

PLAYBILL

Graham Park Middle School
Triangle, VA



Thursday, March 30 at 4:00 p.m

- and -

Friday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

A Note from the Director

Thank you so much for joining us for *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* This group of young actors and crew members has worked incredibly hard to put together this production. I am so proud of what they have created and excited for you to witness their work.

The story of *The Lion King* is one that is known and loved. Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, with many catchy musical numbers, alternate plot points, and lion cubs thrown in, *The Lion King* tells the story of family and finding your way home. It is a story of discovering - and remembering - who you are. The lessons in this production are fitting for this age group, as middle school is the very time when many of us are going through that process.

The performance you are watching today would not have been possible without the volunteers we had to help throughout the process. Thank you to each of you for lending your talents, time, and love. Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not extend my true thanks to all the family and friends of each of the cast members on stage today. Stepping onto the stage and sharing your art is an act of bravery and vulnerability, and it is thanks to you that these young actors feel supported and encouraged to make that step.

As the show begins, "The Circle of Life" plays, and the actors find their spots on the stage, take a moment to remember who *you* are, and be grateful for the ones who have helped you on your journey.

Cynthia Sutton

**Graham Park Middle School Drama Club
PRESENTS**

Disney's The Lion King Jr.
Music and Lyrics by
Elton John

Additional Music and Lyrics by
Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer

Book by
Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi
Based on the Broadway production directed by
Julie Taymor
with

Victoria Adegboro
Alaina Adams
Adwoa Adu
Marjorie Appiagyei
Zaria Boforo
Eleanor Bowling
Natalie Colon
Saleea Crews
Andrea Dith

Bryan Iraheta-Saens
Ewan Manis
Sophia McKeogh
Mechie Mendegilla
Freda Oseitawiah
Lorena Reyes
Brianna Rios De Jesus
Saada Roberts

Artemis Sambolin
Nana Sarpong
Isabel Solorzano
SuRaya Stewart
Stacey-Ann Tatah
Marlene Thomas
Egla Orozco Torres
Cadence Ventry
Rozalina Yatsevich

Stage Manager
Elaina Crossin

Assistant Stage Manager
Sophia McKeogh

Sound Operators
Stephen Russell
Eliana Atle
Alaina Adams

Director
Cynthia Sutton

Costumes by
Cynthia Sutton

Choreographed by
Cynthia Sutton

Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and
"Luau Hawaiian Treat" written by Will Van Dyke
"It's a Small World" written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
DISNEY'S THE LION KING JR
is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized performance materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International
423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212)541-4684 Fax: (212)397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

Cast

Rafiki Marjorie Appiagyei
Mufasa Zaria Boforo
Sarabi Cadence Ventry
Zazu Isabel Solorzano
Scar..... Ewan Manis
Young SimbaSaleea Crews
Young NalaRozalina Yatsevich
SimbaMechie Mendegilla
Nala Victoria Adegboro
Sarafina SuRaya Stewart
Banzai Nana Sarpong
Shenzi Stacey-Ann Tatah
EdFreda Oseitawiah
Timon..... Eleanor Bowling
Pumbaa..... Brianna Rios De Jesus

Lionesses..... Victoria Adegboro, Mechie Mendegilla,
Freda Oseitawiah, Saada Roberts,
Nana Sarpong, SuRaya Stewart, Rozalina Yatsevich,

HyenasVictoria Adegboro, Adwoa Adu, Natalie Colon,
Andrea Dith, Freda Oseitawiah, Saada Roberts,
SuRaya Stewart, Rozalina Yatsevich

Grass Adwoa Adu, Eleanor Bowling, Natalie Colon, Andrea Dith,
Mechie Mendegilla, Brianna Rios de Jesus, Saada Roberts,
SuRaya Stewart, Cadence Ventry, Rozalina Yatsevich

WildebeestAlaina Adams, Victoria Adegboro, Adwoa Adu,
Natalie Colon, Andrea Dith, Bryan Iraheta-Saens,
Sophia McKeogh, Mechie Mendegilla, Lorena Reyes,
Saada Roberts, Artemis Sambolin, Suraya Stewart, Marlene Thomas,
Egla Orozco Torres, Cadence Ventry, Rozalina Yatsevich

