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From our Principal...

Welcome!, Forest Street Family, to our 3rd-5th grade, student production of ***The Lion King KIDS!***

We are honored to have you here once again in our Forest Theater to help us celebrate the dedication and hard work of our young thespians. Our children have put their heart and soul into long hours of rehearsal to make this Disney show the best it can be! I am certain you will be thrilled by this wonderful and magical performance.



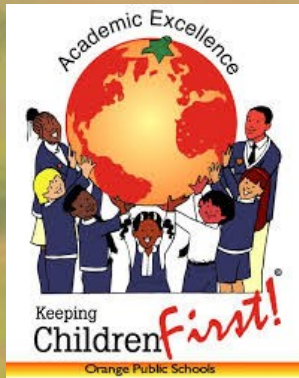
Special thanks to our creative team: Director Theresa Jones, Assistant Directors Monique Walker and Torenzo Blair, and all the staff of *Lion King Kids*, who have spent many long hours rehearsing to prepare our young cast members. Thanks to our community school Site Coordinator, Ernesto Lorenzo, for capturing so many precious moments in the photos seen in this booklet, to Mrs. Antunes, Ms. Bogle, Mr. Warta, Ms. Kiage and Ms. Mueses, to our dedicated AmeriCorps members, especially Angie Vallecillo, and to Mr. Donnelly for creating our Playbill-style program. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our parents, guardians, families, teachers and staff for always encouraging and supporting our students, actors and crew as they pursued this goal. I know that your inspiration behind the scenes is the secret, magic ingredient that will result in a great show!

Now, please sit back with pride and enjoy our wonderful Forest Street production of "*The Lion King KIDS!*"



— Dr. Yancisca Loften Cooke
Principal, Forest Street Community School

***The Orange Board of Education
Congratulates
Forest Street Community School***



*Good Luck to the Cast of
The Lion King KIDS!*

E. Lydell Carter, President

Dr. Courtne Thomas, Vice President

Brenda Daughtry Derrick Henry

Kyleesha Hill Cristina Mateo

Siaka Sherif Tyrone Tarver

Jeffrey Wingfield

Forest Street Community School

proudly presents



in cooperation with
Disney Musicals in Schools
and
New Jersey Center for Performing Arts

Thursday	May 16, 2019	6:00 PM
Friday	May 17, 2019	6:00 PM
Saturday	May 18, 2019	12:00 PM

Music & Lyrics by
Elton John & Tim Rice

Additional Music & Lyrics by
Lego M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin and Hans Zimmer

Book by
Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by
Julie Taymor



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Produced by
Dr. Yancisca Loften Cooke

Assistant Producer
Bill Donnelly

Directed and Choreographed by
Theresa Jones

Assistant Directors
Monique Walker
and
Torenzo Blair

Music Director **Daniela Antunes**

Stage Manager **Jacob Warta**

Production Manager **Avril Bogle**

Photographer/Videographer **Ernesto Lorenzo**

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 Richard B. Sherman

Disney’s The Lion King KIDS is presented through special arrangement
with and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

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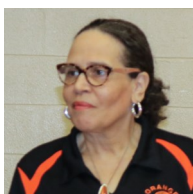
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Congratulations

Forest Street Community School
Students and Staff on Your Production of

The Lion King KIDS

We applaud each and every one of you for a job well done!
Keep up the GREAT WORK!



The Orange Administrative Cabinet

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Paula E. Howard

Deputy Superintendent

Adekunle James

Business Administrator/Board Secretary



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Dr. Terri Russo

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Director of Language Arts & Testing

Shelly Harper

Director of Special Services

Dr. Tina Powell

Director of Math & Science



Cast of Characters

Rafiki	Esther Olojede
Rafiki	Djaynane Belzince
Rafiki	Melanie Arriola
Rafiki	Nathaly Rosales
Rafiki	Ashley Nuñez-Mancia
Mufasa	Asar Culver
Sarabi	Amiya Creekmore
Zazu	Luca Gamboa
Scar	Fiorella Acosta
Young Simba	Rod Dacy
Old Simba	Elijah Collin
Young Nala	Melany Diaz
Old Nala	Kyla Jeter
Shenzi	Melynn Bailey
Banzai	Tavia Ashman
Ed	Amira Gordon
Ed	Daniel Ihuoma
Timon	Michele Tong Navarro
Pumbaa	Alan Castaneda

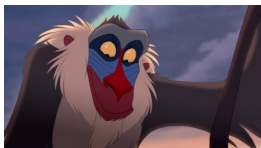
A full-page background image showing a lion and a cub on a savanna at sunset. The lion is on the left, looking towards the right. The cub is on the right, looking towards the lion. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with some clouds. The ground is dark and rocky.

Congratulations!
Forest Street Community School

May you reign
superior
forever!

