



For immediate release

**CENTER THEATRE GROUP AT THE AHMANSON THEATRE  
PRESENTS**

**THE TONY AWARD AND PULITZER PRIZE—WINNING  
ACCLAIMED MUSICAL**

***A Strange Loop***

**Now through June 30, 2024**

**BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON  
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN BRACKETT**

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
AT [CENTERTHEATREGROUP.ORG](http://CENTERTHEATREGROUP.ORG)**

LOS ANGELES, CA (June 4, 2024) — The Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-Winning acclaimed musical ***A Strange Loop*** is coming to the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles for a limited four week engagement through Sunday, June 30, 2024. *A Strange Loop* features book, music, and lyrics by **Michael R. Jackson** and directed by Tony Award nominee **Stephen Brackett**.

Tickets and information are available at [CenterTheatreGroup.org](http://CenterTheatreGroup.org).

Meet Usher: a Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer. Michael R. Jackson’s blisteringly funny masterwork exposes the heart and soul of a young artist grappling with desires, identity, and instincts he both loves and loathes. Hell-bent on breaking free of his own self-perception, Usher wrestles with the thoughts in his head, brought to life on stage by a hilarious, straight-shooting ensemble. Direct from Broadway and the West End to San Francisco and Los Angeles, *A Strange Loop* is the big, Black, and queer-ass Great American Musical for all!

“I began writing what would become *A Strange Loop* in a small room of a bungalow-style apartment in the middle of nowhere Queens when I was 23-years-old,” said **Michael R. Jackson**. “I had never been so scared or uncertain of my place in the world. Working on the show was my life raft and I never in a million years imagined the miles it would travel. I am so excited to share *A Strange Loop* with even more audiences. What a strange loop!”

“It only seems fitting that such a big, bold, and irreverent play would call CTG home—our iconic theatre company known for pushing boundaries and telling wholly original stories,” said **CTG Artistic Director Snehal Desai**. “*A Strange Loop* is one of the most discussed and awarded musicals of our time. It is also audacious, hilarious, empowering, and very moving. The company joins us from a national search and I can’t wait for CTG-Ahmanson Theatre audiences to experience *A Strange Loop*.”

The cast of *A Strange Loop* includes (in alphabetical order): **Dave J. Abrams** (Understudy, Thought 2 & 3), **Angela Alise** (Understudy, Thought 1), **Jordan Barbour** (Thought 5), **J. Cameron Barnett** (Thought 2), **Carlis Shane Clark** (Understudy, Thought 5 & 6), **Alvis Green Jr.** (Usher Alternate), **Albert Hodge** (Understudy, Thought 4), **Avionce Hoyles** (Thought 3), **Tarra Conner Jones** (Thought 1), **Malachi McCaskill** (Usher), **Jamari Johnson Williams** (Thought 6), and Tony Award nominee **John-Andrew Morrison** (Thought 4).

Members of the *A Strange Loop*’s Broadway creative team will join the West Coast engagements. They include **Raja Feather Kelly** (Choreography), Tony award nominee **Arnulfo Maldonado** (Scenic Design), **Montana Center Theatre Group** and **American Conservatory Theatre** in San Francisco are co-presenting this production, which performs at A.C.T.’s Toni Rembe Theater prior to Los Angeles April 18 to May 12. **Levi Blanco** (Costume Design), Tony Award nominee **Drew Levy** (Sound Design), Tony Award nominee **Jen Schreiber** (Lighting Design), **Aaron Tacy** (Associate Lighting Design), **Candace Taylor** (Associate Choreography), **Cookie Jordan** (Hair, Wig, and Makeup Design), **Chelsea Pace** (Intimacy), and **The Telsey Office / Destiny Lilly, CSA** (Casting).

*A Strange Loop* made its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in May 2019. In December 2021, the show had a critically acclaimed run at Washington D.C.’s Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company prior to coming to Broadway in spring 2022. *A Strange Loop* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was the recipient of 11 Tony Award nominations, the most of any show in 2022. The production took home the Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical. *A Strange Loop* was also named Best Musical by New York Drama Critics’ Circle, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Off-Broadway Alliance. *A Strange Loop* recently played a limited 12-week engagement at London’s Barbican Theatre.

