

**LA MAMA**  
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB  
PRESENTS



**THE SPECTACULAR RISE OF  
JOSEPHINE BAKER**

**A NEW MUSICAL**

Ellen Stewart Theatre  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
November 21 - December 1, 2019

# ***THE DARK STAR FROM HARLEM***

## ***The Spectacular Rise of Josephine Baker***

**Book by**  
**Glynn Borders**

**Music & Lyrics by**  
**Mario E. Sprouse**

**with**  
**IRIS BEAUMIER\*, CHRIS BOLAN\*, KATELYN BOWMAN\*,**  
**CATHERINE CALLOWAY, HEATHER HURST\*, JOE KOMARA\*,**  
**KIMBERLEE D. MURRAY\*, JED PETERSON\*,**  
**JAMES A. PIERCE III\*, MELISSA VICTOR\*, ZURI WASHINGTON\***

**\* These Actors and Stage Managers are appearing courtesy  
of Actors' Equity Association.**

**Set Design: Joshua Warner**

**Costume Design: Raymond Pizarro**

**Lighting & Projection Design: Matthew Deinhart**

**Sound Design: Josh Samuels**

**Casting by**  
**McCorkle Casting, Ltd.**  
**Pat McCorkle, CSA**  
**Katja Zarolinski, CSA**

**Press Representative**  
**Walk Tall Girl Productions**  
**Marcia Pendelton**

**Production Management: Evan Bernardin Productions**

**Executive Producer/General Management**  
**Sharon Fallon Productions**

**Music Direction by: Mario E. Sprouse**

**Choreography by: Kim Grier-Martinez**

**Directed by Tai Thompson**



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913 was the first of the American Actors' Unions and now represents more than 45,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers nationally. Equity members are dedicated theatre professionals who uphold the highest artistic standards. Historically, AEA has stood at the forefront of many issues, including: civil rights (from the historic 1947 boycott of the then-segregated National Theatre in Washington D.C. to the 1986 founding of the Non-Traditional Casting Project); preservation of historic theatres (it initiated the land-marking of all of the Broadway theatres); national, state and local funding for the arts (AEA helped to create the National Endowment for the Arts); and arts lobbying to advance, foster, and benefit all those connected with the art of theatre. A member of the AFL-CIO, AEA is affiliated with the Federated International Artists (FIA), an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit AEA's website at [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Gem	JAMES A PIERCE III*
Ruby	MELISSA VICTOR*
Opal/Understudy, Josephine Baker	ZURI WASHINGTON*
Pearl	KATELYN BOWMAN*
Jewel	KIMBERLEE D. MURRAY*
Josephine Baker	IRIS BEAUMIER*
MC	CHRIS BOLAN*
European Ensemble #3/Maurice Chevalier	JOE KOMARA*
European Ensemble #4/Brown Shirt	JED PETERSON*
European Ensemble #1/Mistinguette	HEATHER HURST*
European Ensemble #2/Damia	CATHERINE CALLOWAY

## MUSICIAN

Piano	MARIO E. SPROUSE
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## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### Act I

Oh You Beautiful Doll	Harlem Chorus and Gem
We Love Everything Black	MC, European 3, European 4
When In France, Do As The French Do	Josephine, MC/Paul
Things Are Looking Up Over Here	Company
Haiti	Josephine
La Petite Tokinoise	Josephine
I Wish I Were Back in Harlem	Jewel
Champagne, Champagne, Champagne	Opal, Pearl, Ruby, Josephine

### Act II

Mon Homme	Mistinguette
Love Will Find A Way	Maurice Chevalier
I Remember Things	Company
Strange Brew in Berlin	Harlem Chorus, Company
These Been Special Times	Company
After You've Gone	Damia
I've Got You Under My Skin	European 1, European 2, Josephine
Charleston	Pierre
Dear Mama	Josephine
J'ai Deux Amours	Josephine
The Dark Star From Harlem	Gem, Company

There is one 15-minute intermission.

#### "HAITI"

Words and Music by EMILE AUDIFFRED, GEORGES KONYN, VINCENT BAPTISTE SCOTTO  
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Associate General Manager	KEVIN MYERS
Stage Manager	ESTHER BERMANN
Assistant Stage Manager	ASHLEYJ. NICKAS*
Assistant Choreographer	NAMI KAGAMI
Production Manager	BRYANT CYR
Associate Production Manager	DAVID CALLAHAN
Lighting/Projection Assistant	WYATT MONIZ
Audio 1	WILL MARESCO
Wardrobe Supervisor	PIXIE ESMONDE
Wardrobe	AMY COSTA
Props Crew	BRENDEN ANTHONY SILVERMAN
Costume Intern	DASHAWN PHILLIPS WASHINGTON
Follow Spot	DAVID CASTANEDA

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## **COMPANY BIOS**

**IRIS BEAUMIER\*** (Josephine Baker) is honored to step in the shoes of an icon. Select TV/Film: *Modern Love*, *Alternatino*, *Blindspot*, *Mariannes Noires*. Select Theater: *Ragtime* (Theatre Aspen), *Marvelous Wonderettes* (Rep St.Louis), *Dr. Rees Ziti's Pageant...*(Ars Nova ANTFest), *ICONS/IDOLS* (New Ohio). Carnegie Mellon BFA, IrisBeaumier.com. Merci papa, mamman, et Josephine.