Dr. Howard

Deputy
Superintendent



Our Rafikis

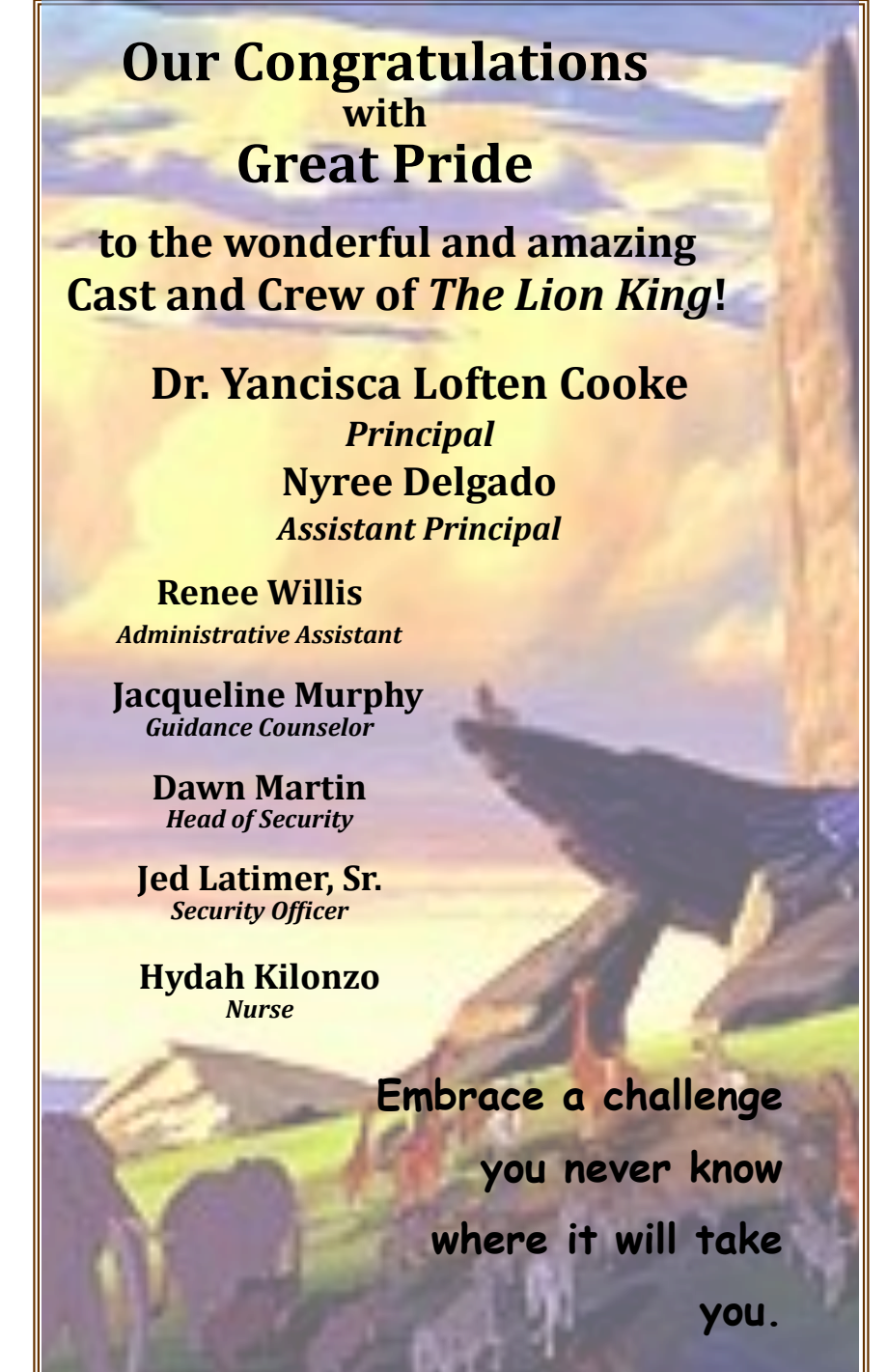


L to R: Esther Olojede, Melanie Arriola and Djayneane Belzince.
Front Row: Nathaly Rosales and Ashley Nuñez-Mancia

Best Wishes to the Cast & Crew at
Forest Street Community School!



from
Ms. Donna Sinisgalli
Supervisor
Visual and Performing Arts, K-12
Orange Public Schools



Our Congratulations
with
Great Pride
to the wonderful and amazing
Cast and Crew of *The Lion King!*

Dr. Yancisca Loften Cooke

Principal

Nyree Delgado

Assistant Principal

Renee Willis

Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Murphy

Guidance Counselor

Dawn Martin

Head of Security

Jed Latimer, Sr.

Security Officer

Hydah Kilonzo

Nurse

**Embrace a challenge
you never know
where it will take
you.**

Musical Numbers



One by One Ensemble

Circle of Life with Nants' Ingonyama Rafiki, Ensemble

I Just Can't Wait to be King Young Simba,
Young Nala, Zazu, Ensemble

Be Prepared.....Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, Hyenas

Hakuna Matata.....Timon, Pumbaa,
Young Simba, Simba, Ensemble

Can You Feel the Love Tonight Timon,
Pumbaa, Simba, Nala, Ensemble

He Lives In You Rafiki, Ensemble

Luuu Hawaiian Treat Timon,
Pumbaa, Ensemble

Finale Company



Supporting Cast



HYENAS

Front Row



Rod Dacy

- Daniel Ihuoma
- David Ihuoma
- Kamsiyochukwu Ihuoma
- Toni Gamboa
- Danny Perez

Back Row

- Melanie Menjivar
- Nazareth Barrow
- Amira Gordon
- Tavia Ashman
- Melynn Bailey
- Fatima Jouaq
- Christie Blaise



Supporting Cast



VILLAGERS L to R

Stephany Sosa

Aaliyah Carter

Sophia Prawdzik

Johntae Trent

Alonah Carter

Leah Highsmith

Nathalie Cisneros



Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



Fiorella Acosta (Scar) — is a star student in the homeroom class of Mr. Canares. She performed on the stage previously in *Jungle Book Kids* in 2017 and was part of the back-stage crew of *Cinderella Kids* in 2018. She loves acting but also understands the value of her education and is determined to get the best grades she can while at Forest. As Fiorella takes on the role of Scar—the jealous and evil brother

of Mufasa—she supports her selection by pointing out she has, “experience on the stage being cruel and mean and scary!” Who can forget, two years ago, when she played the role of Shere Kahn in *Jungle Book Kids*, and effectively scared both the cast and the audience with her powerful and frightening lion’s roar! Off the stage, Fiorella says she is, “kind and friendly in real life!” Fiorella wishes “Good Luck!” to the everyone in the cast, and encourages them, “to just have fun with the play...and choose your dream!”



Melanie Arriola (Rafiki) — is a very good singer and talented actress who previously appeared in *Cinderella Kids* (2018) and *Jungle Book Kids* (2017).

She has been an honor-roll student the entire time she has been at Forest—never receiving a single, bad grade on a report card! Her favorite subjects in 5th grade are Science and Social Studies. In her free time, she has lots of interests: playing outside with her sister and her friends, playing on her computer and watching movies, such as *Coco* (2017) and *Incredibles 2* (2018) and going to Red Bull Arena to watch live soccer.





Tavia Ashman (Banzai) — loves acting and enjoys both singing and dancing. This is now her second year performing in a Forest school play. She was most seen recently in the role of a Stepsister in *Cinderella* (2018). Here at Forest, Tavia’s favorite subject in the 4th grade is Math. Reflecting on another of her theatrical skills, Tavia reports that her, “favorite emotion is sadness, because all I



have to do is think of sad things, and tears come to my eyes!” Tavia also has many friends at Forest and wants to name just a few: Esther, Amira, Willynn, Stephany, Alonah, Aaliyah, Johntae, Kamsi, Tianna, Rachel, Ashley, Julianna, Jayliv, Leah and Kayla. She would also like to say, “**Thank you so much!**” to the teachers who chose her for this role and, “*Thank you to the Disney cast*” who have all been such nice people during all of the auditions and rehearsals.



Melynn Bailey (Shenzi) — is a unique, pretty, and special young girl. Math is her favorite subject, and has been since 3rd grade. “Math is very easy and fluent for me to understand,” she says, “It’s like you can do anything with the numbers.” Someday, she’d like to be an actress and model because she feels it’s a great way to express yourself physically and mentally. At home, she goes on her laptop and either listens to her favorite music or watches something on YouTube. Most notably, Melynn appeared

on the Forest stage just last year playing the lead role in *Cinderella*.



Nazareth Barrow (Hyena) — is appearing here in a Disney production for the first time. His hobbies are playing board games and basketball with his family. He also likes to play football with his friends. He likes to take his little brother to the park. When he grows up he wants to run track and play basketball and be an actor. He also wants his family to be safe. And he is the man of his house.



Djaynane Belzince (Rafiki) — likes to read and write. This is her first year in Disney and she is very excited to perform in *The Lion King*. Her favorite subjects are Science and Social Studies. She is also an “A, B and kind-of C” student, but is trying her best to be just an A+ student. She always does what she is supposed to do, such as her iReady lessons and Reading Plus. She’s been here at Forest for 7 years and is happy to say she is, “a proud student of Forest Street Community School!”



Christie Blaise (Hyena) — is a very smart and funny person who has been achieving High Honor Roll her entire academic career. On the Forest stage, this is now her third year in a row acting in a Disney production. In her first year she portrayed an elephant in *Jungle Book Kids (2017)*, and her second year she was a stepsister to *Cinderella (2018)*. She hopes to have a lot of fun this year learning about the African dances and languages.

