2023-24 Mainstage Season

Ride the Cyclone: The Musical

Wedding Band
A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE
BY ALICE CHILDRESS

She Loves Me

Criminal Genius
a play by George F. Walker
WEDDING BAND
A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE
BY ALICE CHILDESS

Cast

JULIA AUGUSTINE................................................................. Kaitlyn Rose
TEETA .................................................................................. Arianna Foreman
MATTIE ................................................................................ Malia Jones
LULA GREEN ....................................................................... Israeli Jones
FANNY JOHNSON .................................................................. Xiana Cylin
NELSON GREEN .................................................................. Dwayne Freeman, Jr.
THE BELL MAN ...................................................................... James Medwedeff
PRINCESS ............................................................................ Amelia Wededeff
HERMAN ................................................................................ Seth Worthington
ANNABELLE ........................................................................ Bailey Warner
FRIEDA .................................................................................. Imogen Perry

Swings & Understudies

TEETA .................................................................................. Phoenix McCoy

Artistic Staff

Director .............................................................................. Omiyemi Green
Dramaturg ........................................................................... Brandon Jones
Dialects/Vocal coach .............................................................. Susan Patrick Steinfeldt
Scenic Designer .................................................................... Timothy Jones
Sound Designer .................................................................... Grace Douglas
Costume Designer .................................................................. Jennifer N. Helms
Lighting Designer ................................................................... Jaemin Park
Technical Director ................................................................. Thomas Fagerholm
Assistant Technical Director ................................................ Uriel Achilleus

Wedding Band is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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Production Staff

Production Manager ......................................................... Thomas Fagerholm
Dramaturgy Supervisor ....................................................... Jaime Gray
Scenic Design Supervisor ...................................................... M.K. Hughes
Thomas Fagerholm ................................................................. Scenic Shop Supervisor
Props Primary ....................................................................... Rebecca Frye
Assistant Props ....................................................................... Allison Weaver
Props Artists ........................................................................ Saina Seraj, Seraphine Ott
Scenic Charge Artist .......................................................... Grace Rueter
Scenic Painters ................................................................. Rachana Barapati, Bhavana Gummadoju
Carpenters ........................................................................... Leonard Lively, Charles Lockridge,
                                                     Meghana Reddy Pedolla, Vijay Kumar Poluri,
                                                     Rachana Barapati, Bhavana Gummadoju,
                                                     Uriel Achilleus, Z Moss, 218A & 220 classes
Costume Design Supervisor .................................................. Wendi Zea
Costume Studio Manager ....................................................... Jane Pivovarnik
Costume Crafts Artisan ......................................................... Jennifer N. Helms
Wig Designer/Stylist ............................................................ Jennifer N. Helms, Wendi Zea
Wardrobe Supervisor ............................................................ Grace Rueter
Draper .................................................................................. Jane Pivovarnik, Haley Hutchins
First Hand ............................................................................ Aleka Fischer
Stitchers ............................................................................... Haley Hutchins, Aleka Fischer,
                                                     Ben Selsor, Sabrina Holtgrewe, Arianna Foreman,
                                                     Van Leonard, Lydia Holtermann, Olivia Manning, Milo Wallace,
                                                     218C class
Lighting Design Supervisor ................................................... Jaemin Park
Electricians ........................................................................ Mitchell Brandon, Aaliyah Pompee
Stage Management Supervisor ............................................ Matthew Williams
Production Stage Manager ..................................................... Mitchell Brandon
Assistant Stage Manager(s) .................................................... Faith Smothers

Running Crew

Deck Crew .......................................................................... Jamie Mccormick
Light Board Operator ........................................................... Lydia Holtermann
Sound Board Operator .......................................................... Brandon Jones
Sound Designer ...................................................................... Grace Douglas
Wardrobe Crew ............................................................... Blake Selsor, Erin Kelley, Grace Rueter, Olivia Manning
Scene Break

Act I Scene 1............................................. "Summer 1918...Saturday morning"
Act I Scene 2........................................................................................................ "That evening"
Act II Scene 1 ................................................................................................. "Sunday morning"

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

Act II Scene 2 ............................................................. "Early afternoon the following day"

'Wedding Band' is set in 1918 South Carolina, a time and place in history when laws banning interracial marriage were firmly in place. This play frankly explores themes of race and class and questions the devastating impact of unjust laws on ordinary human lives. Explicit racist language and actions are depicted and described throughout the play.

These themes, language, and actions may cause intense physiological and psychological reactions. We encourage you to attend to your wellbeing and disengage from the performance if needed.

Counseling and Psychological Services offers same day support for SIU students at multiple locations on campus 8:00am-9:00pm Monday through Friday and 12:30-9:00pm Saturday and Sunday. Please call (618) 453-5371 so we can direct you to a location. Support and risk assessment after 9:00pm and campus closures is available by calling Connect@SIU at 1-833-434-1217.
Cast Bios

James Medwedeff is a senior BFA and history major here at SIU. *The Bell Man* will be his third role. His past credits are Karnak in “Ride the Cyclone”, and Lord Capulet in “Romeo and Juliet”. He considers it a great privilege to be part of this beautiful and important show, and to support all his amazing castmates. James enjoys coin collecting, reading, and playing World of Warships. He would also like to thank his amazing parents for all their love and support, 143.

Kaitlyn Rose (Julia Augustine) is a freshman Musical Theatre BFA student and is excited to be a part of the outstanding cast of *Wedding Band*. *Wedding Band* is also Kaitlyn’s first SIU Theater production! Other acting credits include Ti Moune (Once on This Island), Deloris (Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy), Velma Understudy/June (Squish) (Chicago: High School Edition), and Blind Mouse/Dragonette/Sleeping Beauty (Shrek: The Musical). Kaitlyn would like to thank her parents, Camille and Paul, and her friends (Chloe, Amelia, Ameriah, Seth, Bailey, Gaige, Michelle, and Daylin) for supporting them throughout her college theater career and for making sure she is loved no matter what. She would also like to thank Professor Omiyemi and the entirety of the production team for making this show come to life, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lia Jones has been an undergrad at SIU since 2021! You may have seen her in Romeo and Juliet as Lady Capulet or In Mousetrap as Ms. Boyle! Lia also took to the stage in SIU’s Sondheim Revue with an amazing rendition of Being Alive. Lia also performed this summer as Marian in McLeod Summer Playhouse’s “Bridges Of Madison County”. Their most recent role was in SIUC’s production of Ride the Cyclone where they played Ocean Rosenberg. Now Lia comes to you as the loving Mattie in Alice Childress’ *Wedding Band* (A Love/Hate story in black and white) We hope to see you there!

Phoenix McCoy is a first year at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. *Wedding Band* is the first production she has been a part of as an understudy. For the past five years, Phoenix has been working in the technical side of theater helping with makeup, building the set, props, and lights. She is very appreciative of having the opportunity to work with everyone who is a part of the *Wedding Band* and hopes to gain more experience and knowledge as an actor during this show.
Cast Bios

Seth is a freshman BFA here at SIU. You may have seen him during his debut in Ride the Cyclone earlier this semester. Seth is so thankful that he gets to be in this production, this process has opened his eyes to the possibilities that theater holds to make a change in the world. He is so thankful for the entire production team for helping to bring this incredible story to life. Special thanks to the Director Omiyemi Green for giving him the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing group of people. Playing Herman has challenged him to really step away from his usual process and routines. As well as teaching him the importance of teamwork and connection between actors. He wants to thank you for coming and be sure to listen carefully.

