



The Luck of the Irish

BY Kirsten Greenidge DIRECTED BY Lydia K. Valentine

June 3—June 19, 2022
Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm
Sundays 2:00pm

Pay What You Can Thursday, June 16th at 7:30pm
ASL Interpreted Performance Sunday, June 19th at 2:00pm

Sponsorship provided by:



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"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."

The Luck of the Irish

by Kirsten Greenidge

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH was originally produced and commissioned by the Huntington Theatre company, Boston, MA, Peter Dubois, Artistic Director, Michael Maso, Managing Director, through the Stanford Calderwood fund for New American plays.

Produced by Lincoln Center Theatre, New York City, 2013.

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH was originally commissioned by South Coast Repertory Theatre, Costa Mesa, CA.

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
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TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE STAFF

Managing Artistic Director.....	Chris Surface
Office Manager.....	Karen Christensen
Technical Director	Blake R. York
Lead Carpenter	Frank Roberts
Education Director	Stephanie Kroschel
Production Manager	Dylan Twiner
Development Director	Diana George
Support Staff.....	Emma Deloye & Nathan Lovitt
House Managers	Nena Curley, Russ Coffey, Mara Aveline, Ron Bauer



SINCE 1918

210 N I Street
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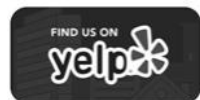
- \$145.00 for SIX admissions
(can be used in any combination)

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director Lydia K. Valentine
Assistant Director Charlie Stevens
Stage Manager.....Monique Otter-Johnson
Intimacy Choreographer Chevi Chung
Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals.....Blake R. York
Costume Designer.....Vashti Pritchett
Lighting Designer.....Michelle Weingarden-Bandes
Lead Carpenter/Properties Manager Frank Roberts
Scenic Artist Jennifer York
Production Manager/Sound Designer..... Dylan Twiner
Assistant Stage Manager..... Isobel Brown
Assistant Costumer Morgan Morgans
Assistant Lighting Designer Cassandra Vega
Photography..... Dennis K Photography
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was first introduced to Kirsten Greenidge's *The Luck of the Irish* (LOTI) as a graduate student when I had the fortune to have Darrah Cloud, award-winning playwright, screenwriter, and former advisor to Greenidge, as *my* advisor. When I was asked to join Tacoma Little Theatre this season as a Director, this play immediately came to mind as the obvious choice for what I would bring to the stage. My guiding concept for this production comes from Greenidge's description of LOTI as "...a glass prism: all slants and angles surrounding... different configurations of characters grappling with the dreams and hopes and choices that were made with all the greatest intentions half a century earlier." This play explores the American experience with its multifaceted and layered complexities, both past and present, and considers the immunity endowed by the societal privilege of class, race, gender, ability, or generational citizenship; the pitfalls of presumed entitlement; the error in equating intent with impact; and the universal desire to belong.

This play also shows examples of life within the Black diaspora that are not often centered in mainstream media. To be Black in this country, this world, is to live a life of intersectionality, but we are not always portrayed as multidimensional human beings and rarely as people of means. From a Black Boston Brahmin family, Lucy Taylor was raised as and surrounded by Black elite. College, travel, vacation homes on Martha's Vineyard, and debutante balls, were a given. The "League" that Lucy mentions could have been the National Negro Business League, founded by Booker T. Washington in Boston in 1900, or the League of Women for Community Service, a group founded in 1918 that steered the social etiquette and cultural conventions of the Black elite for decades. While Black Boston Brahmins did thrive within a sphere of power, influence, and wealth, they were not at liberty from the legal and societal restrictions faced by other Black Americans, as Lucy was brutally shown before the play opens, when she and Rex first purchased a home in Newton, a white suburb, and it was burned to the ground. The event shook Lucy to her core, yet it was not as surprising or jarring to Rex, who grew up poor in Virginia, where exclusion from the whites-only economic system, Jim Crow Laws, and "black codes"—and the ever-present threat of violence and harm simply for being Black—were the norm of daily life. Their backgrounds definitely impact the way they relate to the world and, to an extent, each other, something that we also see with Hannah and Rich.