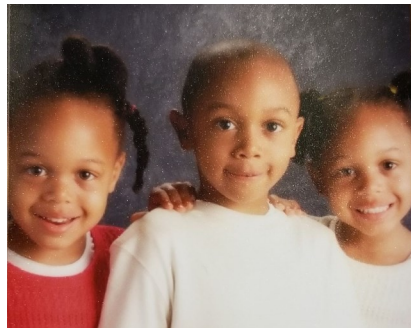
Destiny Campbell-Martin (Production Assistant) — has a natural talent for dancing and music, “I love to dance,” she says, “especially with my cousins.” She adds, “I used to play violin, but I decided this year I wanted to do something a little different. So I decided to join the Disney cast in a support role.” Now that she has some experience on the stage, *Jungle Book Kids* (2017) she is trying her hand at working behind the curtain. Destiny is in the 7th grade with teachers Ms. Reed, Ms. Hunter, Ms. Walker and Mr. Canares. Her favorite subject is Science. She plans to go to college when she gets older, but for now she doesn’t know what she wants to be when she grows up. She wants to thank her parents for taking care of her and giving her the education she needs. She sends good luck to all of the Disney cast, and adds, “because I want all of us to do great and not be afraid and just to do our best out there.”

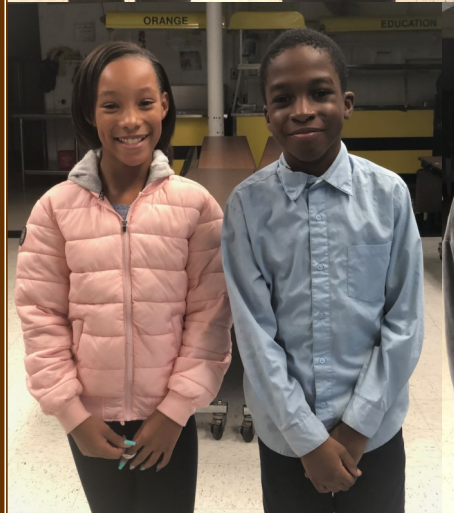
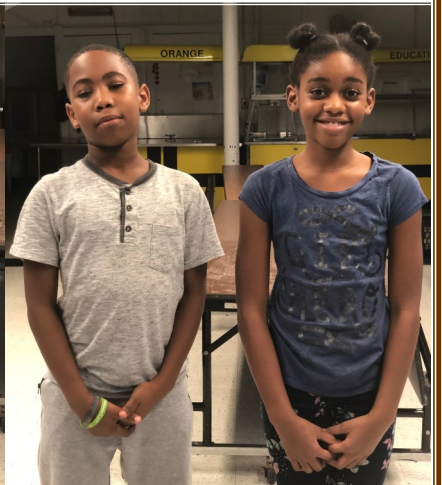
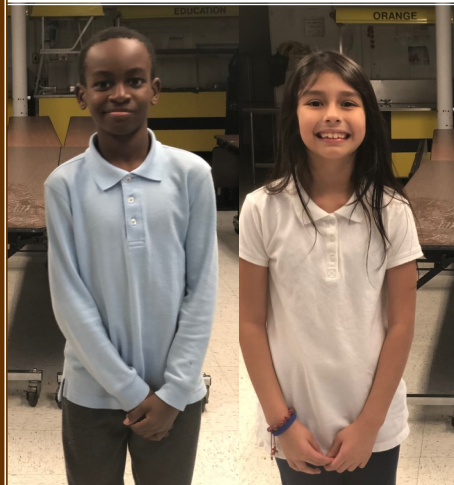


Jasir Carter (Production Assistant) — appeared previously on the Forest stage in *Jungle Book Kids* (2017) in the role of Ziggy, but he elected this year to play a role behind the scenes. Jasir comes to us with a special talent for dance and we wish we could have put it to work in this show! He says he just loves to dance! “I knew I would learn a lot by working another Disney production,” he says, “even if I am not dancing this time, I am still an integral part of the show, so I’m happy about that!” Jasir is in the 6th grade now where his favorite subject is Science.



In his free time, he likes to play video games and football. He wants to thank his family for always taking care of him. Jasir would also like to thank the Disney production team for making it possible for him to be a part of another Disney show. “Good luck to the cast and crew!” he adds, “Now let’s have fun!”





CONGRATULATIONS
Forest Street Community School
AND BEST WISHES
to the Cast and Crew of
"The Lion King Kids"



From Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.
and Dr. Karma Warren, M.D.



Aaliyah Carter (Villager) — is an honor-roll student who loves the fourth grade and is very excited to be doing the *Lion King* production! This is actually her second year on the Forest/Disney stage. Last year she portrayed a Town Crier in *Cinderella*. Aaliyah has lots of interests off the stage too. First she is a serious, dedicated student at Forest who always gets good grades. In addition, she has been

a member of the Drill team. In her spare time, she likes to go running with her sister Alonah and playing granny and hello neighbor with her cousins and friends.



Alonah Carter (Villager) — is an intelligent little girl who believes in life and does not let anything get in the way



of her progress. Alonah, who is in the 4th grade, loves running and spending time with her sister Aaliyah. In addition to stage plays, her theatrical experience includes dancing—something she has done for two years. When she's not dancing or acting, she loves to use her spare time working on her hobbies. Alonah is proud to be involved in this year's Disney production and is so excited to help

the other kids who are new in the cast and crew. She wishes “Good Luck” to everybody in Disney and sends a shout out.



Alan Castaneda-Guerra (Pumbaa) — enjoys playing soccer outside and *Fortnite* inside. He considers himself to be a good student and puts a lot of effort into studying in order to get good grades. After watching most of the Disney Kids movies, Alan joined the cast of *Lion King KIDS* because he wanted to be in the show, but also on the outside chance that he might become a famous actor some day. If that doesn't work out, he has an alternate plan to become a doctor and later a surgeon. This is his first year in a Disney production,

so he is determined to make it a successful one!



Good Luck
and great
Success. You
Will Always
Be A Shining
STAR!!
(Howard Lee)

Good luck cast
and crew of Lion
King!
Ms. Hanson

Wishing our
FSCS actors
many blessings
We are so proud
of you!!
-Lorenzella

ALL
THE BEST
MS. WALKER

Congratulations!
and best wishes!
you are all shining
stars! * * * * *

Good Luck
from
The Food
Service
Staff!!

Best of luck and best wishes
to the amazing cast crew and
staff of the Lion King
I know you will
have an outstanding performance
Mrs. Legado

Ms. Anna
Mrs. Walker
and
Suber...

Good Luck!
Congratulations to
the cast & crew.
Break a Leg!
- Mrs. Pinnasrich

ALL THE BEST TO
YOU ALL!!
MS. HUNTER

GOOD
LUCK ALL!!
NURSE
WON

Good luck
Cast and
Crew!
Mrs. Swen

Good Luck to the Cast
and Crew!
Break a Leg!
McLorenzo

YOU
ARE
ALL
AMAZING!
Ms. Mary
Grace

Amazing
Good Luck
to my
TERRIFIC
Stage
Crew!
Mr. Warta

Best of
Luck to
the Cast & Crew
- Ms. Wain

Good Luck
Cast & Crew King kids
Mr. Donnelly

Break a Leg!
May to go down
Cast! - Tim Provet
- Ms. Walker

Wishing you all a stellar performance
Ms. Angie

Good Luck!
Break a
Leg!
- N. Winter

Break a
leg! YOU
creators.

Break a
leg!
Ms. Llarera

Best wishes to all
of you!
Moria Zambrano
Show!
Hakuna
Mataata!
- Lombardi

Best of luck!! - Mrs. Stiles

SO proud of
you all!
- Mrs. Stiles

Good
Luck!

