

DIGITAL PLAYBILL



MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

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Based on the book by John Steptoe
Adapted with permission of the Steptoe Estate
By Karen Abbott


LEXINGTON
CHILDREN'S THEATRE
Since 1938



MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

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Weekend Performances

Saturday, January 29 – 2:00pm[^]
Sunday, January 30 – 2:00pm
Saturday, February 5 – 7:00pm*
Sunday, February 6 - 2:00pm

School Matinees

February 1-4
10:00am & 11:45am

[^]Sensory Friendly Performance
*Pay What you Will Performance

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Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

By Karen Abbott

Based upon the book by John Steptoe

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Produced by special arrangement with

Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc., of Woodstock, Illinois

CAST

Chinouyazue.....Zachary A. Myers
Mufaro.....Damian Walker-Edwards
Manyara.....Krystal Pope
Nyasha.....Amoni Adair

TO A LAND WITH MAGIC -WIELDERS

Director.....Nieta Wigginton
Scenic Design.....Lizbeth Ramirez
Lighting Design.....Gabriel Slusser
Costume Design.....Skyler Glaser
Stage Manager.....Kate Tayler
Technical Director.....Gabriel Slusser
Production Construction Artists.....Hester A.L., Joe Conley, Gabriel Slusser
Scenic Charge Artist / Props Manager.....GraceAnne Miles
Scenic Artists.....Heather Branham, Dejah Garner, GraceAnne Miles
Costume Shop Manager.....Scarlett Kellum
Costume Cutter / Drapers.....Scarlett Kellum, Mo Morehead
Costume Craft Head.....Scarlett Kellum
Front of House Manager.....Dejah Garner
Box Office.....Parker R. Cavanaugh, Dejah Garner
Educational Materials.....Rhonda Bell, Liz Spurlock

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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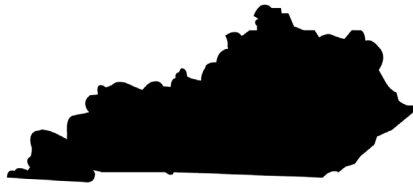
KISS 96.9

YOUR 106.3
TODAY'S DIVERSITY

Land Acknowledgement

Indigenous peoples have lived on the land now called Kentucky for at least 12,000 years. Every community owes its existence and heritage to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and stories to making the history that led to this moment. Indigenous peoples have always lived on the land that is now called Kentucky and continue to live here today. The place we now call Kentucky is primarily Shawnee, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Osage land.

A commonly cited claim many of us heard in history class growing up is that this region was merely a hunting ground. This claim is a myth, perpetuated at first by land speculators who wished to improve land sales, and still today to absolve settler colonists and their descendants from grappling with their history of land theft, genocide, and white supremacy. The continuation of this myth is harmful for all of us.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Habari! Hello and welcome to Lexington Children's Theatre's 83rd season and our production of *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. Our interactive production of John Steptoe's award-winning children's book, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*, takes place in South Africa. We meet Mufaro and his family in a Ndbele village. While navigating their togetherness, Mufaro's daughters receive a once in a lifetime invitation! The invitation leads them on a journey. They need help to find their way! Audience singing, laughter, and fabulously fun sound effects are their GPS. Compassion is their compass. At the end of their travels, Mufaro's beautiful daughters discover that elders are wise and kindness helps us reach our desired destination.

SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Zalika Jordan
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Nieta Wigginton

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Rhonda Bell, Education Director
Octavia Biggs, Program Director of Shooting Stars Youththeatre
Heather N. Branham, Resident Director / Company Manager
Corinne Campagna, Assistant Program Director of Shooting Stars Youththeatre
Parker R. Cavanaugh, Box Office Assistant
Ashlee Collins, Development Director
Dejah Garner, Audience Experience Associate
Kathryn Henriques, Director of Marketing and Analytics
Scarlett Kellum, Costume Shop Manager / Designer
Helen Killius, Marketing and Sales Manager
Jeremy Kisling, Producing Artistic Director
Erin McGuire-Thompson, Operations Manager
GraceAnne Miles, Charge Artist / Properties Manager
Rachel Ray, Managing Director
Gabriel Slusser, Technical Director
Liz Spurlock, Resident Teaching Artist
Kate Tayler, Resident Stage Manager



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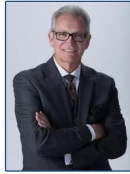


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CRC 3260253 5/2021

THE CAST



Amoni Adair (*Nyasha*) (she/her/hers) Amoni Adair was born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky. She is a recent theatre graduate of Berea College, where she opened every theatre season from 2017-2021. A few performances include *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *The Colored Museum*, and *Until the Flood*. When she is not preparing for a role, you can find her spending time with her family. She is very excited for her debut performance with Lexington Children's Theatre.



Damian Walker-Edwards (*Mufaro*) (he/him/his) Damian Walker-Edwards is an Actor/Scriptwriter from West Palm Beach, Florida. He is a theatre graduate of the University of Florida. Damian's theatre performances include the comedy *The Odd Couple* (*Speed*), The August Wilson drama *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (*Seth*), and the intense social drama *Lobby Hero*. His latest performance was in the emotionally charged race relations drama *Hands Up!* (*Amen*). Damian has done stand-up, independent film, TV commercials, and performs his own one man shows. Damian was most recently a guest on Jay Leno's game show, "*You Bet Your Life*".



