

I'M A BRIGHT KID FOUNDATION  
presents

# GYPSY

A MUSICAL FABLE

August 8-24, 2025  
Paliku Theatre



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I'M ★ BRIGHT KID  
FOUNDATION

presents

GYPSY  
A MUSICAL FABLE

Book by Authur Laurents

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Suggested by the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

Original production by David Merrick and Leland Hayward

Entire production originally directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Directed and Choreographed by Ahnya Chang

Musical Direction by Clarke Bright

Set Design by DeAnne Kennedy

Lighting Design by Janine Myers

Sound Design by Steven Nelson

Costume Design by Omnia Nova

Hair and Make-up Design by Kevin Murata and Mia Yoshimoto

Props Design by Annie Yoshida

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited. Please no flash photography.**

GYPSY is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC  
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Some costumes provided by COSTUME WORLD THEATRICAL, Pompano Beach, FL  
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## Director's Note

### Ahnya Chang

Musical Theatre is a constantly changing entity, and it can be hard to keep up. Like any aspect of our cultural landscape, it is as influential (and susceptible) to trends as fashion, cinema, popular music, literature, and language. Compositional style and dramaturgical approach is developed, celebrated, then antiquated, again and again, and audiences can be fickle.

We are not an easily satisfied public, and the art and industry respond accordingly to keep us in the room, keep us engaged, keep us occupied and invested. It can be difficult to know where we stand.

In this type of climate, it's important to keep two things in mind. Where did we come from--how did this all begin--and then, what endures, and why? Our roots and foundation tell us everything about why things are and where they could go. The longevity and ongoing relevance of some things over others tell us what we value as a culture and as a species. *Gypsy* is one of the best demonstrations of what American Musical Theatre in particular is about. It boasts the pedigree, structure, themes, characters, and glorious music to stand at the top of the output of Broadway's Golden Age, and as one of the most frequently-revived shows in Broadway history, no one can deny the hold that it has on our yearning for a meaningful theatrical experience.

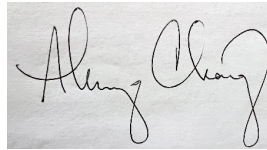
Written by Arthur Laurents and composed by Jule Styne, with lyrics by a 29 year-old Stephen Sondheim, it was meant to be a starring vehicle for Ethel Merman. Merman, and the show's producers, identified the memoirs of striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee as a perfect project for a Broadway legend--it was full of scenery-chewing dialogue and broadly-written characters to play opposite Merman's explosive style. But what could have merely been a well-supported vanity project has proven to be more of a love letter to theatre as a whole. It itself acknowledges its roots and the things that last. Everything we see on stage today, from Broadway to Branson to Vegas, comes from dusty fly rails and burlesque houses, from wooden floors and dark backstage corridors, from bawdy comics and the beginnings of American song. It comes from the often thankless work of people who create routines and shows from little seeds of ideas, and develop them in alleyways and run-down hotels. Much of that work disappears without record. What stays is the best of the showmanship, the storytelling, and the ineffable spark of truly great artists.

In this piece, the writers also provided us with a story--a fable, they call it--about purpose, intention, dreams, and relationships. There is no character in this show with whom we cannot recognize a shared feeling or experience. We see how each of them hopes, how they think, how they love, and what they lose. There is sympathy for all of them, a way to see their differing perspectives, providing us with an opportunity to examine how we see people around us outside of the theatre. What pushes people



to seek out what they want? What are the things that hold people back? Why does intention sometimes feel confusing, and can we reconcile our experience and feelings in a way that we can at last move forward together with the people we love? This story can confront us in many beautiful--though perhaps uncomfortable--ways, and they're all as relatable now as they were in 1959. They always will be.

Foundation and longevity are what we consider here. Mr. Bright was a director and educator who prized multi-dimensional and empathetic storytelling, and challenged people to create truly heartfelt characters with deep-seated emotion and purpose. That is what theatre is built on, and why it will live forever. He taught consideration, and discipline, and complex communication through dialogue and movement and song, entreating his actors and musicians to inspire thought and feeling in their audience. These are the things that will always be important--in performance as storytelling tools, and in the development of artists--and are the roots of his legacy. The Bright Foundation holds these ideas close to their heart. Care for your craft, know where you came from, and identify the things that endure. Through this incredible material, surrounded by this incomparable music, we have the opportunity to be beautifully reminded of the things that were important to him, and of the things that make Theatre great to all of us.