Percussion Lorena Reyes

Crew

Director Cynthia Sutton
Choreographer Cynthia Sutton
Dance Captain Adwoa Adu
Stage Manager Elaina Crossin
Assistant Stage Manager Sophia McKeogh
Sound Crew Alaina Adams, Eliana Atle, Stephen Russell
Lighting Crew Nini Belefeyin, Lea Escobar, Jackson Kretzer
Set Design Charlie Sutton, Cynthia Sutton
Set and Props Crew Kaitlyn Dean, Lea Escobar, Rozalina Yatsevich
Costume Design Cynthia Sutton
Costume Crew Zaria Boforo, Virginia Henretty, Artemis Sambolin
Makeup Design Charlie Sutton
Makeup Crew Alaina Adams, Eleanor Bowling, Lorena Reyes,
Artemis Sambolin, Jojo Seleme, Isabel Solorzano
Curtain Derek Heim
House Crew Bryan Iraheta-Saenz, Marlene Thomas, Eglá Orozco Torres
Chroniclers Eliana Atle, Bryan Iraheta-Saenz,
Lorena Reyes, Artemis Sambolin, Jojo Seleme

Act 1

Pride Rock

Circle of Life with Nants' Ingonyama Rafiki, Ensemble

Scar's Cave

The Pridelands

The Lioness HuntLionesses

I Just Can't Wait to be King Young Simba, Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble

The Elephant Graveyard

Be Prepared.....Scar and Hyenas

The Pridelands

They Live in YouMufasa, Ensemble

The Gorge

The Stampede Scar, Young Simba, Mufasa, Ensemble

The Mourning..... Sarabi, Young Nala, Rafiki, Scar, Ensemble

Act II

The Jungle

Hakuna Matata Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble

Scar's Cave

The Pridelands

ShadowlandsNala, Rafiki, Lionesses, Ensemble

The Jungle

Can You Feel the Love Tonight?..... Timon, Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble

He Lives in YouRafiki, Simba, Ensemble

Pride Rock

Luau Hawaiian Treat..... Timon, Pumbaa

Finale.....Company

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



Alaina Adams (*sound/makeup/wildebeest*) is proud to be a part of this production, which is her first stage show! Alaina enjoys dancing, singing, and drawing. She would like to thank Brianna for sharing her script and her parents for picking her up from school.



Victoria Adegboro (*Nala/lioness/hyena/wildebeest*) is very excited to perform as Nala in Disney's *The Lion King Jr* at Graham Park, where she was last seen as Babette in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr*. She is a 7th grader at Graham Park. When she's not at school, Victoria is at piano lessons. She wants to thank her mom for bringing and picking her up from school and for allowing her to be a part of the show.



Adwoa Adu (*Dance Captain/hyena/grass/wildebeest*) is very excited to be on stage for Graham Park's production of *The Lion King Jr*. Last year, Adwoa was part of the tech crew for the GPMS production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr*. When she is not at school, Adwoa likes to read and draw. Adwoa would like to thank her friend Victoria, who encouraged her to join the drama club.



Marjorie Appiagyei (*Rafiki*) is participating in her first theater production! Although she has no past experience in drama, Marjorie has been in multiple choirs. She is enjoying this newfound muse, and she continues to enjoy her previous hobbies of playing piano and guitar, along with a hint of singing. Marjorie would like to give a shout out to Mrs. Sutton, the show's director, who has worked so hard and put so much effort into the show.



Eliana Atle (*sound/chronicler*) is happy to be helping GPMS drama as the head chronicler and working as a sound technician for *The Lion King Jr.* Eliana is an 8th grader, and she has attended GPMS for all three years of middle school. Out of school she likes to listen to music and dance. She wishes to thank her mother for always picking her up from after school activities.



Nini Belefeyin (*spotlight*) is in her second year in Drama Club at GPMS. She was on the stage as Madame de la Grande Bouche in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr* last year and decided this year to try her hand at technical work behind the scenes.



Zaria Boforo (*Mufasa/costumes*) is a student at GPMS. She was last seen on the stage as Cogsworth in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* She likes to sleep in her free time when she isn't at school. Zaria is very thankful for her shoes, which always bring her to practice and are always there for her.