This company of *A Strange Loop* is a co-presentation between Center Theatre Group and American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, which presented it at A.C.T.’s Toni Rembe Theater prior to Los Angeles April 18 to May 12.

The critics have been ecstatic about *A Strange Loop*.

Dave Quinn said in *Entertainment Weekly*, Grade **A**. “What Michael R. Jackson has created with *A Strange Loop* is nothing short of astounding. The saying ‘You’ve never seen anything like this before’ is often overused ... but when it comes to *A Strange Loop*, the shattering, electrifying debut musical from Jackson, the phrase would be an understatement.”

Tim Bano said *The Standard* (London), “\*\*\*\*\* (highest rating). I’d watch it again in an instant. This extraordinary musical is one of the most thrillingly strange, playful and hilarious new musicals to have hit a London stage in recent years. It’s stuffed with really catchy tunes full of triumphant melodies.”

Naveen Kumar said in *Variety*, “It’s like stepping back to admire an extraordinary portrait of the artist as a tangle of contradictions, desires and painful memories. In other words, it’s like the experience of life itself.”

Reviewing the show on Broadway, Charles McNulty said in the *Los Angeles Times*, “For much of this triumphant, emotionally lacerating show, I sat astonished and grateful that something so

brutally honest and rigorously constructed had finally broken through to a Broadway stage . . . Jackson liberates us from the homogeneity that deadens our theaters and leaves so many of us feeling alone. For those searching for reflections of themselves in culture, *A Strange Loop* offers the balm of community. Broadway has never felt so expansively welcoming.”

*The New York Times*, gave it a *Critic’s Pick*. Maya Phillips wrote, “There is no measure of praise that could be too much. Searing and softhearted, uproarious and disquieting, *A Strange Loop* pulls off an amazing feat: condensing a complex idea, full of paradoxes and abstractions, into the form of a Broadway musical -- after all, this is a show that allows a Black gay man to be vulnerable onstage without dismissing or fetishizing his trauma, desires and creative ambitions.”

Mark Kennedy said in the *Associated Press*, “Every once and a while — we get something that pushes the musical theater form completely, taking [us on] an utterly unforgettable, idiosyncratic trip. Add Michael R. Jackson’s *A Strange Loop* to the list that includes *Fun Home* and *Angels in America*, both of which have echoes here. Like them, it is astonishing, challenging and awesome. May *A Strange Loop* run as long as *The Lion King!*”

Helen Shaw said in *Vulture*, “Big Ideas and the petty ones waltz around in Jackson’s profane, hilarious, meta-musical carousel . . . the fabulous, piety-smashing *Loop* still feels as exhilarating as your first trip on the merry-go-round.”

Rounding out the creative team are **Nailah Harper-Malveaux** (Associate Director), **Sean Kana** (Music Director), **David Möschler** (Associate Music Director), **Randy Cohen** (Keyboard Programmer), **Edmond O’Neal** (Production Stage Manager), **Julia Formanek** (Assistant Stage Manager), and **Camella Cooper** (Assistant Stage Manager).

Tickets for ***A Strange Loop*** are available through [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org), Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012.

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**Center Theatre Group**, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. Center Theatre Group is one of the country’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as “Zoot Suit;” “Angels in America;” “The Kentucky Cycle;” “Biloxi Blues;” “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992;” “Children of a Lesser God;” “Curtains;” “The Drowsy Chaperone;” “9 to 5: The Musical;” and “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.” [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org)

**Bank of America** is Center Theatre Group’s 2023 – 2024 Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

**American Express** is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group.

**Gilead** is the Lead Production Sponsor for *A Strange Loop*.

### **Calendar Listing For *A Strange Loop***

**Venue:** Ahmanson Theatre, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012

**Dates:** Now through Sunday, June 30, 2024

**Schedule:** Tuesday through Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.;  
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m

**Tickets:** **Prices** — begin at \$35  
**Website** — CenterTheatreGroup.org  
**Phone** — Audience Services at (213) 628-2772  
**In person** — Center Theatre Group Box Office (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012  
**Groups** — [centertheatregroup.org/tickets/groups-and-corporate-offers](https://centertheatregroup.org/tickets/groups-and-corporate-offers)  
**Access** — Center Theatre Group offers a number of services to accommodate persons requiring mobility, vision, and hearing access.  
For more information, please visit [CenterTheatreGroup.org/Access](https://CenterTheatreGroup.org/Access).

