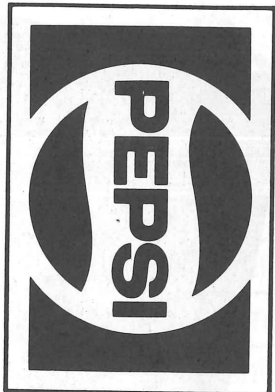


# Jefferson Civic Center Concert Hall



**PEPSI.**

**THE CHOICE OF  
A NEW GENERATION.**

LOUIS G. BOND  
 MARTY BRONSON ROBERT E. LAYNE TAD SCHNUGG  
 present

# JENNIFER HOLLIDAY

Starring in

George Faison's

# SING, MAHALIA, SING!

Book **George Faison** Original Music and Lyrics  
**Richard Smallwood, George Faison and Wayne Davis**

featuring

**Glenn Jones Lynette Hawkins Stephens Marva Hicks**  
**Felicia Coleman The Richard Smallwood Singers Tyrone Jolivet**

**Joe Lynn**  
 as  
**Ike Hunkenhull**

Sets **Tom McPhillips** Lights **Tom Skelton** Costumes  
**Nancy Potts**

Sound **Christopher K. Bond** Hair Design **Howard Leonard, Jr.** Conductor **Michael Powell** Orchestrator  
**John Simmons**

Musical Supervisor and Dance Arranger **Timothy Graphenreed** Musical Director and Vocal Arranger  
**Richard Smallwood**

Assistant Director **Martin Worman** Research Consultant  
**Brother John Sellers**

Associate Producer **Andrew Jarecki**

Directed and Choreographed by  
**George Faison**

Furs provided by **The Christie Brothers**

Wigs and Hair Design  
 Created for Miss Holiday  
 by  
**James Harris**

At specified performances the role of Mahalia will be performed  
 by  
**ESTHER MARROW**

## CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Miss Ruth, Sister Russell ..... CAROLENE ADAMS-EVANS  
 Rita the Manicurist, Policeman ..... SARITA ALLEN  
 Louise Lemon, Rosa Parks ..... FELICIA COLEMAN  
 Sanctified Preacher, Janitor, Deacon, Eddie Robinson ..... WAYNE DAVIS  
 Redcap, Policeman ..... GERMAINE EDWARDS  
 Reverend Dekes ..... DOUG ESKEW  
 Young Mahalia, Beauty Operator, Reporter ..... MARVA HICKS  
 Mahalia Jackson ..... JENNIFER HOLLIDAY  
 Eastern Star Member ..... STEPHANIE JAMES-RAINEY  
 Chafalaya, Media Announcer ..... JAMES ARTHUR JOHNSON  
 Angel of God ..... TYRONE JOLIVET  
 Sue ..... DOTTIE JONES  
 Reverend Jenkins, Prince Johnson, Reverend Jameson ..... GLENN JONES  
 Emcee, Floor Mgr., Film Director, Reporter, Policeman ..... GARY Q. LEWIS  
 Policeman ..... EUGENE LITTLE  
 Mildred Falls ..... MICHELLE RENE LOVETT  
 Ike Hunkenhull ..... JOE LYNN  
 Mahalia Jackson (alternate) ..... QUEEN ESTHER MARROW  
 Primitive Baptist, Reporter ..... MILTON CRAIG NEALY  
 Aunt Duke ..... JACKI RUFFIN  
 Sister Willis ..... KIKI SHEPARD  
 Ensemble ..... KATHERINE SINGLETON  
 Mother Weeks ..... LYNETTE HAWKINS STEPHENS  
 Baptizing Minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. .... PAUL W. WEEDEN, JR.  
 Ensemble ..... GENOBIA JETER

### DANCERS

Sarita Allen, Germaine Edwards, Garry Q. Lewis, Eugene Little, Kiki Shepard, Katherine Singleton

### UNDERSTUDIES

*Mahalia*—Carolene Adams-Evans; *Reverend Jenkins*—Tyrone Jolivet, Doug Eskew; *Chafalaya*—Milton Craig Nealy; *Miss Ruth*—Lisa Burroughs; *Aunt Duke*—Lynette Hawkins Stephens; *Young Mahalia*—Michelle Rene Lovett; *Sanctified Preacher*—Doug Eskew; *Baptismal Preacher*—Doug Eskew; *Aunt Hannah*—Lisa Burroughs; *Janitor*—Doug Eskew; *Ike Hunkenhull*—Paul W. Weedon, Jr.; *Angel of God*—Glenn Jones, Doug Eskew; *Louise Lemon*—Stephanie James-Rainey; *Prince & Robert Johnson*—Doug Eskew; *Deacon*—Doug Eskew; *Sister Smith*—Marva Hicks; *Sister Willis*—Marva Hicks; *Mother Weeks*—Carolene Adams-Evans; *Sister Thomas*—Marva Hicks; *Sister Russell*—Marva Hicks; *Secreary of Bapt. Conv.*—Carolene Adams-Evans, Genobia Jeter; *Reverend Jameson*—Milton Craig Nealy; *Reverend Dekes*—Paul W. Weedon, Jr.; *Nurse Russell*—Lisa Burroughs; *Sue*—Jacki Ruffin; *TV & Movie Director*—Germaine Edwards; *Disgruntled Customer*—Stephanie James-Rainey