Eleanor "Echo" Bowling (*Timon/grass/makeup*) is thrilled to return to the GPMS stage, where they were last seen as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Favorite credits include *Cats for Young Audiences* (Rum Tum Tugger), *Cinderella* (ensemble), and *Alice in Wonderland* (Baby). When they aren't performing at GPMS, Echo enjoys taking the stage with Pied Piper Theater in Manassas. Echo is an 8th grader in the Math and Science program. They would like to thank their family for supporting them, and Mrs. Sutton and Charlie for always encouraging them to do their best.

Echo hopes you enjoy the show and thanks you for supporting the arts!



Natalie Colon (*hyena/grass/wildebeest*) is a 7th grader at GPMS who is playing a hyena in *The Lion King Jr.* Natalie enjoys drawing and cooking and is grateful to her older brother and Papi for making time to pick her up from every rehearsal.



Saleea Crews (*Young Simba*) is very excited to be playing the role of Young Simba in the GPMS drama club production of *The Lion King Jr.* She previously acted in *The Great Escape* at Green Holly Elementary School. Saleea is a sixth grader, and when she is not on the stage, you might find her playing video games, eating, or sleeping. She would like to thank her mom for letting her participate in the GPMS drama club and for selling tickets to the Friday performance.



Elaina Crossin (*Stage Manager*) finds that, despite not having taken any drama classes, it comes almost naturally to her. Elaina was also the stage manager in last year's production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* In her free time Elaina trains for triathlons. You may also find her nose stuck in a book. She wants to thank her parents for supporting her and taking her to and from school for all of her after school activities.



Kaitlyn Dean (*set/props*) is so excited to start working backstage with everyone! She can't wait to help produce *The Lion King Jr* with everyone. This is Kaitlyn's inaugural production, and while she has no backstage experience, she's very good at giving directions. When not in school she likes to draw and also spend time with family. You can find her after school on Wednesdays in Ms. Williams' room for art club. Kaitlyn would also like to thank her mom for all the hard work she has done.



Andrea Dith (*hyena/grass/wildebeest*) was in charge of the curtain for drama club last year and sang behind the scenes. This year, she is excited to be on stage! Andrea is in the Math and Science program at Graham Park. Andrea has enjoyed her time in drama club, and she would like to give a shout out to her mom and sister because even though Andrea didn't get the role she wanted, they were still proud of her.



Lea Escobar (*lighting/set/props*) is an 8th grader and a member of the GPMS band, where they play the flute. Lea was commended by the judges for their tone quality and musicality at this year's Band Festival. Lea has also played the piano for years. They are excited to be helping with the Drama Club production of Disney's *The Lion King Jr!*



Derek Heim (*curtain*) is an 8th grader at GPMS. Last year he played the role of Maurice in the Drama Club production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Derek is a member of the GPMS orchestra and the GPMS wrestling team.



Virginia Henretty (*costumes*) is helping with a show for the first time. She has never taken any drama classes. She enjoys singing, swimming, and collecting rocks. A special thank you to Michael Henretty, her father, for helping this happen.



Bryan Iraheta-Saens (*wildebeest/house crew/chronicler*) is a 6th grade student at GPMS. He is a member of the GPMS chorus and has served as an announcer at chorus concerts. This is Bryan's inaugural production, and he has enjoyed his time in Drama Club!



Jackson Kretzer (*spotlight*) was previously the spotlight operator for *Schooled*, which was produced in Texas.



Ewan Manis (*Scar*) is only 13 years of age, is playing Scar, and is excited to show off his moves. Even though he is Scar, a horrible villain, Ewan is really kind. *The Lion King Jr* is Ewan's second production. In his first production, *Beauty and the Beast Jr*, Ewan played the role of Gaston. Ewan's favorite food is grits, his favorite show is "A Series of Unfortunate Events," and his favorite game is "Sandbox (2)" on Roblox. Ewan thanks his mom for helping him get to where he is now. Ewan is especially grateful to his mom for getting him a vocal coach, and to his vocal coach, who has helped Ewan for a few weeks now. He also thanks Ms. Sutton for helping him see his singing side. Ewan hopes you enjoy the show and have a nice day!



