This page serves as a virtual playbill.

IOWA STAGE THEATRE COMPANY

IOWA STAGE VIRTUAL THEATER

PROUDLY PRESENTS

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by Mat Smart

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BRAVO GREATER DES MOINES

SEASON UNDERWRITERS

Kay Myers
Director Underwriter

Trudy Hurd
Designer Underwriter

C. Dean Carlson
Designer Underwriter

Harry and Pam Bookey
Actor Underwriter

CAST AND CREW

* Resident Artist Company
† Cloris Award

Alissa Tschetter-Sledschlaw*
Susan B. Anthony

Pernell Ferguson
Frederick Douglass

James Serpento*
Director

Davida Williams†
Assistant Director

Lauren Dursky*
Stage Manager

Jay Jagim†
Scenic Designer

Susanna Douthit†
Costume Design

Dakota Sommer*
Lighting Designer

Miles Graham
Production Assistant/Lighting

Josh Jepson*†
Sound Design

Josh is supported by underwriting from Trudy Hurd

Kory Williams
Prop Manager

Brandon Kair
Light Board Operator

Devon Dursky
Sound Board Operator

Run time approx. 100 minutes.

BIOGRAPHIES

Purnell Ferguson
Frederick Douglass

PERNELL FERGUSON grew up in East St. Louis, Illinois, graduating from the alma mater of the legendary Miles Davis. He attended Iowa State University where he participated in various musical ensembles including their jazz band which was led by Jim Bovinette. Since college, Pernell has continued to hone his love for the arts by performing with various church group music teams. He currently serves as the TENOR section leader for the Ambassadors of Praise, a Christ centered worship group at Cornerstone Family Church in Des Moines, IA. He has devoted a good portion of his free time performing with various community theater groups within the Des Moines metro area as well as participating in numerous Crisis Intervention Training activities with local DSM police designed to prepare newly hired offices for interactions with those that may be in need of mental health assistance.

Pernell has been seen as Marion in *Caucus! The Musical*, Jim Bono in *Fences* with the Des Moines Social Club, Officer James Bailey in *Superior Donuts* with Stagewest, Tom in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with the Des Moines Playhouse among many others.

Alissa Tschetter-Sledschlaw*
Susan B. Anthony

ALISSA TSCHETTER-SLEDSCHLAW is a ISTC resident artist company member. Her many roles have included Gwen in *Rapture, Blister, Burn*, Kate in RTF's *Taming of the Shrew*, Blanche in *Broadway Bound*, Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Marianne Dashwood in *Sense & Sensibility*, Maggie in Cat On A *Hot Tin Roof*, Annabelle in *A Christmas Carol*, Ann in *All My Sons*, Cass in *Wonder of the World*, and Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and many others. She was a player in an original piece for the Unexpected Company's Shakespeare Celebration. In Stagewest's production of *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, she reprised four parts she previously played for Locust Productions. She also appeared in Locust Productions' original piece, Meth-Lab, playing three roles. Alissa holds a BFA in theatre performance.

She is grateful for the theatre community at large, her dear friends and to her five beautiful children, and her husband for lighting up her life off stage!

James Serpento (Director)

James Serpento is a Resident Artist with ISTC and one of the founding members of Kingman Row Entertainment. James has worked as an actor, director, writer and educator across the U.S. for more than three decades, with several hundreds of productions for stage and screen to his credit, many of them award-winning. As an actor, James has worked extensively in theatre, film, commercials, and industrials, with his favorite roles including de Stogumber in *St. Joan* at Chicago's Bailiwick Repertory, Teach in *American Buffalo*, Goldberg in *The Birthday Party*, Eddie in *Fool for Love* and several roles at Chicago Dramatists. He appeared in the pilot episode of Bluebox Limited's Spread for MTV, as well as in their short film, *Impulse*. He is a Resident Playwright Alumnus of both the renowned Chicago Dramatists and the Bloomington Playwrights Project, and is the author or coauthor of more than fifty plays and screenplays. He has written many plays and screenplays, most recently co-authoring *Every Cottage Home*, and the book and lyrics for a new musical version of *The Bacchae*, as well as several adaptations for an upcoming collection of Chekhovian short plays. James is the proud daddy of gamer-extraordinaire Samuel.

Davida Williams (Assistant Director)

Davida Williams was most recently seen as Kamala Harris in Robert John Ford's *Adore Ud Line* with Iowa Stage Theatre, various roles in *Lost Girl* with Des Moines Young Artists Theatre and Esther in *Intimate Apparel* with Pyramid Theatre Company, for which she earned a Cloris Award for Best Actress. She was also featured in *Dead Dog Park* with Open Door Rep and *Rumors* with Tallgrass Theatre Company. Born and raised in Des Moines, Davida's been on stage since the age of 14. She studied theatre at Grandview University and has done countless industrials and voice work. Some of her favorite roles include Claire in *Rumors*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*, and her beloved Esther in *Intimate Apparel*.

Lauren Dursky (Stage Manager)

Lauren Dursky is a member of ISTC's Resident Artist Company and serves as Director of Production. She has stage managed *It's A Wonderful Life, The Christians, A View From The Bridge, The Flick, Company, A Doll's House*, and a variety of others. She previously worked with Repertory Theatre Company, StageWest, Iowa State University, and The Des Moines Playhouse, with previous credits including *Taming of the Shrew, August: Osage County, Broadway Bound, The Magic Flute*, and *Les Miserables*.

Jay Jagim (Scenic & Lighting Designer)

Josh Jepson has worked with Epic Stage Productions (2016), StageWest Theater Company (every musical the company has done since 2011), Iowa State Theater Since 2011 and numerous productions with Repertory Theater of Iowa. He's also worked with Barrington Stage Company on "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" (2004) and "The Burnt Part Boys" (2006). Josh currently works as the Technical Director at Hoyt Sherman Place and does freelance sound design and audio engineering. Josh enjoys spending time with his wife, his son, and their two pets: Fluffy the domestic long hair and Pixie the pappion.

Susanna Douthit (Costume Design)

Susanna Douthit has designed costumes for ISTC's "The Lion in Winter," (Cloris Award winner), for Pyramid Theater's "Intimate Apparel," "The Amen Corner," for DMYAT's "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," for DM Playhouse's "Around the World in 80 Days" and "Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe." Susanna has also designed costumes for the world premiere of "Our Town," "The Opera," for Festival Opera in California, the 2007 season for The National Ballet of Peru, and for several years for Olympian Figure Skater Brian Boitano. She was the Director of San Francisco Dance Center and the Executive Director of Dance Through Time. She has built giant puppets for parades in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and Wilmington, NC. She has performed in New York City, St. Petersburg and Moscow, and even here in Iowa. She has come to love this beautiful state where she lives five minutes away from her awesome grandsons and their very cool parents.

Dakota Sommer (Lighting Design)

Dakota Sommer has worked with theatrical lighting in Des Moines for 10 years starting during his time at Roosevelt High School. Most recently he has designed lights for "Private Passage" by Kingman Row and "Legally Blonde" by Des Moines Young Artists Theatre. When not doing theater, Dakota is a stagehand for many local venues.

Josh Jepson (Sound Design)

Josh Jepson is a Cloris Award -winning sound designer and a proud member of the Resident Artist Company at Iowa Stage Theatre. Josh has worked on every show since the founding of the company, has worked freelance, and works in sound a lights design at Hoyt Sherman Place.

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