As can be expected, difference in class, as well as race, impact the dealings between the Taylors and the Donovans, and all of the characters' daily lives just as the inequity of societal expectations and constraints related to gender do, as well. Nessa, the only woman who is unmarried, seems to be both admired and scorned for her freedom. Patty Ann, Lucy, and Hannah shoulder all of the responsibilities of keeping a well-maintained and well-managed household and well-mannered and well-functioning children, and they receive blame when things go wrong. Rex, Joe, and

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Rich each struggle, to varying extent and in different ways, to epitomize the so-called Man of the House: who provides and protects, who has the answers, and who handles himself and the business side of things with aplomb. We see the tolls of not being able to live up to (Joe), not being happy living up to (Rex), and not being safe to live up to (Rich) the unreasonable expectations placed on them by accepted, perpetuated, and antiquated gender norms throughout the play. We also see that the actions of various characters result both from their own sense of entitlement (stemming from their class, race, gender, ability, or generational citizenship) and in response to the privilege and entitlement of others.

In addition to these elements, a trait that I believe underlies the behavior of several characters is neurodiversity. As an educator with 25 years of experience, a Learning Specialist, & an Autistic person with ADHD, I recognize aspects of these within a handful of the characters. Joe is a dreamer, whose limited impulse control leads him to interrupt and rattle on, dive into major projects that work in his head but not practically, and fail to maintain focus and fortitude to follow things through to fruition. Lucy retreats internally when overwhelmed or when overcome with sensory overload. Her buttons provide comfort visually and tactilely and enable her to will routine and organization into her days. Hannah, Nessa, and Miles demonstrate the familial neurodivergence to different degrees. While none of this is mentioned (excluding a direct reference to Miles's diagnosis), the ways that individuals, families, and the education system address representations of neurodivergence is woven within the text seamlessly.

The craft, skill, and hard work of our cast are what allow these characters to be more than stereotyped caricatures. These performers have worked since March to embody and embolden their fictional counterparts and to build and bolster their relationships with one another in character and out. I hope that you find their work as wonderful as I do. Along with our incredible cast, we have TLT resident staff alongside designers and creatives who I asked to join our team working behind the scenes. This combined group of people reflect the beautiful richness of Tacoma in terms of race, gender, sexual identity, age, neurodiversity, and religion. We worked daily to ensure that we had a safe, supportive, and culturally responsive environment that used the guidelines of Nicole Brewer's Anti-Racist Theatre, Chicago Theatre Standards, and Ann C. James's Intimacy Coordinators of Color.

I am indebted to these ridiculously talented human beings, and to Chris Serface, who invited me to be a lead director this season.

Thank you all for being here.
Lydia Kay

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Lydia K. Valentine [née Roberts] (Director)

Lydia, our City of Tacoma Poet Laureate, is a poet & playwright, editor & educator, and director & dramaturg who believes in the power of good, the healing capacity of writing and reading, and the absolute necessity of the Oxford comma. Through her work, Lydia seeks to amplify the voices of those who are often stifled, ignored, & marginalized in what has been the accepted narrative of the United States by promoting justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, and centering Anti-Racist and Anti-Biased practices. She has thoroughly enjoyed a season that has been full of collaboration with TLT, as Lydia was the Dramaturg for empathos company's Off the Shelf production of *Boudica* and the Asst. Director & Dramaturg for Toy Boat Theatre's UWT/TLT production of *The Happiest Song Plays Last*, two incredibly fulfilling experiences. Lydia is grateful every day for the love, laughter, wit, support, and steadfastness of her family, friends, and Creator, and she thanks those who see the show and those who actively support diverse representation. Lydia has immense love, wonder, and appreciation for Laurice Roberts, a gifted actress, supportive collaborator, and hilariously cheeky little sister. (For a more detailed bio or other information, check out LyderaryInk.com or [@LyderaryInk](https://www.instagram.com/LyderaryInk).)

Charlie Stevens (Assistant Director)

Charlie is an award-winning stage performer, teaching artist and musician based out of the Pacific Northwest. He is a recent student of music at Edmonds College, where he toured and performed as a vocalist and trombonist with the internationally-acclaimed, collegiate vocal jazz ensemble, Soundsation, under the direction of Kirk Marcy. A veteran of the Puget Sound stages, Charlie is a much in-demand performing artist having been involved in over 40 productions and projects across the region and beyond, regarded as the youngest actor to have performed at all major venues in the South Sound in one season. Before the pandemic, he made his directorial debut as Theatre Instructor for Metro Parks Tacoma, and as Assistant Director for the musical, *All Shook Up*, at Doris M. Stahl Junior High School in Puyallup, WA. He is honored to be making his debut on the production team at Tacoma Little Theatre, where he has a history of almost fifteen years. Many thanks to Lydia, Monique, Isobel, the technical team, and the cast and crew for making this opportunity an unforgettable experience. Love to Melanie, Margaret, and Jazminne.