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# THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Uncle Jocko .....	Mathias Maas
Georgie .....	Damian Mendez
Baby June .....	Katy Akitake/Chelsea Medeiros†
Baby Louise .....	Lily Dayao/Hayden Lau†
Jocko Kids .....	Katy Akitake, Jian Choo, Lily Dayao, Anthony DiBenedetto, Philex Kepa, Alex Kimura, Hayden Lau, Chelsea Medeiros, Knox Omo
Rose .....	Jacquelyn Holland-Wright*
Pop .....	Tom Holowach
Weber .....	Devon Nekoba
Newsboys .....	Jian Choo, Anthony DiBenedetto, Philex Kepa Alex Kimura, Knox Omo
Herbie .....	Swaine Kau
June .....	Rockell Kim
Louise .....	Tani Siu
Henry .....	Steven Tee
Tulsa .....	Drew Bright
L.A. ....	Chase Lau
Yonkers .....	Leland Hara
Angie .....	Damian Mendez
Kringelein .....	Mathia Maas
Mr. Goldstone .....	Allan Lau
Caroline .....	Carlee Kasadate, Ligaya Stice
Miss Cratchitt .....	Heather Feeley
Agnes .....	KC Ann Tadina
Marjorie May .....	Carly Omoni
Dolores .....	Angelique Fliss
Thelma .....	Sydney Del Fosse
Hazel .....	Kelsea Armstrong
Gail .....	Carlee Kasadate
Carolina .....	Chase Lau, Damian Mendez

Cigar.....	Steven Tee
Pastey.....	Devon Nekoba
Burlesque House Stagehands.....	Chase Lau, Damian Mendez
Ventriloquist.....	Leland Hara
Stripper.....	Carlee Kasadate
Tessie Tura.....	Ligaya Stice
Mazeppa.....	Faith Kawai
Electra.....	Camille Michel
Showgirls.....	Kelsea Armstrong, Angelique Fliss Sydney Del Fosse, Carlee Kasadate, Faith Kawai, Rockell Kim, Camille Michel, Carly Omori, KC Ann Tadina
Bougeron-Couchon.....	Leland Hara
Phil, Press Agent.....	Devon Nekoba
Maid.....	Heather Feeley
Ensemble.....	Kelsea Armstrong, Sydney Del Fosse, Heather Feeley, Angelique Fliss, Leland Hara, Carlee Kasadate, Faith Kawai, Chase Lau, Mathias Maas, Damian Mendez, Camille Michel, Devon Nekoba, Carly Omori, KC Ann Tadina, Steven Tee

\* Actor appears through special arrangement with Actor's Equity Association

† At the **August 7, 9, 15, 17, 21 and 24** performances, the role of Baby June will be played by Katy Akitake, and the role of Baby Louise will be played by Hayden Lau. At the **August 8, 10, 14, 16, 22 and 23** performances the the role of Baby June will be played by Chelsea Medeiros, and the role of Baby Louise will be played by Lily Dayao.





# ACT ONE

## Overture

### Scene 1 – Vaudeville theatre stage, Seattle

*May We Entertain You* ..... Baby June and Baby Louise

### Scene 2 – Pop's Kitchen, Seattle

*Some People* ..... Rose

### Scene 3 – On the Road, Seattle to Los Angeles

*Some People (reprise)* ..... Rose and Boy Scouts

### Scene 4 – Weber's Theatre, Los Angeles

*Small World* ..... Rose and Herbie

### Scene 5 – On stage of a vaudeville theatre, Los Angeles

*Let Me Entertain You* ..... Baby June and Her Newsboys

*Military Medley* ..... Baby June and Her Newsboys

### Scene 6 – Hotel, Akron

*Mr. Goldstone* ..... Rose, Herbie and Kids

*Little Lamb* ..... Louise

### Scene 7 – Chinese restaurant, New York

*You'll Never Get Away From Me* ..... Rose and Herbie

### Scene 8 – Grantziger's Palace, New York

*Farm Sequence/Broadway* ..... June, Farmboys and Caroline

### Scene 9 – Mr. Grantziger's office

*If Momma Was Married* ..... June and Louise

### Scene 10 – Theatre alley, Buffalo

*All I Need Is The Girl* ..... Tulsa

### Scene 11 – Train platform, Omaha

*Everything's Coming Up Roses* ..... Rose

# ACT TWO

## Entr'acte

### Scene 1 – Desert country, Texas

*Toreadorables/Stars and Stripes* ..... Louise and the Toreadorables  
*Together Wherever We Go* ..... Rose, Herbie and Louise