Amelia Warner is a freshman BFA and is so excited to join the cast of Wedding Band, her first production here at SIU. Amelia has been doing theater since she was eight years old with her notable role as the baby lion in Seussical JR. Other acting credits include Katherine Plumber (Newsies), Linda Mason (Holiday Inn), Piperello (All in Disguise), and Ethel McCormack (Footloose). She would like to thank her parents, Jennifer and Paul, her twin brother, David, and her grandparents, Carmen and Dave, for supporting her since day one. Amelia would like to give one last final thanks to everyone who helped with this production. Enjoy the show!

Arianna Foreman is a senior BA Theater Major here at SIUC. Originally from Atlanta, Ga, in hope to pursue a career as a film and tv actress. She is very excited to play sassy and fun little Teeta and be a part of the outstanding cast of Wedding Band! Looking back, she has enjoyed playing Riley in an original play by Pearl Moore (Murphy’s Law of Pretenders), Radio Voice in Agatha Christie’s (The Mouse Trap), Assisting stage managing Little Women, dressing multiple shows, and performing directing scenes. Arianna would like to thank her family and friends for the love and support. She also like to thank the wonderful director Professor Omiyemi for creating a safe space so we as actors can thrive. This has been an amazing and unforgettable experience. Thank you for coming and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Bailey Warner (Annabelle) is so honored to be apart of this wonderful cast and is so proud of all of her friends! Bailey is a transfer student from southeastern Illinois college where she has played the roles of Cinderella-Cinderella, Sandy- The Play That Goes Wrong. Doralee- 9 to 5. She wants to thank her friends, family and fiancé for giving her unwavering love and support with perusing her dream, and wants to thank Professor Green for creating such a safe space for a beautiful show.
Dwayne Freeman Jr is a professional Model & Actor from Chicago, IL. He is a continuing Junior in Television production with a minor in Theater & Dance here at SIUC. He is known for his notable works as The Prince in “Romeo & Juliet”, Biondello & The Tailor in “The Taming of the Shrew”. Dwayne also loves to participate in other small scenes and films across campus. Outside of school Dwayne is represented by Babes ’N Beaus Chicago where he can be seen in notable works such South Side on HBO MAX, Durango60023 and print commercials. After college he plans to travel and pursue his dreams as a professional actor.

Imogen Prudent-Perry (Frieda) is a double major in both Music and Theater. You may have seen her in various productions at Rend Lake College as Darkana Nightglade in Aladdin or Mrs. Kirk in Little Women. You may have also seen her over the summer as First Woman in the Pyramid Players production of Fiddler On The Roof. This is her first School of Theater and Dance main show. She would like to thank her friends, family, her wife Mae, the Rend Lake College theater faculty for kickstarting her foray into theater, and her current SIU professors for helping her along her path. She expresses utmost gratitude to director Omiyemi Green for giving her this opportunity.

Israeli Jones is a musical theatre bfa sophomore. You may have seen her in the School of Music’s production of “Old Maid and the Thief”. This is her first Theater and Dance main season show and she is thrilled to be a part of such a beautiful production! She’d like to thank her family for supporting her, and all her cast mates for making this a wonderful experience. She hopes you enjoy The Wedding Band!!

Xiana Cylin is a twenty-five-year-old Senior BFA musical theater major from Jackson, Tennessee. Acting and Music has always been a huge part of her life, and she is blessed to be able to study at SIU to achieve her dream of going to Broadway someday. She has been in an original play by Lavinia Roberts titled The Curious Case of Agatha Christie. She was also a swing in the production of Lucky Stiff, played Jo March in Little Women the musical, and brought Mollie Ralston to life in The Mousetrap. She has also been seen performing with her BFA peers in the Sondheim Tribute, played Sarah in Funny house, and Lisa in Corduroy for the McLeod Summer Playhouse last summer! Now she will be joining the stage with her two brilliant sisters and very talented actors, as Fanny Johnson in The Wedding Band. She hopes everyone will take home something after watching the show and appreciate the message of this wonderful story.
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