

The Ovation Repertory Theatre at the Spotlight Auditorium is proud to present:

CALEY MAYHALL KIARRE McGEE and AUBRIE CALLOWAY
in

DREAMGIRLS

Music By
HENRY KRIEGER

Book & Lyrics By
TOM EYEN

Also Starring:
NICOSHA COLLINS MORGAN CRITE KENNETH LABRON
JEHDIAH WOODROW TYLER VERNON

With:
BRAEDEN ADDISON RIORDAN BANKS DANIELLE CHASE
ELLIE COX MASON EDWARDS DEX KELLEY
JESSUNIQUE LEE ALEXIS LYONS
ALLISON NELSON MADISON PERRY LEXIE WATKINS
KENNETH WHITCHARD MAYA WRIGHT TYLER VERNON

Set Design
ROGER UPTON

Costume Design
ROGER UPTON

Lighting Design
ADAM CLINE

Sound Design
MEGAN DOWDA-GILLETTE

Prop Design
JOANNA SANNER

Music Arrangments
AUBRIE CALLOWAY &
MASON EDWARD

Music Director
MASON EDWARD

Choreography By
MARVIN RAMEY

Directed By
HAL FRIEDMAN

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH TAMS WITMARK



CALEY MAYHALL



KIARRE MCGEE



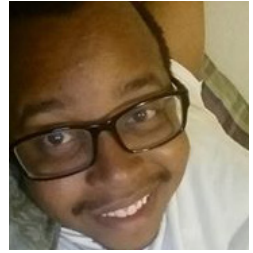
AUBRIE CALLOWAY



MORGAN CRITE



KENNETH LABRON



JEHDIAH WOODROW



TYLER VERNON



KENNETH WHITCHARD



NICOSHA COLLINS



CAST

Effie White Caley Mayhall

Deena Jones Kiarre McGee

Lorrell Robinson Aubrie Calloway

Curtis Taylor Jr. Morgan Crite

Jimmy Early Kenneth Labron

C.C. White Jehdiah Woodrow

Marty Kenneth Whitchard

Wayne Tyler Vernon

Michelle Morris Nichosha Collins

Ensemble Braeden Addison

Riordan Banks, Danielle Chase, Ellie Cox,
Mason Edwards, Dex Kelly, Jessuniquie Lee,
Alexis Lyons, Allison Nelson, Madison Perry,
Braden Unruh, Lexie Watkins, Kenneth Whitchard, Maya Wright.

TRACK RECORDING

James O'Hearn
Mason Edwards
Jeff Ingle
Jeff Ardray
Aubrie Calloway

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“I’m Lookin’ For Something Baby”	Stapp Sisters
“Little Albert and the Tru-Tones”	Little Albert and the Tru-Tones
“Tiny Joe Dixon”	Tiny Joe Dixon
“Move”	Dreamettes
“Fake Your Way to the Top”	Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell
“Cadillac Car (Aria)”	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Marty, Effie, Deena, Lorrell
“On the Road”	C.C., Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
“Movin’ Out”	Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Ensemble
“Cadillac Car (Pat Boone)”	Jesus, Caiaphas, Ensemble
“Steppin’ to the Bad Side”	Full Cast
“Baby-Baby”	Jimmy Effie, Deena, Lorrell
“I Love You I Do”	Lorrell
“Family”	C.C., Curtis, Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell
“Dreamgirls”	Deena and the Dreams
“Heavy”	Deena and the Dreams, Curtis
“It’s All Over”	Curtis, C.C., Jimmy, Effie, Deena, Lorrell, Michelle
“(And I’m Telling You) I’m Not Going”	Effie

ACT II

“Patience”	C.C., Lorrell, Jimmy, Michelle, Deena
“I Am Changing”	Effie
“You Are My Dream”	Curtis
“Ain’t No Party”	Jimmy, Lorrell
“I Meant You No Harm”	Jimmy
“Rap”	Jimmy, Wayne, Curtis, Lorrell, Ensemble
“I Miss You, Old Friend”	C.C., Effie
“One Night Only”	Effie
“One Night Only (Disco)”	Deena and the Dreams
“Listen”	Deena and Effie
“Hard to Say Goodbye (My Love)”	Deena and the Dreams
“Dreamgirls Reprise”	Deena, Lorrell, Michelle, Effie

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

BIOGRAPHIES

Braden Unruh (*Ensemble*) has performed such amazing roles as The Hermit in *Young Frankenstein* (Empty Space), Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown* (Empty Space), and several roles during his time in the East Bakersfield High Theatre Department. He is currently a music student at Bakersfield College, pursuing a degree in Music Education. Braden is excited to be in his first show at The Ovation and plans to be involved in many more at this wonderful theatre. He would like to thank his boyfriend, Angel, for his devotion and for putting up with listening to the *Dreamgirls* soundtrack for the past three months.

