

# Count Basie Center Academy of the Arts

PRODUCTION OF



Music and Lyrics by  
**Elton John & Tim Rice**

Additional Music and Lyrics by  
**Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin,  
and Hans Zimmer**

Book by  
**Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi**

Based on the Broadway production directed by  
**Julie Taymour**

Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and  
"Luau Hawaiian Treat" written by **Will Van Dyke**

"It's a Small World" written by **Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman**

DISNEY'S THE LION KING JR.  
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.MTIshows.com](http://www.MTIshows.com)

# Who's Who in the CAST

Rafiki ..... Carolina DeNicola  
Mufasa ..... Lia Saiz-Stagich  
Sarabi ..... Ava McTaggart  
Zazu ..... Ellie Toll-McNab  
Scar ..... Regan Manley  
Young Simba ..... Harry Ngo  
Young Nala ..... Dylan Manley  
Sarafina ..... Ella Topham  
Banzai ..... Darren Freeman  
Shenzi ..... Caitlin Connolly  
Ed ..... Dylan Kreizer  
Timon ..... Juliana McMeans  
Pumba ..... Patrick Kenney  
Simba ..... Emily Ferrao  
Nala ..... Julia Machado

## LIONESSES

Maya Barrett, Daisy Ifantis, Julia Machado, Julia McGrory,  
Ava McTaggart, Julia Monteleone, Nina Celeste Monteleone,  
Katelyn Roche, Ella Topham + Kelcie Zink

## HYENAS

Christina Caruso, Natalie DeFina, PJ DiFranco, Julian Galano,  
Ellora Jain, Giselle Lopez, Gabby Maher + Emily Steel

## PRIDELAND PALS

**BIRDS:** Annie Carras, Noelle Davis + Giulietta Pontoriero

**CHEETAHS:** Christina Caruso, Natalie DeFina,

Ellora Jain, Charli Kreizer + Gabby Maher

**ELEPHANTS:** Olivia Kurre, Marie McBurnie,

Emily Steel + Isabella Wellner

**GAZELLES:** Falyn Ciambone, Avery Connolly,

Adelynn Durko + Olivia Richardson

**MONKIES:** PJ DiFranco, Julian Galano, Patrick Kenney,

Tyson Manley + Harry Ngo

**ZEBRAS:** Lily Capadona, Emily Ferrao, Giselle Lopez,

Dylan Manley, Juliana McMeans + Kayla Schleicher

# Production Staff

Producers	Jessica O'Brien + Anthony Greco
Director/Choreographer	Ariana Gentamore + Edward Itte
Associate Teaching Artist	Alyssa Kiselev
Costume Design	Bonnie Way Costumes
Lighting Design	Emily Lovell
Set Design	Ashley Gusack
Playbill Design	Jessica Skolnick
Graphic Design	Andrew Musser

# Production Interns

Immanuel Archilla, Jenna Barry, Carolena Blasucci,  
Christie DeNicola, Gianna Giglio, Zoe Kenney, Ainsley Lang,  
Nick Lutz, Benjamin Neller, Daphne Vazquez-Pastrana,  
Shea Preston, Tiffany Ragusa + Carl Smith

# Special Thanks

Andrew Musser, Mike Jacoby, Charlie Christensen,  
the Count Basie technical crew, Chris Lomazzo,  
Sophia Gonzalez, Samantha Giustiniani, the Education  
Department, the Marketing Department, Joanne Penrose,  
Ashley Gusack, Phoenix Productions, James Grausam,  
Bryan Torrech-Diaz, Maeve Boger-O'Bryan, our fabulous  
production interns, and, of course, the parents  
for their continued support!