**CHRIS BOLAN\*** (MC) has worked both on and off-Broadway and has performed as an actor with many top regional theater companies in both the United States and Canada while also working in film and television. Chris recently finished directing his documentary feature film, *A Secret Love*, that will premiere as a Ryan Murphy Presents/Netflix Original in 2020 and is a member of the award-winning Wheelhouse Theater Company. Education – MFA, NYU/Tisch.

**KATELYN BOWMAN\*** (Pearl) Regional credits include *Lorraine All Shook Up* (Squeak), *The Color Purple* (Charlaine), *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Grease* (Frenzy). International/National tours: *Legally Blonde* (Pilar), *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. All glory to God! For the beautiful women who have paved the way for myself and the women I stand alongside. As always love to the family and the munchkins. James 1:17. Proud AEA member. IG: Katelyncatalina

**CATHERINE CALLOWAY** (European Ensemble) is thrilled to be joining this awesome team! Recent favorite credits include Guenevere in *Camelot* and Emily Webb in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Graduate of University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Much love to her family for all their support and encouragement.

**HEATHER HURST\*** (European Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of DSFH! Selected theatre credits include: *McCarter*, Bolshoi Ballet/Met Opera House, EdFringe, Surflight, Ivoryton. Film/TV: *Diabolical*, *English Vinglish* (TIFF), *Ministry of Evil*, *In The Night* (NYMF). She is a USC and RCS alumna, and sings as a Victory Belle of the Nat'l WWII Museum. Proud AEA member. [www.heather-hurst.com](http://www.heather-hurst.com)

**JOE KOMARA\*** (European Ensemble) Selected: *Follies* (Ahmanson), *Grease* (07 Broadway), *Sac Music Circus*, *Applause* (Encores!), *The Donkey Show* (off-B'way), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Tour), *Smokey Joes*, *West Side Story*. Film/TV: *The Girl's Guide to Depravity*, *The Tonight Show*, *General Hospital*, *Jimmy Kimmel*, *Betty White's 90th Birthday*. @joekomara [www.joekomara.com](http://www.joekomara.com).

**KIMBERLEE D. MURRAY\*** (Jewel) is excited to work with *The Dark Star* from *Harlem* team! Favorite credits: *Anastasia* (staged reading), *Cendrillon* (The Metropolitan Opera), *Dreamgirls* (Korea), *West Side Story in Concert*, *The Music Man*, *Cinderella*, *Saturday Night Fever* and more. Endless gratitude to God. Thank you to family and friends for their continuous support and encouragement. @hey\_kimberlee

**JED PETERSON\*** (European Ensemble) Rudolf Nureyev in *Nureyev's Eyes* (World Premier); *Cheers: Live on Stage* (National Tour); *Importance of Being Earnest* (NY Classical Theatre); *Deconstruction* (Storm Theatre); *Hard Times: An American Musical* (The Cell); *The 39 Steps* (American Stage); *Zorro!* (East Lynne). TV: *Madam Secretary*; *Elementary*. Training: Moscow Art Theatre School; Princeton University; [www.JedQPeterson.com](http://www.JedQPeterson.com).

**JAMES A. PIERCE III\*** (Gem) James is humbled and honored to be making his debut at the historic and groundbreaking La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club. Other theatre credits: *Kinky Choreopoems* and *Waafrika 123* (National Queer Theater), *Miranda from Stormville* (Random Access Theatre) *Anastasia* and *The Lion King* (Broadway) *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center) *On The Town* (Papermill Playhouse) Twitter/IG: @fiercepierceiii

**MELISSA VICTOR\*** (Ruby) is thrilled to be a part of the *Dark Star* family and the opportunity to tell this story. Favorite credits include *Pippin* (STONC), *Oklahoma* (Denver Center), *The Wiz* (Ford's), *In The Heights* (Olney). A proud Baltimore native, Melissa has a Bachelor's of Music from The Catholic University of America by way of Washington, DC. Love to Mommy and Shaneka. Thank you to Meg and Katie and the *Dark Star* team for this opportunity. #TDV #SylviaHardison

**ZURI WASHINGTON\*** (Opal/Understudy Josephine Baker) is a Bronx native who is thrilled to be in her hometown in a piece about the one of the progenitors of #blackgirlmagic. She has previously starred in national tours of *Bring it On: The Musical* (Danielle) and *Memphis, the Musical* (Felicia) Proud AEA girl. @zuriwithafringeontop

**GLYNN BORDERS** (Book) is a writer, director, producer, award-winning solo show performer, union stagehand and teaching artist. He has worked Off-Broadway, Broadway and was the Special Effects Director for *The Late Show with David Letterman*, then Stephen Colbert. Glynn studied at the Hartman Theater Conservatory with Gene Frankel.

