

CAST

Austin Ajimura (Oscar Delancy) is grateful to have joined his first production with IABK and to honor Mr. Bright's legacy. Austin was last seen in the 2024 and 2012 productions of Lisa Matsumoto's *Happily Ever After*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their unending love and support and for believing in his theatre dreams. Special mahalo to Mary, Roslyn, and Allan for this opportunity!

Rebekah Stewart Botello (Nun, Ensemble, Medda Understudy) is honored to be the wife of former Navy submariner Michael, a homeschooling mom of three, and a pastor at The Ark Christian Church. Her 40+ years of experience on stage as a singer, dancer, actress, pageant queen, and motivational speaker has, indeed, been a blessed journey. Rebekah is grateful to her parents Russ and Mari, her Grammie Laurie Bachran (Mrs. Hawaii 1963), the Bright Family, and Marcelo Pacleb for providing her tremendous personal and professional foundations over many years. She is also excited to work under the direction of Mary Hicks for the first time!

Caity Bright (Nun, Hannah) is sincerely humbled and grateful to be back with I'm A Bright Kid. In IABK's last fall production *Children of Eden*, Caitlin played Aphra/Storyteller. Other theatre credits include Tammy in *Hairspray* (Palikū Theater), Pray Soloist/Featured Storyteller in *Once On This Island* (PAPA) and Dorothy in *The Wiz* (PAPA). She would like to thank her parents for being her steadfast support in her life, her brothers for providing joy and inspiration, her friends for constantly believing and encouraging her to go the extra mile, and most importantly Jesus for gracing her to live such an abundant life.

Drew Bright (Specs) is a senior at Castle High School. This is his 7th show with IABK. He recently played Joe Hardy in CPAC's production of *Damn Yankees*. Drew has always wanted to perform in *Newsies* as it is his favorite musical. He would like to thank the entire cast of *Newsies* for an amazing time.

Melissa Brown (Ike) is so excited and honored to be in one of her favorite Broadway productions, *Newsies*! She has been singing and dancing from a very young age and is in love with performing. This is her third IABK production. She started her relationship with the organization in 2018 as a dancer in *The Wiz*. She then continued in 2019 as a dancer in *Children of Eden*. She would like to thank each dance teacher, studio director, and vocal coach for believing in her and inspiring her to be her best. Thank you to her whole family for supporting her in everything she does. Enjoy the show!

Aidan Cheng (Tommy Boy, Scab) is a freshman at 'Iolani School and is enrolled in their MT3 program. Outside of school, he works part time at his family restaurant Kin Wah and he enjoys golf. He is beyond excited to be in this IABK production of *Newsies* as it's his favorite musical. His past credits include Von Hussler in *Mary Poppins* (IDP), Evan Goldman in *13 The Musical* (IDP), Lun Tha in *The King and I* (IDP), *Sweeney Todd* (MVT), and *Once on This Island*.

Pono Cummings (Snyder, Ensemble) is thrilled to make his debut with IABK. Born and raised in Lā'ie, he discovered his passion for performing and singing at a young age. Credits include notable roles such as Duke Orsino in a musical adaptation of *The Twelfth Night* (BYUH), Sky in *Mamma Mia* (BYUH), and Hiapo in *Glitter in the Pa'akai* (UHM). He has also appeared in Ke Kauā o Ka Lāhui in *The Life of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Pi'ikoi* (Hawaii Pono'i Coalition) and Caius Lucius in *Cymbeline* (HSF). Pono extends heartfelt thanks to the IABK team for their warm welcome. He is grateful to his fellow cast members, his family, his theatre community, and especially Kaipō Dudoit for their unwavering support. He looks forward to continuing his artistic journey with gratitude and enthusiasm. MAHALO NUI.

Kai Durkin (Davey) is excited to reprise this role at Palikū Theater after playing Davey in DHT's production of *Newsies*. He is thrilled to be back in Hawai'i and performing with IABK. Other credits include: *Halo Halo* (Fordham Theater), Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Punahou School), and Dean in *All Shook Up* (DHT). Many thanks to his family and friends for their endless love and support. He would like to dedicate his performances to his Auntie Jade Stice, who inspired him to audition for the show and for being the reason he embarked on his acting journey. Love you forever, Adi.