Ms. Anne

Good Luck!
Mrs. Springer

Good Luck!
Ms. Bunny

Let me hear
you roar! Good luck to
you all!
- Mr. Cozart

Winkana Retla

The Lion King
is one of my
favorites
- Mrs. Mages

Congratulations!
Ms. Blair

Trucica Dennis



Nathalie Cisneros (Villager) — loves Art, Acting and being a part of *The Lion King* production! “I have always loved Art,” she insists, “and I hope to make it my career some day.” Besides Art, Nathalie also loves to sing and has been singing her whole life. “I will never stop singing!” she says. She has academic interests too: her favorite subject is Math and she is determined to work hard enough on it so that some day she might be able to earn a fully-funded Math scholarship to college. This is Nathalie’s second year in the Disney school production. Last year she performed as a Villager in *Cinderella*.



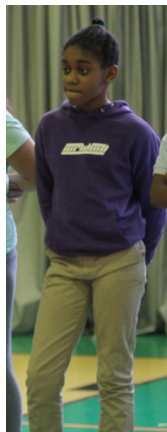
Elijah Collin (Old Simba) — loves to dance and started doing it at the age of six. Soon after, he progressed to singing and then graduated to Disney productions. “I just love doing this!” he says. Academically, Elijah is in the 5th grade where his favorite subjects are ELA, Math and PE, especially Gymnastics. “My personal goal is to achieve good grades in my academics,” he tells us. “I love acting but I also understand

the importance of doing well in school.” Outside of school, Elijah has taken three dance classes and his hobbies remain dancing, acting and singing. He hopes that all the rest of the cast try and do their best!



Amiya Creekmore (Sarabi) — is a 5th-grade student in Mr. Canares’ class. Her favorite subjects are Math, Science, and Civics. She is an “A and B” student who loves to do her school work. She is very excited to be a part of Disney’s *The Lion King*—her third year in a Disney production. In her free time, Amiya loves to sing and dance and go to the park to play with friends. She also likes getting together with

friends to watch movies about the shows that she's been in. “I really appreciates all my teachers and friends,” she says, “because without them, I would not be able to do this play.” Amiya wants to give a big **THANKS!** to Ms. Jones and to Dr. Lofton Cooke for creating this opportunity to do *The Lion King*!



Asar Culver (Mufasa) — is a 10-year-old boy who has been in Disney productions for three years in a row! He enjoys Math and Social Studies at Forest and his favorite teacher is Mr. Canares. Outside of school, he enjoys playing sports, especially basketball. He also likes to draw and is very good at it! Asar hopes to go to Seton Hall Prep for high school and later Duke University for college. He expects that with continued hard work he can qualify for a scholarship to both of those schools. “When I grow up,” he says, I’d like to play in the NBA, and after that, perhaps open a nice restaurant or start some other business.” We’re confident that Asar is working on a winning plan!

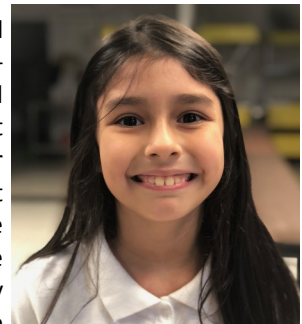


Rod Dacy (Hyena) — has a dream to be on the GIANTS football team someday in the NFL. But he also has a dream to be an architect. Rod is 9 years old and has been at Forest for 5 years. However, this is his first year in Disney. In his spare time, Rod likes to race, play basketball, dodgeball, football, and kickball—and he enjoys a good pizza too! As the youngest child in his family, he likes spending time with his four siblings. He sends



out a message of good luck to the whole cast and expects the show will be amazing!

Melany Diaz (Young Nala) — is a nice girl, a good actress and a great student in Ms. Romain’s 3rd-grade class. She says she just, “loves getting A’s and B’s.” This is her first time in Disney so far and she hopes that it doesn’t stay like that! In her free time at home, Melany loves to play the piano as a hobby. She also has two young sisters, “So, I have experience with little kids,” she explains! “It is a pleasure for me to be in *The Lion King*, and I hope to stay here, she says. “School is like my other family that I wish I had. I am proud that I am in Disney,” she adds. Melany adds she is very happy to have, “this chance of a lifetime!”





Once again, I am totally excited for my two boys, Luca and Toni Gamboa, who are performing here in the 2019 Forest Street production of Disney's *The Lion King Kids*.

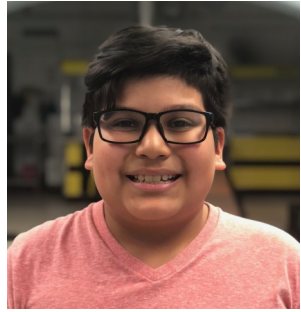
I cannot say enough about how proud I am to be their father and how thankful and blessed I feel to have them.

Good luck to both of you, and to the entire cast; make sure you knock'em dead!

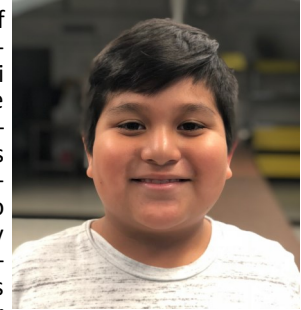
—Charles Gamboa



Luca Gamboa (Zazu) — has previously appeared in two Disney shows, *Jungle Book Kids* (2017) and *Cinderella* (2018). Luca works hard to try to make his classwork as good as it can be, because he wants to make his father proud of all his achievements. His personal motto that guides his life is, “Try your best to do your best!” He wants to make sure his younger brother, Toni, does the same and accomplishes just as much or more than he does! In his free time, he likes to play Fortnite and wants to become better at it. He also plays softball with Toni and his friend Jade.



Toni Gamboa (Hyena) — is in the 4 grade classes of Ms. Donnerstag and Ms. Miguel. His favorite subjects are Social Studies and Math. As an actor, Toni has vocal talent in addition to experience on the stage. He appeared in *Cinderella* (2018) as a Villager, and is now appearing as a Hyena in tonight’s show. In his future job, Toni would like to be a police officer to “help do what’s right.” He wants to help his parents and siblings with anything they need help with. Toni loves singing and playing Fortnite with his older brother Luca. He says



“Break a leg” to Luca and to all the other cast members. He wants to thank his dad for all his help in school and for what he does for him and his brother. He also wants to thank his mom for caring for them and being supportive of him and his brother. Finally, he wants to thank his brother Luca for helping him with the dances and for having faith in him.



Best Wishes to the Cast and Crew of

Mr. Canares

Ms. Haddad

Ms. Hunter

Mr. Lombardi



Ms. Reed

Ms. Stokes

Ms. Walker

Mr. Winter

From your Middle School Team!



Amira Gordon (Luke, Mouse) — loves to dance and do gymnastics, and is currently taking a weekly class after school to improve her skills. Even though she says she is shy, this is her second year in a Disney production and she has lots of friends at Forest: Esther, Tavia, Regina, Brenda Maya and Johntae, to name just a few. She also has lots of interests. At home she enjoys playing with her little brother and preparing for school. She says she is working really hard on Math this year to do the best she can.



Leah Highsmith (Villager) — likes to perform and act and is super excited to have the chance to be in a Disney production for the first time. Leah is in the 3rd-grade class of Ms. Swen and is a dedicated and successful student. She says her favorite subject this year is Science and her favorite sport is Cheerleading. “I’m really not scared to appear in front of a large crowd of people,” she says, “I’m excited about the play and glad to perform.” Judging from her poise and confidence in rehearsals, she will be well prepared and ready to “steal the show” on opening night!