Riordan Banks (*Ensemble*) is a ninth grader at Bakersfield High School where he excels in GATE classes and the Men's choir. In addition to singing on the praise team at Compassion Christian Center, Riordan has also been a part of local theatre since he was six years old. You may have seen him in various shows including *Ragtime*, *The Music Man*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is a proud member of the Central Artists family. Next stop Broadway!

Aubrie Calloway (*Lorrell*) is beyond excited to be a part of this magnificent production amongst such beautifully talented and mesmerizing performers. She has been singing and performing since a very young age and loves every moment on that stage. *Dreamgirls* is her first production at The Ovation Theatre and she's looking forward to many more productions with Ovation in the future. Aubrie would love to thank her wonderful cast and crew for being so spectacular; you all have a special place in her heart. Continuous thanks to Kenny (*My Jimmy*) for all the immediate hugs, walks, talks, fun and adventures; to Kiarre, Caley, Jehdiah, Tyler, Nicosha, Morgan and Kenneth (*LSOH* and *DREAMGIRLS* back-to-back mate) for always greeting her with your amazing hugs and great convos, and to Mason: you are an exceptionally gifted, multi-faceted star; so honored to know you, kid. Lastly, Aubrie would love to send thanks to her mom, Leonda, and to her husband, David (*My Foundation*): love you beyond measure; everyday just THANK YOU! Enjoy the show everyone... Lorrell loves Jimmy, it's true... But She's got A SHOW TO DO!

Danielle Chase (*Ensemble*) has been doing community theatre for almost 20 years. She is excited to be doing such an important show. You may have recently seen her in *Legally Blonde*, *Gypsy*, and *Promises, Promises*. She also has been the assistant director for several shows including last season's *Bonnie & Clyde*. Coming up she will be one of the directors for the Ovation Theatre's Children's Summer program and is excited to share her passion for theatre with the youth of Bakersfield. She would like to thank the cast and crew for just being the awesome people they are. Enjoy the show!

Nicosha Collins (*Michelle*) plays the role of Michelle Morris in *Dreamgirls* and is delighted to be performing in her first production with the Ovation Theatre Company. She has previously been cast in the ensemble for Bakersfield Musical Theatre's *AIDA* and has appeared as Princess Tiana in Stars Theater Restaurant's *Princess Breakfast*. When she is not working as a pharmacy technician, she spends her free time writing, performing, and singing in the Reggae/Jamaican-Soul Band, The Soul Chance. Nico, as many call her, would like to give thanks to her friends, family, and her loving boyfriend, AJ, for the continued support and positivity.

Ellie Cox (*Ensemble*) is a sophomore at East Bakersfield High where she is very active in the performing arts program and has performed in both *Grease* and *The Nine Worst Breakups of All Time*. In addition to performing at East, she has also portrayed Rapunzel in *The Trial of The Wicked Witch*, performed with The Valley Oaks Charter School. After high school, Ellie plans to pursue a degree in Musical Theatre at the University of California, Irvine. She would like to thank her mom and dad for always encouraging her to pursue her dream of performing.

Morgan Crite (*Curtis Taylor Jr.*) who plays Curtis Taylor Jr., is extremely excited to be in his first musical here at The Ovation Theatre, especially one as exciting as *Dreamgirls*. He is currently a theater and music major at Bakersfield College and has performed in several plays there. He would like to thank Nicholas for always being there for him and all his friends for the endless support.

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Mason Edwards (*Ensemble/Musical Director*) is stoked to make *Dreamgirls* the first show he has musical directed. He'd like to send a shout out to the cast and crew, his family and friends, and all of those who support local theatre.

Dex Kelly (*Ensemble*) is new to musical theatre but has always had a passion for dance. He has taught dance at Penn Point Dance Academy and at Greenfield Middle School. Currently, Dex is a backup dancer for several artists and is presently working on a new dance film project that will make its debut at CSUB this summer.