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June 4, 2024

### **Biographies**

**Michael R. Jackson (Book, Music, and Lyrics)** is one of Time's 100 most influential people of 2022. *A Strange Loop* (Playwrights Horizons 2019 world premiere in association with Page 73 Productions) won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Musical, the Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle award. Awards and associations: Dramatist Guild Fellowship, Page 73's Writers Group, New Professional Theatre Festival Award, Jonathan Larson Grant, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, Whiting Award, Helen Merrill Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Drama Desk Award, Obie Award, Fred Ebb Award, Windham-Campbell Prize.

**Raja Feather Kelly (Choreographer)** is a choreographer and director, and the Artistic Director of the feath3r theory (TF3T), a dance-theatre-media company. Kelly has created 18 evening-length premieres with the feath3r theory. The company's latest work, *The Absolute Future*, premieres in April 2024 at The NYU Skirball Center. His choreography can currently be seen in *Michael R. Jackson* and *Anna K. Jacob's Teeth* at Playwrights Horizons, and *Lempicka* written by Matt Gould and Carson Kreitzer on Broadway. He choreographed the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *A Strange Loop*, and is also a choreographer for off-Broadway theater with frequent collaborators like Jackson, Blain-Cruz, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and Sarah Benson. He has received numerous accolades, including a Princeton Arts Fellowship (2023–2025), three Princess Grace Awards, and a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for choreographing the Tony Award-winning musical *A Strange Loop*, to name a few.

**Stephen Brackett (Director)** has directed *A Strange Loop* on Broadway where he received a Tony Award nomination for his work, as well as off-Broadway, where he received the Drama Desk Award for best direction of a musical, London's Barbican Theater, and DC's Woolly Mammoth. Other credits include *Be More Chill* (Lyceum Theater, Signature Theater, Two River, London's Other Palace and Shaftsbury Theater), *The Lightning Thief* (Longacre Theater, Theatreworks USA, National Tour), *Buyer & Cellar* (Off-Broadway, London's Menier Chocolate Factory, National Tour), and *AD 16* (Olney Theater).

**Jordan Barbour** (Thought 5). A New York–based actor, singer, and writer, Barbour recently appeared on Broadway in the closing cast of *Come From Away*, and originated the role of Tristan in *The Inheritance* (2020 Tony Winner, Best Play). Barbour has toured internationally with *The Suit*, *Come From Away*, and Young Jean Lee's *The Shipment*. Notable US venues include Theater for a New Audience, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Kennedy Center, Diversionary Theater, Denver Center, Seattle Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, and American Conservatory Theatre in Peter Brook's *The Suit*, among others. Additionally, Barbour voices Black Panther in Marvel's Mech Strike animated comic series.

**J. Cameron Barnett** (Thought 2) is best known for his recurring role as Castle on the series *POSE*. He's toured the world in the musicals *Hair*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, and *The Buddy Holly Story*. His select off-Broadway and regional credits include *F\*cking A* (Signature Theatre/NYC), *The Wiz* and *The Winter's Tale* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Finian's Rainbow* (Goodspeed Opera House), and *The Producers* (Ogunquit Playhouse). Some of Cameron's film and television credits include *Allswell* in New York (Tribeca Film Festival Winner), *Line of Duty*, *The Twilight Zone*, and many others. [jcameronbarnett.com](http://jcameronbarnett.com) IG @jcameronbarnett. (he/him)

**Alvis Green Jr.** (Usher Alternate) makes their west coast debut at A.C.T.! Past credits include *Once on This Island*, (Blackfriars Theatre), *The Prom* (JCC Centerstage), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Blackfriars Theatre), *Urinetown* (Gatesingers CO), and *Sister Act* (OFCCreations). When Green isn't on stage, they're writing their own original music which can be streamed on all streaming platforms.