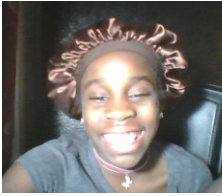


Daniel Ihuoma (Ed) — is a success-oriented, 5th-grade student who is appearing for the first time in a Disney show. His favorite subjects this year are Math and Science. He explains that he’s working hard on both subjects to prepare for a scholarship someday. He wants to get a great education so he will succeed in a career and make his parents happy. Daniel also has a strong interest in basketball, which he’s been playing since the age of 8. He says he has been “practicing his cool basketball skills” so that someday he might even play for the NBA! Daniel wants to thank the entire Disney team and he wishes **Good Luck** to the whole cast and crew.



David Ihuoma (Hyena) — has serious plans to make *Lion King Kids* one part of a successful school year for him. As he participates in the play, he is determined to do his work every day and get good grades. David is a big fan of basketball and aspires to one day make it to the NBA as a professional player. His favorite subject this year is Science. In his spare time he likes to dance to Hip Hop songs. He thanks the teachers and staff of Disney for selecting him to be in *Lion King* and he sends good luck out to the whole cast and crew!

Kamsiyochukwu Ihuoma (Villager) — is a sassy and fashionable, honor-roll student who is in fourth grade, and wants to be a singer and Hip Hop dancer! As she enters her second year in a Disney show, Kamsi explains she is a really good dancer and that if you get the chance to see her dance, “your mind is going to blow up.” In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends outdoors. At



Forest, her favorite subjects are Math, Science and Social Studies. She says that she, “loves her teachers because they have inspired her to become a teacher when she is older.” She adds that she loves her mom who is always telling her, “It doesn’t matter what you’re doing, just do your best!”

Patricia, Madison, Veriane and Angie,



Thank you for your commitment and year of service at Forest Street Community School. We are all very proud of you!

Your EECO AmeriCorps Program Manager,

Jessica Pichardo & Team



Skyla Jeter (Old Nala) — is very excited to play a role in this year’s musical because it will be her third Disney production in a row. Previously, she appeared as the Town Crier in *Cinderella Kids* (2018) and before that, as the Sassy Monkey in *Jungle Book Kids* (2017). She is an honor-roll student who gets good grades and has many friends at Forest. In her free time she loves to dance and flip. When she grows up she wants to be a teacher and an actor!



Fatima Jouaq (Hyena) — is perfect for the *Lion King* cast because she likes to experiment with different dances and loves the song *Circle of Life*! She feels that one of her objectives in her role of a Hyena is to make people laugh and get them to feel so comfortable that they join in with singing and clapping—maybe dancing too! To make this work, she has been practicing all her *Lion*

King dances and all her lines with Scar (Fiorella Acosta, insert) so that they will be a believable and entertaining team. She hopes it all works out on opening night and that everyone loves the show!



Melanie Menjivar (Hyena) — likes both Math and Music, and says she loves to learn anything that makes her smarter. She also loves her school, her home, her family and her mom and dad for all the support and encouragement they



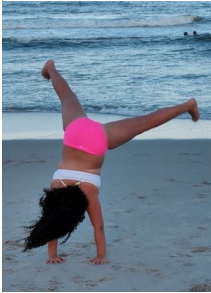
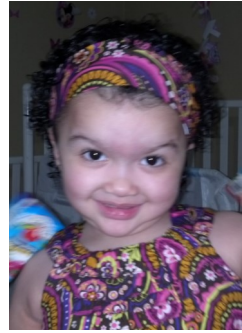
give her. Melanie is a big fan of acting too, “It was my passion,” she says, “to become a member of the *Lion King* cast, and I am so appreciative that my parents let me be a part of it!” She sends her best wishes to the cast and says she is sure it will be a great show.



Dear Melanie,

We would like to congratulate you for participating and collaborating in the *Lion King Kids* show.

We are sure you will do an outstanding job in *Lion King*, in school and in your life ahead of you. We thank God for giving us a daughter like you, and for giving you the gift of talent. We are so blessed by all the hard work you have done; it has made us so proud of you!



If you keep working like that, we are sure that you will be able to overcome every challenge in your path—however hard it may be, you will be able to surpass it! We want you to know that we love you and we will always be here to support you.

With all our love,
Mom, Dad and Marjorie

Ashley Nuñez-Mancia (Rafiki) — has a dream to be a dancer and practices every day to make it happen. Her goal is to get into college and then qualify for a professional team or squad so that she can



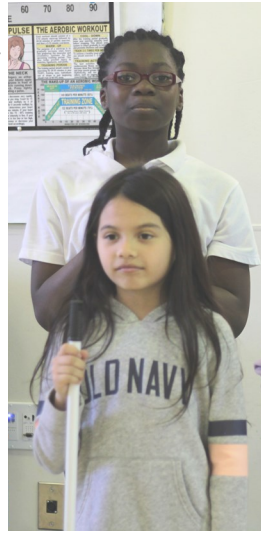
show everyone... “who Ashley is when it comes to dancing!” In her free time, she likes to draw and practice what she has learned in dance class. Her favorite subjects are Math and Science. Ashley is a “Principal’s Honor Roll” student for recently receiving “straight A’s.” She has also received Honor Roll many times the past five years at Forest. Ashley wishes *Good Luck!* to the cast and crew of Disney and hopes everyone has a wonderful time doing the show.





Esther Olojede (Rafiki) — is a confident young lady who is proud of her accomplishments at Forest Street Community School and is ready to take on the challenge of a Disney stage show! Even though this is her first Disney show, she says, “I know I can make

it!” Esther is in the 4th-grade class of Ms. Donnerstag, and says she is a great student who is organized and independent. She sends out a shout to her great friends Amira and Tavia and wishes good luck to everyone in the show.



Danny Perez (Hyena) — is a fun and caring person who likes everyone he meets and who tries to comfort people who are having a bad day. He says it is his dream to be an actor in *Lion King* and he will be trying very hard to remember all his lines.

Danny’s favorite subjects are ELA and Math, and he is even thinking about becoming a Math teacher

—unless he becomes a famous actor first! Based on his high level of enthusiasm, we think he will be able to accomplish both!



Sophia Prawdzik (Villager) — is a 3rd-grade student in Ms. White’s class who is focused on school work as well as on a favorite hobby. She enjoys Science class most of all and recalls with a smile how her class last year studied the life cycle of Monarch butterflies and then released them at the conclusion to fly away and disappear to create a new generation. Outside of school, Sophia loves to dance! She has taken dance lessons in Ballet, Jazz and Hip Hop, and has participated in dance competitions and musicals. She also enjoys playing acoustic guitar and hopes to learn how to play better. We’re looking forward to her performances in *Lion King* and are confident she is one of Forest’s up and coming stars.