Kenneth Labron (*Jimmy Early*) is proud to once again be stepping onto The Ovation stage since his portrayal of Herod in the inaugural show, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, proclaiming "I always feel at home anytime I perform at this theatre." He was the original Jimmy Early from the first production of *Dreamgirls* that appeared on this stage back when it was The Spotlight, also directed by Hal Friedman. Since then, Kenneth has continued to perform and was most recently seen in *Big River* at Stars Theatre Restaurant. He hopes you enjoy this show and says "Have a glass of wine... I sure will."

Jessunique Lee (*Ensemble*) also known as Jess, is a 22-year-old who grew up singing, doing talent shows, and writing poems. When she was younger, Jess was obsessed with the *Dreamgirls* film which led her to audition for this production. She is very excited to be given the opportunity to be a part of this amazing cast and to bring such a wonderful story to life for the audience. She would like to thank the creative team for giving her this chance to come out of her shell and to grow as an artist and a person.

Alexis Lyons (*Ensemble*) was part of the original cast of *Dreamgirls* at this theatre back when it was operated by The Spotlight and she is thrilled to be back on this stage in the same show with The Ovation. Although she is currently training in the medical field, Alexis still finds time to pursue her passion of art, mime, and theatre; especially directing youth theatre at her church. She would like to thank her mother, Kim, for always believing in her talent.

Caley Mayhall (*Effie White*) is a Bakersfield native

and an active member in the Fine Arts community, but *Dreamgirls* will be her first production on the Ovation stage. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Vocal Studies from Brigham Young University of Hawaii and is currently working as an adjunct vocal instructor at Bakersfield College. She is also the current president of the Bakersfield College Chambers Singers and will be traveling with them to perform in the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia in the summer of 2018. Caley could not be happier with the amazing opportunities presented in her life to grow and develop as a performer and is eternally grateful for all of your continuous support. Enjoy the show!

Kiarre McGee (*Deena Jones*) is 25 years old and currently enjoys working at David's Bridal as a stylist. Aside from church plays and performances, this is her first live theatre show since high school, under the direction of Cindy Pope at Stockdale. There she actually played Deena in a short section of the production of *Dreamgirls*. Kiarre's hobbies and passions include dance, voice, writing, and acting. Kiarre is so excited to be playing the role of Deena again, this time in the full length version of the show. Kiarre would like to thank God first for blessing her with gifts and talents that qualified her for this cast! She would also like to thank her parents, Patrick and Russail McGee, and all her friends and family who support her passions and constantly encourage her to work towards her dreams. Last but certainly not least, she would like to thank the cast, choreographer, and director of this show for putting together an amazing show. In conclusion, Kiarre hopes that you will enjoy the show and be impacted by it in great ways!

Allison Nelson (*Ensemble*) has been doing theatre since she was eight years old and is so excited to be a part of *Dreamgirls*. This is her second community theatre production and she is proud to say both have been with the Ovation Theater. Her past productions include *Grease* (Cha-Cha DiGregorio), *Gypsy* (Ensemble), *In the Heights* (Ensemble), and *Willy Wonka* (Veruca Salt). Allison would

BIOGRAPHIES

like to thank her parents for always supporting her passion for musical theatre and the cast and crew for making *Dreamgirls* an exciting and amazing experience.

Madison Perry (*Ensemble*) is a senior at Highland High School who loves to perform. In addition to portraying Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*, she has also sung in her church choir and has played the violin and the viola in her school orchestra for the past 10 years. After high school, Madison would like to pursue theatre. She would like to thank her parents as well as the cast and crew of *Dreamgirls* for being so supportive.

Tyler Vernon (*Wayne*) is prolific actor, singer, dancer, poet, rapper and choreographer who loves being involved in anything that allows him to utilize his love and passion for creating and performing. He graduated from Ridgeview High where he was heavily involved in the Theatre Department and portrayed such roles as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*, and a featured dancer and choreographer in their wildly popular annual dance revue. Tyler is proud to have been a part of the amazing MAD dance crew, under the direction of Natalia Mallory, and he feels fortunate to be able to pursue many dance and musical undertakings with the help of his talented and loyal friend, Mason Edwards. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Lexie Watkins (*Ensemble*) is a sixteen-year-old junior at Frontier High School. This is her first performance on The Ovation Stage and is thrilled to become part of The Ovation Family. You may have seen her as Logainne Schwartz and Grubenierre in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Extraordinary Girl in *American Idiot*, and The French Taunter/Laker Girl in *Spamalot*. She would like to thank Hal for giving her this amazing opportunity and her friends and family for all of the love and support over the years.