**MARIO E. SPROUSE** (Music and Lyrics/Musician) musical director for *Black Nativity – a Gospel Song Play* by Langston Hughes (Obie Award winner) – directed by Jesse Wooden Jr., *Lena Calhoun Horne – the Civil Rights Journey of a Negro Woman* by Wendi Joy Franklin, directed by Lillie Marie Redwood (2003) and Micki Grant (2011). Arranger/Orchestrator of Off-Broadway musical *Take It Easy* written by Raymond Fox at the Judith Anderson Theater. He also produced the original cast album.

**TAI THOMPSON** (Director) is a New York City-based theater maker focused on new works and immersive theater. Tai has assisted on large-scale immersive productions throughout the US. As a playwright, she has penned *Not Quite Ripe*, *Kleonostium*, and *Lucky*. RECENT CREDITS: Barry Edelstein directed *Romeo and Juliet* (Old Globe), *As You Like It* (Old Globe), *Wynwood Stories*, *The Color Purple* (PCS), *Amparo*, *3/Fifths* (3LD), *Yellow Card Red Card* (New Ohio Theatre), *Miami Motel Stories: Little Havana*, *Miami Motel Stories: MiMo*, *SHE: A Choreoplay*. 2018 SDCF Observer (Portland Center Stage), 2018 inaugural NAMT Observer assisting Stephen Brackett on the new musical *A.D. 16*, 2019 Drama League Classical Theatre Directing Fellow (Old Globe).

**KIM GRIER-MARTINEZ** (Choreographer) Artistic Director of the Rod Rodgers Dance Company, a performance artist, master teacher, educator and choreographer. Her choreography lives in the repertoire of Rod Rodgers Dance Company, Middle Collegiate Church and their CBS Special, the Kenmin Koryu Center in Kagoshima, Japan; Sea Island African American Heritage Festival in St. Simons Georgia, the Miss US Virgin Islands Caribbean Queen Pageant in St. Croix, and the original production of the *The Dark Star From Harlem*, to name a few.

**JOSHUA WARNER** (Set Designer) has designed over 75 productions for live performance throughout NYC and regionally; as well as numerous credits in film, television, and special events. Full time staff and lecturer of Scenic Design at York College. BFA: Emerson College. MFA Candidate: Brooklyn College @joshuawarnerdesign, www.joshuawarnerdesign.com.

**RAYMOND PIZARRO** (Costume Designer) is the president of Pizarro Designs. He has done costumes for the Frank Silvera Workshop production, *The Contract*, *Long Tongues: A Saxophone Opera* at the Apollo theater and for Maurice Hines in *Broadway: Red Hot*. He is happy to return to *The Dark Star from Harlem*.

**MATTHEW DEINHART** (Lighting/Projection Designer) is a New York-based production designer who is currently pursuing his MFA at Brooklyn College. Recent design credits include the scenic design for *Ripe Frenzy*, the lighting

design for *The Sandwich Program* (Premiere) and *Tongue Depressor* (Premiere), and the projection design for *This is a Cave* (Premiere).

**JOSH SAMUELS** (Sound Designer) is a NYC-based sound designer. Recent theatre design credits include: *Everybody* (The New School), *Black Hole Wedding* (NYMF), *Eco Village* (Theatre at St Clement's), *The Glow Overhead*, *Tiny Houses* (Chautauqua Theatre Company), *I and You* (Kitchen Theatre Company). He is a member of the TSDCA and has a degree in theatrical design from Ithaca College. JSamuelsdesign.com.

**MCCORKLE CASTING LTD** –Pat McCorkle, (C.S.A.), Katja Zarolinski, (C.S.A.). Broadway: Over 50 productions. Off-Broadway: Over 60 productions. Regional Theatre: Guthrie, Barrington Stage, St. Louis Rep, George Street Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public and multiple hundreds of individual projects. 65 feature films: *Year by the Sea*, *Premium Rush*, *Ghost Town*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *School Ties*, etc. Television: *Twisted*, *Humans for Sesame Street*, *Hack* (CBS), *Californication* (Emmy Nomination), *Chappelle's Show*, etc.