### Scene 2 – Backstage of a burlesque house, Wichita

*You Gotta Get A Gimmick* ..... Mazeppa, Electra and Tessie

### Scene 3 – Backstage corridor

### Scene 4 – Backstage and on stage: Wichita Burlesque House, Philadelphia, Detroit & Minsky's Burlesque, New York City

*Small World (Reprise)* ..... Rose  
*Let Me Entertain You* ..... Louise  
*Gypsy Strip Routine* ..... Louise and Showgirls

### Scene 5 – Louise's dressing room

### Scene 6 – Stage of the Minsky's Theatre

*Rose's Turn* ..... Rose

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# THE ORCHESTRA

Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone .....	Scott Villiger
Clarinet, Alto Saxophone .....	Garrett Martin
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet.....	Ryan Ng
Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone .....	Allen Won
Trumpet 1 .....	DeShannon Higa
Trumpet 2 .....	Mike Matrasko
Horn.....	Eric Kop
Trombone 1 .....	Arthur Davis
Trombone 2 .....	Joey Nakamoto
Strings, Harp.....	Joe Pacheco
Piano .....	So Jin Kimura
Bass.....	Derek Higashi
Drums.....	Chris Bright
Percussion.....	Lynell Bright



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## MEET OUR CAST

**Jacquelyn Holland-Wright (Rose)** was born and raised in Kailua, Hawaii and has captivated audiences for over 30 years on the Las Vegas and Broadway stages for her powerhouse talents and magnetic presence. She currently stars six nights a week as Soap Star in “Menopause The Musical,” the longest running musical on the Las Vegas Strip.

She also starred as Donna Sheridan in the Broadway musical “Mamma Mia!” 2005-2009, and the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 2005 named her the “Most Talented Female Entertainer of Las Vegas.” Jacquelyn’s dynamic career spans an impressive range of productions, from originating the lead role of Jocelyn in the world premiere of “Sudoku The Musical” to delivering comedic brilliance as Carolyn in “Divorce Party.” She starred alongside Rick Springfield in “EFX” at MGM Grand, headlined “Tease” at the Blue Note Jazz Club and was a featured singer for Wayne Newton including on his first USO Tour post 9/11.

Her star power extends beyond the stage having performed with icons including Ruth Pointer, Cindy Williams, Neil McCoy, Jessica Simpson, Shaggy, Jennifer Hudson and Rob Schneider.

Jacquelyn premiered her own concert titled “Anyway” in 2019 with world renowned pianist Dr. Philip Fortenberry and acclaimed composer/music arranger/director/producer Keith Thompson at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas raising awareness and funds for canine cancer research. A passionate advocate for animal health, she proudly supports the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine in pioneering advanced cancer treatments for pets.

Holland-Wright also volunteers as a judge and master class presenter for The Smith Center’s Nevada High School Musical Theater Awards, a regional program of the National Jimmy Awards in New York City. The program highlights and recognizes students participating in a variety of roles on and off the stage and encourages talent and achievement in musical theater in high schools throughout Nevada.

She is a proud mom, actress, voice over artist, singer, acting coach and member of Actors Equity Association. For more information visit [jacquelynhollandwright.com](http://jacquelynhollandwright.com).

**Swaine Kauai (Herbie)**, a local boy who performed on Hawaii’s stages as a youth, then moved and traveled the world performing, returns to the stage with the same passion that have defined his career. A seasoned performer and director, Kauai’s credits span from the Metropolitan Opera (*La Rondine*, NYC) to Shakespeare festivals (*As You Like It*, MO), multiple national tours (*Mame*), and international stages. Locally, he’s been recognized with numerous Po’okela Awards and was last seen in the IABK production of *The King and I*. A former member of AEA and SDC, Kauai first began his collegiate studies at WCC and UH Mānoa in music and theater, and ultimately earned his degrees at Webster Conservatory (BFA), and later an MFA in directing from the University of Memphis. His artistry has also been recognized by the NY Drama League, where he

was awarded the Musical Theatre Directing Fellowship. With an extensive resume that includes work with theatrical giants like Richard Maltby, Bill Finn, and Jason Robert Brown, Kauai now leads the HMS Performing Arts Academy (PA'A). Whether performing or directing, Kauai brings a fire and a deep love for storytelling. [www.swainekauai.com](http://www.swainekauai.com)

**Tani Kimiko Siu (Louise)** is deeply honored and delighted to be playing Louise in *Gypsy*! Recent credits include IABK's *The King and I* (Eliza), *The Wiz* (dance ensemble), and *Children of Eden* (dance ensemble). This marks her first musical since returning home as a mainstage performer aboard the Disney *Fantasy* cruise ship. She is a Regent Scholarship recipient at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Tani performs at *Rock-a-Hula* in Waikīkī and teaches for Punahou Dance School's extended learning program. From the bottom of her heart, she would like to thank Ahnya, Clarke, Allan, and IABK for believing in her and allowing her this incredible opportunity to tell Louise's story. "I love you Mom, Dad, Jojo, and ku'uipo!"

