippin, which is produced and presented by the talented students of Boston Arts Academy. This entirely student-run production that features work and appearances from all four arts majors was chosen by the students because of its core storyline of a young man, Pippin, who is trying to find his true meaning in life.

Your participation of this event bridges the annual multi-million-dollar gap between BAA's allocation from Boston Public Schools and the true cost of an arts-intensive and college preparatory education.

Thank you for supporting the students and programs at Boston Arts Academy, our city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts. We invite you to visit [baafdn.org](http://baafdn.org) to make your best gift to invest in our community's brightest artists-scholars-global citizens.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denella J. Clark".

Denella J. Clark  
*President & CEO*  
*Boston Arts Academy Foundation*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyrone Sutton".

Tyrone Sutton  
*Head of School*  
*Boston Arts Academy*



*City of Boston, Massachusetts*

*Office of the Mayor*

***Michelle Wu***

March 20, 2025

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to the premier of Pippin, produced and performed by the talented artists, scholars, and global citizens of Boston Arts Academy. As Boston's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, BAA provides life-changing academic and artistic opportunities that equip students with the courage, creativity, and confidence to thrive. From our young people and our communities to our cultural landscape, BAA has done so much to make Boston a home for everyone.

There are few who embody the mission and vision of Boston Arts Academy as tonight's Champion Awardees: Pamela E. Allara and Raynya & Omar Simmons. I want to thank the entire Champion Committee, led by Chair Dylan Leavitt, for lifting up the members of our community who inspire so many artists and scholars.

That's why I'm proud to serve as Honorary Chair of Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Building Our Future Campaign: A multi-year effort to expand STEAM education, enhance artistic programming, and improve access to the social-emotional supports that empower our students. Building Our Future comes to a close this summer. I am so proud of everything we have and will continue to accomplish thanks to you.

Building Our Future and all of the work that BAAF does would not be possible without the leadership of President & CEO Denella Clark, Campaign Chair Mark Lev, and the entire BAAF Board. Thank you for all that you do to steward BAAF and establish a solid foundation for generations of BAA artist-scholars. I want to once again thank all of you here tonight for your generous support.

Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

# 2025 CHAMPION COMMITTEE



Dylan Leavitt is Chair of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Advisory Council. She is passionate about building community through education, arts, and culture. In 2018, Dylan founded Studio Dylan, a boutique production company, and has served as a producer for PBS national television programs including Antiques Roadshow and Lidia Celebrates America. She has also curated films at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Telluride Film Festival. Thank you, Dylan, for your generous leadership.

**DYLAN LEAVITT**  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHAMPION COMMITTEE

Dylan Leavitt, Committee Chair

<b>Hilina Ajakaiye</b>	<b>Denella Clark</b>	<b>Steven Meyers</b>
<b>Pamela Allara</b>	<b>Victoria Dozier</b>	<b>Aisha Miller</b>
<b>Laura Alpert</b>	<b>David Felton</b>	<b>Koren Phillips</b>
<b>Jason Amos</b>	<b>Latoya Gamble</b>	<b>Hector Piña</b>
<b>Arreen Andrew</b>	<b>Ronald Gillyard</b>	<b>Pamela Reeve</b>
<b>Grace Baljon</b>	<b>Annette Gonsalves-Byner</b>	<b>Jeff Rosica</b>
<b>Leonard Bannister</b>	<b>Joseph Hanley</b>	<b>Genevieve Rudin</b>
<b>Maggie Baxter</b>	<b>Denise Hayes</b>	<b>Dan Schutt</b>
<b>Beate Becker</b>	<b>Leclerc Jean-Louis</b>	<b>Kristen Standish</b>
<b>Valerie Becker-Nogueira</b>	<b>Karen Klein</b>	<b>Carlos Villamil</b>
<b>Ifeoma Belonwu</b>	<b>Dylan Leavitt – Chair</b>	<b>Cora Yamagata</b>
<b>Kelly Brilliant</b>	<b>Mark Lev</b>	<b>Malik Yoba</b>
<b>Stephanie Brown</b>	<b>Amy Malkemes</b>	<b>Alexander Zapata</b>
<b>Patricia Burson</b>	<b>Dominga Martin</b>	
<b>Marina Cappi</b>	<b>Michael Mauceri</b>	
<b>Petrina Cherry</b>	<b>Antoine Melay</b>	

# 2025 CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENT



**PAMELA**

E. Allara

2025 CHAMPION

**Pamela E. Allara**, Chair Emerita of the Boston Arts Academy Advisory Council, is a distinguished scholar, educator, and curator specializing in 20th-century American art, contemporary South African art, and feminist art. Associate Professor Emerita at Brandeis University, she developed interdisciplinary courses on feminist and post-colonial art. Her acclaimed book, *Pictures of People: Alice Neel's American Portrait Gallery*, highlights her commitment to art's role in social change.

Pamela earned her Ph.D. in Art History from Johns Hopkins University, specializing in 20th-century American art. Her dissertation focused on *The Watercolor Illustrations of Charles Demuth*. She completed her B.A. cum laude at Brown University. A Fulbright Scholar and curator of notable exhibitions like *Coexistence: Contemporary Cultural Production in South Africa*, Dr. Allara has championed cross-cultural dialogue, mentoring students and advocating for global equity through art.

# 2025 CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENT



## Raynya & Omar

Simmons  
2025 CHAMPION

Boston natives **Raynya and Omar Simmons** are dedicated philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and advocates for equity and cultural enrichment. Raynya, a vocalist and arts advocate, serves on the Boston Arts Academy Foundation Board, expanding access to arts education while supporting organizations like the Ellie Fund and Milton Academy's diversity committee. Raynya is a graduate of Boston University.