Kenneth Whitchard (*Marty*) is the proud choral music teacher at McKinley Magnet School where he teaches some of the most talented and dedicated young singers he's ever known. He is an active performer in the Bakersfield theatre scene and has portrayed such roles as the voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Booker T. Washington in *Ragtime*, The Padre in *Man of La*

Mancha, and Mitch Mahoney in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He would like to dedicate this performance to his lovely wife, Karynn, and their two amazing sons, Elijah and Maceo.

Jehdiah Woodrow (*C.C. White*) is a performer who absolutely loves singing, dancing and acting. After attending a performing arts school in Hollywood, he has kept the performing arts in his life one way or another. His day job is working with Special Education children at a local school but he also has a side business preparing delectable baked doughnuts for his company, What Up Dough. After performing as C.C. in the Spotlight production, Jehdiah is thrilled to back on this stage in the same role with The Ovation Theatre and he hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as he has loved preparing for it.

Maya Wright (*Ensemble*) is so excited to be a part of this cast! She has been seen in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at The Ovation, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Temple Beth El, and school productions at Highland High School. She would like to thank all her friends, family, and dance teachers for all the support.

Erica Lynn (*Assistant Director/Dance Captain*) Erica Lynn is no stranger to the stage. When not performing with Bakersfield Dance Company or acting onscreen, she's thrilled to be apart of the Bakersfield theatre community. You may have seen her in shows such as *Gyps and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, *Mary Poppins*, or *42nd Street* at Stars Dinner Theatre as well as the Ovation Repertory Theatre's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Legally Blonde*, and most recently, *Bonnie and Clyde*. She is ecstatic to be behind the scenes for this production. She also does the marketing for the Ovation. Enjoy the show.

Hal Friedman (*Director*) has directed over 100 shows and has worked at regional theatres such as the Kennedy Center (D.C.), Arena Stage (D.C.), Signature Theatre (Arlington V.A.), Stage 52 (L.A.), Rescue Agreement (N.Y.C), the Baltimore Theatre Project (Baltimore, M.D.), Roundhouse Theatre (Bethesda M.D.), and the Smithsonian Discovery

BIOGRAPHIES

Theatre (D.C). Hal worked for Scott Rudin Productions on such films as *The Royal Tannenbaums*, the Academy Award winning *The Hours*, and *Changing Lanes*. Hal worked for the local Spotlight Theatre and has directed locally at Stars Theatre Restaurant, the Empty Space, BCT, and the Gaslight Melodrama. Hal has published a novel (Afterwinds under the name Hal Dennis), sold two screenplays, and is now the Theatre Teacher at Shafter High School. Hal graduated with honors from the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts at THE New York University in Film and Television. Hal dedicates the future of the Ovation Repertory Theatre to the Bakersfield community and sends his love to his amazing children and shining lights, Eleanore, Carter, and Isla.

Marvin Ramey (*Choreographer*) has choreographed musicals for Great American Vaudeville Express Melodrama, The Jewel Box Theatre (North Hollywood), Bakersfield Music Theatre, the Spotlight Theatre, Stars Dinner Theatre, Black Gold Productions & now the Ovation Theatre. High Schools include: Centennial, East, Frontier, Independence, South & West. Teacher of dance with Bakersfield Jr. College, Cal State Bakersfield, Lenore Smith Dance Arts, Eve-leens Dance Studio, The Dance Stop, Precision Dance Studio, The Spotlight Theatre & now owner of Experience Dance. Thank you Hal Friedman, Bien Resolme and Adam Cline. Special LOVE to my family & friends. To the cast & dancers: Thank you!

Adam Cline (*Business Development Director*) has been involved in Bakersfield's local community theatre program since 1992. For the past 25 years he has done every role from leading characters to producing, writing, teaching, and directing many shows for Stars Dinner Theatre and the Bakersfield Civic Light Opera (now known as Bakersfield Music Theatre), and the Melodrama. From 1994-1997 Adam taught hundreds of adults and children acting classes for television and theatre for the McCright Agency and Stars School of Fine Arts. In 1995 Adam started a production company called A.C.T.S. Productions (Adam Cline's Theatrical Services), where he met the needs of all local theatres and schools to provide sets, lighting, sound and crew to help run shows, school functions, Christmas parties and summer workshops throughout Kern County. In 1996 he was asked to join the family business, of

which is a construction glazing contractor and has worked there now for the past 21 years. After learning much about the family business that was established in 1947, he began to increase the sales and growth of the company. In 2006 he became the Vice President of Operations and by 2010 was the President of the company. He has now grown the company from a small business of 18 employees to over 40. He has developed great relationships with other local businesses and enthralled the community with his witty advertising commercials to promote his family business.