**Rockell Kaleionālanī Kim (Dainty June)** is a junior at Kamehameha Schools and thrilled to play Dainty June! Recent roles include Eurydice in *Hadestown* and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. She's performed with Keaka Kamehameha, DHT, PACK, PAPA, and is a former Shooting Star. Mahalo to IABK for this amazing experience—and to Colton, Abi, and Jonah for all the love and support!

**Drew Bright (Tulsa)** is performing in his 8th IABK production. Drew has done numerous shows including *Anastasia* (CPAC) where he played the role of Dimitri, *Once On This Island* (MVT) as an ensemble member, and Specs in *Newsies* (IABK). He has always loved performing especially on stage and is passionate about this art form. Drew is thrilled to be a part of this cast and crew and this wonderful show. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support throughout everything!

**Faith Kawai (Mazeppa)** is a rising junior at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She began her performance journey in the IABK children's summer program in 2017 and was a TA/ Music Assistant for this year's showcase, *Junie B. Jones Jr.* Thank you to IABK for instilling in her a deep love of the arts and teaching her to lead with love. Thank you to every individual who works on AND off stage to make this show happen. @f4ithi3 #bumpitwithatrumpet

**Ligaya Stice (Tessie Tura)** is a practicing pediatric anesthesiologist in Honolulu. She is a proud graduate of Castle HS, where she was mentored by Ron Bright. Her last role on stage was in Mr. B's 10th anniversary production of *West Side Story* as Anita in 1990. Ligaya is the executive director and one of the founding members of the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation. She has also served on the boards of the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, the Hawaii Theatre Center and the Distinguished Young Women of Hawaii (Hawaii's Junior Miss) Scholarship Program.

**Camille Domaloan Michel (Electra)** first appeared onstage in 1977 as a royal princess in *The King and I* at Honolulu Community Theatre (now Diamond Head Theatre). Over

the years, she has appeared in numerous shows including *Annie* (ACT); *Working* (MVT); *Oklahoma!*, *Kismet*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The King and I* (this time as a royal wife!), *Sunset Boulevard*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and two productions of *White Christmas* (DHT). Camille is honored to be making her debut with the Bright Kid 'ohana by reprising her role as Electra under the direction of the incomparable Ahnya Chang. In real life, Camille is the Director of Enrollment and Communications at St. Andrew's Schools and enjoys fostering kittens from the Hawaiian Humane Society. Mahalo to Whit, Christianne, Ryan, and Chelsea for their unwavering support, always. Camille's performance is dedicated to the Stice sisters with love from the Domaloan sisters.

**Katy Akitake (Baby June)** is an energetic 11-year-old who loves performing. She began dancing at age 5 and currently trains in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and acrogyim. Her first theater role was playing Toto in *The Wizard of Oz Jr.*, and last year she played Flounder in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* with the Performing Arts Academy. She's thrilled to be part of this production and would love to continue pursuing acting in the future. She is grateful to her teachers, family, and castmates for their love and support!

**Chelsea Medeiros (Baby June)**, 12 years old from Mililan is excited to be on stage for her first time with IABK at Palikū Theatre! She is so grateful and would like to thank all of the directors for this wonderful opportunity to play a shared role as "Baby June". Theatre is her passion. Her past roles include Cady Heron in *Mean Girls Jr.* (PDD), Pearl/Squirt in *Finding Nemo Jr.*, Sardine/Skates Fan in *SpongeBob Youth Edition*, Jasmine in *Aladdin Kids*, Who in *Seussical Jr.*, and Young Anna in *Frozen Kids* with (PACK). She is very thankful for her family, friends, coaches & teachers for all of their continued love and support throughout her journey.

**Lily Dayao (Baby Louise)** is a seventh grader at 'Iolani School and is thrilled to be part of Gypsy—partly for the acting but mostly for the snacks backstage. Past productions include *The King and I* ('Iolani School), *Imagine* (IABK), and *Junie B. Jones, Jr.* (IABK). When she's not on stage or fangirling over *Epic the Musical*, Lily enjoys drawing, writing, and competing with her school's speech team (where talking a lot is actually encouraged). She's grateful for every chance to learn something new, make new friends, and maybe sneak in a few "Josh" hands.