### SING, MAHALIA, SING

#### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS ACT I:

August, 1963

Scene 1: A Southern Baptist Church

**GLORIFY THE LORD** ..... Church Members and Choir  
**SING, MAHALIA, SING** ..... Reverend Jenkins  
**COME ON CHILDREN, LET'S SING** ..... Mahalia, Church Members and Choir  
**PRECIOUS LORD** ..... Mahalia  
**HOW I GOT OVER** ..... Mahalia, Church Members and Choir

New Orleans, 1911-1927

Scene 2: Miss Ruth's Sporting House on Water Street

**LOUISIANA** ..... Chafalaya, Miss Ruth, Miss Ruth's Girls and Customers

Scene 3: Aunt Duke's House on Water Street

**IT DON'T COST VERY MUCH** ..... Aunt Duke and Young Mahalia  
**GOING TO CHICAGO** ..... Chafalaya, Aunt Duke and Young Mahalia

Scene 4: Miss Ruth's Sporting House

**HANDWRITING ON THE WALL** ..... Sanctified Church Members

Scene 5: Baptist Church and the Water's Edge

**HANDWRITING ON THE WALL** ..... Baptists  
**I SURRENDER ALL** ..... Young Mahalia Candidates  
**DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE** ..... Young Mahalia and Baptists

Scene 6: Aunt Duke's House and the Cemetery

**FATHER, I STRETCH**  
**MY HANDS TO THEE** ..... Aunt Duke, Young Mahalia and Mourners  
**JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE** ..... Mahalia and Mourners

Chicago 1927-1939

Scene 7: Union Station and the Club De Lisa

**SHAKE YOUR ASHES** ..... Redcaps, Travellers, Emcee, Chorines and Club Patrons

Scene 8: Club De Lisa

**WAIT ON THE LORD** ..... Janitor  
**HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW** ..... Mahalia

Scene 9: Mahalia and Ike's Apartment

**WHAT YOU GONNA DO** ..... Ike  
**I'M GONNA LIVE THE LIFE I**  
**SING ABOUT IN MY SONGS** ..... Mahalia  
**BE FAITHFUL** ..... Angel of God and Angel Chorus

Scene 10: Greater Salem Baptist Church

**GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU** ..... Louise Lemon and The Johnson Singers

Scene 11: On Tour

**GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU (Reprise)**  
**DIG A LITTLE DEEPER** ..... Mahalia, Louise Lemon, and The Johnson Singers

Scene 12: Basement of the Olivet Baptist Church

**NOT UP HERE IN THIS PULPIT** ..... Mother Weeks and Daughters of the Eastern Star

Scene 13: The Olivet Baptist Church

**PLEAD MY CAUSE** ..... Mahalia and the Angel of God  
**DIDN'T IT RAIN?** ..... Mahalia and Ensemble

**SING, MAHALIA, SING**  
**ACT II**

Kansas City, 1943

Scene 1: National Baptist Convention

**SO GLAD I'M HERE** ..... Mother Weeks and Delegates  
**CALL THE LORD** ..... Reverend Jameson and Delegates  
**SHO BEEN GOOD TO ME** ..... Sister Russell and Delegates  
**ELIJAH ROCK** ..... Mahalia and Delegates

Chicago, 1943-1949

Scene 2: Mahalia and Ike's Apartment

**WHEN I BEEN DRINKING** ..... Ike  
**I'VE GOT SOMETHING** ..... Mahalia

Scene 3: Mahalia's Beauty Shop

**HAIRDRESSER SONG** ..... Beauty Operators and Patrons  
**HE WON'T LEAVE YOU** ..... Sue, Beauty Operators and Patrons  
**BE FAITHFUL (REPRISE)** ..... Angel of God

New York City, 1950

Scene 4: Carnegie Hall

**MOVE ON UP A LITTLE HIGHER** ..... Mahalia

On-the-Air, 1954-1959

Scene 5: A Soldier's Barracks & CBS Radio Studio, Chicago

**SING, MAHALIA, SING (REPRISE)** ..... Soldier  
**HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW** ..... Golden Gate Quartet  
**CAROLINA RICE** ..... Golden Gate Quartet

NBC Television Studio, New York

**DIG A LITTLE DEEPER** ..... Mahalia

MGM Studio, Hollywood

**SOON I WILL BE DONE** ..... Mahalia

Chicago, 1958

Scene 6: Mahalia's New Apartment

**COME OVER HERE WHERE THE TABLE IS SPREAD** ..... Party Guests  
**I BEEN BUKED** ..... Party Guests

The United States of America, The Early 1960's

Scene 7: Civil Rights Movement

**CIVIL RIGHTS SUITE** ..... Demonstrators  
**MOTHERLESS CHILD** ..... Rosa Parks and Demonstrators

Washington, D.C., 1963

Scene 8: Lincoln Memorial

**WE SHALL OVERCOME** ..... Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**I HAVE A DREAM** ..... Ensemble

August, 1963

Scene 9: A Southern Baptist Church

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** ..... Mahalia  
**SING, MAHALIA, SING, FINALE** ..... Ensemble

**ORCHESTRA**

Conductor, MICHAEL POWELL; Piano, RICHARD SMALLWOOD; Drums, BRIAN GRICE; Bass, TIM LINZY; Keyboard, WILLARD MEEKS; Trumpet, MARVIN DAVIS; Trombone, HENRY MITCHELL; Organ, STEVEN FORD; Tenor Saxophone, JOSH HARRIS; Alto Saxophone, TANSIE MAYER.