# Song Breakdown

## ACT ONE

<i>Circle of Life</i>	Rafiki + Company
<i>The Lioness Hunt</i>	Lionesses
<i>I Just Can't Wait to Be King</i>	Young Simba,
	Young Nala + Prideland Pals
<i>Be Prepared</i>	Scar + Hyenas
<i>They Live in You</i>	Mufasa + Lionesses
<i>The Stampede</i>	Wildebeests
<i>The Mourning</i>	Lionesses, Scar + Hyenas

## ACT TWO

<i>Hakuna Matata</i>	Timon, Pumba,
	Young Simba + Simba
<i>Shadowland</i>	Nala + Lionesses
<i>Can You Feel the Love Tonight</i>	Timon, Pumba,
	Simba, Nala + Prideland Pals
<i>He Lives in You</i>	Rafiki, Simba + Prideland Pals
<i>Luau Hawaiian Treat</i>	Timon + Pumba
<i>Finale</i>	Company



**Maya Barrett**  
(Lioness)



**Lily Capadona**  
(Zebra/Wildebeest)





**Annie Carras**  
(Bird/Wildebeest)



**Christina Caruso**  
(Hyena/Cheetah)



**Nina Celeste Monteleone**  
(Lioness)



**Falyn Ciambrone**  
(Gazelle/Wildebeest)





**Caitlin Connolly**  
(Shenzi)



**Avery Connolly**  
(Gazelle/Wildebeest)



**Noelle Davis**  
(Bird/Wildebeest)



**Natalie DeFina**  
(Hyena/Cheetah)





**Carolina DeNicola**  
(Rafiki)



**PJ DiFranco**  
(Hyena/Monkey)



**Adelynn Durko**  
(Gazelle/Wildebeest)



**Emily Ferrao**  
(Simba/Zebra)





**Darren Freeman**  
(Banzai)



**Julian Galano**  
(Hyena/Monkey)



**Daisy Ifantis**  
(Lioness)



**Ellora Jain**  
(Hyena/Cheetah)





**Patrick Kenney**  
(Pumba/Monkey)



**Dylan Kreizer**  
(Ed)



**Charli Kreizer**  
(Cheetah/Wildebeest)



**Olivia Kurre**  
(Elephant/Wildebeest)





**Giselle Lopez**  
(Hyena/Zebra)



**Julia Machado**  
(Nala/Lioness)



**Gabby Maher**  
(Hyena/Cheetah)



**Regan Manley**  
(Scar)





**Dylan Manley**  
(Young Nala/Zebra)



**Tyson Manley**  
(Monkey/Wildebeest)



**Marie McBurnie**  
(Elephant/Wildebeest)



**Julia McCrory**  
(Lioness)





**Juliana McMeans**  
(Timon/Zebra)



**Ava McTaggart**  
(Sarabi/Lioness)



**Julia Monteleone**  
(Lioness)



**Harry Ngo**  
(Young Simba/Monkey)





**Giulietta Pontoriero**  
(Bird/Wildebeest)



**Olivia Richardson**  
(Gazelle/Wildebeest)



**Katelyn Roche**  
(Lioness)



**Lia Saiz-Stagich**  
(Mufasa)





**Kayla Schleicher**  
(Zebra/Wildebeest)



**Emily Steel**  
(Hyena/Elephant)



**Ellie Toll-McNab**  
(Zazu)



**Ella Topham**  
(Sarafina/Lioness)





**Isabella Wellner**  
(Elephant/Wildebeest)



**Kelcie Zink**  
(Lioness)

# SUMMER 2023

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COUNT BASIE CENTER  
ACADEMY OF THE

# ARTS





**So proud of our bright stars,**

**Julia Neve and Nina Celeste!**

**We love you and are amazed by your kindness, courage, and talents each day. Break a leg to *The Lion King, Jr.* cast and crew. Keep shining your beautiful light—Hakuna Matata!**

**The Monteleone Family**

**Ella,**

**You are the best Sarafina in all the pride lands. We are so proud of you, your commitment, and love for acting and singing. Keep reaching for the stars. You are amazing! Love, Mom, Dad, Ethan, MeMom and GPa**