**Hayden Lau (Baby Louise)** is very excited to be in her first IABK production! She is a freshman attending Kamehameha Schools. Hayden performed in *Frozen* as Young Anna (DHT) last as well as many DHT Shooting Star shows. She is very thankful for the community here and to be a part of the cast! Thanks to everyone who made this amazing show happen!

**Mathias Maas (Uncle Jocko/Kringelein)** is a veteran theatre artist with credits across Hawai'i's stages as a director, actor, educator, technician, and designer. He has directed *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (MVT), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (DHT), and *Once* (MVT), and will be directing *The Last Five Years* this winter at DHT. Acting credits include *What the Constitution Means to Me* (MVT), *Kiss Me Kate* (DHT), *Hate Mail* (KOA), and *Billy*



*Elliott* (DHT). He has worked with HTY, HYOC, Monkey Waterfall, Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, and the Metropolitan Opera's Outreach Program.

**Devon Nekoba (Weber/Pastey/Press Agent)** is a very proud Bright kid and humbled to be able to take part in another IABK show! A stage veteran (which means he's old!), he has performed with 'Ōhi'a Productions, Mānoa Valley Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, Kumu Kahua, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, The University of Hawaii, and of course the last few years of IABK shows. A huge thank you to his family for allowing him to continue to do shows, and to Mr. B for getting this love of stage "performance thing" rolling.

**Steven Tee (Henry/Cigar)** is a junior at Brigham Young University - Hawaii (BYUH) and is currently pursuing a degree in Music as a Vocal Performance Major. Prior to being cast in *Gypsy*, he was also in *Aida* (BYUH 2025), *Newsies* (IABK 2024), *Once On This Island* (BYUH 2024), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (BYUH 2023). He is thrilled to be part of another 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 teachers for helping me to hone my talents. Enjoy the show!"

**Tom Holowach (Pop)** 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. Performances at Palikū Theatre in *1776*, *Side by Side by Sondheim* and last year's *Newsies* (IABK). Much love to my wife and writing partner, Holly.

**Heather Feeley (Mrs. Cratchitt)** was born in Ohio, raised in Wyoming and Hawaii, and a 1987 graduate of Castle High School and proud member of Castle Theatre Guild & Thespian Troupe 566. Her last production with Mr. Bright was in *Gypsy* some 38 years ago with Jacquelyn Holland-Wright and Jade Stice. Back then, she dreamed of being a film actress, but went on to her greatest role ever as mom to her son Nick. She loved being a part of CTG and working with one of her closest friends to this day, Jacquelyn. She couldn't pass up an opportunity to work with her again along with an amazing new cast. When asked her thoughts and feelings about the show, she said "While Mr. B & Jade Stice are absolutely missed with all our hearts, I really think they would have been wowed and loved this production. With Ahnya Chang's vision and Clarke Bright's incredible musical direction, they have definitely poured their heart, knowledge, and love into all of us. They make us want to be better performers. I think Mr. Bright and Jade will be watching and cheering us on throughout the run and are proud of all of us. It's really a full circle moment and gives me goosebumps every night. My heart is so full of memories and love."

**Allan Lau (Mr. Goldstone)** is the creative arts teacher at Ka'imiloa Elementary School, celebrating 21 years of teaching with the HDOE at that school. He is also the assistant director of 24-7 DanceForce and the current board president of IABK. He was Mr. B's production manager for many years at both CPAC and Palikū and loves continuing his

duties with this production. Much love to Popsicle, Momma, my DumDum, and especially Arbe!

**Kelsea Armstrong (Hazel)** is a new face to the scene of O'ahu community theatre. She graduated from Kapa'a High School on Kaua'i and is an alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she earned a master's degree in political science in 2022. You may recognize her voice from the occasional airwave at Hawai'i Public Radio where she works in the Department of Operations. She has also worked as on-air talent and DJ at both KTUH and Kaua'i Community Radio. Her years of performance experience come from working as a jazz vocalist and band leader in Honolulu, but this production of *Gypsy* by IABK is her official introduction to the world of theatre/drama.

**Jian Choo (Newsboy)** loves to sing, dance, and act. He performed in *Spongebob: The Musical* at Diamond Head Theatre a few weeks ago. This is his second musical theater experience and is excited to be on stage and perform *Gypsy*.