Sophia McKeogh (*Assistant Stage Manager/wildebeest*) is very excited to be part of her first theater production! (She's also a little nervous.) Sophia loves to work puzzles, and she loves to help others in her spare time.



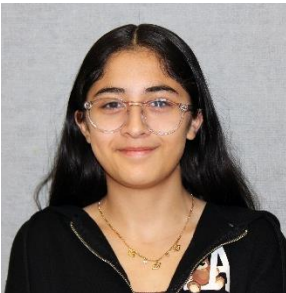
Mechie Mendegilla (*Simba/lioness/grass/wildebeest*) is happy to be portraying Simba in *The Lion King Jr* at Graham Park Middle School. She has previously acted in *Trolls* and *Shrek*. When she is not onstage, Mechie might be found singing, swimming, or dancing. She would like to thank Mrs. Sutton for building her confidence and teaching her voice control.



Eglá Orozco Torres (*wildebeest/house crew*) is a 6th grade student and member of the orchestra at GPMS, where she plays the violin. Eglá is very artistic and creative, and she recently helped with an art installation in the cafeteria at GPMS.



Freda Oseitawiah (*Ed/lioness/hyena*) is thrilled to be playing Ed in her first theater production! She is a newbie to the theater world, and she really enjoys it. In her free time, Freda enjoys eating and sleeping. Freda would like to thank Adowa for encouraging her to join the drama club. Freda enjoys everything about rehearsals, especially the snacks.



Lorena Reyes (*percussion/wildebeest/makeup/chronicler*) is proud to be in her first drama production! Lorena enjoys many creative pursuits and is a member of the GPMS art club in addition to being a member of the school drama club. She is extremely grateful to her mom for helping with the drama club shirts and to her best friend for being a great friend. Lorena is thankful for her mom's love and support, and her encouragement as Lorena discovered her passion for the arts.



Brianna Rios De Jesus (*Pumbaa/grass*) is thrilled to return to the GPMS stage as Pumbaa in Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* Brianna was last seen on the GPMS stage as Silly Girl 1 in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* She loves to draw in her free time and is a very social extrovert! Brianna always jokes with her friends and is really fun to be with. She would like to thank her dad for helping her act and for rehearsing with her, and also her mom for always picking her up from rehearsal.



Saada Roberts (*lioness/hyena/grass/wildebeest*) takes chorus, and she is really interested in it. She also likes to do band. She was in a play when she was younger. She loves being in *The Lion King Jr* and she loves being a 6th grader at GPMS. When she is not at school, she enjoys volleyball and basketball. She also enjoys makeup and drawing. She wants to thank her mom and sister for helping her read her lines and watching her sing.



Stephen Russell (*sound*) is on his second time working at the sound board for a Graham Park musical! Last year he worked on *Beauty and the Beast Jr*, and this year he is assisting again, this time with *The Lion King Jr.* He is an 8th grader at GPMS and absolutely loves music. In his free time, he often listens to and researches music and plays Sims 4 and Lego Batman. He would like to thank Ms. Sutton for giving him such a warm welcome into the drama club last year, and his family for starting his interest in music.



Artemis Sambolin (*hyenawildebeest/costumes/makeup/chronicler*) is participating in her first show! She is very excited to be participating in this! While Artemis doesn't have any formal drama training, she has been role playing for years. She enjoys helping with makeup and costumes and is hopeful to be a part of the on stage cast in the next GPMS production! Artemis also likes editing and creating art. She is grateful for her best friend Genesis, her mother, and her friends!



Nana Sarpong (*Banzai/lioness/vulture/grass*) is in her second performance at Graham Park Middle School. The other was being stage crew for her debut, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* When Nana's not rehearsing her lines, she's drawing and listening to her favorite songs. Nana would like to thank her parents for taking her to drama and her sister for constantly listening when Nana sings.



Jojo Seleme (*makeup/chronicler*) has been involved with the GPMS Drama Club for two years. Last year, they were a narrator in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Even though they are not acting in this show, they are thankful that they got to help with makeup and be involved with the show. When they aren't working on a production, you might find Jojo making jewelry or writing poetry. Jojo would like to thank Mrs. Sutton for being their chorus teacher for three years and their drama teacher for two, and their mom for supporting them.