Jacob Ikaika Edwards (Seitz, Pulitzer Understudy, Guard, Goon) is joining his second production with IABK. He's excited to be a part of it and glad to see some familiar faces. His first production with IABK was *Children of Eden* as an ensemble/swing dancer. Jacob has been traveling the country for the past three years and is very happy to be back home among family and friends. In those three years, Jacob's passion for acting and writing has only grown! In his free time he watches movies, writes and shoots skits, and plays bass guitar. If you're lucky, you may catch him composing a haiku.

Joshua-Dwayne Figueroa (Race) is excited to be in his first production with IABK. Performance credits include, *Elf*, *Anything Goes*, *Beauty and the Beast* (DHT), Damien in *Mean Girls*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, Chino in *West Side Story* (Keaka Kamehameha), Olaf in *Frozen Jr.*, and Chief Tui in *Moana Jr.* (PACK). He would like to thank his friends, family, mentors, and teachers for all their guidance and support. Mahalo to Aunty Mary, Ms. Ahnya, Roz, Uncle Clarke, and the rest of the hard-working company.

Hunter Fudge (Les) is thrilled to be a part of one of his favorite shows, *Newsies*, his first IABK production. He is currently in his second year of *Shooting Stars* (DHT) and recently performed in *The King and I* (IDP) as Louis Leonowens, and *Red, Hot, and Cole* (DHT) as Moss Hart. A 6th grader at 'Iolani School, Hunter is a member of the 'Iolani swim club and water polo team, and enjoys surfing in his free time. He would like to thank his family and everyone at IABK for this opportunity and for all of their support.

Leland Hara (Boots, Scab) This will be Leland's first full production with the IABK. His favorite roles included ensemble parts in IABK Foundation's summer program productions of *Once on This Island Jr.* and *Seussical Jr.* As a student at 'Iolani School, Leland has participated in several productions including as Agwe in *Once on this Island Jr.*, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and most recently as Guard/Priest/Prop Man in *The King & I*, directed by the great Mary Chesnut Hicks. Thank you to my family, friends, Dane Ison, and the IABK Foundation.

Kalani Hicks (Pulitzer) is excited to be in his first production with IABK and is truly blessed to have worked on this project with his wife Mary, and daughter Lainey. Credits include Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia!* (DHT), Dr. Madden in *Next To Normal* (MVT), Jesus in *Godspell* (Chaminade), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (DHT), *Man of La Mancha* (ACT), and many other productions over the years. He would like to thank his friends, family, cast, crew, and production staff for all the love and support. Special thanks to his son, Michael, who is off at college in New York, "Wish you were in this with us".

Lainey Hicks (Nun, Bowery Beauty, Darcy, Ensemble, Katherine Understudy) is thrilled to be back with IABK! A member of the Orvis Young Voices Program, Lainey's credits include: *Tootsie*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *My Fair Lady*, *Mamma Mia!* (all at DHT), and *The King and I* (IABK). A senior at 'Iolani School, previous roles include: Anna Leonowens in *The King and I*, Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Lady Larken in *Once Upon a Mattress*. She thanks her family for their continued support.

Tom Holowach (Roosevelt) was founder and manager of Palikū Theatre and is now a screenwriter. He has received Musical Leading Actor Po'okela awards for King Arthur in *Camelot* and Lt. Cioffi in *Curtains* at ACT, and a Dramatic Leading Actor Po'okela award as King Henry in *The Lion in Winter* at HPU. He last performed at Palikū Theatre in *1776* and *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Much love to my wife and writing partner, Holly.