Omar is the founder of Exaltare Capital Management and co-founder of the Franchise Ascension Initiative which was established to increase franchise ownership in underrepresented communities. A Harvard Business School and Princeton graduate, Omar has a legacy of advancing equity and economic empowerment. Together, they champion racial equity, arts education, and social impact while raising their family in Milton, MA.



## Thank you for joining us in BAA's 500 seat theatre!

We hope you enjoy the show and consider naming a seat in someone's honor or memory.

### ***Take A Seat in BAA's Theatre Today!***



*Give the gift of a seat to someone you care about or invest in a seat to honor the importance of arts education! For a gift of \$1,000, your name or that of a loved one will be inscribed on a plaque on the seat of your choice and will remain on the seat arm for all to see in perpetuity. For more information on naming a seat, scan the QR code.*



# PIPPIN

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

***Pippin*** is a classic musical from the 70's. It is one of the longest running musicals from that era, and also one of the most enduring. There is humor, great music, and a story about a young man who is trying to find his true meaning in life. A true existential crisis. The construct is a "Play within a Play" where a band of players encourage the young man to play the role of Pippin in their story. They lead him through a journey to find his ultimate happiness. It was re-imagined in 2013 by Diane Paulus with the players as circus performers, which worked well.

When I work with the students here at BAA, I always ask them: what does this story mean to you? These artists really related to Pippin as a young person trying to find a way to be special, "extraordinary" and find his true purpose in life. They made so many connections to youth today. We began to develop ideas of how the band of players could actually be high school kids. Why were they traveling and putting on a show? And what does it mean to be extraordinary in today's society?

We are setting our story during Covid, when schools were closed and young people were kept away from each other and their art. Our band of players are High School kids, putting on their show, outside the school. The journey that is mystic, exotic and full of magic, is quite accurately, social media. The leading player entices Pippin toward his ultimate act - The finale!

We hope you enjoy this classic, reimagined by the students at BAA, as they present Pippin, with their own take on what it means to strive for an extraordinary.

Maura Tighe  
*Director*

# PIPPIN

Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stuart Ostrow

Originally directed on the Broadway stage by Bob Fosse

2013 Broadway revival directed by Diane Paulus

Theo Ending Originally Conceived In 1998 by Mitch Sebastian

PIPPIN is presented by special arrangement with

Music Theatre International (MTI)

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI

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

Directed by **Maura Tighe**

Musical Direction by **Michael Bradley**

Scenic Design by **Jenna McFarland Lord**

Assistant Scenic Design by **Ashley Rodriguez**

Lighting Design by **Conor Thiele**

Costume Design by **Seth Bodie**

Projection Design by **Justin Lahue**

Choreography by **Gabriella Calhoun**

Additional Choreography by **Sophia Williams and Brenny O' Brien**

Assistant to the Director: **Adrian Potter**

Production Stage Manager: **Kai Day**

Stage Managers: **Ayanna Joseph, Yarlenis Mejia**

Properties Manager: **Victoria Suazo**

## STARRING

### CAST

**PIPPIN**

**LEADING PLAYER**

**CHARLES**, *his father*

**LEWIS**, *his half brother*

**FASTRADA**, *Lewis' mother*

**BERTHE**, *Pippin's grandmother*

**CATHERINE**, *a widow*

**THEO**, *her son*

**ISAIAH RIFFE**

**LEINAD TINEO**

**JEON LAFLEUR**

**ZAY WILLIAMS**

**GABRIELA RUIZ**

**BRENNY O' BRIEN**

**AVIVA DIAS**

**EIJAH FACEY**

## **ENSEMBLE**

**James Brice, Nathaniel Codio, Iolanthe Demos, Haven Foley, Ila Karp, Margot Martin-Wilson, Fiona McCusker, Mychal Merritt, Jean Morales Huertas, Patrick Ondzi Wene, Nearah Sanon, Ezra Schwartz-Barts, Sophia Williams**

### **ORCHESTRA: Students**

**Brian Washington**, Drums  
**Leonardo Dello Russo**, Keyboard II  
**Eva Jackson**, Guitar  
**Madalena Kozol**, Bass  
**Adrian Maldonado**, Percussion I  
**Jairo Rivera**, Percussion II  
**Ezequiel Sanchez Deleon**, Trombone  
**Heibyn Sandoval**, Trumpet  
**Giovanni Sanchez Deleon**, Trumpet II  
**Mikayla Correia, Eliza Decaneas, Serenity Pope, Clara Young, Belai Abraha, Will Dendy**, Singers

### **ORCHESTRA ADDITIONS: Adults**

**Yusaka Yoshimura** , Keyboard I  
**Maxwell Parker**, Reed I  
**Brian Repeta**, Reed II  
**Man To Kwong**, Violin/Viola  
**Macaulley Whitlock**, Cello

**Time:** *Summer of 2020, during COVID*

**Place:** *Outside a closed BPS School*

**Audience Warning:** *There is mild sexual innuendo and a few mild swear words.*

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

1. **OVERTURE:** Orchestra
2. **MAGIC TO DO:** Leading Player, Ensemble
3. **CORNER OF THE SKY:** Pippin
4. **WAR IS A SCIENCE:** Charles, Ensemble
5. **GLORY:** Leading Player, Ensemble
6. **SIMPLE JOYS:** Leading Player, Ensemble
7. **NO TIME AT ALL:** Berthe, Ensemble
8. **WITH YOU:** Pippin, Ensemble
9. **SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE:** Fastrada
10. **MORNING GLOW:** Pippin, Leading Player, Ensemble