Monique Otter-Johnson (Stage Manager)

This is Monique's first show with TLT. After graduating with her BFA in Technical/Design Theatre from Pacific Lutheran University, Monique began her stage managing career in Tacoma. Her recent stage managing credits include *Tribes* (SM), *Grounded* (ASM), and *Anna in the Tropics* (SM)--all with Tacoma Arts Live. Monique would like to thank TLT for their warm welcome and support, and she would also like to thank her wonderful family and friends for their consistent support throughout her theatrical career.

Chevi Chung (Intimacy Choreographer)

Chevi provided intimacy choreography for a youth production of *Beauty and the Beast* at Evergreen Playhouse last summer. She is a graduate of the Guildford School of Acting, University of Surrey, and theatre maker with a current focus on learning more about anti-racist and trauma-informed practices. Her work is influenced by Ann C. James of Intimacy Coordinators of Color and Nicole M. Brewer of Anti-Racist Theatre.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 16 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillonman* at the AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

Frank Roberts (Lead Carpenter/Properties Manager)

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and Properties Manager. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre.

Vashti Pritchett (Costume Designer)

Vashti is an artist and fashion designer who has studied at the Savannah College of Art and Design and the Evergreen State College. She has worked on music video and film shoots, created clothing inspired by literary works, and had artwork featured in exhibitions. *The Luck of the Irish* is her first production with Tacoma Little Theatre, and she would like to thank Lydia for the opportunity for her first role as a lead Costume Designer.

Michelle Weingarden-Bandes (Lighting Designer)

Michelle is thrilled to be designing for TLT again. A few of her most notable lighting designs include *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Hair*, *The Producers*, *Seussical*, and most recently, *The Happiest Song Plays Last* here at Tacoma Little Theatre. Michelle is no stranger to the world of theater as she also designs sound and sets, she is a vocal director and even shows up occasionally on stage to feed the acting/singing bug. When Michelle is not lighting up our local stages, you will find her at Pierce College in Puyallup teaching up and coming nursing students as they work towards their nursing degrees. Michelle would like to thank Lydia for choosing her for this project, her family for letting her be gone so many nights, and her beautiful wife for being more supportive than she could have asked for.

Dylan Twiner (Production Manager/Sound Designer)

Dylan is glad to be returning as a designer for TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Dracula*, and *The Pillonman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Jen York (Scenic Artist)

Jen has been a part of the local theatre community for over 14 years, serving as director, scenic artist, actor, stage manager, prop master, and youth educator for many of the area's theatres. Her most recent directorial credits include: *Seussical*, *The Underpants*, and *A Christmas Story* at Tacoma Little Theatre and *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Narnia* at the Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to offer love and thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support of all of her theatrical endeavors- both well planned and hare-brained. -xoxo

Isobel Brown (Assistant Stage Manager)

This is Isobel's second show with TLT with their first show being *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. They began their theatre career stage managing at Curtis Senior High School with its production of *Nevsies* and they have loved it ever since. Isobel is incredibly grateful for their friends and teachers that have encouraged and supported their theatre career. They can't wait to see where this takes them.

Cassandra Vega (Assistant Lighting Designer)

This was Cassandra's first production with Tacoma Little Theatre. Prior to this, they worked on shows with the Tacoma School of the Arts, Tacoma Arts Live, and Harlequin Productions.

Morgan Morgans (Assistant Costume Designer)

Morgan is currently a student at UW Tacoma studying art. Previously they worked on *The Happiest Song Plays Last* under Michele Graves. However, they do their own costuming outside of TLT for Saber Guild Kamino Temple (Star Wars costuming & stage combat choreography group in Seattle) as well as many non Star Wars projects. Morgan would like to thank Dr. B for getting them involved in theatre last quarter with *HSPL*.

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The advertisement features a central image of a hand holding a smartphone displaying a control app for string lights. The app interface includes a circular dial for brightness, a list of light zones (labeled 'zone 1' through 'zone 5'), and various control buttons like 'on/off', 'dimmer', 'color', 'mode', and 'sync'. The background shows a house at night with white string lights along the roofline and porch.

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Limited Time Offer.

CODE: TLT2022

SCHEDULE ONLINE





Sunday, June 19th, 2022
approximately 4:45pm

On June 19th, our final performance will be followed by a short Juneteenth celebration and a talkback with the cast and director.



Eric Clausell, multi-talented actor, choreographer, and director, will kick off the event with a dramatic presentation and serve as moderator for our Q&A.

There will also be a musical performance by MarcusAntonio Gunn.

Join Us! No ticket necessary!