# WHO'S WHO in the CAST

**CAROLINE ADAMS-EVANS** (*Miss Ruth, Sister Russell*)—a member of the Grammy-nominated Richard Smallwood Singers. Ms. Adams-Evans is a native of Washington, DC. She began singing in the choir of St. Judah's Baptist Church, has performed on several recordings and appeared in *Mahalia's Song* at Howard University. She thanks God for her gift.

**SARITA ALLEN** (*Rita, the manicurist*)—began her dance training at the age of three in her hometown, Seattle, Washington and continued in New York, winning scholarships from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey Dance Company and Jeffrey Ballet. She performed with Agnes de Mille and was a principal dancer with Alvin Ailey. Film credits include *The Cotton Club*, *Beat Street* and *The Last Dragon*, as well as several music videos, including *Torture* by The Jacksons. She appeared in the PBS-TV production of *For Colored Girls...* and numerous Alvin Ailey TV specials. She recently assisted Judith Jamison on several projects, including a ballet for Maurice Bejart's Ballet of the 20th Century. Ms. Allen has appeared in special White House performances and in royal performances throughout Europe.

**LISA BURROUGHS** (*Aunt Hannah, Sister Thomas*)—recording artist and currently a member of the Grammy-nominated Richard Smallwood Singers. Ms. Burroughs has also performed with Leontyne Price (*Gospel in Performance at the White House*), Edwin Hawkins (*Gospel at the Symphony*), Tremaine Hawkins, Larnelle Harris and a host of others. She appeared as Glenda in the Washington, DC, production of *The Wiz* and was a featured guest soloist with Jessie Dixon in *Peace Child*. Her motto in life is "Stay with God and he will make all things come out right."

**FELICIA Y. COLEMAN** (*Louise Lemon, Rosa Parks*)—a native of Chicago. Ms. Coleman is a coloratura soprano with a B.A. and Masters in Music from Howard University, where she studied with the renowned Matiwilda Dobbs. Ms. Coleman is a soloist with the Rev. Clay Evans Revival Troupe and performs on tour with comedian/activist, Dick Gregory. She has performed at conventions for National Baptists USA, National Religious Broadcasters and National Women in Television. She also sang at Pres. Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Prayer Breakfast, at several campaign fundraisers for Chicago Mayor, Harold Washington and during the funeral service for Marvin Gaye. Ms. Coleman is a member of the Fellowship M.B. Church in Chicago. Rev. Clay Evans, pastor, which has watered the seed of her God-given talent.

**WAYNE DAVIS** (*Author, Sanctified Preacher, Janitor Deacon, Eddie Robinson*)—recording artist, arranger and producer. Mr. Davis was discovered by Roberta Flack with whom he toured and who produced his first Atlantic Records album, *Wayne Davis—A View From Another Place*. He can also be heard on Blackfire Records (Wayne Davis) and other recordings produced by him include *What He Must Do* and *The Soldiers*, by Edward Duncan III. He performed in *Soul to Soul* which was filmed in Accra, Ghana; wrote and produced *A Tribute to Africa*, a film for Africa and the U.S. State Department; and

wrote and produced the documentary *Impressions*, based on Duke Ellington's Sacred Music. He appeared in the Kennedy Center production of *Miss Truth* and with the national touring company of *The Wiz*.

**GERMAINE EDWARDS** (*Redcap, Policeman*)—a graduate of New York's famed High School of the Performing Arts. Mr. Edwards appeared on Broadway and with the national touring company of *The Wiz* as the Winged Monkey. He recently returned from a *Wiz* tour of Japan where he performed the same role. He has been seen in Italy and France in Bob Fosse's *Dancin'*. Germaine is a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem and has appeared in many music videos. This one is for Mom!

**DOUG ESKEW** (*Reverend Deke*) comes to *Sing, Mahalia, Sing* after completing two successful tours in Europe. He was first featured in Hazel Bryant's production of *Black Nativity*; then he returned to star in the world tour of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. He has toured throughout the United States in such productions as *Purlie, Guys And Dolls, Ain't Misbehavin', Mahalia and Black Nativity*. Doug is an accomplished concert artist, having been featured with Reverend James Cleveland, the Donald Vails Chorale and the Detroit Symphony. He has performed his own cabaret show in New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, Finland and Sweden. A native Detroit, Doug gives thanks to God, who has made all these things possible. Doug dedicates his performance to the loving memory of his father, Mr. Willie R. Eskew.

**MARVA HICKS** (*Young Mahalia, Beauty Operator, Reporter*)—made her Broadway debut in *Lena Horne: The Lady And Her Music* and went on to perform with the national and European touring companies, as well as in the Showtime and PBS-TV productions. Her other credits include the national tours of *Eubie and One Mo' Time*, and the Off-Broadway production, *A... My Name Is Alice*. Ms. Hicks has recorded with vibraphonist Roy Ayers, has been heard on Infinity Records and seen in several national commercials.