## ACT II

1. **OPENING ACT 2:** Orchestra, Ensemble
2. **THE RIGHT TRACK:** Leading Player, Pippin
3. **KIND OF WOMAN:** Catherine
4. **EXTRAORDINARY:** Pippin, Ensemble
5. **PRAYER FOR A DUCK:** Pippin, Theo
6. **LOVE SONG:** Pippin, Catherine
7. **I GUESS I'LL MISS THE MAN:** Catherine
8. **FINAL:** Leading Player, Pippin, Ensemble
9. **THEO'S CORNER:** Theo

# PRODUCTION

Production Stage Manager: **Kai Day**

Stage Manager: **Ayanna Joseph**

Stage Manager: **Yarlenis Mejia**

Properties Manager: **Victoria Suazo**

Light Board Operator: **Cam Garcia**

Stage Crew: **Leiya Silveira**

Sound A: **Andrew Woods**

Sound A2: **Jay Angel**

**Allison Fernandez**

**Sebastian Antunez Romero**

Follow Spot Operators: **Jada Cooper**

**Olivia Jamrog**

QLab and Sound Operator: **Teddy Keiber**

Wardrobe Crew: **Naima Doczi**

**Isiah Smith**

Poster Design: **Liam Rotti**

Videographer: **Dave Jamrog**



**Cast of Pippin**

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Belai Abraha (Pit Tenor)** is a senior vocal major. He has been singing since a very young age for his church and for other concerts. He is also a member of the Boston Arts Academy Spirituals ensemble. Last year, he had the honor to perform for Maura Healey's Inauguration at Boston TD Garden alongside the BAA Spirituals ensemble. Belai has loved the arts since childhood and has always been passionate about performing. While he is not primarily a musical theatre performer, he has dedicated years to singing and creative expression. He plans to continue performing and eventually create his own music. He is excited to be part of this production and to share his love of music with the audience tonight.

**James Brice (Ensemble)** is thrilled to make his debut in *Pippin*. A sophomore in the Visual Arts and Design (VAD) department, James combines his passion for visual arts and performing arts, with aspirations to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. James believes that "Nothing can happen if you don't put it in your mind first" whenever he tries something new.

**Nathaniel Codio (Ensemble)** has many accomplishments in classical music and opera scenes. He has been in a school play or two (*Ebnezer Scrooge*, *Ariel the musical*). He played Guglielmo in the *Così fan Tutte* opera scene locket duet at Boston University Tanglewood Institution, which he attended on a full scholarship directly from the program. He currently is playing the role of Escamillio in the opera *Carmen* at Boston Arts Academy. He hopes to gain experience with musical theatre with this amazing opportunity to participate in *Pippin*.

**Mikayla Correia (Pit Alto)** is a senior vocal major. She has been singing since a very young age for her church and for other concerts, she is also a member of the Boston Arts Academy Spirituals ensemble. Last year she had the honor to perform for Maura Healey's Inauguration at Boston TD Garden alongside the BAA Spirituals ensemble and was also a part of BAA's very own *Tina Turner Tribute*. Mikayla has always had a love for singing and is grateful for having her family supporting her artistic journey along the way.

**Kai Day (Production Stage Manager)** is a junior theater design major. He has done tech for other productions like *Wedding Band* (light board operator), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (spotlight), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (co-lighting designer) and he stage managed *Our Town*. He grew up in Boston and most of his training has been at Boston Arts Academy. This is his first time managing a musical and he's very excited to be working with such a talented cast and crew.

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Eliza Decaneas (Singer)** is a sophomore vocal major at BAA and has been singing and performing since age 7. After taking a long break from her elementary school musical theater group, she is excited to get back into theater through her role in Pippin. This is her first time participating in a school-wide production and she hopes to stay involved in similar shows throughout her high school career.

**Leo Dello Russo (Keyboard II)** is a sophomore instrumental music major. He has performed with the R&B Ensemble and the Hip-Hop Ensemble for his school. Additionally, Leo has displayed his talents at Berklee College of Music in the High School Academy of their City Music program, with bands like the Afro-Jazz, Fusion, and Neo-Soul ensembles. He has also received the City Music Summer Scholarship for the Aspire: Five-Week Music Performance Intensive summer program. He loves playing and performing with his friends and hopes to pursue going to a music college after his high school education. He would like to thank his friends and family, especially his father, for his support.

**Iolanthe Demos (Ensemble)** is a senior vocal major at Boston Arts Academy. This is her third BAA Mainstage production, and she is currently rehearsing for her lead role of Carmen in Boston Arts Academy's upcoming opera production of Carmen. Some of her other credits include Shrek (Teen Fiona), The Magic Flute (Pamina), Chicago (Kitty), Oklahoma (Ensemble), Boston Lyric Opera's Tosca (Ensemble) and many other exciting productions. Last year she was a featured performer in the BAA Tina Turner Tribute show, which was then invited to perform at Boston Symphony Hall. She is often on the road and performing as a member of The Spirituals Ensemble, who back in September reached #1 on Billboard for their album entitled Genesis and has now been invited to perform their own debut concert at Carnegie Hall later this May. She is grateful for all the amazing opportunities BAA has given her. Iolanthe plans to further pursue singing and theater professionally in college and is looking forward to working hard for whatever may await her next in her performing arts journey.