Bien Resolme (*Managing Director/CFO*) was born and raised right here in Bakersfield, only leaving for four years to serve his country in the US Navy. He has been involved in the Bakersfield theatre community for over 25 years. First as a performer and more recently on the technical side of local productions by volunteering his time to build sets and manage tech crews at local high schools and community theatres. Bien has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is the Technical Director and Technical Theatre teacher at East High School for the Kern High School District. In his first year of teaching, Bien's Virtual Enterprise business plan team earned the right to compete at the national level in New York City. The nine years prior to teaching, Bien was a network administrator for the Kern High School District where he employed the business principals and skill sets that he now imparts to his students in the classroom. His passion for theatre and education have driven Bien to form the Ovation Repertory Theatre with his partners and friends, Adam Cline and Hal Friedman, to insure that the Bakersfield theatre community continues and thrives for decades to come.

Megan Dowda-Gillette (*Stage Manager*) A graduate of CSUB's Theatre program and an IATSE member for over 10 years is pleased to be part of the Ovation's first theatrical show. She has been involved with community theatre for the past 15 years. Some of her recent

BIOGRAPHIES

favorite shows to work on was the Boys and Girls Club Production of *Annie Jr.*, Hal Friedman's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, as well as Bakersfield Museum of Art's production of *The Very Ecstasy of Love*.

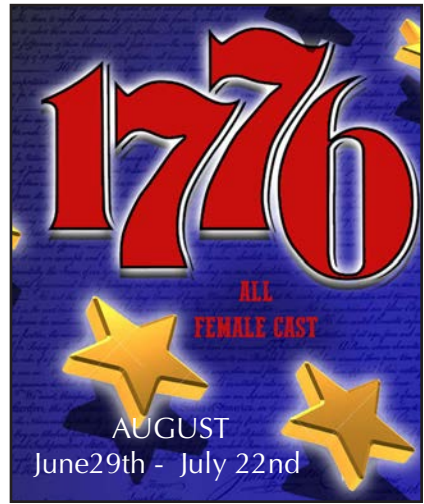
Terry Dowda-Gillette (Assistant Stage Manager)

A recent graduate from Ashford University has also spent time as a member of the IATSE Union. She has been working in community theatre for the past 12 years in varying positions. Some of her recent favorite shows to be part of were *The Last Five Years*, Marvin Ramey's Showcase, Boys and Girls Club Production of *Annie Jr.*, as well as Hal Friedman's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is very happy to be part of the Ovation's first theatrical show, and looks forward to the season.

Joanna Sanner (*Props*) has been a stage manager for *Lost Bakersfield* in 2013 and a few church shows over the years. She is so honored to be a part of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with every person in the cast and crew. She would like to thank her roommates for their encouragement and for making sure she didn't forget to eat. She would also like to thank her family and church family for their support and prayers for this amazing cast and production team!

Roger Upton (*Costumes*) has been designing costumes and scenery for 45 years and has over 600 shows to his credit throughout Central and Southern California. Roger is costume designer in residence at CSUB Theatre and Opera in addition to his "9-5" as an interior designer for residential and commercial clients, including the Kern County Museum. Favorite shows include *Hello Dolly*, *My Fair Lady*, *Hairspray*, *Pippin*, *Little Women*, *Secret Garden* and of course *Gypsy* here at the Ovation last season. "Dreamgirls has been on my bucket list for years and I'm very excited to help create this sparkling production here at the Ovation."

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The Spotlight Auditorium

The Spotlight Theatre was founded by Emily and Jaques Thiroux in 2001. It ran successfully for 12 years. The theatre was built from scratch out of an old Paper Warehouse. The Hayden building where it resides is over 100 years old and is a staple of downtown. The Spotlight Foundation has since supported local actors, youth arts education, and local theatre groups by providing a space for great theatrical work. Run by Peggy Darling, the Spotlight Foundation has become synonymous with quality theatrical productions and educational programs.