**NAMI KAGAMI** (Assistant Choreographer) is a native of Japan and was trained under Masako Kaji. Nami is a graduate of Hofstra University with BA in Dance with honors and continued to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and Peridance Center. Ms. Kagami is currently a principle dancer and rehearsal director with the Rod Rodgers Dance Company.

**SHARON FALLON PRODUCTIONS, INC.** (Executive Producer/General Management) Sharon is an independent theatre producer, executive producer, consultant and general manager. Her consulting practice, Practical Producing, specializes in bridging the gap between art and business for early career and emerging producer.

**KEVIN MYERS** (Associate General Manager) AGM: *Flying Lessons* and *Buried* (NYMF 2019). KRM Productions: *The Strivers* (2018 Official Outfest Selection); Justin Sayre's *Love's Refrain* (La MaMa); Dave Chapman's *Over* (FringeNYC, 2014); Crown Point Festival (2010, 2007). Broadway: *Ann*. Film: *MacBethenny* (2015). Ohio native, BGSU alum, Circus Warehouse flying trapeze artist and catcher.

**WALK TALL GIRL PRODUCTIONS** Marcia Pendelton is the founder and president of Walk Tall Girl Productions, a New York-based boutique marketing, group sales, and audience development agency for the performing arts, with a special emphasis placed on the theater. The company's mission is to make the arts accessible to the widest possible audience.

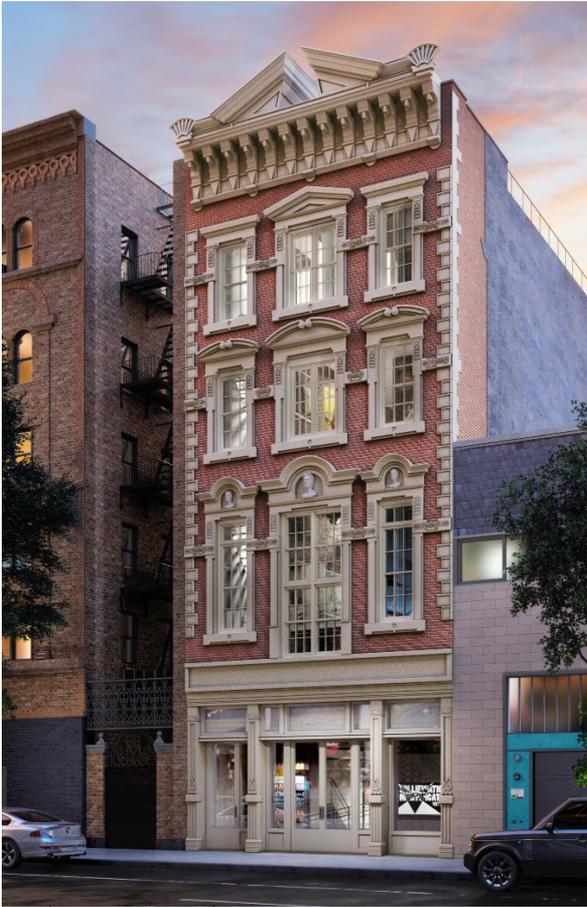
**ESTHER BERMANN** (Production Stage Manager) is a California native with degrees in dance and drama from UC Irvine. Select stage management credits include *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (NYTW), *Passage* (Soho Rep), *The Lobby Project* (New York City Center), *If Sand Were Stone* (NYMF), *Suicide Forest* (Bushwick Starr), *Master* (Foundry Theatre), and *Mr. Marmalade* (UC Irvine).

**ASHLEY J. NICKAS\*** (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to join the *Dark Star From Harlem* team. Some of Ashley's favorite credits include PSMing one of Transcendence Theatre Company's Broadway Under the Stars Concerts (Sonoma, CA) and sub-ASMing for *We Are The Tigers* (Off-Broadway). Ashley is a proud member of AEA.

# LA MAMA



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*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)

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Nov 14 - Dec 1, 2019  
The Downstairs

### The Dark Star From Harlem: The Spectacular Rise of Josephine Baker

Nov 21 - Dec 1, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### Other Than We

Nov 21 - Dec 1, 2019  
The Downstairs

### Experiments Play Reading Series Speech Therapy

November 25, 2019  
La Galleria  
47 Great Jones

### The Trojan Women Project Festival

December 5 - 15, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

## COMING SOON

### Indian Market and Social

December 6 - 8, 2019  
The Downstairs

### Where Are We Now

Dec 11 - 21, 2019  
The Downstairs

### GAZ

December 19 - 22, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### Koliada Winter Songs

December 21, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### La MaMa Kids Winter Wonderland

December 22, 2019  
The Downstairs

### Christmas in Nickyland

Dec 22, 2019  
The Downstairs