**Will Dendy (Pit Tenor/Baritone)** has been making music for the better part of a decade. He is a multi-instrumentalist and a multidisciplinary artist with a focus on instrumental music, vocal music, and poetry. A few years ago, he worked on Marian, or The True Tale of Robin Hood as a sound designer and audio engineer. This past summer, he performed as a solo act at the Boston Art & Music Soul (BAMS) Festival. Will has collaborated with both Grammy-nominated and Grammy Award-winning producers and artists. He is currently a performing musician, a student, and a vocal coach.

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Aviva Dias (Catherine)** is a 16 year old sophomore vocalist at Boston Arts Academy. She fell in love with the theater at age 4. She hopes to do musical theater in college and pursue a life in the arts. Her most recent productions include Mean Girls (Cady) at the North Shore Music Theater and Beauty and the Beast (Belle), The Little Mermaid (AQUATA), and Frozen (young Elsa) with Spotlight Productions. Aviva is overjoyed to be making her BAA musical theater debut and is excited to continue her artistic journey here. @avivadiassings

**Elijah Facey, (Theo)** is a 4th grader at the Conservatory Lab Charter School. He has experience on stage in a Black History play. He also loves singing and sports. He is looking forward to being in the play and meeting new people. He wants to be a pro football player when he grows up. He also loves basketball. He has two brothers, one younger and one older, and he wants to become a Dad when he gets older.

**Eva Jackson (Electric Guitar)** guitarist, is a senior music major. Currently, she performs with BAA's B.A.M. Advanced Jazz ensemble and Berklee City Music's Advanced ensemble. As a participant in Berklee's Jazz and Gender Justice program, she loves collaborating with others and hopes to have a career in the music industry. As a transfer student, Eva gives thanks to her friends and the staff members at BAA for encouraging and helping her achieve her goals.

**Haven Foley (Ensemble)** is a 15-year-old freshman theater major. This is Haven's first production at Boston Arts Academy. She has been doing theater since she was 6 years old. Some of her past productions include *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby at South Stage Theater Works), *Our Town* (Emily), *Into the Woods Jr.* (Little Red), and *Frozen Jr.* (Little Anna). She hopes to continue pursuing theater in the future and she is very excited for her high school career at BAA. She wants to thank this cast for making her time in this show so wonderful.

**Ayannah Joseph (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a 15-year-old sophomore who found a burning passion for theater in the 6th grade. Her past productions include *Peter Pan Jr.* (Brave Girl) at Riverside Theater Works and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Molly Cunningham) at Boston Arts Academy. Over the summer, Ayannah has done a musical theater program with Berklee at the Boston Conservatory. Ayannah's love for acting also comes with her love for participating in tech and crew; this is her first time being an assistant stage manager for a theater production, and she is very excited to gain experience and learn everything there is to know about being a part of the crew. Ayannah would like to thank her parents, who have supported her love for art every step of the way, she would also like to thank Ms. Tighe for seeing the potential in her to be a part of the crew, and lastly, she would like to thank all her friends who have supported her along the way and helped her keep on shining. Ayannah is so happy to work with this cast and crew!

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Ila Karp Albenberg (Player)** is a junior theatre major. She loves musical theater and has been performing her whole life. In addition to musical theater she has been working backstage and taking on more design roles in BAA shows. Previous performing productions that she has performed in include, The Music Man (Amaryllis), Mamma Mia (Ensemble) and more recently, Our Town (Professor Willard) and Shrek (Little Red) at Boston Arts Academy. She would like to express her gratitude to her acting teachers at BAA and her dance teachers at Jo-Me Dance Studio for supporting her and giving her the skills to be prepared for this production.

**Madalena Koza (Bass)** is a double bassist and electric bassist who is passionate about jazz, classical and more. Madalena was recently selected as one of just four finalists for the International Society of Bassists Youth Jazz Competition and will compete in the final round at the Florida State University College of Music in Tallahassee this June. Madalena is a student in Boston's prestigious Project STEP program, plays in the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, is a bassist for the Beantown Swing Orchestra, and is in Berklee City Music High School Academy and New England Conservatory's Jazz Prep Program. Madalena has performed with the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles conducted by Gustavo Dudamel, the National Pathways Festival Orchestra with the Nashville Symphony conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero, and has been in the MMEA Eastern District Senior Festival Orchestra the last two years. In addition to playing bass in BAA's Pippin, Madalena was the bassist for BAA's 2024 musical You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and was the bassist for Brookline High School's 2023 musical, Mamma Mia!. Madalena plans to pursue a career as a professional bassist.

**Jeon Lafleur (Charlemagne)** is a junior theatre major and has been doing theatre since 8th grade. He has performed in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Linus), Our Town (Dr.Gibbs), As you Like it (Orlando), and Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Jeremy Furlow). He is very excited to show all the hard work the cast and crew have put into making this musical come to life. He would also like to thank his family and friends for their love and support as well as the cast and director for making him feel secure and supported through this show.

**Adrian Maldonado (Percussion I)** is a Christian Latin Boston based drummer who has been dedicated to his instrument since a young age. He received a scholarship to attend the City Music High School Program. Adrian has performed with the BAA big band, the Latin ensemble, and the advanced ensemble. Adrian has also toured with Fabiola Mendez all over the U.S. and has recorded on several albums alongside Grammy nominated artists. He hopes to attend Berklee College of Music, and to continue to tour and play alongside his father, Juan Maldonado.