Nolan Hong (Bunsen, Police Officer) is fulfilling his dream of stepping on stage as a Bright Kid! He most recently performed in MVT's *Happily Eva Afta* and he is also a television, film, and voice actor. He runs a video production company *Pop Creative Media* with his wife Jamie Hong through which they will be launching a new TV show airing Sundays at 5pm on KHON2 beginning August 25th called *Here in Hawai'i*. Nolan feels weird speaking in third person but would like to thank his family for all of their support and sacrifices to allow him to join his stepson Trent on stage one more time. This has been the best summer ever!

Tysen Jao (Jojo) is thrilled to be back on stage with IABK! Some of Tysen's favorite performance credits include an Oompa Loompa in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (DHT), Young Abel in *Children of Eden* (IABK), and Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* (PACK). He would like to thank Aunt Mary, Aunt Ros, Ms. Ahnya, Mr. Clarke, and everyone that made this show possible. Special thanks to his family, friends, Aunt Rachelle, and Mr. Elika for their guidance, love, and support!

Genesis Kaeo (Jack Kelly) still can't believe he has the honor of playing Jack Kelly in this production of *Newsies*. Jack Kelly has been one of his dream roles ever since his obsession with Jeremy Jordan started (a long time ago). Although he loves Jeremy Jordan, he works hard to bring this role justice while making it his own. Last seen as Berger in *Hair* (AMDA DTLA), Genesis is excited to be home from California where he is studying Musical Theater. His last show on Oahu was *La Cage Aux Folles* as Chantal (DHT). Genesis brings what he has been learning to this theatre, to O'ahu, and to this incredible role. He hopes you have as much fun watching as he does being on that stage! Special thanks to David Burnham, Ann Noble, and Leslie Stevens for all they have taught me this past year. Instagram: @probablygenesis

Faith Kawai (Bowery Beauty, Ensemble) is a Kamehameha Schools alum and rising sophomore at NYU Tisch School of the Arts (Atlantic Acting School). She began her theatre journey in the IABK summer program in 2017 and was a TA for this summer's program and showcase *Imagine*, so the organization has become like a second home for her. Past credits include Vanessa in *In The Heights*, Nala in *The Lion King*, and Janis in *Mean Girls* (Keaka Kamehameha).

Azaliah Kekuna (Mike) is a rising senior at Mid-Pacific Institute where she is enrolled in their School of the Arts Dance Certificate Program. Outside of school, Azaliah is a choreographer at 24-7 Danceforce in their NextGen program and recently choreographed 'Ohana Arts' production of *Moana, Jr.* She enjoys performing and is so grateful to be back with the IABK. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her and believing in her.

Lennox Kepa (Crutchie) is ecstatic to be a part of this wonderful production. Some memorable show credits include *Dab Dalloway* (HMCT), Leading Player in *Pippin* (FPAC), SpongeBob in *SpongeBob the Musical Youth Edition* (PACK), Donkey in *Shrek The Musical* and Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (both with HMCT). Lennox is incredibly thankful for his family's support. He would also like to thank the entire IABK 'ohana for giving him this opportunity and this amazing experience.

Philex Kepa (Splasher) is excited to be part of this amazing production. He was last seen as Theo in *Pippin* (FPAC). Other memorable credits include Mannie in *Spirit of America* (HMCT), Sardine/Skates Fan in *SpongeBob the Musical Youth Edition* (PACK), Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* (DHT) and the Shoemaker's Elf/Dancing Rat/Townsperson in *Shrek The Musical* (HMCT). Philex would like to thank everyone at IABK for this incredible opportunity. He is thankful for his family and friends supporting him on this journey.

Alex Kimura (Young Boy) is excited to be in his very first production with the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation. He is also looking forward to being in a show that mommy is playing in! A 3rd grader at Kaneohe Elementary School, Alex also plays baseball and soccer and just recently started aikido. He was also a part of the IABK Summer Program in July. He would like to thank Mrs. Hicks for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show. Thank you also to Aunt Mo, Uncle Clarke, Aunt Lynell, Uncle Allan, and Aunt Annie for all their love and encouragement. And last but not least, thank you to my family for being my biggest fans.