Cameron Price Phillips (Production Assistant) —

is in the 6th grade class of Ms. Stokes. His favorite subject is Math right now. He says, “I love to dance with my older brother Jalen.” He also loves to read, rap, play video games and participate in sports. And even though he currently does not play a musical instrument, he is a pro at watching YouTube videos. Last year he appeared in the role of Herald in *Cinderella Kids* (2018) and before that in the role of Mowgli in Forest’s production of *Jungle Book Kids* (2017). He has also taken some acting classes at Luna Stage in West Orange. He would like to attend the same college that his mom and older brother Dante attended. After that, he might want to act in some movies or possibly dance. He spends his free time now watching YouTube and dancing. “I would like to thank everybody—my teachers: Ms. Stokes, Ms. Hunter, Mr. Winter, Ms. Reed and Mr. Canares,” says Cameron. “Also, I want to thank my family for letting me do what I do, my friends for sharing laughs with me, and for being there for me.” He adds, “I also want to thank the cast: ‘You know, doing their thing!’ and I would personally like to thank Ms. Jones, Ms. Bogle, Mr. Blair, Ms. Walker, Ms. Antunes, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Lorenzo and Mr. Warta. **Good Luck** to the stage crew and to the whole cast! **Break a leg!!!**”



Nathaly Rosales (Rafiki) —

likes to dance and sing, but now that she has been recruited to act on the stage, she has also made a personal commitment “to remember her lines in *The Lion King!*” This should come naturally to Nathaly because she is already a focused, dedicated student. One of her favorite subjects in school this year is ELA (favorite book: *Dog Man*) where she, “likes to write, read and learn.” Other favorites include Math (her favorite thing: Division) and Science (favorite things: The Moon Phases and Elephant Toothpaste). With all these special interests, Nathaly says she is, “proud of herself no matter what!” We share her view and know she will be successful!









Great Job !
Forest Street Community School



Jamie Summers-Johnson

City of Orange's

1st African-American

South Ward Councilwoman

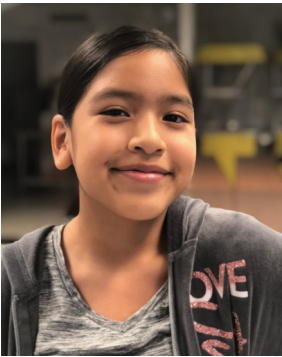
973-296-4454

jamiesumjohn@aol.com



Stephany Sosa (Villager) — is appearing in a Disney show for the second time, but this time with experience in a similar role. Last year she also portrayed a Villager in *Cinderella Kids*. Stephany is a smart young lady who's finishing the 4th grade. At home, she is careful to, "complete all her work, even if it's hard" and then enjoys some singing and dancing. At school she does very well in Social Studies,

but also has a dream of becoming a 2nd-grade Science teacher. She really likes Science and says it has been an inspiration to her. It even helped her to form her dream of becoming a teacher. In her spare time, Stephany enjoys drawing. "Even if I don't draw the best," she explains, "I love doing it for fun." She wishes good luck to everyone in the cast and says thanks to the Disney staff for choosing her.



Michele Tong Navarro (Timon) — is a 5th grade student who is very excited about performing in *Lion King* with all her fellow actors. This is Michele's third year participating in a Disney production. Last year, she appeared in *Cinderella* in the role of a stepsister, as well as portraying the Baby Elephant. In her free time, Michele enjoys dancing a variety of styles, including Hip Hop,

Ballet, and Jazz, and she loves to sing. She is also in Choir. "It is my pleasure to be in *Lion King Kids*," she says, and adds that she wishes "Good Luck" to all the other actors.



Johntae Naje Trent (Villager) — is appearing for the second time on the Forest Street stage and in a Disney production. Her favorite hobby is going out with her family to dance and sing! At school her favorite "special course" is Dance because, "You get to play games and you get to dance," she says. She admires her family because, "They take good care of me and they are helpful to others." Johntae is happy that she made many new friends during the rehearsals and wishes good luck to all the cast and crew.

Congratulations
Forest Street School Drama Club
Cast and Crew of
“The Lion King Kids”



Senator Nia H. Gill

34th Legislative District

East Orange ▪ Montclair ▪ Orange
(Essex County)

Clifton (Passaic County)

Production Assistants & Stage Crew



Cristal Escalante
Janniella Rodriguez

Syriya Greenidge

Beth Canto-Torres
Marelin Cax-Ramos



Danna Chuqui

Zaravion Carter

Celines Ramirez

Julianna Plaza-Carro

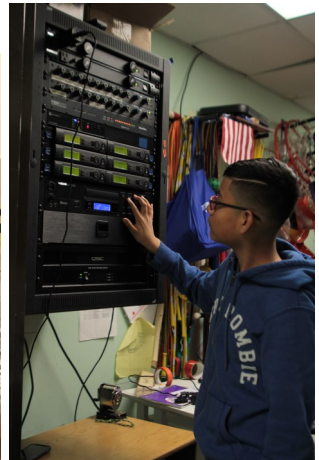


Magwrantz
Lubin

Marjorie
Menjivar

Amiyyah
Warner

Jayson
Mendoza



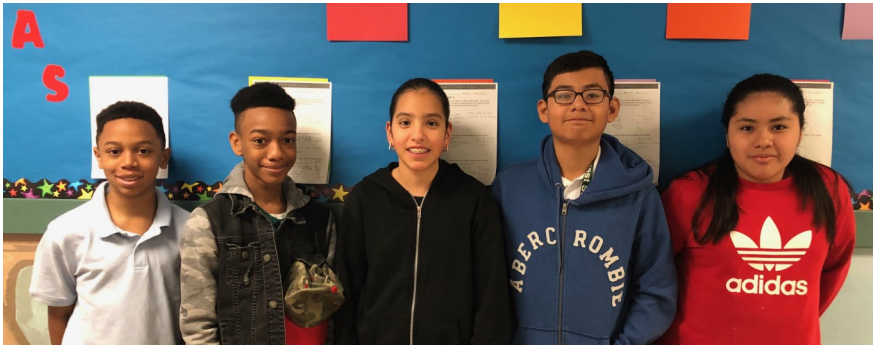


Jamileth Serrano

India Hubbard

Destiny Campbell-Martin

Kimberly Rosales



Jasir Carter

Lisette Quiroz

Jayson Mendoza

Cameron Phillips

Emelin Cax-Ramos



Kaila Cisneros

Danna Chuqui-Alvarez

Destiny Ward

Jayliv Mendoza

Director and Choreographer



Theresa Jones — received a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and a Master of Education Degree in Dance Education from Rutgers University. She has had extensive training in Ballet, Lyrical, Modern, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre, African, and Latin styles. Ms. Jones completed her dance training at *Broadway Dance Center* in New York City. There, she was a member of AIM Performance Company and a scholarship recipient. Ms. Jones has trained at *Steps on Broadway*, *Dance Sport*, and *The New Jersey School of*

Ballet. Some of her performances include: Madison Square Garden, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The U.S. Open, MTV's TRL, Dancers Responding to AIDS, American College Dance Festival, Britney Spears Promotional Party, and ECA World Fitness Convention. Ms. Jones has also appeared in Dance Magazine. She recently directed *Cinderella Kids* and *Jungle Book Kids* here at Forest, as well as four musicals for Heywood Avenue, and numerous musicals for Norwescap Family Success Center. She is excited to work again with NJPAC and the talented students of Forest Street Community School!

Assistant Director



Monique Walker — is the 6th/7th grade ELA teacher here at Forest Street Community School, currently in her 17th year of teaching. She explains it this way, "I'm still here because I absolutely love interacting with my students from day to day." She is a graduate of Seton Hall University with a degree in Criminal Justice, and Walden University with a Master's degree in Reading and Literacy. As an ELA teacher, she is also Forest's "*Star of Stage and Screen*," winning District-wide awards three years in a row as a result of her ELA students "beating the average NJ state PARCC scores"

and achieving more academic progress in her English classes than most schools across the entire state. These outstanding achievements have resulted in large monetary awards for Forest Street Community School. (**Thank you, Ms. Walker!!!**) In addition to serving this year as Assistant Director for *The Lion King*, she was previously Assistant Choreographer for *Cinderella Kids* and *Jungle Book Kids*. Ms. Walker is a former member of the *Teacher's Dance Ensemble* for Orange. She enjoys spending free time with family and, of course, dancing. She sends good wishes to the whole cast, "Break a leg, Forest Street Panthers!"