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Margot Martin-Wilson (Ensemble)** is currently a 9th grade vocalist at BAA. She has been doing musical theatre since she was 6. Her most recent productions include: Mean Girls Jr (Janis), Aladdin (ensemble), and Into the Woods Jr (evil stepsister) at Artbarn, a local theatre program. Her dream role is Little Red Riding Hood in Into the Woods. She is extremely excited to be performing in her first high school production!

**Fiona McCusker (Ensemble)** is a 16 year old sophomore theater major at BAA. BAA credits include: Joe Turner's Come And Gone (Assistant Director). Other credits include: Our Town (Emily), Steel Magnolias (M'lynn), Bright Star (Margo) Into The Woods (Cinderella), Frozen (Anna) The Little Mermaid (Ariel), and Matt and Ben (Assistant Director). Fiona hopes to pursue her theater career after high school. She is so grateful she got to be a part of this wonderful production!

**Yarlenis Mejia (Stage Manager)** is a 16-year-old sophomore theater major. She is very excited to be a part of this production of *Pippin* as a stage manager! Some of Yarlenis' previous theater credits have been a BAA production of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson (Martha), The Huntington Theater Company's *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare (Hero), *Vindications* by 2024 theater alumni Armani Barrantes (Officer #2) and she was the lighting board operator for the 2023-2024 sophomore class play *Our Town*. This is Yarlenis' first time being a stage manager and she is delighted to learn about the skills a stage manager must have when working on a production. Yarlenis aspires to learn more about acting during her time at BAA and can not wait to see how her acting/theater career will blossom in the future.

**Mychal Merritt (Ensemble)** is a senior theatre design major. This is Mychal's second time doing a non-designing job on a BAA production having previously done the set design on *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, lighting design on last years productions of *Our Town*, and co-designer of lighting, while also Designing Props on *Wedding Band*. Other BAA credits include *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Stage Manager), *Vindications* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Shrek* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *The Crucible* (Assistant Master Carpenter). This will be Mychal's second time on stage while previously acting in her sophomore year playing (Fanny Dashwood) in *Sense and Sensibility*. BAA has helped her find a passion for working backstage/designing and she will continue that over the next couple of years! Mychal wants to thank her family for their constant support, her Theatre Design class and her Pippin ensemble for the help and support!

**Jean Morales (Ensemble)** is a 15-year-old theater major. He is excited to have the opportunity to be in *Pippin*. Previously he participated in the August Wilson Monologue Competition and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* as master carpenter. His goals in BAA are to learn the art form of architecture and the path that it envelops in theater. As for the future to come he hopes to strive far with hard work and pursue architecture.

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Brenny O'Brien (Berthe/Dance Captain)** is a 17-year-old senior theatre major. This is Brenny's sixth BAA production, having been seen previously in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (Sally Brown/Dance Captain), Wedding Band (Herman's Mother), Sense and Sensibility (Mrs.Jennings), Shrek the Musical (Onstage Swing/Dance Captain), and Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Assistant Stage Manager). Boston credits include Moonbox Productions: Mermaid Hour; Huntington Theatre Company: Merrily We Roll Along (IRNE Nomination for Promising Young Performer); Wheelock Family Theatre @BU: James and the Giant Peach; SpeakEasy Stage Company: appropriate; Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: Richard III; ArtsEmerson: The State of Siege; Citi Shubert Theatre: Show Boat; SouthStage Theatre Works: Steel Magnolias, Matt & Ben. In the future, Brenny hopes to continue her journey and her career as an actor in Boston! @brenny.obrien

**Patrick Ondzi (Ensemble)** has always loved to sing and has wanted to become involved in the performing arts. Pippin is his first major production. He transferred out of the John D. O'Bryant school at the end of his freshman year to pursue his interest in music. While at BAA, Patrick has developed his voice significantly and has learned many things about the experience of being a performing artist in the professional world. Patrick is part of the Spirituals Ensemble, an advanced audition only ensemble at BAA that specializes in music of the African diaspora. He's performed countless times with this group and decided to pursue something bigger. He wants to keep pursuing a career in the arts, and plans to major in music performance in college next year.

**Serenity Pope-Bullock (Pit Soprano)** is a vibrant and aspiring performer with a passion for the stage. In this production, she sings as a pit singer (first soprano). Her recent theatrical credits include Black Nativity Boston (singer) and a memorable performance of The Lion King (Nala) during her eighth-grade year at Scituate High School. Serenity dreams of being a gospel singer, while also acting and dancing, and she is determined to actively pursue her artistic aspirations.

**Adrian Potter (Assistant Director)** is a 16-year-old acting major at BAA. He's been on the stage for most of his life, in shows such as Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Rutherford Selig), Shrek the Musical (Pinnocchio), Our Town (Joe Crowell Jr.), Mamma Mia! (Ensemble), and many more, mostly musicals. At BAA, Adrian has also been a part of the tech crew for You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (Lighting Board Operator) as well as multiple assemblies at BAA (Lighting Designer, Stage Crew). He has helped write and act in 3 plays with EmersonTHEATER, a program at Emerson college. But this is his first time taking on directing, and he's loved every second of it! He thanks his parents, the incredibly talented cast and crew, and Ms. Tighe for making it all happen!

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Isaiah Riffe (Pippin)** is a 17-year-old junior vocalist. Although the production is his first musical at Boston Arts Academy, he has performed many times both in and out of school. His love for theater and stage work has been ongoing for years, and he intends to continue his art even after high school. Working with his castmates has been such a fantastic experience, and he's truly grateful for the many opportunities that have been offered to him. While he continues onto his senior year, he hopes to end off his journey strong and continue to take the stage.