**Avionce Hoyles** (Thought 3) is a Rock Hill, SC native and a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy of NY. Recently Hoyles has been traveling the globe in his self-written/performed love letter to the Queen Tina Turner in a show entitled *Dear Tina*. Other credits include *FBI Most Wanted*, *Orange is the New Black* (TV), *Titanique*, *Bat Out of Hell*, *Boys of Summer* (Off Broadway), *Memphis the Musical*, *Bring It On*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (National Tour). Thank you to my Kreativ Artist family and the A.C.T. team for this opportunity to create. Ephesians 3:20 @theeavioncehoyles @deartinashow

**Tarra Conner Jones** (Thought 1) is an NYC based singer/actor/writer originally from Jacksonville, FL. She recently made her off-Broadway debut in Michael R. Jackson's *White Girl In Danger* (Second Stage Theater), where she received Drama Desk and Drama League Nominations, and an Audelco Award for her role as Nell Carter Gibbs. Past credits include: *The Music Man* (Broadway At Music Circus), *Hairspray* (Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines/Symphony of the Seas), *The Color Purple* (Maine State Music Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (North Shore Music Theatre), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Theatre By The Sea), *Shrek The Musical* (Alhambra Theater and Dining), *Chicago The Musical* (The Fulton), and *From Birmingham To Broadway*, a one act play with music about Nell Carter, written by Tarra (Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe). Tarra forever performs in memory of her mother, Chonita Conner, who cheers from heaven. Much appreciation to her agent, Dave Secor (Daniel Hoff Agency), and THEEEE Michael R. Jackson. @tarraconnerjones

**Malachi McCaskill** (Usher) is excited to be making his A.C.T. debut in the Tony Award–winning, hit Broadway musical *A Strange Loop!* This North Carolina native hails from Jackson Springs, NC. He took his dreams of being on Broadway to Greensboro, NC, where he is a current junior obtaining his Bachelor's in Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Through his years in college, McCaskill has been working throughout North Carolina and in his school's program. Some credits include: *The SpongeBob Musical* (Ensemble, u/s Patrick and Krabs), *Rock of Ages* (Lonny Barnett), *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (Dontrell Jones Jr.), and *Godspell* (John the Baptist/Judas) at UNC Greensboro; *The Color Purple* (Ensemble) at The Barn Dinner Theatre; and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Swing) and *Elf The Musical* (Macys Store Manager) at The North Carolina Theatre! IG @malachimccaskill (he/him)

**John-Andrew Morrison** (Thought 4) is a Tony Award nominee and a Lucille Lortel and Obie Award winner for his work in *A Strange Loop* (Broadway and Off Broadway). He is an Outer Critics Circle Honoree for his work in the off-Broadway premiere of *Blues For An Alabama Sky*. Morrison is a cabaret artist headlining venues like 54 Below and The Green Room 42. He will be presenting his show *No...Maybe...Why Not* at Feinstein's at the Nikko on April 29 at 7:30pm. BA from Brandeis University and an MFA from UC San Diego. He is a member of The Actors Center. [johnandrewmorrison.com](http://johnandrewmorrison.com). @jandymorri

**Jamari Johnson Williams** (Thought 6) A.C.T. debut! Jamari made his Broadway debut in the Tony Award-winning *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*. His touring credits include the original tour cast of the Tony-winning *Hadestown*, the *Ain't Too Proud* 1st National Tour, and the final cast of *Motown the*

*Musical.* Select regional credits include *Swept Away* at Arena Stage; *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera; and *Smokey Joe's Cafe* at Riverside Theatre and Palace Theatre with the original Coasters. Williams hopes to heal others through art as he once was. @Jamaridarling

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