**JENNIFER HOLLIDAY** (*Mahalia Jackson*)—literally had stardom thrust upon her at only 18 years old, when she went from church choirs and local productions right to the Broadway stage. Her deep, rich tones and wall-shaking power made her the immediate star of the 1979 Broadway production of *Your Arms Too Short To Box With God*. And direct from that triumph, Jennifer joined Michael Bennett's mysterious 1980 "project" which was to become *Dreamgirls*, one of the greatest hits Broadway has ever seen. With her unparalleled show-stopper, "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going," Holliday was hailed with critical acclaim, instantaneous audience devotion and superstardom. She won the coveted Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, a Grammy Award for her performance with the Singers at the Smithsonian Institution. She inspired a standing ovation at Washington's Kennedy Center during a performance with Edwin Hawkins and performed with the Singers and Leontyne Price in a special televised Christmas presentation for President and Mrs. Reagan. Ms. Jones has appeared with the Singers as a guest vocalist on the albums of other top gospel artists, including Larnelle Harris, Sandi Patti and Bill Gaither.

emotionally resonant style. While performing in a benefit for a local black theatre company, Jennifer was discovered in true Hollywood style. Jamie Patterson, a dancer in the road company of *A Chorus Line*, was so taken with her remarkable talent, he arranged for Jennifer's Box audition, got his aunt to agree to host her during her stay and he paid for Jennifer's plane ticket to New York. The rest, as they say, is history. In 1983 she recorded her first album, *Feel My Soul*, for Geffen Records. It was an instant hit. Jennifer was nominated for a Grammy that year for Best Female Vocal/R&B. She has just completed a successful concert tour and her second album, *Say You Love Me*, will be released early this Spring.

**STEPHANIE JAMES-RAINEY** (*Eastern Star Member, Waitress*)—a recording artist. Ms. James-Rainey was previously a member of the musical group Unlimited Touch. She performed with Jennifer Holliday during her 1984 national concert tour. *Sing, Mahalia, Sing* is Ms. James-Rainey's first theatrical appearance.

**JAMES ARTHUR JOHNSON** (*Chafalaya, Media Announcer*)—was born in Cleveland where he was a member of the prestigious Karamu House Theatre. Mr. Johnson worked with the Howard University Drama Department before moving to New York last year to broaden his acting experience. He appeared off-Broadway in *Golden Boy* and *Street Heat*. His additional credits include regional productions of *Across The River, Harlem Renaissance, Ti-Jean, Black Nativity, Medea, Spell #7, The Wiz, Black Orpheus, We Wear The Mask and Snapper*. He recreated his role as the Preacher in the PBS-TV production of *We Wear The Mask* and was a lead vocalist on international tour with the Marine Corps Band.

**TYRONE JOLIVET** (*Angel of God, Chicago Minister*)—is a Fisk University graduate and former member of the famed Fisk Jubilee Singers. He made his operatic debut in 1978 as Don Jose in *Carmen* with the Windsor Operatic Society in London. His American debut came in 1979 as Alfredo in *La Traviata* with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Tyrone made his Broadway debut in 1983 as Robbins in the Sherwin M. Goldman production of *Porgy and Bess* and subsequently sang Robbins and Crabman on the international tour. Although a native of Houston, he has lived in Nashville for the past 11 years. Tyrone wishes to thank Valija Bumbulis, his voice teacher of 11 years, for her friendship, patience and exceptional teaching, and his family for their love and support through the years.

**DOTTIE JONES** (*Sue*)—began singing at the age of seven in Washington, DC. She began her professional career in 1979 with the Grammy-nominated Richard Smallwood Singers and was cited by the Washington Post for her performance with the Singers at the Smithsonian Institution. She inspired a standing ovation at Washington's Kennedy Center during a performance with Edwin Hawkins and performed with the Singers and Leontyne Price in a special televised Christmas presentation for President and Mrs. Reagan. Ms. Jones has appeared with the Singers as a guest vocalist on the albums of other top gospel artists, including Larnelle Harris, Sandi Patti and Bill Gaither.

# WHO'S WHO in the CAST

**GLENN JONES** (*The Minister, Prince Johnson, Reverend Jameson*)—born in Jacksonville, Florida, is, at only 24 years old, a gospel veteran with a 20 year music career under his belt. Mr. Jones is also one of gospel's greatest cross-over successes. His recent single, "Show Me," was Number 3 on Billboard's R&B chart and his is the voice which is heard with Dionne Warwick on "Finder of Lost Loves," the theme song for the popular ABC-TV series. Mr. Jones has performed with James Cleveland, Shirley Caesar and the Mighty Clouds of Joy. He has two albums on RCA Records, *Everybody Loves A Winner* and *Finesse*.

**GARRY Q. LEWIS** (*Emcee, Floor Mgr., Film Director, Reporter, Policeman*)—a native of Minneapolis, Mr. Lewis began his career at the age of 13 with the Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company. Upon his arrival in New York he appeared on Broadway in *Eubie and Your Arms Too Short To Box With God* and on the television special, *Sophisticated Ladies*. He appeared with the national touring companies of *The Wiz* (Scarecrow) and *Bubblin' Brown Sugar* and in Los Angeles and Las Vegas in *Sophisticated Ladies*. He will soon be seen in a national Canada Dry gingerale commercial.