Jay Anthony Laeno (Mush, Nunzio) is thrilled and honored to be performing in his first production with IABK. His performance credits include Juniah in Lisa Matsumoto's *Once Upon One Noddah Time* (MVT), Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief, The Percy Jackson Musical* (PAPA), Jonah in *Blue* (KKT), Tarzan in *Tarzan, the stage musical* (PAPA), *Expect [respect]* with HTY, and Sonny in *In The Heights* (LCC). He is an entertainment cast member at Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa and an alumnus of T-Shirt Theatre. Jay is grateful to his family and friends for their continuous love and support. He'd like to dedicate these performances to his mentor George Kon, his vocal coach Dane Ison, and to the incredible powerhouse, Jade Stice.

Allan Lau (Bunsen, Policeman Swing & Weisel, Stage Manager, Mr. Jacobi, Mayor Swing) is delighted to play a little on the Palikū stage and share it with such an outrageously talented cast!! He is the creative arts teacher at Ka'imiloa Elementary School, celebrating 20 years of teaching with the HIDOE at that school. He is also the assistant director of 24-7 Danceforce and the current board president of IABK. This summer, he was the program director for IABK's summer musical theater education program and production manager for our show. Mahalo nui to Mary, Clarke, Roslyn, Ahnya, DeAnne, Anna, Janine, Annie, Ligaya and the rest of the production team. Special love to Jade, Mr. B, Mom, and Popsicle — thank you for always believing in me!

Devon Nekoba (Weisel, Stage Manager, Mr. Jacobi, Mayor) is very honored and excited to return to the Palikū stage for the Bright kids! He was last seen in Lisa Matsumoto's *Happily Eva Afta* (MVT) and has Mr. Bright to thank for this wonderful life onstage. He also wants to thank his family for all of their love and support. Mahalo also to Mary, Allan, Ligaya, Annie and everyone associated with this production for always making a place for him here!

Alison Maldonado (Medda Larkin) is a dual M.F.A. candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, specializing in Playwriting and Directing. With roots in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, she holds two B.A. degrees from UHM: one in Creative Media (Film Animation) and another in Theater, with a minor in Art. Alison was last seen on the Palikū stage in *The Wiz*, where she played Addaperle. Her previous roles include The Dynamites in *Hairspray*, Mama Euralie in *Once On This Island*, and Alice in *Big River*. Currently, she is the Artistic Director of the Hawaii Military Community Theatre (HMCT.). Her dedication to service is underscored by her time in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force, where she was part of the prestigious "TOPS IN BLUE" entertainment team. Alison extends her gratitude to the Bright family and IABK for this opportunity to play her bucket list role of Ms. Medda, and lastly her eternal love to her husband Emilio for his forever love and support.

Seanalei Nishimura (Katherine Plumber) is a rising sophomore at Emerson College majoring in Musical Theater. She is beyond grateful to be a part of this wonderful Bright Kid production. In some of the more recent shows she has been a part of, she played Judy Turner in *A Chorus Line* (DHT), Anna in *Frozen* (PACK), an Angel in *Anything Goes* (DHT), Annabeth in *The Lightning Thief* (Punahou), Nina in *In the Heights* (PACK), and Moana in *Moana, Jr.* (PACK). She would like to thank the amazing cast, crew, and the kind and hardworking production team. She would also like to thank her family and Elika Santos for the endless support, especially her brother Shane, who is also in the show, and lastly, Mary Hicks, for giving her this wonderful opportunity and making this show so memorable!

Shane Nishimura (Albert/Davey Understudy) is a senior at Punahou School and is extremely grateful to be a part of this production. He was last seen as Jared Kleinman in *Dear Evan Hansen* at MVT. Other memorable credits include *Beauty and the Beast*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Cinderella*, *Anything Goes*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Oliver!*, Flounder in *The Little Mermaid* (DHT), Chip Tolentino in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Jon Larson in *Tick Tick Boom*, Grover in *The Lightning Thief* (Punahou), Piragua Guy in *In The Heights*, and Squidward in *Spongebob The Musical, Jr.* (PACK). Shane would like to thank his family, friends, and of course, Mary, Roz, and Ahnya for this amazing opportunity!

