

# HouseNews

Past & Future Happenings in the House

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## Next in the Jelliffe Theatre



**Red Summer February 24 through March 5, 2023** by Nina Domingue — Ida B. Wells had not intended to lead an anti-lynching fight, but when her friend became a victim, fighting against the bloody act became her life's work. Jax and Cyn'Sere had not intended to become activists, but when their friend is murdered, they find themselves in the thick of a new movement. Two fights, over a hundred years apart, but eerily similar, call into question

our stamina as a people. When history is repeating itself, do we have the imagination to create a different outcome?



**The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin April 21 through May 14, 2023** by Kirsten Childs—What's a black girl from sunny Southern California to do? White people are blowing up black girls in Birmingham churches. Black people are shouting "Black is beautiful" while straightening their hair and coveting light skin. Viveca Stanton's answer: Slap on a bubbly smile and be as white as you can be! In a humorous and pointed coming-

of-age story spanning the sixties through the nineties, Viveca blithely sails through the confusing worlds of racism, sexism and Broadway showbiz until she's forced to face the devastating effect self-denial has had on her life. **Visit [karamuhouse.org](http://karamuhouse.org) for tickets!**

## Karamu's Footprint

**Coming Soon:** Karamu is expanding its campus to continue socially relevant entertainment and education, both indoors and out! Look for a new external facelift, a marquee, promoting upcoming performances and arts education, AND a bistro with food made to delight and excite your appetites. Get ready to enjoy the new outdoor theatre where live music and theatre performances put music and creative voices in the air. More details to follow. Grand opening: September 2023!



## SAVE THE DATE

**Held in Cleveland's historic Lake View Cemetery on August 12, 2023, Second Line Parade + Sneakers Ball** recognizes the African American tradition of the New Orleans second line parade, a funeral processional and celebration of life—and honors the many notable Clevelanders and Karamu alum now residing in Lake View Cemetery. After the parade, live music fills the air, dancing (in your sneakers and all-white attire) fills the floor, and savory, Creole fare and drinks fill the tables. We wave handkerchiefs to clear the air of negativity, hold parasols to keep our traditions close, and listen to the music that sets us free!

# Performer's Corner (did you know?)

Meet some of the performers who create the joyful gathering at Karamu House. This quarter we introduce to you members of the Vocal Ensemble from **Black Nativity**.



**Bonita Jenkins**

A Cleveland native, a singer, a travel business owner and an income tax consultant. She has been a singer since the age of four. She performed her very first stage play in the 5th grade, playing the starring role. She's traveled with Rev. Milton Brunson's Thompson Community Singers performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She has performed several years in Karamu's **Black Nativity**, at the Brecksville Community Theater in **Sister Act**, and in the Weathervane Playhouse's **Dreamgirls and Memphis**. Ms. Jenkins won the Best Featured Performer at the 69th annual Chanticleer Awards for her solo performance in the Color Purple.



**Joshua McElroy**

Graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art with a Bachelor's in Video. He has his own videography business and is a Director of Music for two different churches. Mr. McElroy got started in theatre almost a decade ago while he was the Director of the Shaker Heights Improv Team at Shaker Heights High School. He has been part of Case Western Reserve University's IMPROVment and part of a weekly performing comedy group at the Hilarities 4th Street Theatre in downtown Cleveland. Mr. McElroy got his start at Karamu House in musicals such as **The Color Purple**, **The Wiz**, **Passing Strange** and **Aida**. He grew up seeing **Black Nativity** every year and has been a part of the production for 10 years.



**Christina Johnson**

A Cleveland native, is a singer, stylist, songwriter, visual artist and poet. Performing in Karamu's Black Nativity for years, Ms. Johnson recently performed in Karamu House's social justice series **Juneteenth and Freedom** After Juneteenth, has been seen in **What If**, **Sisters of Selma**, **The Wiz** (as Evillene), **The Color Purple** (as Sofia) **Crowns**, **My Brother's Keeper**, **Sister Act**, **Her Hair Went with Her**, and **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom** (as Ma Rainey). Ms. Johnson sees the arts as a catalyst for learning, peace and balance.