Producer

Dr. Yancisca Loften Cooke — is Forest Street Community School’s long-time principal, and the primary instructional leader overseeing the daily operations and instructional program of its 389+ students and 50+ faculty members. With over 25 years of experience in education, she previously served as a Special Education teacher and General Education teacher with the New York City Department of Education, as well as



the assistant principal of Lincoln Avenue School prior to coming to Forest. “It is my personal mission to be an advocate for *all* children” explains Dr. Loften, “developing them into life-long learners as well as productive citizens.” This philosophy is rooted in her belief that there must be a focus on the *whole child*—socially, emotionally, physically and academically—in order to successfully nurture and develop children. Dr. Loften Cooke holds a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and Education from Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina, and a Master’s Degree from Mercy College in New York, where she received her certification in School Administration and Supervision. More recently, she completed a doctoral degree from Kean University. Dr. Loften Cooke is an active member of the distinguished organization of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Rho Gamma Omega Chapter, which serves the Oranges and Maplewood. But she is most proud of the future leaders she has developed in her son, Erick, who currently attends Rutgers University, and her daughter, Yaara, who attends UCC. She is grateful that Forest has had an opportunity to work with *Disney Kids* for a third year. She sends her heartfelt thanks and best wishes to the staff and the entire cast and stage crew of *The Lion King*!



Music Director



Daniela Antunes — has been a Kindergarten teacher at Forest Street Community School for four years. She is a graduate of William Paterson University with a degree in Psychology. She has been singing since she was two years old. Outside of school, she has performed in various musical activities, volunteers at church and enjoys reading at the beach. Mrs. Antunes is self-taught in reading and playing music. Last year, she assisted the

music director in the Forest production of *Cinderella Kids*. This year, she has worked closely with the cast and staff members of *Lion King Kids* on their musical numbers, acting and choreography. “When you find your passion” she says, “don’t let it go, keep working at it and share it with others.” “Thank you for sharing your musical talents,” she adds, “Break a Leg, Lion King cast!”



Stage Manager



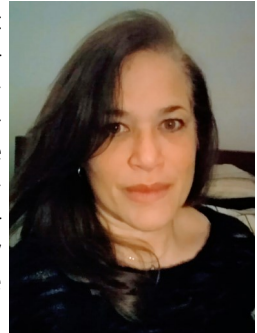
Jacob Warta — is a pillar of support at Forest Street Community School and the magician behind-the-scenes at many Forest productions. We thank him, once again, for being our “General Contractor,” and for handling all the logistics necessary to transform our multi-purpose room into the perfect setting for each show! Outside our show, Mr. Warta is Forest’s Physical Education and Health teacher. In addition to being the key person behind lighting and sound in this amazing production,

he has assisted with many previous Forest productions, including Disney’s *Cinderella Kids* (2018), *Jungle Book Kids* (2017), *Annie, Jr* (2014) and numerous concerts before and after. As stage manager for *The Lion King Kids*, he has trained our student, stage crew to operate the sound equipment, and the new theatrical lighting you see overhead, as well as handle all the logistics of set design and scene changes. Mr. Warta wants to thank his terrific stage crew, and says with confidence, “They know what they’re doing and they’ve got everything under control!”



Production Manager

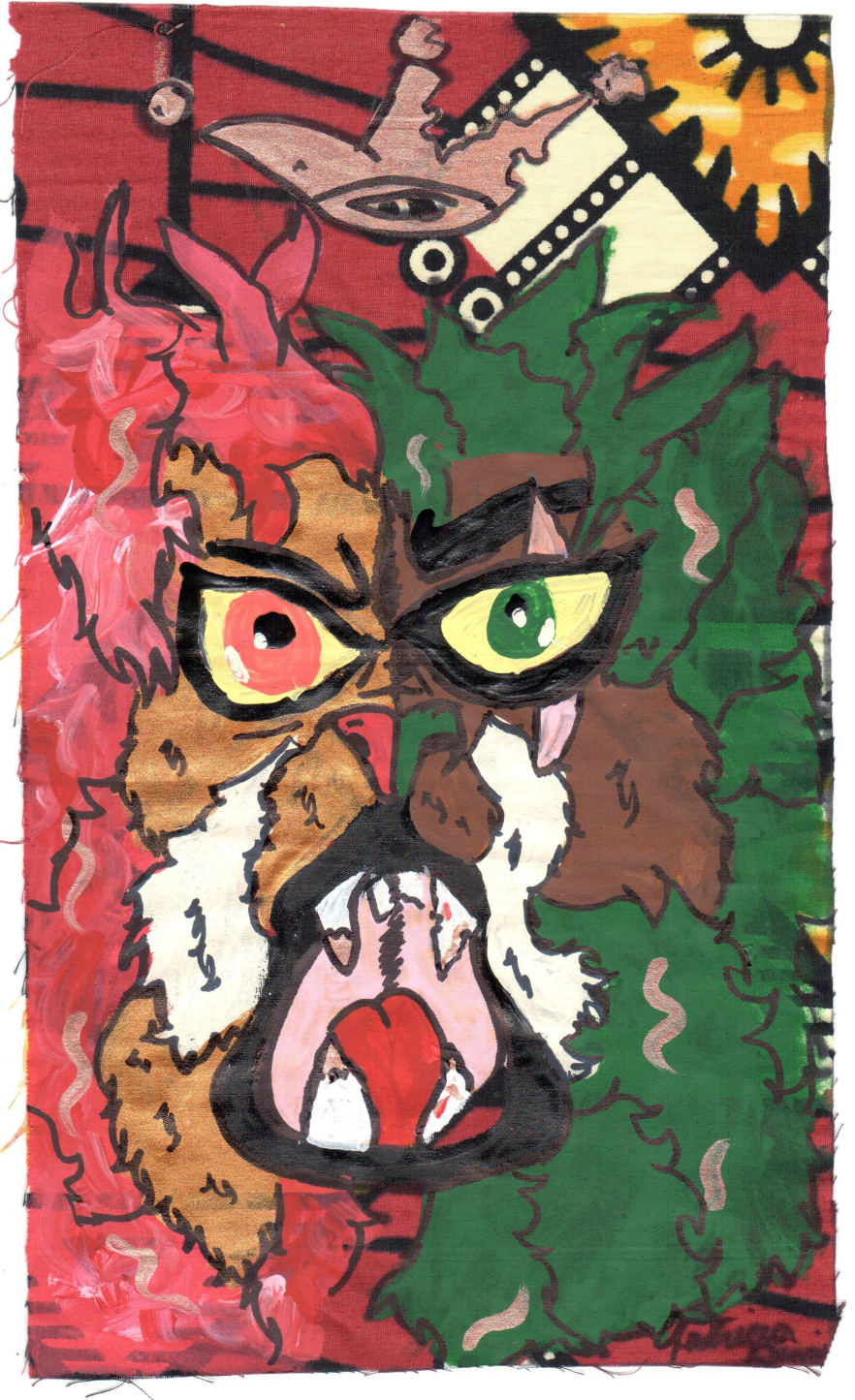
Avril Bogle — has been the Art Instructor at Forest Street Community School for more than 15 years. Outside of school, she is also a working artist and a teacher. She attended the New York City College of Technology (CUNY) for Graphic Design and Advertising, before going back to receive her teaching certificate in General Education. She began teaching Pre K-5 at a Montessori School in Brooklyn, NY, where she originally lived. She recalls about her experience, “Every year we prepared two shows for presentation at Art Design High School in Manhattan, and I was the set designer as well as the production manager for both of these showcases.” When Ms. Bogle later moved to New Jersey, she returned to school to complete an Art Certification for grades K-12. Since joining the staff at Forest, she has been involved in many, many FSCS productions, and is looking forward to another successful show this year. She wishes all the best to the production staff and student actors, and adds with a smile, “You are all doing a great job!”