This is Jonah Sardinha's (Romeo, Jack Understudy) first IABK show. A senior at Kamehameha Schools, and a board member for Keaka Kamehameha, Jonah has been in: *In The Heights*, as Mufasa in *The Lion King*, *Mean Girls*, Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, and Tony in *West Side Story*. His first musical was with Genesis Kaeo where he was a featured dancer to his Usnavi. Jonah is honored to understudy such a hardworking and talented performer. He would like to thank Patrick Fujioka for his start, Keaka, family, friends, and the cast and crew of *Newsies* for their support.

Jantzen Shinmoto (Morris Delancy) is an aspiring actor who comes from a family of thespians. He started his acting career in 2022 after coming back to the islands from Oregon. He was part of the cast of MVT's *Once Upon One Time*, *Once Upon One Noddah Time*, and *Happily Eva Aftah* the past three summers as Da Oddah Prince, Prince Warubozu, and Prince Chah Ming Won. You may have also seen him in Kumu Kahua's *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers* and Mo'olelo Studio's *The Year Christmas Was Almost Canceled*. This is Jantzen's first production with IABK. Outside of acting, Jantzen is a licensed real estate advisor & life insurance advisor. He also publishes books, rock climbs, and enjoys karaoke and game nights in his free time.

Steven Tee (Henry, Spot Conlon) is a sophomore at Brigham Young University - Hawaii (BYUH) and is currently pursuing a degree in Music as a Vocal Performance Major. Prior to being cast in *Newsies*, he was also in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (BYUH, March 2023), and *Once on This Island* (BYUH, March 2024). He is thrilled to be in his first production with IABK. "I would like to give thanks to my friends and family who have supported me all the way and to my voice teacher, Dr. Melissa Glenn, for helping me develop my talent in singing. Enjoy the show!"

Pono Wong (Elmer) is incredibly excited to be performing in his first IABK production! Pono is a sophomore at Mid-Pacific Institute where he was in their production of *The Crucible*. Pono was recently seen in *Seussical Jr.* with Mo'olelo Studios where he has also been in their productions of *Frozen Jr.*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. Pono also has a passion for filmmaking and recently his short film *DUSK* was featured in the HIFF 'Ōpio Festival. Pono is super grateful to everyone involved in this production and to the incredible cast for this amazing experience!

Trent Yamagata (Buttons) is going to be a senior at Roosevelt High School. He's super excited to be doing his first community show with IABK. Before this, he was in *Dear Edwina Jr.* with IABK's summer program and *Happily Eva Afta* (MVT). He's grateful for the opportunity to be onstage with his stepdad Nolan and thanks everyone for giving him a chance, and his friends and family for supporting him.

Maya Yoshida (Bowery Beauty, Female Ensemble) is a junior at Le Jardin Academy where she is part of the NHS program and LJA Ambassadors program. Outside of school, Maya enjoys assistant teaching at 24-VII Danceforce. She is truly honored to participate in *Newsies*, her third IABK musical. Past credits include Mo'olelo Studios' *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Lion King Jr.*, MVT's *Once Upon One Noddah Time*, and IABK's *Children of Eden* and *The King and I*. Maya would like to thank her amazing family for all their love and support in everything she pursues, her friends for always being her favorite cheerleaders, and this amazing cast and crew for all their hard work and dedication!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Mary Chesnut Hicks (Director) has been an active performer, music director, and educator in Hawaii for the past 28 years. She holds degrees in Voice Performance and Music Education, and spent several years performing professionally before moving to Hawaii in 1996. Recent Po'okela awards include Mother Abbess in DHT's *Sound of Music*, Director of a Musical for IABK's *The King and I*, and Music Direction/Adjudicator's Special Award for Palikū's *Les Miserables*. In her 23 years at 'Iolani School, Mary taught Lower School Music for 12 years, and then moved to Upper School Musical Theatre the past 11 years, in addition to leading the choral program the past three years. She is passionate about her work with young people, and when not directing or performing, enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Clarke Bright (Music Director) is in his 14th year as Bandmaster of the Royal Hawaiian Band (RHB). Prior to his RHB appointment, he was a band director at Kamehameha Schools for 13-1/2 years. He also coordinated the Kamehameha Schools Summer Performing Arts Academy in 2009. He has led band and choir trips to New Zealand, Japan, the East Coast, the West Coast, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai. He served on the management team at New Hope Christian Fellowship and led the performing arts department at the church for seven years. He is a retired member of the 111th Army National Guard Band, where he served for 21 years. He has been the music director for his father's musical productions for 30 years and recently the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation for nine years. His father is his hero and he gives credit to him for being the best example of a person, husband, father and director any artistic son could ever hope for. He is married to Lynell Bright, an elementary music teacher at Kamehameha Schools and director of the Kamehameha School's Children's Chorus. He has two sons. His older son Christopher is a screenwriter and his younger son Timothy is an actor, writer, director and teacher.