AUDIENCE WARNING!!

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH is rated for ages 12 and up.

This show contains the following:

REFERENCES TO ILLNESS, DEATH, AND ARSON

**USE OF OUTDATED AND/OR OFFENSIVE TERMS
(COLORED, NEGRO, PYGMY)**

INSTANCE OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

**REFERENCE TO/INSTANCES OF PREJUDICE,
RACISM, SEXISM, ABLEISM**

THREE INSTANCES OF LOUD VOICES/YELLING

**USE OF FLASHLIGHT, DARKENED SET FOR "NIGHT" SCENES
& LED SCREENS**

If you are sensitive to these items,
please see the Box Office before the show begins.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

<i>Nessa Charles</i>	Amy Van Mechelen
<i>Hannah Davis</i>	Janice Williams
<i>Mr. Donovan</i>	Joseph Grant
<i>Joe Donovan</i>	Jason Sharp
<i>Patty Ann Donovan</i>	Jill Heinecke
<i>Lucy Taylor</i>	Laurice Roberts
<i>Rex Taylor</i>	Mark Peterson
<i>Rich Davis</i>	Joshua Davis
<i>Mrs. Donovan</i>	Debbie Birkey
<i>Miles</i>	Micah Williams
<i>Off Stage Voices</i>	Taliah Fuller

SETTING

A medium sized suburban town on the outskirts of Boston, Massachusetts, which was formerly colonial and brimming with old New England stock, but by the very early twentieth century, predominantly Irish Catholic. By the time we meet this town, the Italians have arrived, followed by banks of others throughout the twentieth century. By the early twenty first century it is not so much diverse as it is tolerant of those who are “other” as it is still predominantly white.

TIME

The action takes place in the late 1950s and 2000s

ACT I

One hour and nine minutes

—15-minute intermission—

ACT II

One hour and seven minutes

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Debbie Birkey (Mrs. Donovan)

Debbie is delighted to be in her first show at TLT. She has performed for the past four decades as a professional folk-singer, musician and music director. Favorite roles: Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lakewood Playhouse) and Mrs. Ford in *The Other Country*. She has been a 20+ year member of Puget Sound Revels *The Christmas Revels*. She has been a music educator and written and directed many children's plays. She sends love and thanks to the cast and crew of LOTI and most especially to her husband Paul who is her best supporter, best friend, and best clapper for over 46 years!



Joshua Davis (Rich Davis)

Joshua is a recent graduate from UWT, completing his Bachelors in Healthcare Leadership and Business Data Analytics and will be pursuing his Masters in Cybersecurity beginning this Summer. He discovered his passion for theater during a class at UWT where he was encouraged to give it a try based on his performance in the class. He is excited to make his acting career debut with TLT alongside this exceptionally talented cast! Joshua is a family man who enjoys autocross racing, playing golf, travel, and most importantly enjoying time with his wife of 20 years and three children.



Joseph Grant (Mr. Donovan)

Joseph has acted in theatre for over 50 years in a variety of venues. His last role was Cauchon in *Saint Joan*. Other notable roles include: Willy Loman (*Death of a Salesman*), Shelly Levene (*Glengarry Glen Ross*), Henry II (*The Lion in Winter*), Atticus (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Capulet (*Romeo and Juliet*), and Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*). He's glad to be back at TLT, where some favorite roles were John Adams (*1776*), Herr Schultz (*Cabaret*), and Van Helsing (*Dracula*). He sends love to his favorite wife, Corrie.



Jill Heinecke (Patty Ann Donovan)

Jill is excited to be back on the Tacoma Little Theatre stage! You may remember her from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (Hallie Jackson) or *Second Samuel* (Jimmy Deanne). Originally from Minnesota, Jill came out to attend Pacific Lutheran University, where she earned her BFA in Acting/Directing. Thanks to all of the cast and crew for this wonderful opportunity! And as always, thanks to her family and Frank for their continued support and encouragement!



Mark Peterson (Rex Taylor)

Mark has been performing on the TLT stage since 2008. He was last seen in *Clue*. Thank you for supporting your local theatre community.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Laurice Roberts (Lucy Taylor)

Laurice is thrilled to take part in the return to live theatre, especially in this role and play, and with performances at Lakewood Playhouse and empathos company. A veteran actress, she's been recognized as a regional Performer of the Decade for work with Changing Scene & originated roles in *The Chinese Question* and *The Other Country*, plays examining Tacoma's history. During quarantine, Laurice performed in multiple online plays and readings and was a founding member of RISE UP! Theatre Coalition. Laurice thanks those who have supported, loved, coached, and cared for her and her artistic endeavors throughout the years.