Photographer/Videographer

Ernesto Lorenzo — is a talented and highly-valued member of the Forest staff. As the newly-appointed School Coordinator for our community school program, he supervises the school’s Family Liaison and our AmeriCorps member staff. Together, they support the personal and academic development of our students and families through a variety of programs. In addition to being the videographer for *Lion King Kids*, Mr. Lorenzo is credited with all of the biography headshots and the great majority of the photos that appear in this booklet. In his tenure at Forest, he has been instrumental in organizing numerous school and community events, such as the Thanksgiving Turkey Baskets, the Christmas Giving Tree, as well as a number of Saint Barnabas parent workshops. Born and raised in Newark, Mr. Lorenzo attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, graduating in 2014 with a B.A. in Journalism and Media Studies. In 2012, he secured a \$25,000 business loan and started his own small business, a production company called *Eternal Circle Productions*. He has worked as a freelance cinematographer for the last 4 years, shooting short films, feature films, music videos and commercials.





Assistant Producer / Program Editor

Bill Donnelly — is now in his 6th year as an ESL teacher at Forest, working with wonderful students in grades 3 to 7 to improve their English-language proficiency skills. Outside the classroom, he is active in a variety of school initiatives and programs, such as the *Latino Family Literacy Project*, the *PTO* and *Friends of Forest*. He currently serves as chair of the *School Leadership Team* (SLT) and as Orange District Coordinator for Montclair State University's *Network for Educational Renewal*. Mr. Donnelly is a proud graduate of Kean University in



Union, NJ, with a B.A. in Education and Spanish, and an M.A. in Instruction and Curriculum, Bilingual/Bicultural focus. Although he has never acted on the stage, he has been active behind the scenes in production roles. In addition to this *Lion King* program booklet, he has previously produced similar playbill booklets for *Cinderella* (2018), *Jungle Book Kids* (2017), *Annie* (2014) and (2003), *Guys and Dolls* (2007), *Footloose* (2006), *While the Lights Were Out* (2006), *Hotel Paradiso* (2005), *You Can't Take It With You* (2005), and *Kiss Me Kate* (2005). Mr. Donnelly wishes to thank all of the parents, families, staff, administrators, sponsors and advertisers who made this booklet possible. Most of all, he is enormously proud of the terrific teaching staff, and wonderful student cast and crew, who worked so very hard to bring *The Lion King KIDS* onto the Forest stage for your enjoyment!

Artist in Residence

Patricia Dennis — brings dedication, academics, artistic talent and volunteer spirit to Forest Street as an AmeriCorps member. She currently works with the 2nd grade as a Reading Coach where she uses reading books as an inspiration to create art. Ms. Dennis is a graduate of the College of Saint Elizabeth, with a BA in English and Studio Art. She plans to pursue graduate studies in English and eventually teach at the secondary or undergraduate level. We thank her for her contributions to our new hallway murals and for painting original, African-style canvases to help raise money for the *Lion King Kids* production. We wish her all the best!



Production Assistant



Alejandrina Mueses — wants most of all to continue what's she's doing now, "I love teaching, working and learning with students," she says. "A big part of it for me is that I enjoy the diversity—interacting with different cultures!" Ms. Mueses is Forest's Spanish teacher for grades K to 7, but she is also certified in Early Childhood and Special Education. A graduate of New Jersey City University, Ms. Mueses has previous management experience in the medical industry, and in investment and Real Estate. In her free time, she enjoys dancing Salsa, keeping fit through exercise, reading and spending quality time with her son. "I want to thank all our students for sharing their talents with us, our parents for their unconditional support, but most importantly, Dr. Loften Cooke," says Ms. Mueses, "without whom we could not have done this!" She adds, "Good luck and best wishes to all our students; I know you will SHINE LIKE STARS!"

Assistant Director



Torenzo Blair — is a native of Hampton, Virginia, where he became involved with the arts at a very young age. He is an actor, dancer, singer, musician, carpenter and photographer. Blair is a graduate of Hampton University where he received his B.A. in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Performance. He has also trained at the *American Academy of Dramatic Arts* in New York City. His credits include performing in productions such as *Dream Girls* (Jimmy Early), *Joe Turners Come and Gone* (Bynum Walker), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Dentist), and *A Raisin in the Sun* (George Murchison), just to name a few. After graduating, he returned to his Alma Mater as director for the main-stage production of Samm-Art Williams' *Home*. He has served as a crew member for *The Virginia Lyric Opera* and *The National Black Theatre Festival*. Last year, he served "on tour" as a team member for Tyler Perry's stage play, *Madea On the Run*.

Editor's note—Mr. Blair worked as an interim Music teacher at Forest until February of this year when he moved on, as planned, to join the crew of "Tyler Perry's *Madea's Farewell Play Tour*." We are thankful to Mr. Blair for his devotion to the students of Orange, both as a teacher and as a play director. We are all saddened to see him go, and wish him only the best on his national tour and in his acting career.

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Thomas P. Giblin
34th District



Congratulates
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Assemblyman Giblin proudly represents
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Ms. Llarena



Mr. Donnelly

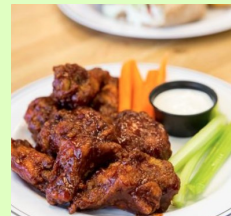


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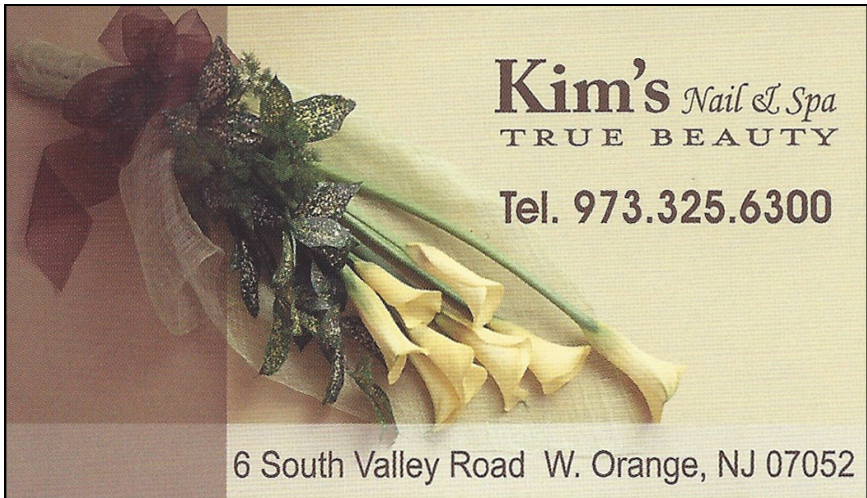
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—Bill Donnelly, Playbill Program Editor



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“My Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of Forest Street Community School!”



Ronald C. Lee

Interim
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