Ahnya Chang (Choreographer) is a frequent performer, director, and choreographer for Hawai'i theaters, schools, and youth arts programs. She trained at Punahou School and continued in Pittsburgh, New York, and New Delhi, where she studied Kathak dance under the disciples of Pandit Birju Maharaj. She was a teaching artist and assistant to Jacques D'Amboise at the National Dance Institute. Local stage appearances include productions with Hawaii Ballet Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, Manoa Valley Theatre, and Legends in Concert Hawaii. On Oahu: Director - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Camelot*, *Calendar Girls*, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, *Steel Magnolias* (DHT), and *Avenue Q* (MVT). Choreographer — *Waitress* and *My Fair Lady* (DHT). She is on the faculty of Hawaii Ballet Theatre and 'Iolani School.

Roslyn Catracchia (Vocal Director) has been involved in many aspects of the musical theatre world in Hawaii for over 30 years now — writing, recording, producing, musical directing and stage directing. She has received seven Po'okela Awards for her theatrical works and two Hōkū nominations for her personal CDs. She has been the musical director of over 100 productions, both original works and popular musicals, and is very excited to be working with IABK for the very first time, doing what she loves with people she loves!

DeAnne Kennedy (Set Design, Scenic Artist) is a freelance scenic and graphic designer. She has been designing on O'ahu for 10 years with IABK, Theatre Found, DHT, MVT, HPU, and 'Ohana Arts. She has been an assistant professor of scenic design at UH Mānoa for two years. Prior to moving to O'ahu, she was the resident scenic designer for PCPA Theaterfest for a number of years, where she designed over 20 shows. She was also a charge artist at many venues on the mainland, including the Utah Shakespearean Festival and the University of Iowa. She received her MFA at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her BA from the University of Northern Colorado.

Anna Foster (Costume Design) is currently a full-time costume designer at Punahou School. Anna has been designing for theater for 30 years in multiple disciplines including set design, projection design, and costume design. She was the costume designer for IABK productions of *The King and I*, *The Wiz*, and *Children of Eden* at Palikū Theatre. Anna is happy to be back with IABK making beautiful theater with wonderful people.

Janine Myers' (Lighting Design) primary professional pursuit is designing lights around O'ahu. Well versed in multiple aspects of theatre, she has been known to lend a hand with production and stage management, set construction, set dressing, painting and even welding when she's not up a ladder, or sitting in the dark behind a lighting console. Her lighting designs span the theatrical spectrum, including dramas, musicals, modern and traditional dance, and concerts at venues as intimate as Mark's Garage to as large as The Hawai'i Theatre Center. She has garnered 14 Po'okela Awards for her lighting designs. Some of her favorite designs include *Julius Caesar* and *The Glass Menagerie* (HPU); *Macbeth*, *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*, and *Honu by the Sea* (Hawaii Theatre Center); *The Wiz* and *Children of Eden* (IABK at Palikū Theatre); *Hair*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Once*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *Cabaret*, and *The Chinese Lady* (MVT).