Zachary A. Myers (*Chinouyazue*) (they/them) Zachary is a non-binary actor currently based in Arkansas and is excited to be back with Lexington Children's Theatre for this production! Zachary attended Ouachita Baptist University and some of their credits include: *Songs for a New World* (Studio Theatre), *The Bridges of Madison County* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.), *Urinetown* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.), *A New World: An Evening With Jason Robert Brown* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.), *West Side Story* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre), *Sister Act!* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* (Murry's Dinner Playhouse), and *My Fair Lady* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Zachary would like to thank Jhonika & Stacy for being their support throughout the past few years, "I love ya'll!"



Krystal Pope (*Manyara*) (she/her/hers) Krystal Pope is excited to be performing in her first shows with Lexington Children's Theatre. She is an accomplished actress who enjoys travel, and she is actively involved in various entertainment ventures. A native Arizonan, she is happy to spend this winter and spring exploring Kentucky and learning all about the culture and history of the Bluegrass State. Her last children's performance was as the Moose in *If You Give a Pig a Party* and she loved every moment of it. She is profoundly grateful for her family for always encouraging her to pursue her dreams even when they take her far from home. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful journey with her! Cheers!

PERSONNEL PROFILES

RHONDA BELL (*Education Director*) Rhonda is excited to continue her journey at LCT as Education Director. She holds an MA in Theatre from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a BA from Berea College. Rhonda enjoys driving her car, watching cartoons, and having lively debates with her students.

OCTAVIA BIGGS (*Director of Shooting Stars Youththeatre*) Tavia has worked hard over the last 19 years to bring children's theatre to Eastern Kentucky. She believes strongly that all children have the ability to be creative and through that creativity will discover the gifts they possess. She would like to thank LCT and the W. Paul and Lucille C. Little Foundation!

HEATHER N. BRANHAM (*Resident Director/ Company Manager*) Heather is overjoyed to be back at LCT after an artistic odyssey spanning from "The Little Apple" of Manhattan, KS to "The Second City" of Chicago. She earned a Master of Arts from University of Kentucky and serves on the KPW board. Heather dedicates this season to Eddy and Huckleberry.

CORINNE CAMPAGNA (*Assistant Program Director of Shooting Stars Youththeatre*) After graduating from Morehead State University with her Theatre degree, Corinne lived in Los Angeles, California where she was a production assistant and background actor on various web series and television shows. She is back in Morehead as the Assistant Program Director for Shooting Stars Youth Theatre with LCT and the Theatre Tour Coordinator for MSU's The Little Company. She has travelled with The Little Company to Edinburgh, Scotland the summer of 2018 to help with the show *Einstein's Dreams* at the Fringe Festival.

PARKER R. CAVANAUGH (*Box Office Assistant*) Parker is a student at the University of Kentucky which has given her the opportunity to find us a home away from home. She helps with our social media presence.

ASHLEE COLLINS (*Development Director*) Returning home this season is Ashlee Collins. Since completing LCT's Arts Administration internship in 2015, Ashlee has worked with theatres all over the country, including Chicago Children's Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, and most notably, with Broadway in Chicago as a marketing assistant during the first National Tour of Disney's *Aladdin*!

CHARLIE DAVIS (*Development Intern*) Charlie is a senior arts administration major at UK. He is a singer, actor, spreadsheet guru, and organizer extraordinaire. He's performed the roles of Henry in *Next to Normal* and Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as several ensemble roles in various productions.

DEJAH GARNER (*Audience Experience Associate*) Dejah's journey with LCT started in the education department in 2015. Since then, her experience in theatre has grown through her work in stage management, directing, and choreography during the time she spent at Morehead State University. She would like to thank the LCT Family for their support and encouragement!

SKYLER GLASER (*Costume Designer*) former design credits include, *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play* at Nashville Repertory Theater in Nashville, TN, *The Blackest Battle* window display in Washington, D.C., *This Bitter Earth* and *The Second Coming of Joan of Arc* at Richmond Triangle Players, *Ada and the Engine and Hand to God* at Newdick Theater, and *Eclipsed* at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Currently working at The Public Theater in New York, NY as a costume coordinator for Vagrant Trilogy.

KATHRYN HENRIQUES (*Director of Marketing and Analytics*) Kathryn started with LCT in 2015 as an Arts Administration Intern, became a full-time staff member in 2016, and since then has held a few different positions, most recently Director of Marketing and Analytics. Thanks to the LCT Family for all your love and support over the years!

SCARLETT KELLUM (*Costume Shop Manager/ Designer*) Scarlett has been designing and building costumes for 15 years. She studied theatre arts at San Jose State and the University of Cambridge, England and has a BFA in Fashion Design for the Art Institute of California San Francisco. Before joining the LCT team in 2019, Scarlett started her career in theater in Northern California where she was the costume shop manager/costume designer at Theatre Rhinoceros, Second Wind Theater, Custom Made Theater, and others. She is also a HUGTivist with Free Mom Hugs KY.