**Jairo Rivera (Percussion II)** is a junior music major. He has performed with The BAA Brass Band, Latin Jazz Ensemble and the BAA Big Band and he has made a few appearances with Spirituals of Boston Arts Academy. Jairo is also showcasing his talents at Berklee College of Music, as a City Music scholarship recipient. He enjoys performing and hopes to continue playing in a 4 year college, to pursue Music. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support.

**Gabriela Ruiz (Fastrada)** is a junior theatre major. This is Gabriela's third BAA main stage performance. She has performed in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Our Town*, and *Heathers The Musical*. She was born and raised in Colombia, has been a performer since the age of 4, and has always been involved in an artistic environment thanks to her family. Gabriela's passion is acting, along with dancing and singing. She has found herself positively challenged; therefore, she is exploring how it is to be trained as an actor. Gabby is thankful for God, her family, the crew and the cast for all the hard work and support put into this show.

**Giovanni Sanchez (Trumpet)** is a junior trumpet player with a wish to pursue a career in the arts. Giovanni has played with the city music afro cuban, jazz and advanced ensembles and has attended the Aspiring Berklee 5-Week program with a full tuition scholarship.

**Ezequiel Sanchez (Trombone)** is a sophomore music major who plays both Tenor and Bass trombone. He has played in pit orchestras with Boston's Youth Symphony for operas, including *La Damnation de Faust*, *Norma*, and, recently, *Don Carlo*. Other ensembles he has participated in include MMEA All-State Orchestra '24, Yola National '24, B.A.M., Brass Band, and Big Band. He also started Performing with Berklee City Music this year. He will be doing Allstate again this year and will also be going to Chicago in April to play with the Chicago Symphony. He is hoping to get into America's National Youth Jazz Orchestra this summer.

**Heibyn Sandoval (Trumpet)** is a dedicated trumpet player with a strong commitment to improving his craft. He has received a scholarship to Berklee City Music and has performed with Big Band B.A.M. and Brass Band, gigging around Boston while continuously refining his skills. Heibyn has also attended Berklee's 5-Week program, earning scholarships for his hard work and dedication. He is deeply grateful for the incredible support from his parents, which has played a crucial role in his musical journey.

# ARTIST BIOS - STUDENTS

**Nearah Sanon (Ensemble)** is a senior at Boston Arts Academy, where she is an instrumental music major. A dedicated bassoonist for nearly a decade, she primarily focuses on music performance but has developed a love for theater through classic films and musicals, a passion she shares with her mother. She made her stage debut in *SHREK THE MUSICAL* (Mama Bear) during her sophomore year and is excited to continue exploring new artistic challenges. Nearah looks forward to expanding her performance experience and deepening her connection to the arts.

**Leinad Denicha Tineo (Leading Player)** is a senior vocal major at Boston Arts Academy. This is her third BAA main stage production. Past productions include the Tina Turner Tribute Show *Simply the Best* (Main Tina Tribute Singer), and *Shrek the Musical* (Humpty Dumpty, Duloc Citizen, Three Blind Mice).

**Brian Washington (Drums)** is a senior music major. He has performed with The B.A.M. ensemble, Brass Band, and Big band and he has made a few appearances with Spirituals and *The Boston Pops*. Brian is also showcasing his talents at Berklee College of Music, as a City Music scholarship recipient. He enjoys performing and hopes to continue playing in a 4 year college, to pursue Music. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support.

**Sophia Williams (Ensemble, Dance Captain)** is a senior theatre major who has exceeded her love for acting throughout her journey here at Boston Arts Academy. With this production, along with being an ensemble member, she has also taken part in choreographing one of the dance numbers. Although she loves being on stage, she also has a particular love for the technical aspect of theatre, as well as being on film. At Boston Arts academy, she has been in *Shrek The Musical* (Mad Hatter/Audio), *Sense and Sensibility* (Margaret), *Wedding Band* (Teeta), and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Bertha). As her journey very slowly comes to an end, she is forever grateful for the opportunities she has received both inside and outside of the school building and is excited to see where her future takes her.

**Zay Williams (Lewis)** is a 16-year-old sophomore theatre major. This is his first musical performance at Boston Arts Academy and he is incredibly excited to be taking on this role. His love for acting began when he was as little as 9 years old, and he has been so grateful for the training and connections that he has made from the school. His process with the cast and crew has been incredible, and for his first production he was blessed with such a great group of people.

**Clara Young (Pit Alto)** is a sophomore vocal major who has loved to sing and perform all of her life. Past productions include *Matilda the Musical* (Miss Honey) and *Shrek* (Mama Ogre). For four summers, she was a member of the Riotous Youth Program at Shakespeare and Company. Clara was also part of the Boston Symphony Children's Choir and sang alongside the Boston Pops Orchestra. She is currently a member of The Spirituals Ensemble and looks forward to the spring concert schedule in Atlanta and NYC.

# ARTIST BIOS - DESIGNERS/DIRECTORS

**Michael W. Bradley (Music Director)** has been an active member of the arts community both locally and abroad for over fifteen years. Mr. Bradley attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts where he graduated with a B.M. in Music Education. Now in his 10th year of teaching, Mr. Bradley currently serves on the Voice faculty of Boston Arts Academy where he teaches Vocal Technique, Music Theory, Contemporary Vocal Ensembles and the award winning "Spirituals" Ensemble. He continues to maintain an active schedule as a composer, arranger, performer and director in the fields of Choral and Gospel music respectively. Prior to his work at the Boston Arts Academy, Mr. Bradley worked as a General Music & Choral Director in Boston and Cambridge Public Schools respectively and the Director of Secondary Choral and Instrumental Education and Theater Studies for the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Mr. Bradley's choirs have had the opportunity to compete and place in national competitions and perform for such prominent figures as Yo-Yo Ma, Damien Woetzel, and at the White House for First Lady Michelle Obama.