Steven Nelson (Sound Design) began his Bright journey in 2009 on the production of *West Side Story* as an RF technician. He has enjoyed being a part of several Bright Productions and is happy to be back behind the console, collaborating with the Bright Foundation on yet another great production. Steve currently works at Kaihonua Entertainment as an AV integrator and is an audio engineer at Mo'olelo Studios. He would like to give his thanks and love to his incredible girlfriend Alika, and his son Miles for their love and support throughout these weeks of long theatre nights.

Kevin Murata (Hair and Makeup Design) has been in the beauty industry for more than 20 years. He has worked for various global companies as a makeup artist and in local salons as a hair stylist and esthetician. He is currently an assistant professor for the Cosmetology program at Honolulu Community College. Some of Kevin's other credentials includes wig/hair and makeup designer/artist for Hawaii Opera Theater, Central Theatre Arts Academy, 'Iolani School Performing Arts, Diamond Head Theater, Yellow Brick Studio & Legacy Vision Films, and the Gridiron. Kevin has previously worked with IABK on *The Wiz* and *An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein Classics*. *Newsies* is his first production as the hair/wig and makeup designer.

Mia Yoshimoto (Assistant Hair and Makeup) is a licensed cosmetologist, born and raised in Hawai'i. She has been working on wigs/makeup for the performing arts for 10 years. Mia has also designed for the Hawai'i Shakespeare Festival, Farrington Performing Arts Center, Kumu Kahua Theatre, Kaimuki High School Performing Arts Center, and other local theatres. Mia has her associates degree in Applied Science in Cosmetology from Honolulu Community College. She spends her free time crocheting and telling her husband and cats how much she loves them. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support

Jack Mink (Master Carpenter) is excited to be involved with IABK and help to bring *Newsies* to life. After set building and lighting stages in Portland, Oregon, he moved to Chicago, IL where he waited out the pandemic, building for larger scenic workshops instead of the theatre scene. He's excited to be back to theatre and to see all these Bright Kids shine!

So Jin Kimura (Rehearsal Pianist) is looking forward to being in a show with her son, Alex! She first worked with Mr. Ron Bright back in 2008 for *Miss Saigon* at Palikū Theatre and has been the audition/rehearsal/orchestra pianist since then. She is a member of the percussion section of the Royal Hawaiian Band, teaches piano and music classes at Windward Community College, and is an active accompanist around the island. So Jin began piano studies at age 6 and is a three-time soloist with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and was featured as a soloist with the University of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. In 1994, she received the prestigious Schroeder Award from the National Piano Playing Guild after 10 years of participation. She has also been music directing for *1776* (Palikū), *Into the Woods* (New Hope), and the Centennial Concert for the Hawaii Theater in 2022. In the past, she has been in the orchestra at Army Community Theater, Diamond Head Theater, the Saint Louis High School Performing Arts Center, and HEARTS. So Jin would like to thank the *Newsies* team for being the best people to work with. YAY, *NEWSIES*!! She also thanks her family for all the love and support throughout the years, especially her husband of 22 years. Thank you for being our loudest cheering section!

ACT	Army Community Theatre
CPAC	Castle Performing Arts Center
CTO	Children's Theatre of O'ahu
DHT	Diamond Head Theatre
DITR	Diamond in the Rough
HEARTS	Hawai'i Education of the Arts
HOT	Hawai'i Opera Theatre
HPU	Hawai'i Pacific University
HSF	Hawai'i Shakespeare Festival
HTC	Hawai'i Theatre Center
HTY	Honolulu Theatre for Youth
IABK	I'm A Bright Kid Foundation
KKT	Kumu Kahua Theatre
KHSPAC	Kaimuki High School Performing Arts Center
LCC	Leeward Community College
MPSA	Mid Pacific School of the Arts
PACK	Performing Arts Center of Kapolei
PAPA	Pacific Academy of Performing Arts
PTW	Palikū Theatre at WCC
MVT	Mānoa Valley Theatre
TAG	The Actors' Group
UHM	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa