

MEET THE TOURING COMPANY

**RICK L. SPIVEY**

Storyteller / Messenger

Audiences will remember Rick's performances in previous DCT national tours of *A Midnight Cry: The Underground Railroad to Freedom*, *If You Give A Pig A Party*, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* and *Most Valuable Player*. His regional credits include featured roles in *South Pacific*, *Cinderella* and *A Few Good Men* with CASA MANANA; *Jitney* and *Flying West* with AFRICAN AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER; and *God's Trombones* and *The African Company Presents Richard III* with JUBILEE THEATER. Mr. Spivey has also performed with THE BUTTERFLY CONNECTION and DVA PRODUCTIONS.

**CALVIN ROBERTS**

Villager 1 / Hungry Boy / Laughing Tree / King

Calvin is delighted to be making his DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER debut! He was recently featured as a Pit Vocalist in DALLAS THEATER CENTER's production of *The Wiz*. His other regional credits include *Flora, the Red Menace* with LYRIC STAGE; *The Drowsy Chaperone* with THEATRE THREE; and *A Christmas Carol* with DALLAS THEATER CENTER. Mr. Roberts has also appeared in *Ain't Misbehavin'* with THEATRE ARLINGTON; *Miss Saigon* with REPERTORY COMPANY THEATRE; *Ragtime* with the JCC OF DALLAS; *Sugar* with ICT MANISTAGE; and *The Merchant of Venice* and *Julius Caesar* with SHAKESPEARE DALLAS.

**ASHLEY DUPLCHAIN**

Villager 2 / Old Woman / Laughing Tree / Puppeteer

Ashley lends her talents to DCT for a third national tour where she previously appeared in *If You Give A Pig A Party* and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. She also appeared in DCT's 2006 and 2009 main-stage productions of *Junie B. Jones* and *a Little Monkey Business*. Her other regional credits include *Hair* with UPTOWN PLAYERS, *Cabin in the Sky* with LYRIC STAGE, *Caroline or Change* with THEATRE THREE, and *Ain't Misbehavin'* with JUBILEE THEATER. Ms. Duplechain was most recently seen in *Ragtime* with the JCC OF DALLAS.

**IVAN JONES**

Mufaro

Ivan is pleased to be reprising the role of Mufaro, which he created for DCT's 2008-2009 national touring production. His Dallas area credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Rocky Horror Show* with KD STUDIOS; *42nd St.* and *Cats* with GARLAND SUMMER MUSICALS; *Puss in Boots* and *Babes in the Wood* with THEATRE BRITAIN; and *Lucifer Descending* with MBS PRODUCTIONS. Mr. Jones also danced with THE DALLAS OPERA in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Boris Godunov*. He holds Associates Degrees in Theater and Musical Theater from KD Studio's Acting Conservatory.

**CHARLI ARMSTRONG**

Manyara

Charli returns to the role of Manyara, which she portrayed in the 2008-2009 national tour of *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. She also appeared in DCT's main-stage production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Her other Dallas area credits include featured roles in *Aladdin* and *Puss In Boots* with THEATRE BRITAIN; *The Soul Gatherer* with MBS PRODUCTIONS; and *Tom, Dick and Harry* with POCKET SANDWICH THEATRE.

**RHIANNA MACK**

Nyahsha

*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* marks Rhianna's third outing with DCT's national tour. She was previously seen in *African Tales of Earth and Sky* and *A Midnight Cry: The Underground Railroad to Freedom*. Her numerous acting credits include *365 Plays in 365 Days* with DALLAS THEATER CENTER.; *A Dog's Life* with THEATRE THREE; *Edmond* with SECOND THOUGHT THEATER; the award-winning *Heaven Forbid(s)!* with MORTICE ENTERPRISES; *The Exonerated* with WATERTOWER THEATER; the highly acclaimed 16 character, one-woman show *No Child* with AMPHIBIAN STAGE PRODUCTIONS; and most recently *Passing Strange* with THE POLLARD THEATRE in Guthrie, OK. Rhianna has worked extensively in commercials and independent films and was featured in the Lifetime Original Movie *The Fantasia Barrino Story: Life is Not a Fairy Tale*, directed by Debbie Allen. Ms. Mack is represented by the Mary Collins Agency of Dallas, TX.