**EUGENE LITTLE** (*Policeman*) is a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and producer of dance events. He has performed with the George Faison Universal Dance Experience, The Juilliard Dance Ensemble, the Clark Center Dance Festivals, and the Dancemobile. His Broadway credits include *Dancin', Raisin, The Wiz, Porgy and Bess*, and *Timbuktu* where he appeared as a featured dancer. He has been seen in television commercials, Saturday Night Live, a Jerry Lewis Telethon, a Bob Hope Special, Showtime's *Purlie*, and in N.E.T.'s dance series. He has also appeared with Dionne Warwick at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas and Melba Moore at Philharmonic Hall in New York. Mr. Little has taught dance throughout the country and has choreographed for the Amas Repertory Theatre production of *Come Laugh and Cry* with Langston Hughes, the Juba Dance Company, *Schwezwae Powell: A Petite Powerhouse* in New York, for Kaori Murata in Tokyo, Japan, and for the Syvilla Ford Dance Company where he served as assistant artistic director. He was chosen to re-choreograph a 1930's solo performance by Miss Ford for a documentary film entitled, *Syvilla, They Danced To Her Drum*. He also served as the choreographer for *The Day of the Child*, a benefit concert for Cambodian children. His movie credits include *The Wiz, The Cotton Club*, and *Secret Sounds Screaming*.

**MICHELLE RENÉ LOVETT** (*Mildred Falls*)—a native New Yorker. Ms. Lovett began singing in the Baptist church at the age of 7 and as a teenager performed with the Bronx Bro-Wide and All-City Chorus. Her professional career began with a 5-year stint as Sam & Dave's opening act and went on to perform with Tom Browne, Jack-Sass and Shirley Alston. She appeared Off-Broadway in *Maama, I Want To Sing* as Sarah Vaughn and Sister Carrie, where she was discovered by Jennifer Holliday. Ms. Lovett recently appeared with Ms. Holliday during her 1984 national concert tour.

**JOE LYNN** (*Ike Hankenhull, Chicago Minister*)—a native of Cleveland, Mr. Lynn is well known there from his years as Director of Black Studies at Cuyahoga Commu-

nity College and as the founder of the Metro Liberation Chorale. He was first seen in New York in *Timbuktu* with Eartha Kitt and has spent the past three years on Broadway as Tiny Joe Dixon in *Dreamgirls*. His film credits include *Moscow On The Hudson, The Cotton Club, The Jerk* and *The Wiz*. Mr. Lynn's first starring film role is in *Tenement*, which will be released this Spring.

**ESTHER MARROW** (*Alternate Mahalia*)—has spanned the musical spectrum from gospel to gutsy blues, with strong strains of pop and jazz. Hailed from London's Albert Hall, where she gave a Royal Command Performance, to Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Marrow's rich, dark voice is a spectacular instrument. Whether she is gravely whispering or gleefully shouting, no material is beyond her emotional range. Esther's musical acclaim inevitably led her to Broadway, where she was featured in *The Wiz, Comin' Uptown* and *It's So Nice To Be Civilized*. She won raves in the world premiere of *On Shiloh Hill* at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, and was praised for her performance in *Duke Ellington: The Music Lives On*, a PBS-TV Special. In addition to her theatrical work, Miss Marrow has performed in an eclectic variety of settings, including the prestigious gospel altar of St. Ann's Church. In every venue, in every genre, Marrow has brought a sanctity to her work without being solemn. Discovered by Harry Belafonte, with whom she's performed often, she has also shared the spotlight with such popular artists as Count Basie, Lena Horne, Thelonus Monk, Ella Fitzgerald, B.B. King, Miriam Makeba and Chick Corea. Miss Marrow toured tirelessly with Martin Luther King, a close friend, performing at fundraisers in the U.S. and Europe. At one such event, she sang with Mahalia Jackson and in later years played the title role in Mahalia at Connecticut's Hartman Theatre. Esther's is a familiar voice in television and radio commercials and she has also recorded two albums: *Esther Marrow-Sister Woman* for Fantasy Records and *Newport News Virginia-Esther Marrow*, on the Flying Dutchman label. She can currently be seen in the Motown film, *The Last Dragon*.

**MELTON CRAIG NEALY** (*Primitive Baptist*)—a Chicago native and up-and-coming variety and theatrical artist. Mr. Nealy has appeared in *Dreamgirls* as James Thunder Early and recreated Andre De Shields' role in *Ain't Misbehavin'*. His film appearances include *The Blues Brothers* and *The Cotton Club*. God bless us all.

**JACKI RUFFIN** (*Aunt Duke, Hair Washer*)—Since 1977, Miss Ruffin has travelled extensively in Europe and the United States as a member of the Grammy-nominated Richard Smallwood Singers. As one of the principal soloists, she is best known for her renditions of "I've Got Something" and "Psalm 8." She also appears on the recently released Wesley Boyd Workshop album, sojourn on "What Love" and "Perfect Peace." Miss Ruffin is not singing for fame, but to make a difference in the lives of people who hear her: she feels God has sanctified her musical ministry.

**BROTHER JOHN SELLERS** (*Historical Advisor*)—is a gospel and blues legend in his own time. Born and raised on the banks of

the Mississippi, Mr. Sellers was the protégé of blues master Big Bill Broonzy, working in Chicago's famous blues clubs with him from the age of 8. He has been a member of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company since 1961 and has been hailed for his performances in the Company's signature work, *Revelations*, and in *Blues Suite*. As Mahalia Jackson's real-life godson, Mr. Sellers has shared his knowledge of the life, times and music of Miss Jackson with the creative team and performers of *Sing, Mahalia, Sing* as the company's historical advisor. Brother John Sellers is the man mainly responsible for giving the younger generation in Sydney, Australia its first taste of genuine blues and gospel singing.