**Seth Bodie (Costume Designer)** is a Boston based theater maker who has worked on everything from Broadway to Burlesque. His work has been featured on stage locally by Speakeasy Stage Co., Lyric Stage Co. of Boston, Umbrella Theater, Actor's Shakespeare Project, Boston Early Music Festival, Commonwealth Stage Company and many more. [www.sethbodie.com](http://www.sethbodie.com)

**Gabriella Calhoun (Choreographer)** is proud to be the choreographer for the Boston Arts Academy Production. She has previously created choreography for Something Rotten at Pensacola State College, FL and the 2025 Berklee Commencement for Guest Artist, Gilberto Santa Rosa in Boston, MA. Gabriella is currently a junior at Boston Conservatory at Berklee studying Commercial Dance and a Musical Theater, Performance Minor. She is classically trained in ballet and voice, as well as trained in Musical Theater, Dance, Jazz, Tap, Salsa, Flamenco, Swing and numerous urban dance styles. She has enjoyed working with the BAA cast, creative and technical team and she looks forward to future collaborations!

# ARTIST BIOS - DESIGNERS/DIRECTORS

**Justin Lahue (Projections Designer)** is a Boston based theatre artist and filmmaker. Previous collaborations include work with the Westport Country Playhouse, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Harbor Stage Company, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Speakeasy Stage, Harvard University, Boston Conservatory, Company One, Northeastern University, and Seacoast Repertory Theatre. He is the recipient of a 2022 BroadwayWorld Boston award (best professional scenic design | Straight White Men), as well as a 2022 Cannes Film Award and regional Emmy nomination in art direction for the feature film Not on This Night. He has worked as a videographer with artists across the globe to produce filmed content, focusing on creating pieces that capture the immediacy of live performance on camera. These creations have screened at film festivals in England, Germany, Russia, and venues throughout North America. Justin graduated with a BA in Theatre from Suffolk University. For more information on his work, please visit [www.justinlahue.com](http://www.justinlahue.com).

**Maxwell Leavitt-Parker (Reed I)** has been a musician for over 2 decades. He has performed in pit orchestras for schools and community theaters across the South Shore since 2011. He was an elementary and middle school band teacher for Brockton Public Schools for almost a decade before leaving to pursue his career as a performer and private teacher. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He has also performed locally as a woodwind player with many groups including the Tri-county Symphonic Band, the Cosmo Legion Band, Our Lady of Light Band, the Marion Concert Band, the UMass Dartmouth Wind Ensemble, the Moonlighters Big Band, Massasoit Theater, and the New Bedford Festival Theater.

**KWONG Man-To (Violin/Viola)** is a native of Hong Kong, who has defined himself as a music enthusiast. who has defined himself as a music enthusiast, has become one of the leading trends in the field. KWONG is actively engaged in orchestra work. He has been the principal viola in Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra and Pro Arte Orchestra. With the orchestras, he won the grand prize in the Bratislava Youth Music Festival. Recently, he served as a principal viola in the NEC Philharmonic. KWONG also ceaselessly participated in numerous renowned music festivals. Upon the recommendation of the HKSAR Music Office, he attended the 38 th Kirishima International Music Festival, studying with TANAMURA Mazumi. Moreover, he joined the Asian Youth Orchestra, performing concerts in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan. He also performed in Youth Music Culture Guangdong hosted by renowned artists Yo-Yo Ma. Currently, KWONG is studying for a Master of Music with Mr. Nicolas Cords in the New England Conservatory.

# ARTIST BIOS - DESIGNERS/DIRECTORS

**Jenna McFarland Lord (Scenic Designer)** Jenna has designed throughout New England for companies and educational institutions including but not limited to Boston Lyric Opera, SpeakEasy Stage Co., Gloucester Stage Co., Lyric Stage, Actors' Shakespeare Project, New Repertory Theatre, Greater Boston Stage Co., Central Square Theatre, Wheelock Family Theatre, Northeastern University, Brandeis University, Boston Conservatory and New England Conservatory. She has also designed Off-Broadway at La Mama and The New York Playwrights Lab. Jenna won the Elliot Norton Award for her design of BLKS in 2022. Ms. McFarland Lord has been the set design, carpentry, and scenic painting teacher at the Boston Arts Academy for 17 years.

**Brian Repeta (Reed II)** is an undergraduate music education student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. While his primary instrument is Oboe, Brian's instrumental expertise stretches across all instrument families which allows him to keep an active schedule performing across the Commonwealth. Previous favorite shows he's worked on include Jesus Christ Superstar, The Addams Family, and We Will Rock You, among others. At this time, he is actively music directing a production of Heathers with the UMass Theatre Guild, opening in April. An avid woodwind doubler/multi-instrumentalist and composer, Brian hopes to continue to work as a freelance musician while pursuing his studies, making positive connections with other musicians. This East Bridgewater native is making his first appearance with the Boston Arts Academy Pit Orchestra.