**ERIC FRANKLIN**

Production Manager / Technical Director

Eric continues his association with DCT where he served as Stage Manager for last season's national tour of *Giggle, Giggle, Quack* and the local touring production of *Señora Tortuga*. He also served as Audio Engineer for numerous DCT main-stage productions including *Junie B. Jones* and *a Little Monkey Business*; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; *How I Became a Pirate* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He was also the Lighting Technician for KATHY BURKS THEATRE OF PUPPETRY ARTS' original production of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Prior to joining DCT's technical staff, Eric was a theatrical technician for ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL. He holds a BA in Theatre from Stephen F. Austin State University.

**ZANE A. WHITNEY JR.**

Stage Manager

Mr. Whitney returns to DCT where he served as a production/education intern for the 2008-2009 main-stage season. His Stage Management credits include the dance companies REAL WOMEN DANCING and DANCEWORKS. He holds a Professional Training Program Certificate from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake, CA and a BFA in Acting from Stephen F. Austin State University.

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER ON TOUR

In

JOHN STEPTOE'S

*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*



AN AFRICAN TALE

Based on the Book by JOHN STEPTOE

Adapted for the Stage by KAREN ABBOTT Music & Lyrics by S-ANKH RASA

Artwork from "Mufro's Beautiful Daughters - An African Tale" Copyright © 1987 by John Steptoe. Use licensed by the John Steptoe Literary Trust

# DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER ON TOUR

Presents

## Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

AN AFRICAN TALE

BASED ON THE BOOK BY **JOHN STEPTOE**

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY **KAREN ABBOTT**

MUSIC & LYRICS BY **S-ANKH RASA**

DIRECTED BY

**ROBYN FLATT**

MUSICAL DIRECTION, RECORDED ACCOMPANIMENT & SOUND DESIGN BY

**S-ANKH RASA**

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

**MICHELLE NICOLE GIBSON**

SCENIC DESIGN BY

**RANDEL WRIGHT**

LIGHTING DESIGN BY

**LINDA BLASE**

PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**ERIC FRANKLIN**

COSTUME DESIGN BY

**BARBARA COX**

PROPERTIES DESIGN BY

**JEN SPILLANE & TISH MUSSEY**

STAGE MANAGER

**ZANE A. WHITNEY JR.**

PRODUCER / TOUR DIRECTOR

**SALLY FIORELLO**

DCT PRODUCTION MANAGER & ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER - **MELISSA CASHION**

DCT TECH DIRECTOR - **MAC LOWER**

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE - **JOHN MOSS** ASSOCIATE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - **RUSS ARNETT**

SCENIC ARTIST - **ANNA KLAWITTER** STAFF ELECTRICIAN - **ZIGGY RENNNER**

MUSIC RECORDED AT **AUDIO DALLAS STUDIOS**, GARLAND TX

SOUND ENGINEERING BY **RAY BOLLIN**

### THE CAST

Storyteller / Messenger . . . . . **RICK SPIVEY**  
Villager 1 / Hungry Boy / Laughing Tree / King . . . . . **CALVIN ROBERTS**  
Villager 2 / Old Woman / Laughing Tree / Puppeteer . . . . . **ASHLEY DUPLCHAIN**  
Mufaro . . . . . **IVAN JONES**  
Manyara . . . . . **CHARLI ARMSTRONG**  
Nyasha . . . . . **RHIANNA MACK**

SPECIAL THANKS TO **PAN AFRICAN CONNECTION & SANDY CLARK TRAVEL**

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### MEET THE DIRECTORS

#### ROBYN FLATT

DCT Executive Artistic Director & Director of MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

Robyn Flatt co-founded DCT in 1984 with start-up funds of \$500. Under her artistic leadership, the theater's creative and operational stature has grown over the past 27 years to reflect its current annual budget of more than \$3 million. Her theatrical career has brought her acclaim as a professional director, actor and lighting designer. During her tenure as a member of the DALLAS THEATER CENTER Resident Company, she served as Assistant Artistic Director, Director of MIMeACT and THEATER-IN-THE-PARKS. She holds an MA Degree from Baylor University and studied with Etienne Decroux, Juana Laban and Hanya Holm. Among Ms. Flatt's many acting credits include two roles she created for award-winning world premiere productions: Dewey Dell in *Journey to Jefferson* and Martha Ann Sickenger in Preston Jones' *The Oldest Living Graduate*. Her directing credits at DCT include *Coyote Tales*; *The Great Gilly Hopkins*; the world premiere musical adaptation by Linda Daugherty and Danny Ray of Steven Kellogg's *The Three Sillies*; *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; *The Miracle Worker*; *Island of the Blue Dolphins*; and the critically acclaimed productions of *And Then They Came For Me* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has served on the boards of AATE and ASSITEJ/USA and is a recipient of The 500, Inc.'s prestigious Ken Bryant Visionary Award, Dallas Historical Society's 1999 Excellence in Community Service for Creative Arts, the 2002 Leon Rabin Standing Ovation Award, and the Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award. Ms. Flatt is an inductee into the College of Fellows of American Theatre and holds the honorary designation of American Theatre Fellow for life. She was recently nominated by The Dallas Morning News arts staff for the 2010 Texan of the Year Award.