**KIKI SHEPARD** (*Sister Willis*)—made her Broadway debut in *Bubblin' Brown Sugar* and toured Europe with the show's first international tour. She later appeared in *The Wiz, Comin' Uptown, Reggae, Your Arms Too Short To Box With God and Porgy and Bess*. She was assistant to the choreographer for *Apollo and Golden Boy* and is currently working on a book about the life of the Broadway "gypsy." Her film credits include *The Wiz, Beat Street* and *The Cotton Club* and she can be seen in numerous music videos and television commercials. Ms. Shepard hails from Tyler, Texas and studied with the D.C. Repertory Dance Company. She dedicates this show to God and her family.

**KATHERINE SINGLETON** (*Ensemble*), a native of Houston, Texas and graduate of the High School of Performing Arts, works as a model and dancer. She started her professional career with the Houston Grand Opera production of Scott Joplin's opera, *Treemonisha*, which went on to Broadway. Since then she has been a member of several touring companies including *The Wiz*, national tour, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*, and *The Wiz Venture* in Japan. You may have seen her in the movie *The Blues Brothers* and as a featured dancer in the movie, *Kanada*. Her dancing and modelling career has taken her to Paris, Milano, and Africa. She is currently appearing in a national Canada Dry commercial. She would like to take this opportunity to thank her family for their continuous love and support.

**LYNETTE HAWKINS STEPIENS** (*Mother Weeky*)—a California native, is the youngest member of gospel's "first family," the Hawkins. Ms. Hawkins spent many years in church and school choirs before joining Selah, the group formed by Walter Hawkins after the late 1960's success of the Edwin Hawkins Singers. Ms. Hawkins' strong alto solos with The Hawkins Family and Walter's Love Center Choir, as well as with the Edwin Hawkins Singers in recent years, has been the vocal base for more than a dozen hit gospel albums. She has also been an energetic back-up singer for Sly Stone, Van Morrison and Sylvester, among others and is frequently heard in national television commercials. She is now embarking on a solo career and has just signed with Light Records for her first solo album.

**PAUL W. WEEDEN, JR.** (*Baptizing Minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*)—studied at the Jordan School of Music and spent 13 years as a choir director and organist in his native Indianapolis. A former member of the Raymond Raspberry Singers, Mr. Weed-



den is director of the famous Weeden Family Singers and Liberty District Mass Choir. He has performed with Rev. Al Green and the late Jackie Wilson and recorded with D.J. Rogers. Mr. Weeden appeared as the preacher in *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* in 1983 in Paris and accepted his calling to the ministry in 1984.

**GEORGE FAISON** (Director, Author, Choreographer)—won a Tony Award for *The Wiz* and was nominated for another for *Porgy and Bess* at Radio City Music Hall. He has been a driving force in theatre, dance and concert staging for more than 15 years. He has also become a leader in staging concert appearances and music videos, and creating costume designs for a host of top performers, including Stevie Wonder, Melba Moore, Dionne Warwick, Roberta Flack, Ashford & Simpson, Stephanie Mills, Deniece Williams, Knight Cole, Earth Wind & Fire, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Van McCoy and Joe Williams. Born in Washington, D.C., Faison studied at Howard University and was a principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. He went on to create ballets for several leading companies including Ailey's American Dance Theatre. Among his most famous pieces are *Tih, Güzelle, Hobo Sapiens* and *Suite Onis*. Faison appeared in the Broadway musical *Public* and founded the George Faison Universal Dance Experience which toured extensively throughout the U.S. for five years. He has created choreography for *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* and *The Moony Shapiro Song Book* on Broadway and for the films *Baron Wolfgang von Tripp*, *Secret Life of Plants*, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and, most recently, *The Cotton Club*. His 1981 Off-Broadway production, *The Apollo, Just Like Magic*, was a huge critical success and helped spur interest in the renovation and revival of Harlem's famed entertainment landmark. In addition to his Tony Award, Faison has received Drama Desk, Reve, Miami Critics Circle and Pied Piper awards.

**MARTIN WORMAN** (Assistant Director)—is a resident director at New York's Theatre for the New City where he has staged the premieres of several new American plays. Last year he won the Villager Downtown Theatre Award for Outstanding Direction for his adaptation of Sherwood Anderson's *The Man Who Became A Woman*. He was also co-creator of *Crimes Against Nature*, winner of The San Francisco Drama Critics Circle Award for Best New Work (for Theatre Creation Espace). At the invitation of the French Ministry of Culture, he directed Michele Linfante's *Flight Nurse for Theatre Creation Espace* in Paris, Lausanne and Berlin. In recent seasons, he's assisted Jack O'Brian on *Porgy and Bess* at Radio City Music Hall and worked with Robert Wilson on *Edison* and *Medea*. A Rutgers graduate, he's received grants and honors from the Shubert Foundation, Wurlitzer Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He's currently preparing for the premiere of Meridel Le Sueur's recently discovered Depression-era drama, *O Prairie Girl, Be Lonely*.

**CHRISTOPHER "KIT" BOND** (Audio Designer) served as Stage Manager and Production Stage Manager for the national tours of *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *Eubie*. He has worked with the national touring companies of *Old Vic*, *Joseph* and the amazing *Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *One Mo' Time* and *Peter Pan*. As an audio specialist, he has designed sound systems for a number of top road productions, including *Death Trap*, *The Wiz*, *Da, Chapter*

*Two, Eubie, The Elephant Man, Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* and *One Mo' Time*. A former technical director at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Mr. Bond hails from the Blue Ridge Mountains.

