



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for The Life

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 02:20:35

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MICHAEL BRIAN (u/s Jojo, Lou, Snickers). Broadway: Guys & Dolls, Big River, Baby and Sweeney Todd. Off-Broadway: Lenny & the Heartbreakers, Death of Von Richthoffen, Gifts of the Magi, and Kennedy's Children. National tours: Amadeus, HMS Pinafore. Regional Theater: Actors Theatre, Huntington, Cincinnati Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Goodspeed Opera House, South Coast Rep-L.A. Drama-Logue Award.

FELICIA FINLEY (April) most recently appeared in Smokey Joe's Cafe, and is thrilled to be in The Life. Some other credits include the national tour of Jesus Christ Superstar, Disney's El Capitan, J.A.R., Kenny Roger's Show Boat and many industrials. She attended New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA). She'd like to thank Stan Evans, her incredible parents and brother Jamie for all their love and support, but most of all, thanks to her Father up above.

CHRIS GHELFI (Ens/Swing). Since completing the first national tour of The Who's Tommy, Chris has been studying Acting with William Esper in NYC. Special thanks to his family: E.J., Suzi, AC, Scott, Wendy, Sharon, Dana, Michael and especially to Rosalie and Tony (mom and dad).

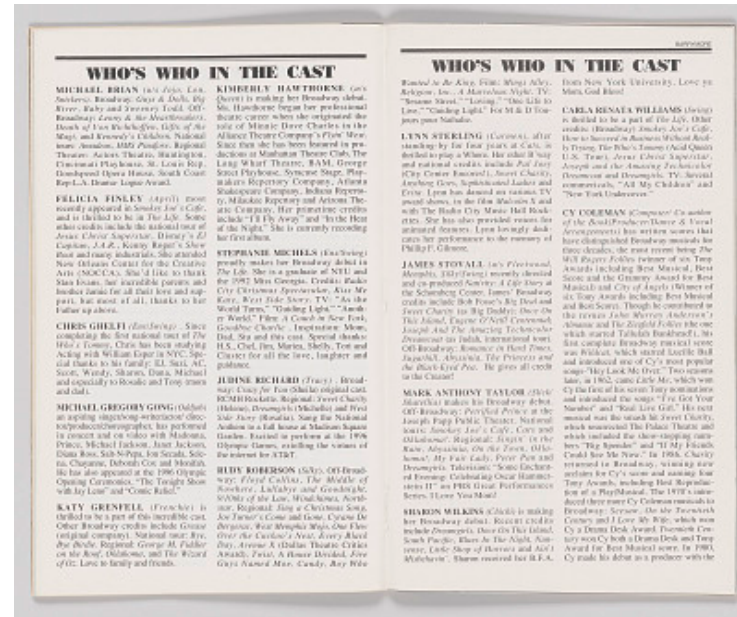
MICHAEL GREGORY GONG (Oddjob) an aspiring singer/song-writer/actor/director/ producer/choreographer, has performed in concert and on video with Madonna, Prince, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Diana Ross, Salt-N-Pepa, Jon Secada, Selena, Chayanne, Deborah Cox and Monifah. He has also appeared at the 1996 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Comic Relief."

KATY GRENFELL (Frenchie) is thrilled to be a part of this incredible cast. Other Broadway credits include Grease (original company). National tour: Bye, Bye Birdie. Regional: George M, Fiddler on the Roof, Oklahoma, and The Wizard of Oz. Love to family and friends.

KIMBERLY HAWTHORNE (u/s Queen) is making her Broadway debut. Ms. Hawthorne began her professional theatre career when she originated the role of Minnie Dove Charles in the Alliance Theatre Company's Flyin' West. Since then she has been featured in productions at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Long Wharf Theatre, BAM, George Street Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, Playmakers Repertory Company, Atlanta Shakespeare Company, Indiana Repertory, Milwaukee Repertory and Arizona Theatre Company. Her primetime credits include "I'll Fly Away" and "In the Heat of the Night." She is currently recording her first album.

STEPHANIE MICHELS (Ens/Swing) proudly makes her Broadway debut in The Life. She is a graduate of NYU and the 1992 Miss Georgia. Credits: Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Kiss Me Kate, West Side Story. TV: "As the World Turns," "Guiding Light," "Another World." Film: A Couch in New York, Goodbye Charlie. Inspiration: Mom, Dad, Stu and this cast. Special thanks: H.S., Chel, Jim, Mariea, Shelly, Tori and Cluster for all the love, laughter and guidance.