*Isabella,*  
**Congratulations**  
**on your**  
**performance! We**  
**are so proud**  
**of you!!**  
**We love you!**

Love,  
 Mommy, Jocelyn,  
 and Nevaeh



**Congratulations to the cast**  
**and crew of *The Lion King, Jr.***  
**from the McTaggart family!**  
**Break a leg!**

**Ava,** you are a shining star!  
**We are so proud of you.**

**Congratulations**  
**Isabella!**  
**Love, Dad, Krissy,**  
**Katie, Jackie &**  
**Emma**



# Great Work GABBY!



Congratulations to the entire cast  
and crew of *The Lion King, Jr!*

Break a leg **Emily Rose!**

We are so proud of you and can't  
wait to see you shine on stage!!

You are such a blessing and bring  
joy and laughter to us all

Enjoy the adventure ...

Beijinhos e abraços - Mom, Dad,  
Nick, El and Sparkie xoxo

We are so proud of you and the  
entire cast of *The Lion King!*

Love,  
Mom, Dad, & Derek





**Congratulations **Emily!****

**We are so proud of you and know you  
will be amazing as Simba!  
Keep reaching for the stars  
"Hakuna Matata !!"**

**We love you very much!**

**Love, Nanny, VoVo and VoVo**



**Congratulations  
**Emily, Marie  
and Kelcie!****

**We can't wait to see  
the show 🤗! Have fun &  
break a leg!**

**Love, The Ferraos**



**Falyn,**

**From softball, to  
basketball, to  
theatre, you  
never stop  
amazing us! We're  
very proud of you  
and can't wait to  
see what you do  
next! Keep  
reaching for the  
stars!**

**Love,  
Mommy, Daddy,  
Nicholas and Roey**





Dear **Caitlin**,  
We are so proud  
of you and cannot  
wait to see you  
on stage! Keep  
following your  
dreams, we love  
you so much ❤️  
Love Mom and  
Dad



Dear **Avery**,  
We are so proud  
of you and cannot  
wait to watch you  
in your first  
performance!  
Keep being you,  
we love you so  
much ❤️  
Love Mom and  
Dad

**Believe in yourself,  
work hard and dreams  
will come true.  
Love, mǎe, papi, Sonso**





**Christina,**

**Look at how the stars  
in the sky shine for you!  
We know you are going  
to bring magic to The  
Lion King Jr. production  
just like you bring so  
much magic to our lives  
each and every day!  
Congratulations, we  
are so proud of you!**

**Hakuna matata baby!  
Love you so much!  
xoxoxo  
Love Mommy and Daddy**



Dear Sister...

"Always Remember ...

- You are beautiful
- You are worthy
- You are important
- You are special
- You are unique
- You are talented and
- You are irreplaceable!"

I Love You Sis.

**Charli &  
Dylan**

**we are so  
proud of  
you!**

**Love, Mom,  
Dad and  
Austin**

**Always an animal  
lover from THEN**



**to NOW**

**Congratulations to all the  
cast and crew of  
*The Lion King, Jr!***

**Love Mom, Dad and Daphne**





*Julian ~  
Break a  
leg!  
Love,  
Mommy  
and  
Zeena,  
Mama  
and  
Nina,  
Luca,  
Callie,  
Charlie,  
and  
Sophia*



**I'm not "lion," we are  
incredibly proud of you **PJ!****

**Keep reaching for the stars &  
pursuing your dreams!**

**Love, Mom, Dad, & Madi**

**MAYA**

**We are so proud of you!  
Congrats on your first show  
with the Count Basie Center!**

**Love, Your Family**



**ADDIE**

Our shining star! We are so proud of you  
and hope you can feel all the love tonight.

**DAD, MOM, BRYNN, & LUKE**



# CONGRATULATIONS ANNIE



WE LOVE YOU AND WE  
ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, GEORGE, NANNY, POPPY & STEPHIE



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ACADEMY OF THE  
**ARTS**