**Sydney del Fosse (Thelma)** is so excited to be in her first production with the IABK family! Originally from Arizona, she moved to the island for school and graduated this past December with a bachelor's in psychology. She now works in human resources at a nonprofit hospital on the North Shore. Raised on stage, Sydney has participated in youth and community theater for years and loves performing whenever she gets the chance. Some of her favorite credits include *The Sound of Music* (Brigitta), *The Little Mermaid* (Flounder), and *Once On This Island* (ensemble — twice, because it's the best show ever). Sydney is appreciative of the entire cast and production team who have all been so welcoming and kind!

**Anthony DiBenedetto (Newsboy)**, star 5th grader at 'Aikahi Elementary School, is an aspiring mathematician born in Alexandria, VA,. He most recently played Sheldon Seahorse and The Vacationer in *Finding Nemo, Jr.* (PAPA) at the Hawaii Theater. This is his first time acting with IABK and he is incredibly excited. Anthony loves dancing, video games, and reading.

**Angelique Fliss (Delores)** is a graduate from Kapolei High School class of 2025. She will be attending UH Manoa in the fall. Some of her past roles include Dory in *Finding Nemo Jr* (PACK), the ensemble in *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (PACK), Thetis in *Xanadu* (KHSMT), the ensemble in *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (PACK), and Jane Fairfax in *Emma: A Pop Musical JV* (KHSMT). While she loves performing, she also has a passion for behind the scene work. Throughout high school, she pursued lighting design and would love to continue to do

so in her future. She is beyond grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing cast. She would like to thank all of her mentors, family, and friends for supporting, teaching, and encouraging her throughout the years. Angelique would also like to give a special thanks to the I'm a Bright Kid Foundation - "It truly is a special program. Thank you all for coming to watch!"

This will be **Leland Hara's (Yonkers)** second full production with IABK. His previous roles included ensemble parts in IABK's summer program productions of *Once On This Island Jr.* and *Seussical Jr.*, along with last year's *Newsies* as Boots As a student at 'Iolani School, Leland participated in several productions including *Once On this Island, Jr.* (Agwe), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Flute), *The King and I* (Guard/Priest/Prop Man), and most recently, *Mamma Mia* (Sky), under the guidance and direction of Mary Chesnut Hicks and Andrew Sakaguchi. He would like to thank IABK as well as his family, friends, and Dane Ison, for all of the opportunities they have given him.

**Carlee Kasadate (Gail)** is thrilled and honored to be a part of her first IABK production. She graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2024 with a BFA. in dance and a minor in theatre. Throughout the years, she has performed in many shows including Yuki in *Dance, Dance, Dance* (UHM), Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* (PAPA), Emma Goldman in *Ragtime* (CPAC), and most recently, Andrea/Ft. Dancer in *Once On This Island* (PAPA). Carlee would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support and the *Gypsy* production team, cast, crew, and everyone involved for all of their hard work to make this show happen!

**Philex Kepa (Newsboy)** is thrilled to be performing in his second production with the IABK. He is extremely excited to be part of this fantastic cast! Some of Philex's memorable roles include Young Simba in *The Lion King Jr.* (HMCT), Nemo in *Finding Nemo* (PACK), and Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* (DHT). Philex would like to thank everyone at IABK for this incredible opportunity. He is so grateful to his family and friends for their love and support throughout his journey.

**Alex Kimura (Clarence the Clarinet Boy/Newsboy)** is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Kān'eohe Elementary School. He enjoys playing soccer and baseball and being a part of the Kān'eohe Aikido Club. Since last year, Alex has added musical theater to his list of activities and absolutely loves being on stage! He has been involved with IABK's summer program and played the role of Sheldon Potts in *Junie B. Jones, Jr.* this past summer. He also played the role of a young boy in IABK's 2024 production of *Newsies*. Alex is very excited to be playing Clarence the Clarinet Boy and a Newsboy for this production of *Gypsy* and to have mommy playing in the pit again! You get to hear him actually play the clarinet! He would like to thank Ahnya for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show. Thank you also to Auntie Mo, Uncle Clarke, Auntie Lynell, Auntie Tracy, Uncle Allan, and Auntie Annie for all their love and encouragement. And last but not least, thank you to my family for being my biggest fans!



**Chase Lau (L.A.)**, a junior at Castle High School, is an aspiring actor in his school's thespian troop as its publicity chair. He has done a few high school productions, however this is his first time in community theatre. He has loved the experience and atmosphere he has been exposed to with IABK and hopes to continue doing more productions with IABK in the future!