**TOM McPHILLIPS** (Set Designer)—studied at St. Martin's School of Art in London and later worked for England's Young Vic and National Opera. He served as scenic artist for several London studios and has had his own scenic shop, creating for television, film, theatre, opera, exhibits and trade shows since 1977. He is the art director for numerous music videos, including those for Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder and Ashford & Simpson. He art directs many British TV commercials and is currently set designer for Children's ITV, seen daily in England. As an associate with Gaslight Production Services in London, Mr. McPhillips has designed sets for several major rock tours (U.K. and U.S.A.), including those for Culture Club, Ozzy Osborne, Dio, Judas Priest and Nik Kershaw.

**THOMAS SKELTON** (Lighting Designer)—has a rich background in ballet, musical comedy and the legitimate theatre. His recent credits include *Death of a Salesman* (for both the Dustin Hoffman and George C. Scott revivals), *Camelot*, *Brigadoon*, *Peter Pan*, *Oklahoma!*, *West Side Waltz*, *Lena Horne and Absurd Person Singular*; ballets for Robert Joffrey, Heinz Poll, Eliot Feld, Jerome Robbins and the recent seasons of Makarova, Nureyev and the American Ballet Theatre. Other credits include *Shenandoah*, *Purlie*, *Jimmy Shine*, *Coco*, *A Matter of Gravity*, *Your Own Thing*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Caesars and Cleopatra*. Mr. Skelton is associate director of the Ohio Ballet, teaches at NYU's Studio & Forum of Stage Design and has taught at the graduate school at Yale.

**NANCY POTTS** (Costume Designer)—a five-time Tony Award nominee, Ms. Potts is one of theatre's most versatile and highly acclaimed costume designers, with over 150 productions to her credit, including more than 60 on Broadway and Off-Broadway. She won the Theatre Yearbook Design Award for *Hair* on Broadway, as well as special citations in Europe and Japan. Other Broadway credits include *You Can't Take It With You*, *Porgy and Bess* and *Most Happy Fella*. Other productions include Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* by the New York City Opera; repertory productions at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; and numerous regional productions across the U.S., including those at the Kennedy Center, Guthrie Theatre, Goodman Theatre, San Diego Shakespeare Festival, Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, and Hollywood's Huntington Hartford.

**HOWARD LEONARD** (Hair Designer)—a hairdresser/designer for eight years, Mr. Leonard's theatrical projects include the Broadway productions *42nd Street*, *Pippin*, *Dancin'* and *Chaplin*. He toured with the national companies of *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Beatlemania* and *Sugar Babies*, with the latter as Ann Miller's personal hairdresser. Mr. Leonard has a special fondness for films of the 30's and 40's and specializes in period hairstyles. He hopes to bring the style and quality of Hollywood's heyday to the contemporary stage.

**RICHARD SMALLWOOD** (Author, Musical Director, Vocal Arranger)—a renowned composer, pianist and singer, Mr. Smallwood is the guiding force behind the Richard Smallwood Singers. Their 1984 album, *Psalms*, was Number One on Billboard's Gospel chart for 14 weeks and nominated for a Grammy as Best Gospel Album. He

graduated cum laude from Howard University and lectured at the University of Maryland. He is a leader among gospel singer/musicians now combining European influences with the fervor of gospel. He was the first gospel artist to appear at the Montreux Jazz Festival and in 1977, he represented the U.S. at the Paris Falls Festival in France. He was cited by the Smithsonian Institution as a gospel innovator and has received the James Cleveland Gospel Award and Washington D.C.'s Mayoral Art Award. Mr. Smallwood has performed with a variety of gospel, jazz and classical artists, including Leontyne Price (White House Command Performance), Edwin Hawkins (*Gospel at the Symphony*), Tremaine Hawkins, Larnell Harris and Donald Byrd.

**JOHN SIMMONS** (Orchestrator)—a pianist, guitarist and arranger, Mr. Simmons is currently Stephanie Mills musical director. He has served as arranger for The Three Degrees and piano accompanist for Valerie Simpson, Melba Moore and Cissy & Whitney Houston. Mr. Simmons was pianist and assistant musical director for the national and Japanese touring companies of *The Wiz* and the musical director and vocal arranger for Billy Wilson's *Dancin' In The Streets*. He has recorded back-up vocals for The Reflections, Harry Belafonte, The Weather Girls, Larry Graham and Esther Marrow.

**MICHAEL POWELL** (Conductor)—has worked on Broadway with Bette Midler, Jennifer Holliday, Patti La Belle, Al Green and Josephine Baker. He was musical director for the Broadway and Paris companies of *Your Arms Too Short To Box With God* and is currently musical director for Geffen Records recording artist, Jennifer Holliday.

**TIMOTHY GRAPHENREED** (Musical Supervisor, Dance Arranger)—is a Broadway dance composer and arranger. For George Faison: *The Wiz* (Iornado, Emerald City), *Mooney Shapiro Songbook*; for Michael Peters, the current *Leader of the Pack* and *Comin' Uptown*, starring Gregory Hines. Graphenreed has also been an Off-Broadway dance arranger for the tap dance genius Henry Tetang for *Shim-Sham*, starring Hinton Battle, and *Sing Me Sunshine*. Additionally, he was an Off-Broadway musical director/arranger for Pat Bireh's *American Passion*. Upcoming projects include *Apollo* and *Hey, Alan!*, a new musical with collaborator Richard Ford.