## Celebrating our Young Actors

Mina is a recent graduate from Campus International High School and has been a part of Karamu Arts Academy family since 2015. Karamu House is proud to be a part of Mina's journey in her artistic career. Mina is currently training in Stage Management and working as an assistant teacher for Karamu Arts Academy. Mina is gifted in choreography, singing and uplifting others.



**Mina Ali**

Taahir has been in the Karamu Arts Academy family since 2021, training in theatre and is a current Senior in High School. Taahir has performed in Shakespeare **"Midsummer Night's Dream"**, **"Where Do Stories Come From: A Zulu Folktale"**, and featured in a commercial for Art is Me nonprofit. Taahir recently received a role in a local feature film, filmed in December 2022. Taahir is a talented theatre artists and mentor of younger artist in the Karamu Arts Academy.



**Taahir Abdul-Basit**

Mason is a freshman in High School and has been in the Karamu Arts family since 2018.

Mason is a dancer and theatre artist who have performed in **"River in Ink: Langston Hughes Poetry"**, **"Breaking Shadows"**, **"Children of the Earth"** and **"Where Do Stories Come From: A Zulu Folktale"**. Mason has recently been cast in a local feature film. Mason demonstrates hard work and a genuine passion for his craft and ensemble.



**Mason Driscall**

karamuhouse.org

**KARAMU**  
A JOYFUL GATHERING PLACE



# The Happenings in Arts Education



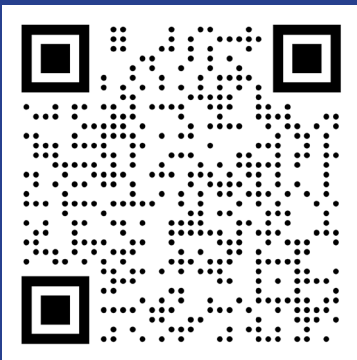
**Arts Academy Program that took place in November** - Karamu Arts Academy hosted two culminating events for our Fall 2022 adult and youth program artists. The Karamu Arts Adults demonstrated their talents in tap dance and acting during our "Autumn Leaves" recital that featured Cleveland's own Horns and Things. Youth artists presented in a recital for their family, friends and community highlighting their new technique in theatre and ballet. **Kwanzaa** – UJAMAA! Karamu Arts Alumni, Mina Ali, choreographed and stage managed the Karamu Arts Academy teen artists Kwanzaa presentation. The event was sponsored by Jack and Jill Cleveland Chapter and featured an educational Kwanzaa demonstration, arts and crafts of treasure boxes, African Dance Class, Afro-beats and a short film. Cooperative economics was demonstrated in the presentation and in the partnership of Cleveland artists and organizations.

**MLK** – Karamu Arts Academy hosted its first Open House of the year granting community members an opportunity to engage in a sample Arts Education class and for parents and guardians to receive assistance in the registration process. We honor Martin Luther King Jr. dream by giving a safe place for emerging artists of all ages to receive training and support in their artist dreams.

## Sign Up Today!

For more information visit  
[karamu.coursesform.com](http://karamu.coursesform.com)

To purchase tickets  
for upcoming shows  
scan here!



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### > SUMMER ARTS INTENSIVE

7 week performing arts intensive for students completing grades 7-12.

### > FAMILY NIGHT

All arts education students and families receive complimentary tickets to see Karamu mainstage productions.

### > SCHOOL TOURS

Hosted on Tuesdays and Thursday schools and organizations receive a tour and workshop on the history of Karamu.

### > ADULT PROGRAMMING

Aspiring and seasoned adult actors are welcomed to join acting workshop exploring objectives, tactics and script analysis. Adults can also train in tap classes free thanks to funding from Cleveland Clinic.

### > YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Karamu Arts Academy provides intensive theatre education course, training youth to perform on a professional level. Students in grades K-12 receive training in dance, theatre, and vocal music. Sessions take place in the Fall and Spring and culminates in productions demonstrating technique, historical knowledge and social justice. (Littles K-2),

## KARAMU ARTS ACADEMY 4 PILLARS

*On these four pillars we build every artist as individuals and creatives;*

**Sacred Space** - We create an environment in which any individual can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment, or any other emotional or physical harm.

**Technique** - We provide professional training in the technique required to perform/create within very art discipline.

**Culture/History** - We connect historical events and social issues to works of art developed due to cultural shifts and social impact. Artists will understand the societal context in which technique shift and new works are created.

**Personal Expression** - Upon understanding and implementing techniques students are encouraged to use artistry to express their individual views and stories.



**YOUNG KARAMU**  
**PROFESSIONALS**  
**COUNCIL**

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## Young Professional Council

The Karamu House Young Professionals Council (YPC) is a unique and new opportunity for professionals under the age of 40 to engage in both leadership development and the performing and visual arts. Karamu YPC membership also provides opportunities to network and socialize with other young professionals as well as members of the Karamu House Board of Directors. The Council comes together ten times per year in a variety of activities. Additionally, Council members can engage in other events throughout the year, including other Karamu House special events, performances, and classes. Annual membership for first-year members is a tax-deductible membership donation of \$100.00. Contact Dr. Sadie Winlock at [swinlock@karamuhouse.org](mailto:swinlock@karamuhouse.org) for more information.



## Become a Karamu Volunteer

Love the theatre? Interested in becoming a part of the team? Karamu House has been supported by large numbers of dedicated volunteers since its founding in 1915. Opportunities for volunteering are as ushers during our performances and special events, as well as involvement with education, fundraising, and other projects.

Hundreds of volunteers provide service-related support each season. Volunteer Ushers participate in "front of house" duties during the mainstage season as Karamu House, as well as during other special events and programming. Tour Guides lead tours of Karamu House, and Store Volunteers help staff the Anthony (Tony) Smith Gift Shop. To find out more about volunteering at Karamu, contact Ms. Barbara Cooper at [Bcooper@karamuhouse.org](mailto:Bcooper@karamuhouse.org)

## Donate to Karamu

As a non-profit organization, Karamu House depends on the support of its donors and patrons to continue its rich legacy of providing unique, and culturally and socially responsive programming. There are several ways to support the oldest Black producing theatre in the nation:

- ◆ Personal donation helps with purchasing arts education materials for students, while a larger donation of \$1000 or more covers the cost of a student or adult workshop participation
- ◆ Planned gift to Karamu comes in many forms: remembering the organization in your will, establishing an income-producing gift, or giving appreciated stock, can help ensure that Karamu remains an arts leader in our community, and continues to transform lives and provide arts experiences for the benefit of all.
- ◆ Corporate sponsorship supports arts education and community programming, our Capital Campaign giving or our annual benefit.

**Visit our website at [www.karamuhouse.org](http://www.karamuhouse.org) or contact Dr. Sadie Winlock at [swinlock@karamuhouse.org](mailto:swinlock@karamuhouse.org) for more information.**

## Our Sponsors

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## Things to Remember

- **Red Summer**, February 24 through March 5, 2023, **Bubbly Black Girl**, April 20 through May 14 in the Jelliffe,
- tickets on sale NOW at [karamuhouse.org](http://karamuhouse.org)
- Second Line Parade + Sneaker Ball AUGUST 12, 2023 - Held in Cleveland's historic Lake View Cemetery
- 2023-24 Season Tickets go on sale Spring 2023 – purchase at [karamuhouse.org](http://karamuhouse.org)
- Arts Academy classes/workshops – contact Ms. Latecia Wilson at [lwilson@karamuhouse.org](mailto:lwilson@karamuhouse.org)
- Volunteering - contact Ms. Barbara Cooper at [bcooper@karamuhouse.org](mailto:bcooper@karamuhouse.org)
- Donate to Karamu - Visit our website at [karamuhouse.org](http://karamuhouse.org) or contact Dr. Sadie Winlock at [swinlock@karamuhouse.org](mailto:swinlock@karamuhouse.org) for more information.