**Damian Mendez (Angie)**, a senior at Castle High School, is a dabbler in the performing arts and an aspiring actor. He is most grateful to be playing Georgie, Angie and various other ensemble roles in this production. He has performed in numerous shows at Castle high school, most notoriously as Buddy the Elf in *Elf: The Musical* (CPAC). He has been in multiple IABK summer productions as a youngster and is proud to be making his debut in community theater with IABK once more. He is currently the president of Thespian Troupe #566 and the co-captain of Castle Dance Ensemble. He would like to thank God and his family and friends for their endless love and support for him.

As student council president at 'Āhuimanu Elementary, **Knox Omo (Newsboy)** is often described as personable and respectful. He enjoys jiu-jitsu, reading, drawing, and writing. He is a two-time IABK summer program participant and loves to sing. *Gypsy* is his first community production and humbly looks forward to gaining more experience in musical theatre.

**Carly Omori (Marjorie May)** is thrilled to be back with IABK! She got her start in theatre by performing in their summer program back in 2018 in *Once On This Island, Jr.* She's a graduate of Castle High School's class of 2024 and a rising sophomore at Long Island University in New York, pursuing a degree in musical theatre. She's performed all over the island, at places like KHSPAC, CPAC, and 'Ohana Arts. She sends all her love to her friends, family, and mentors.

**KC Ann Tadina (Agnes)** graduated from Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where she was able to fully experience the joy of music and theatre. She was able to be part of the productions in school such as *West Side Story*, *Once On This Island*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Twelfth Night the Musical* and *Aida*. She was also privileged to be part of *James and the Giant Peach* as Spider and *Freaky Friday* productions with Mo'olelo Studios. This is her first time with I'm A Bright Kid Foundation, a theatre group she admired for a while and she is honoured to join the 'ohana in this wonderful show. Thank you to Ahnya and the wonderful team and cast of *Gypsy*, who continue to share the love from and joy of theatre and the arts.

## MEET OUR PRODUCTION TEAM

### **Ahnya Chang (Director & Choreographer)**

Ahnya 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.

**Clarke Bright (Music Director)** is in his 15th 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 ten 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.

**DeAnne Kennedy (Set Design, Scenic Artist)** is a freelance scenic and graphic designer. She has been designing on O'ahu for 11 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.

**Omnia Nova (Costume Design)** A multi-faceted staging professional, Omnia is a theatre kid turned performance artist. After a theatre-focused decade studying performance and musical theatre Omnia stepped into costumer roles at Mililani High School, 'Ohana Arts, freelance-work, and film projects. He has always had a passion for

ornating himself and his friends with beautiful dress or hair art, and is an advocate that beauty comes from a place of authenticity. Omnia currently works as a drag performer, and is the resident choreographer/cast member of *So Obsessed*, every second Friday at Scarlet Honolulu. Growing up doing shows at Palikū Theatre, this show couldn't feel more inspired for him. This is his first time working with IABK and it already feels like home. Omnia has to thank his costume mentors and inspirations: Kathe James, Carmen San Diego, and Anna Foster. "The most powerful thing you can do is become the image of your own imagination" - RuPaul

**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.

**Annie Yoshida (Prop Design)** loves the art of storytelling through prop design and has worked as Prop Design for a number of theater groups across, most recently IABK's *Newsies*, MVT's *The Princess and the Iso Peanut*, and Farrington Performing Arts Center's *Moana*. Her stage credits include Lisa Mastumoto's *Once Upon One Noddah Tlme* (MVT), *Children of Eden* (IABK), *The Wiz* (IABK), and *The King and I* (IABK). She is an early childhood educator at Le Jardin Academy in Kailua

**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*. Last year's *Newsies* was his first production as the hair/wig and makeup designer.