**Conor Thiele (Lighting Designer)** is a freelance lighting designer and collaborator based out of Manhattan and Boston. His work is focused on a singular goal of creating inspiring and thought provoking storytelling. Select credits include: Markus King on the Howard Stern show (Sirius XM), RESILIENT (Novum Dance company), Sunday in the Park with George (Boston University), House of Legendary (American Opera Project). <https://www.conorthiele.com>

**Maura Tighe (Director)** is the Artistic Director at Boston Arts Academy. She taught acting at BAA for 13 years prior to this role. She has worked as a director of experimental theatre, new works, musical reviews and Off Off Broadway productions in NYC. She has directed many productions at BAA, and at New England area theaters. She has also worked in film and television as a Casting Director and started her own highly successful company - Maura Tighe Casting. Her professional casting credits include many feature films and independent, local projects such as the original Queer Eye, and shows for PBS/WGBH, Bravo, Oxygen, ABC Family and others.

# ARTIST BIOS - DESIGNERS/DIRECTORS

**Macaulley Whitlock (Cello)** is a cellist and teacher who comes from a family full of musicians and educators. Macaulley earned her Bachelors in Music Education from Luther College and a Masters in Music from Longy School of Music. Macaulley has spent time teaching abroad in Mexico and at the Conservatory Lab Charter School. Currently, Macaulley teaches music at the Donald McKay K-8 School. This is her second appearance in the Boston Arts Academy Pit Orchestra.

**Yusaku Yoshimura (Keyboard I)** was born in Kanazawa, Japan in 1981. Yusaku started taking piano lessons at the age of 10. He later moved to Boston in 2000 to study at Berklee College of Music. Yusaku is a current member of a Boston-based Afrobeat band, Kotoko Brass.

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**BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY (BAA)**, a pilot school within Boston Public Schools, prepares a diverse community of aspiring artists-scholars-global citizens to be successful in their college or professional careers and to be engaged members of a democratic society. As the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, BAA's competitive arts and college preparatory education creates opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Founded in 1998, Boston Arts Academy has been recognized as a leader in arts education by the President's Council on the Arts and Humanities, the GRAMMY Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the National Education Policy Center.

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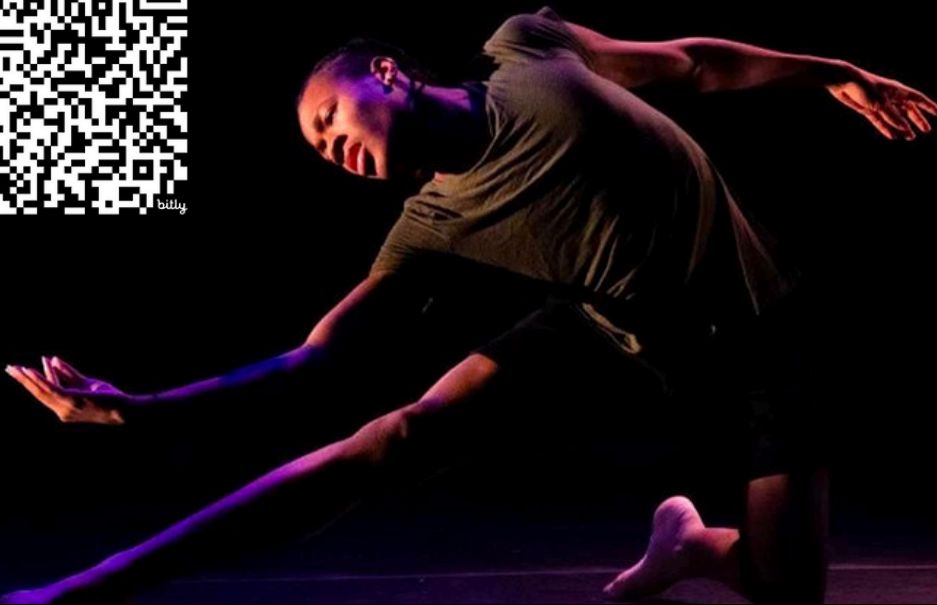
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# The Legacy of Kyre Scholarship

Boston Arts Academy Foundation, with the Ambrose Family, is pleased to share ***The Legacy of Kyre Fund***, a new scholarship for students of Boston Arts Academy pursuing a BFA in Dance in their college careers. We are proud to honor Kyre Ambrose, BAA '23's, extraordinary artistry and the impact that he made on his community.

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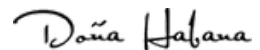
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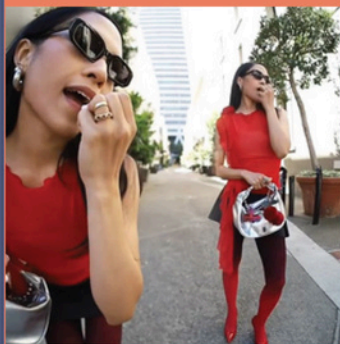
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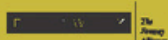
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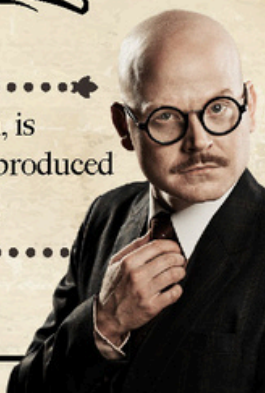
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A heartfelt congratulations to this year's Champion Award recipients! Your hard work, dedication, and passion are a testament to your commitment and excellence. We're proud to celebrate your incredible accomplishments tonight!

**-Kevin and Trina Cherry**

A photograph of the Simmons University building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent portico supported by columns and a central tower with a green roof. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

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