Jason Sharp (Joe Donovan)

Jason feels mighty lucky to be back at TLT where he was last seen as Professor Plum in *Clue*. Other credits: *A Doll's House* (TLT), *Chybourne Park* (Toy Boat Theatre/UWT/BCPA), *Cberdonna's Doll's House* (Washington Ensemble Theatre), *Hooded or Being Black for Dummies* (Theatre Battery), *Live! From the Last Night of My Life* (Theatre22/Theater Schmeater), *Balconies*, and *Alecto: Issue #1* (Annex Theatre). Thanks to Lydia and Chris for selecting this vital and necessary play for inclusion in TLT's 103rd season and bringing it to life for Tacoma audiences to experience. Love to Jayson & Sterling.



Amy Van Mechelen (Nessa Charles)

Amy is happy to be back at TLT, where she previously performed and worked in the box office in undergrad! She holds a bachelor's and master's in vocal performance, and often sings with the Seattle Opera Chorus. Previous roles include Claire in *Proof*, Hiromi in *Calligraphy*, Estelle in *No Exit*, and Abigail in *Waiting for the Paint to Dry*.



Janice Williams (Hannah Davis)

Janice (Jah-nees) is so excited to do this production with her real-life son, Micah. Janice assisted backstage with *The Wizard of Oz* and played Chef in *Clue: On Stage*. Outside of Tacoma Little Theatre, she is a Legendary Donut Decorator and performs standup. She is proud to be in a meaningful show, working with such dynamic actors and crew. Thanks to each of you for sharing this experience.



Micah Williams (Miles)

Micah is 13 and in the 7th grade. He is a performer and student of TUPAC (the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center) and has also worked as stage crew for *The Wizard of Oz* at TLT. He likes playing video games and science.

SUMMER CAMP AT TLT

SESSION #1



Starts: June 20, 2022

Meets: June 20th-July 15th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Excluding July 4th and 5th) at Curtis High School

Performances:

July 15th & 16th at 7:30 PM July 17th at 2:00 PM at Curtis High School

Ages: 6-18 (entering first grade through just graduated)

Tuition: \$525

The Lion King Junior is based on the hit Broadway production. Familiar characters and all the animals of the Serengeti come together to tell the story of Simba -- from frightened cub to brave lion. Come and learn about the art of telling stories through music and movement, and bring 'larger than life' characters to the stage.

SESSION #2



Starts: July 18, 2022

Meets: July 18th-August 12 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Tacoma Little Theatre

Performances:

August 12th & 13th at 7:30 PM and 14th at 2:00 PM at Tacoma Little Theatre

Ages: 6-18 (entering first grade through just graduated)

Tuition: \$525

From sea to shore and back again, Ariel and her friends have quite the journey ahead of them! Bring to life the world 'Under the Sea' with us during Summer Camp at TLT. With music by Alan Menken and Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, we've got an amazing story waiting to be told. With whozits and whatzits to discover, and a spooky sea witch to foil, there is plenty of fun to be had on stage this summer.

CLUB TLT TEEN SHOW



Starts: June 27, 2022

Meets: June 27- August 5 from 5:00-7:00 PM (Excluding July 4th and 5th) at Tacoma Little Theatre

Performances:

August 5th & 6th at 7:30 PM, August 7th at 2:00 PM at Tacoma Little Theatre

Ages: 13-18 (Entering 9th grade through just graduated)

Tuition: \$300

Drama, conflict, and comedy are all packed into one crazy day when a mother (Katherine) and her teenage daughter (Ellie) magically switch bodies. The cast of characters is immense. From Ellie's friends, little brother, and her big crush, to Katherine's fiancée, assistant, and plenty of fabulous ensemble feature roles, the show really has something for everyone.

SPECIAL THANKS

Pete & Cheryl Burgess

Niclas Olson
New Muses Theatre Company

William Taibleson

Vhonda McElroy

Jayson Pottear

Chewbarka Blue Roberts

Chevi Chung & empathos company

Eric Clausell

Haylee Fredrickson & Grant Center for
the Expressive Arts

Kay Meier

Laurice Roberts & Pocket Girl, Inc.

Lucien Roberts

Lynette Roberts Crumity &
the Zeta Phi Sigma chapter of
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Maria-Tania Bandes B. Weingarden

Maggie & Mark Dahl

Marilyn Bennett & Toy Boat Theatre

Na'Ima Perkins

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Robyn B. Jones and the
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