**ROBERT EDWARD LAYNE** (Producer)—a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Layne is a graduate of Boston University, where he majored in education for children with special needs. His early experiences involved producing plays with handicapped and emotionally disturbed youngsters. He then moved from a private elementary school setting to a community college environment, where he taught for several years. In 1975 he returned to school, this time to major in administration and management. After receiving an advanced degree, he joined the management team at the B&R Corporation.

**MARTY BRONSON** (Producer)—has a thirty year background in theatre as an actor, designer, director and producer. He directed and produced the premiere of Lawrence and Lee's *Crocodile Smile* and was on the State University of New York's Committee for Development of Theatre Arts Programs. Since the mid-1970's he has been a leading producer, director and exhibition designer for industrial and fashion shows in the U.S., Europe and Japan. His productions include all seven of Harvey's

Bristol Cream's *Tribute to Black Designers*; the '78, '79, '82 and '84 Coty American Fashion Critics Award; and a Las Vegas fashion evening sponsored by AMF Head, *Let's Turn Snow Into Gold*, which raised money for the U.S. Olympic Ski teams. Mr. Bronson's additional credits include *Paul Poirot: King of Fashion*, *American Living/Turn of the Century*, *Fortuny* and most recently, the much acclaimed exhibition, *Fashion and Broadway*.

**LOUIS G. BOND** (Producer)—The Rev. Dr. Louis G. Bond, born in Baltimore, Maryland and the pastor of St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts for the past 12 years, brings a wide range of business, musical and church ex-

perience to the production of *Sing, Mahalia, Sing*. A Harvard graduate, Dr. Bond is the president and chairman of the board of B&R Corporation, a conglomerate with manufacturing, oil and real estate interests, among others, all of which are minority owned and operated. Previously, Dr. Bond was the president of Roxbury Community College and the administrator of the National Center for Afro-American Artists, Inc., a teaching and performing institution which contained several dance companies and a museum. Dr. Bond is also a contracted concert pianist.

**TAD SCHNUGG** (Producer)—As George Faison's personal manager and associate since 1969, Tad Schnugg has worked closely

with the director/choreographer on all of his theatrical and entertainment ventures. For the George Faison Universal Dance Experience, the acclaimed company which toured throughout the U.S. from 1971-1976, Mr. Schnugg served as lighting designer, stage and general manager and booking agent. Additionally, Mr. Schnugg, who studied theatre and literature in Germany, served on the Board of Directors of the Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art and as their advisor/consultant, as well.

**MAHALIA JACKSON** established herself as the world's greatest, most famous and beloved gospel singer. Hers was a 45 year career which began in neighborhood black churches and culminated in gala performances on concert stages around the globe. She was a powerful Good Will Ambassador for America, a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement, an astute business-woman and the living embodiment of her life-long faith. She was born in poverty in New Orleans on October 26, 1911. Her mother died when Mahalia was six and she spent her following early years in the care of her stern and religious Aunt Duke. Mahalia started singing in her church choir at the age of five. She was baptized at the age of 12 and decided from then on to "dedicate my life to Him in song." Mahalia left school after the eighth grade to help support her family. She moved to Chicago when she was 16, lived with her Aunt Hannah and joined the Greater Salem Baptist Church, becoming a soloist with the choir. She also sang with The Johnson Singers, a gospel quintet which performed in black churches and tent revivals throughout the mid-west. In

1945 she recorded "Move On Up A Little Higher" for Apollo Records and sold one million copies. She achieved widespread popularity throughout Europe and word of Mahalia's resounding voice slowly started to work its way back to America. Her first sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall was in 1950 and she sang there annually for many years. In 1952 she made her first tour of Europe. Most of the 30 albums she recorded in her career were for Columbia and at least a dozen of her singles achieved Gold Record status. Among her most popular songs were "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "I Can Put My Trust in Jesus," "When I Wake Up in Glory," "Just a Little While to Stay Here," "Upper Room," "Didn't It Rain," "Even Me" and "Silent Night." Mahalia sang at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and appeared in command performances for the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the King and Queen of Denmark. She appeared in several films, including *Imitation of Life*, *St. Louis Blues*, *The Best Man* and *I Remember Chicago*. She received countless awards and succeeded in developing a huge

international, multi-racial, multi-religious audience. Mahalia sang of faith in Jesus, but the purity and power of her faith, as well as her talent, permitted her to cross a multitude of barriers. The late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a close friend and only after her death was the full extent of her financial support to the Movement revealed. At Dr. King's request, Mahalia sang before the 200,000 people assembled for the 1963 March on Washington and her performance contributed hugely to making the March one of the most memorable moments in American history. Mahalia Jackson died of heart failure at the age of 60 on January 27, 1972. There were two enormous funerals—one in New Orleans, the other in Chicago. President Richard Nixon issued a White House statement, saying "America and the world... mourn the passing of Mahalia Jackson... all her years she poured out her soul in song and her heart in service to her people. Millions of ears will miss the sound of her great rich voice" making a joyful noise unto the Lord...."

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