#### S-ANKH RASA

Composer / Lyricist / Musical Director / Accompanist of MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

At age 12, S-Ankh Rasa was the youngest student accepted to the University of California, Berkeley Music Department. He composed his first symphony at 15 while attending the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. At 16, he performed at the MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL as a featured saxophonist with Dizzy Gillespie and the Modern Jazz Quartet. In Los Angeles he worked as a studio musician (saxophone, flute, & clarinet), composer, arranger, and musical director with Marvin Gaye, Natalie Cole, Stevie Wonder, Debbie Allen and Fame, The Temptations Reunion Tour, Barry White, The Four Tops, and many others. He retired from the studio music scene at the age of 26 and began studying traditional African music. This led to a US tour with the world-renowned African drummer, Mamady Keita. Mr. Rasa is also a performer and historian of the kora (African harp) and composes and sings in 3 languages. He is the founder of KUMASSI AFRICAN ENSEMBLE ([www.kumaasi.org](http://www.kumaasi.org)) and the composer/conductor of JUJU NATION AFRICAN ARKESTRA ([www.juju-nation.com](http://www.juju-nation.com)). Mr. Rasa worked with acclaimed actress, playwright, and director Regina Taylor on the Dallas production of *Crowns* in the vital role of multi-percussionist. He also performed in the US tour of *Crowns* as co-Music Director and multi-percussionist under the direction of Andrea Frye. Mr. Rasa composed and performed a one-man original score for *Crystal City 1969* directed by David Lozano for CARA MIA THEATRE COMPANY. His other DCT collaborations include original music, compositions and musical direction for *Ananse the Spider Man* and *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*.

#### MICHELLE NICOLE GIBSON

Choreographer of MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS

Michelle Gibson, choreographer, instructor and performing artist, received her BFA in Dance from Tulane University and her MFA in Dance and Performance Studies from Hollins University/American Dance Festival at Duke University graduate program. A New Orleans native, Michelle has also studied at the NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS, the ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE CENTER, the AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL, JACOB'S PILLOW, and the URBAN BUSH WOMEN'S *Walking With Pearl Primus* summer intensive. She was a featured dancer in the Academy Award nominated film *Interview With a Vampire*, the Academy Award winning film *Ray*, and the movie *Just My Luck* with Lindsay Lohan. Michelle, faculty member with the AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL six week school intensive held at Duke University, is also the founder and Artistic Director of EXHIBIT DANCE COLLECTIVE. Michelle is currently teaching at Brookhaven College in Dallas TX, artist in residence with the ASHE' CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, resident dance company at the SOUTH DALLAS CULTURAL CENTER, choreographer for SIX FLAGS/WOW ENTERTAINMENT Dallas TX, member of DRUM CAFE, and educator and instructor with the Dallas Independent School District teaching grades 9-12. Her choreographic works include NEW ORLEANS SECOND LINE: *Takin It To The Roots* performed at the AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL, summer 2011; *Krump*, accompanied by the LONESTAR WIND ORCHESTRA at the Meyerson Center; Texas Educators Music Conference in San Antonio accompanying the Texas University Orchestra; 2008 SOUTH DALLAS DANCE FESTIVAL premiering excerpts from *I Made It, But Some Didn't*, a tribute to souls survivors of Hurricane Katrina; and the Dallas premiere of *Evolution*, honoring, recognizing, and uplifting women of color. In addition to Michelle's many accomplishments, her greatest achievement is being the mother of two beautiful angels, Ailey, 11 and Nigel, 6.

DCT ON TOUR is represented by HOLDEN AND ARTS ASSOCIATES - P.O. Box 10520, Austin, TX 78763 - (512) 477-1859