HELEN KILLIUS (*Marketing and Sales Manager*) Helen Killius has been a part of LCT since August. She is a 2021 graduate of University of Kentucky and is excited to help create compelling stories for audiences of Lexington and beyond.

PERSONNEL PROFILES

JEREMY KISLING (*Producing Artistic Director*) Welcome to LCT! We want this to be your theatre, a place where you feel empowered, enriched, and emboldened. I am so honored and humbled to work with such amazing and talented artists and individuals every day! Thank you for being here, for your support, and for being a part of the LCT Family.

ERIN MCGUIRE-THOMPSON (*Operations Manager*) Erin received her BA in Dramatic Arts from Centre College and her MFA in Dramatic Media from the University of Georgia. By night she develops her work as a book illustrator and fine artist. She loves her hubby, her dogs, her art, and her work at LCT!

GRACEANNE MILES (*Scenic Charge Artist/Properties Manager*) GraceAnne graduated from Centre College in 2012 with a BS in Philosophy/Fine Arts. She worked as a technical director, designer, and scenic painter before moving to North Carolina to complete her MFA in Scenic Art/Education at UNCSA in 2021.

MO MOREHEAD (*Costume Shop Assistant*) Mo is a costume professional who has worked on shows like *The Lost Colony*, *Deathtrap*, *Vanities: The Musicals*, and others. She is a 2020 graduate of Morehead State University. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in her professional goals.

LIZBETH RAMIREZ (*Scenic Designer*) Lizbeth Ramirez is a Scenic Designer who graduated with a BFA in Design and Production at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts in May 2021. After graduating, Lizbeth began her own production company called The Creation Exhibit in which she plans to utilize youth who have the talent but do not have the platform to showcase their artistic abilities. Over the years she has worked as a Scenic Designer with North Carolina Black Repertory Company on productions like *Twelfth Night* and *Freedom Summer*. She has also worked with companies like Zeiders American Dream Theater on Xandrya Wyld's *Hot Mess eXpress*. Lizbeth aspires to change the perspective of the audience with the sets that she creates in collaboration with the production team and Director. Hoping that the why of each story being portrayed is really the forefront of the show.

RACHEL RAY (*Managing Director*) Rachel has a BA in English and a BS in Speech Therapy from U.K. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her husband, Bobby, and their three dogs, read, run, and craft. She is a proud board member of Girls on the Run, LexArts, and First-Generation Women Achievers of the Bluegrass.

GABRIEL SLUSSER (*Technical Director/Lighting Designer*) Gabriel has worked throughout the southeast in positions ranging from sound engineer to lead electrician to shop foreman at theatres including Titusville Playhouse, Inc., Georgia Ensemble Theatre, and Buford Community Center. As LCT's Technical Director, he facilitates the implementation of all scenic, lighting, audio, and projection elements for their season.

LIZ SPURLOCK (*Resident Teaching Artist*) Liz, born and raised in Georgia, graduated from Columbus State University with her B.S. in Theatre Education. She has worked in many areas of theatre, including lighting, directing, and acting. Liz is excited to start her career in theatre education at Lexington Children's Theatre!

KATE TAYLER (*Resident Stage Manager*) Kate Tayler recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications degree from Bowling Green State University in Design & Technical Theatre. She is originally from Monroe, Michigan. Kate is very excited to bring her love for stage management and for theatre for young audiences to the stage here at LCT!

NIETA WIGGINTON (*Director*) Nieta first performed with LCT as Princess in *Princess and the Pea*. Her most recent performances include *On the Shoulders of Women* (Shirley Chisholm/LCT), *Fences* (Rose/ Athens West) and *Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth/Message Theater). *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* is Nieta's directorial debut. She embraces the opportunity inwardly humming Toby Mack's *Steal My Show*.



Thank you to the individuals, families, and businesses who have donated to our 2021-2022 annual campaign! We are especially grateful for their support during these unprecedented times. We are eternally grateful.

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Larry and Vivian Snipes Legacy Fund

Thank you to the donors who have honored the legacy of Larry and Vivian Snipes by donating to the Larry and Vivian Snipes Legacy Fund! These contributions will help us us write LCT's next chapter by creating a fund that will sustain the theatre through the next several years, honor the legacy of Larry and Vivian, and underwrite the big ideas our new leadership will bring.

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Community Trust Bank
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Gess, Mattingly & Atchison,
Attorneys
Godolphin
Hinkle Studio*
JPMorgan Chase & Co
Kentucky Blood Center
Keystone Financial Employees
Landrum & Shouse
Lexington Herald-Leader
LexTran Employees
NAI Isaac Commercial Properties
Netgain Employees
Nicholson Insurance Agency
Nomi Inc.
Omni Architects
Padgett Construction, Inc.
Serafini
Space Center Storage
Stoll Keenon Ogden Employees
Sweet Turns
The Webb Companies

Windstream
Traditional Bank

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Walter L. Gross
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Jason and Julie Sims
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Shechet
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