Isabel Solorzano (*Zazu/makeup*) is very excited to make Mrs. Sutton proud of her performance in *The Lion King Jr.* She loves being a 6th grader at GPMS. When she's not at school, Isabel enjoys singing and swimming. After school, you'll find her with Mrs. Sutton. She wants to thank her sisters for helping her practice some songs in this play and her mom for cheering her on.



SuRaya Stewart (*Sarafina/lioness/hyena/grass/wildebeest*) has previously acted in *High School Musical* as Sharpay, and in drama camp where she did a lot of plays. She was also in drama class. SuRaya is a 7th grader who loves to play volleyball and softball. She would like to show appreciation to her mom, because without her mom's encouragement she would have never tried out for *The Lion King Jr.*



Stacey-Ann Tatah (*Shenzi*) was in *Beauty and the Beast Jr* last year at GPMS. She is a 7th grader at Graham Park who likes to read webtoons and go outside. She was also previously on the track team. Stacey-Ann appreciates Victoria for making her memorize her lines.



Marlene Thomas (*wildebeest/House Crew*) is in 6th grade at GPMS, where she is a member of the chorus. This is Marlene's first production, and she is excited to be a part of *The Lion King Jr!*



Cadence Ventry (*Sarabi/grass/wildebeest*) is very excited to be performing for Graham Park Middle School in *The Lion King Jr!* Cadence is a 7th grader at GPMS, and she was also in Drama Club in 6th grade. When she is not in school, she is usually spending time with family or doing something that keeps her entertained. Cadence wants to thank her mom for always picking her up from extracurricular activities and supporting her in the show in general.



Rozalina Yatsevich (*Young Nala/lioness/hyena/grass/wildebeest /set/props*) is happy to be returning to the GPMS stage. Last year she was a Silly Girl in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr*. She was also at a theater camp which was Greek mythology themed. Rozalina thanks her mother for helping her memorize lines. In her free time she likes to lay down in her hammock.



Cynthia Sutton (*Director/Choreographer/Costume Design/Set Design*) is excited to be directing Disney's *The Lion King Jr* for her third production at GPMS. She loves Graham Park Drama kids and is so proud to work with such amazing students. Shout out to Mr. Sutton for his endless support of GPMS Drama.



Charlie Sutton (*Makeup Design/Set Design*) is a long-standing Theater Kid, and they love using their Art Education to be part of GPMS Drama.

African Language Glossary

Nants' ingonyama, bakithi, baba: Here comes the lion, my people, the father (of our nation).

Sithi hu 'ngonyama: We hail this coming of the lion.

Sizo nqo': We will have victory!

Mama Ye: Mother Earth

Busa le lizwe bo: Rule this precious land!

Busa ngo thando bo: Rule with love.

Zingela, siyo, zingela, baba: Hunt - let's go hunt, father.

Oh oh iyo: This is it!

mamela: listen

Hela, hem mamela: Pay attention and experience this.

Yona yona yona: Here it comes!

Baba, wa mi baba: Father, oh my father!

Fatshe leso lea halalea: This land of our ancestors is holy.

Ngizo buyabo: I will return.

beso bo: my people

Special Thanks to

- Mrs. Walker for her amazing support of our Drama Club.
- Our fantastic GPMS PE Department for always being so graciously flexible about sharing the gym.
- All of our amazing Drama Mamas and Dads for carpooling, pizza delivery, snacks, sewing, ironing, encouraging, and making sure our cast have what they need.
- Our team of costume constructors: Mrs. Terry, Linda Sutton, Don Sutton, Mrs. Yatsevich, Mrs. Solorzano, Angela Cronan, and Abby Cronan
- Our incredible GPMS custodial staff for all of their cheerful, wonderful help.
- James Burnell and Michael Williams for making sure weekend work could get done.
- Ms. Williams. Ms. Mellenkamp, and Ms. Cox for their help.
- The wonderful GPMS PTSO for their support.
- Don Sutton for sharing his expertise in sound design and set construction – and for tirelessly helping in so, so many ways.