**Mia Yoshimoto (Hair and Makeup Design)** 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.

**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

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director and Choreographer.....	Ahnya Chang
Music Director.....	Clarke Bright
Set Designer.....	DeAnne Kennedy
Lighting Designer.....	Janine Myers
Costume Designer.....	Omnia Nova
Sound Designer.....	Steven Nelson
Hair and Makeup Designers.....	Kevin Murata and Mia Yoshimoto
Hair and Makeup Assistant.....	Cassidy Hensarling
Props Designer.....	Annie Yoshida
Rehearsal Pianist.....	So Jin Kimura
Stage Manager.....	Marlina Hufstetler
Scenic Artist.....	DeAnne Kennedy
Master Builder.....	Vince Liem
Costume Construction.....	Apple ADay, Anna Mei, Lanaly Cabalo, Daries Dulay, Anna Foster, Mick Geyser, Holly Holowach, Christian Howe, Kamulani, Kathe James, Lara Lee, Lyn Naruo, Ki Santel, Carmen San Diego, Sandi Shiroma, Paraluman Stice-Durkin, Ann Takazono, Alethia Uchida, Betty Yoshida, Pia Zamora, Debbie Ziemke
Dressers.....	Brandee Doi, Mana Franquez, Barbara Kaneshiro, Lisa Konove, Lara Lee, Jodi Leong, Kana Tyler, Miki Yamamoto, Betty Yoshida
Light Board Operator.....	Arwen Lee
Wireless Technician.....	Christian Bautista
Follow Spot Operators.....	Collette Karr, Jarret Karr
Production Manager.....	Allan Lau
Publicity.....	Poi Planet, Tracy Larrua, Guy Hess
Pit Installation.....	Darren Bissen, Connor DeRyke, Erik DeRyke, Andrew Doan, Puni Haskell, Vince Liem, Devon Nekoba, Brian Shevelenko, Neal Wong
Set Construction & Scenic Painting.....	Ray Acker, Ro Lee, Maria Pruden, Michael Pruden



Program Book..... Ligaya Stice  
Photography ..... Aubrey Lee Staley  
ASL Interpreters ..... Sarah Grasso, Michele Morris  
Box Office ..... Cori Hara, Renee Omori, Ligaya Stice  
Palikū Theatre Manager ..... Nicole Tessier  
Palikū House Manager ..... Stephanie Conching, Jonathan Saavedra  
Palikū Technicians .....R. Andrew Doan, Vince Liem, Lock Lynch,  
Brian Shevelenko

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# Mahalo

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Sam Tafolo

Karen Wolfe

Moira Bright and the Bright 'Ohana

# **Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation Education and Performing Arts Awards**

Mr. Bright cared deeply about encouraging young people to further their education. We are proud to be able to support these deserving students as they pursue studies in the fields that Mr. B. was especially passionate about - education and the performing arts.



Elaine Hicks - Performing Arts  
'Iolani School  
University of Northern Colorado



Camryn Murakami - Performing Arts  
Kaiser High School  
Whittier College



Faith Button - Education  
Pearl City High School  
Sarah Lawrence College



Faith Morrow - Education  
Castle High School  
Chaminade University

**[imabrightkid.org/scholarship](http://imabrightkid.org/scholarship)**

# What We Believe

Ronald E. Bright left an indelible mark on the education and theater landscape of Hawai'i and on the lives of those that he mentored. The vision of the **I'm A Bright Kid Foundation** is to support the educational endeavors of those that are inspired to teach, and to ensure that his gift of quality live theater continues to thrive in our community.

Our mission is to perpetuate the teachings and legacy of Ronald E. Bright by supporting the performing arts and education.

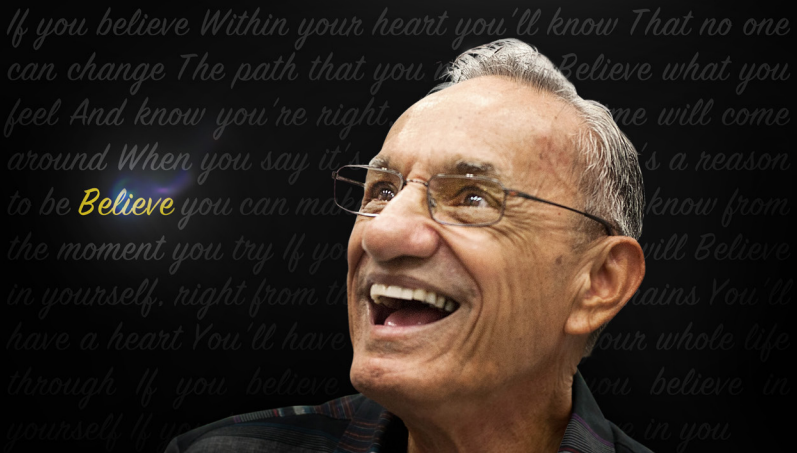
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Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation to support our scholarship awards, our summer musical theatre education program, and our commitment to quality live theatre.

Sponsorship opportunities and legacy planning are also available.

Please visit:

[www.imabrightkid.org](http://www.imabrightkid.org)



*If you believe Within your heart you'll know That no one can change The path that you walk Believe what you feel And know you're right Some will come around When you say it's a reason to be Believe you can make know from the moment you try If you will Believe in yourself, right from the start It remains You'll have a heart You'll have your whole life through If you believe you believe in yourself If you believe in you*

### I'm A Bright Kid Foundation

Allan Lau, President and Secretary

Clarke Bright and Malia Espinda, Vice Presidents

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