STAFF

Owners Adam Cline
 Hal Friedman
 Bien Resolme
 Stage Manager Megan Dowda-Gillette
 Asst. Stage Manager Terry Dowda Gillette
 Dance Captain Erica Lynn
 Assistant Directors Danielle Chase
 Erica Lynn
 Nichole Heasley
 Technical Director Bien Resolme
 Production Carpenter Chad Borud
 Dressers Sara Gervais
 Amanda Harmon
 Jennifer Hastings
 Erica Lynn
 Back Stage Manager Nichole Heasley
 Stage Hand Nick French
 Jorge Lopez
 Tech Trainees Dom Demay
 Nicole Grisso
 Box Office Nancee Steiger
 Allison Craun
 Erica Lynn
 Amanda Harmon
 Marketing Erica Lynn
 Nichole Heasley
 Web Design Rock Harbor Marketing
 Interior Design Team Terri Cline
 Jason McClain
 Restoration Team Frank Ayala
 Chad Borud
 Liz Williams Borud
 Donald Bryant
 Dominic Cerri
 Adam Cline
 Terri Cline
 Aidan Cline
 Addison Cline
 Austin Cline
 Jarred Clowes
 JP De Leon
 Kyle Gaines
 Nichole Heasley
 Carolyn Fox
 Hal Friedman
 Eleanore Friedman
 Carter Friedman
 Isla Friedman
 Erica Lynn
 Joe Lowry
 Kathi Lowry
 Jason McClain
 Amelia Mejia
 Tessa Ogles

Nick Ono
 Bien Resolme
 Jennifer Resolme
 Abigail Resolme
 Sophia Resolme
 Josephine Resolme
 Derreck Reed
 Paul Sosa
 Erica Ueberroth
 Artistic Director Hal Friedman
 Business Development Director Adam Cline
 Managing Director Bien Resolme

SPECIAL THANKS

The Director would like to thank (in no particular order): Adam & Terri Cline, Bien & Jennifer Resolme, Chad & Liz Borud, Dominic & Kelci Cerri, Erica & Eric Ueberroth, Joe & Kathi Lowry, Marvin Ramey, Mason Edwards, Aubrie Calloway, Roger Upton, Joanna Sanner, Jarred & Kat Clowes, Nichole Heasley, Jason McClain, Erica Lynn, Rosie & Frank Ayala, Amanda Harmon, Allison Craun, Dom Demay, Nick French, Jorge Lopez, David Cole, Peggy Darling & the Spotlight Foundation, Travis Ford & Rock Harbor Marketing, Shafter High School Drama Department, East High Drama Department, Christina and Ireland Varner, and his children El, Carter and Isla. Without everyone's commitment to excellence this show could not have been produced.

WARNING

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

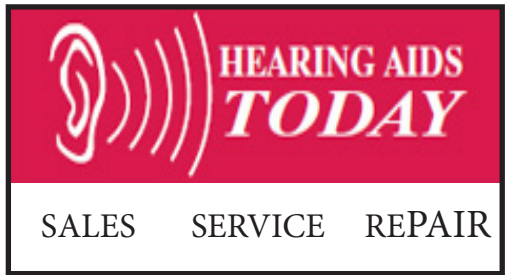
Dreamgirls is one of Broadway's premiere shows. It was turned into a hit movie and is legendary among actors. The show is not performed much, but when it is, audiences come in droves. What is it about this show that captures the imagination? It's a familiar tale, one that explores the ups and downs of stardom and the music industry. And while this is a story that has been told many times, perhaps it's the fact that it is based on one of America's most beloved female groups and record label. The Supremes and Motown.

While the story of the Dreams is not a one for one to the history of the Supremes, it is close and it captures the imagination. While Effie White's story is not any real person's story impartial, it is indicative of the kinds of things that happened in the music industry and still happen today.

Another aspect of the story that is especially relevant today is the idea of cultural appropriation. In this play, they explore the fact that throughout the history of music, the "white" system of music stole songs from African American artists. This fact, is why Motown got started in the first place. In order for African American artists to get the same opportunities as white ones, they had to develop their own recording label. And it has become one that changed the music industry.

So, as you watch the story of *Dreamgirls* think of the many artists that inspired it, think of Diana Ross and the Supremes, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, the Temptations, and remember they had to not only fight for equality in their lives but also in their art.

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