JUDINE RICHARD (Tracy). Broadway: Crazy for You (Sheila) original cast. RCMH Rockette. Regional: Sweet Charity (Helene), Dreamgirls



(Michelle) and West Side Story (Rosalia). Sang the National Anthem to a full house at Madison Square Garden. Excited to perform at the 1996 Olympic Games, extolling the virtues of the internet for AT&T.

RUDY ROBERSON (Silky). Off-Broadway: Floyd Collins, The Middle of Nowhere, Lullabye and Goodnight, 9/10ths of the Law, Windchimes, Northstar. Regional: Sing a Christmas Song, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Cyrano De Bergerac, West Memphis Mojo, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Every Black Day, Avenue X (Dallas Theatre Critics Award), Twist, A House Divided, Five Guys Named Moe, Candy, Boy Who

[[end page]]
[[start page]]

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Wanted to Be King. Film: Mings Alley, Religion, Inc., A Marvelous Night. TV: "Sesame Street," "Loving," "One Life to Live," "Guiding Light." For M & D Toujours pour Nathalie.

LYNN STERLING (Carmen), after standing-by for four years at Cats, is thrilled to play a Whore. Her other B'way and national credits include Pal Joey (City Center Encores!), Sweet Charity, Anything Goes, Sophisticated Ladies and Evita. Lynn has danced on various TV award shows, in the film Malcolm X and with The Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. She has also provided voices for animated features. Lynn lovingly dedicates her performance to the memory of Phillip F. Gilmore.

JAMES STOVALL (u/s Fleetwood, Memphis, Silky/Swing) recently directed and co-produced Nativity: A Life Story at the Schomberg Center. James' Broadway credits included Bob Fosse's Big Deal and Sweet Charity (as Big Daddy); Once On This Island, Eugene O'Neill Centennial; Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (as Judah, international tour). Off-Broadway: Romance in Hard Times, Sugarhill, Abyssinia, The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea. He gives all credit to the Creator!

MARK ANTHONY TAYLOR (Slick/Shatellia) makes his Broadway debut. Off-Broadway: Petrified Prince at the Joseph Papp Public Theater. National tours: Smokey Joe's Cafe, Cats and Oklahoma!. Regional: Singin' in the Rain, Abyssinia, On the Town, Oklahoma!, My Fair Lady, Peter Pan and Dreamgirls. Television: "Some Enchanted Evening: Celebrating Oscar Hammerstein II" on PBS Great Performances Series. I Love You Mom!

SHARON WILKINS (Chichi) is making her Broadway debut. Recent credits include Dreamgirls, Once On This Island, South Pacific, Blues In The Night, Nunsense, Little Shop of Horrors and Ain't Misbehavin'. Sharon received her B.F.A. from New York University. Love ya Mom, God Bless!

CARLA RENATA WILLIAMS (Swing) is thrilled to be a part of The Life. Other credits: (Broadway) Smokey Joe's Cafe, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, The Who's Tommy (Acid Queen U.S. Tour), Jesus Christ Superstar, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Dreamgirls. TV: Several commercials, "All My Children"

and "New York Undercover."

CY COLEMAN (Composer/Co-author of the Book/Producer/Dance & Vocal Arrangements) has written scores that have distinguished Broadway musicals for three decades, the most recent being The Will Rogers Follies (winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Score and the Grammy Award for Best Musical) and City of Angels (Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Score). Though he contributed to the revues John Murray Anderson's Almanac and The Ziegfeld Follies (the one which starred Tallulah Bankhead!), his first complete Broadway musical score was Wildcat, which starred Lucille Ball and introduced one of Cy's most popular songs - "Hey Look Me Over." Two seasons later, in 1962, came Little Me, which won Cy the first of his seven Tony nominations and introduced the songs "I've Got Your Number" and "Real Live Girl." His next musical was the smash hit Sweet Charity, which resurrected The Palace Theatre and which included the show-stopping numbers "Big Spender" and "If My Friends Could See Me Now." In 1986, Charity returned to Broadway, winning new acclaim for Cy's score and earning four Tony Awards, including Best Reproduction of a Play/Musical. The 1970's introduced three more Cy Coleman musicals to Broadway: Seesaw, On the Twentieth Century and I Love My Wife, which won Cy a Drama Desk Award. Twentieth Century won Cy both a Drama Desk and Tony Award for Best Musical Score. In 1980, Cy made his debut as a producer with the

Playbill for The Life
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-28-2024 02:20:35



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)