



# A STRANGE LOOP

BONUS PRODUCTION

## HADESTOWN

Music, Lyrics & Book by Anaïs Mitchell (she/her)  
Developed with & Directed by Rachel Chavkin (she/her)

OCTOBER 3–15, 2023

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## A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL

Book by Joseph Robinette  
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul  
Original Direction on Broadway by John Rando  
Choreography by Warren Carlyle  
Directed by Matt Lenz

DECEMBER 5–31, 2023

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## MATTHEW BOURNE'S ROMEO AND JULIET

North American Premiere

JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 25, 2024

## FUNNY GIRL

Music by Jule Styne  
Lyrics by Bob Merrill  
Book by Isobel Lennart  
Revised Book by Harvey Fierstein

APRIL 2–28, 2024

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## A STRANGE LOOP

Book, Music, And Lyrics by Michael R. Jackson  
Choreography by Raja Feather Kelly  
Directed by Stephen Brackett  
A co-production with American Conservatory Theater

JUNE 5–30, 2024

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## CLUE

Written by Sandy Rustin  
Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price  
Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn  
Original Music by Michael Holland  
Based on the 1985 Paramount movie  
and the classic Hasbro board game

JULY 30 – AUGUST 25, 2024

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For their contributions in support of *A Strange Loop*, CTG would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts:

Chiedu Egbuniwe	Patrick Moran
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Center Theatre Group  
in association with American Conservatory Theater  
presents

## A STRANGE LOOP

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Michael R. Jackson

Dave J. Abrams Angela Alise Jordan Barbour J. Cameron Barnett Carlis Shane Clark Alvis Green, Jr. Albert Hodge  
Avionce Hoyles Tarra Conner Jones Malachi McCaskill John Andrew Morrison Tristan J Shuler

Scenic Design ARNULFO MALDONADO	Costume Design MONTANA LEVI BLANCO	Lighting Design JEN SCHRIEVER	Sound Design DREW LEVY
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Wigs, Hair, & Make Up COOKIE JORDAN	Music Director SEAN KANA	Intimacy CHELSEA PACE	Casting THE TELSEY COMPANY / DESTINY LILLY CSA AND KATIE CRADDOCK
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Associate Director NAILAH HARPER-MALVEAUX	Associate Choreographer CANDACE TAYLOR	Associate Lighting Designer AARON TACY
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Associate Music Director DAVID MÖSCHLER	CTG Associate Artistic Director LINDSAY ALLBAUGH	Production Stage Manager EDMOND O'NEAL
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Choreography by Raja Feather Kelly  
Directed by Stephen Brackett

Original Broadway Production produced by Barbara Whitman,  
Playwrights Horizons, Inc. in association with Page 73 Productions produced the World Premiere of *A Strange Loop* in New York City in 2019.  
Subsequently produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington D.C.  
*A Strange Loop* is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, [concordtheatricals.com](https://concordtheatricals.com)



Lead Production Sponsor

JUNE 5–30, 2024 AHMANSON THEATRE

**CAST**



**DAVE J. ABRAMS**



**ANGELA ALISE**



**JORDAN BARBOUR**



**J. CAMERON BARNETT**



**CARLIS SHANE CLARK**



**ALVIS GREEN, JR.**



**ALBERT HODGE**



**AVIONCE HOYLES**



**TARRA CONNER JONES**



**MALACHI MCCASKILL**



**JOHN-ANDREW MORRISON**



**TRISTAN J SHULER**

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

**CAST**

*(in Alphabetical Order)*

Jordan Barbour.....	Thought 5
J. Cameron Barnett.....	Thought 2
Carlisle Shane Clark.....	Thought 6
Alvis Green, Jr.....	Usher Alternate*
Avionce Hoyles.....	Thought 3
Tarra Conner Jones.....	Thought 1
Malachi McCaskill.....	Usher
John-Andrew Morrison.....	Thought 4

\*At select performances

**UNDERSTUDIES**

Should an understudy substitute for a listed performer, it will be posted in the lobby at the time of the performance

Dave J. Abrams.....	Thoughts 2/3
Angela Alise.....	Thought 1
Albert Hodge.....	Thought 4
Tristan J Shuler.....	Thoughts 5/6

**DANCE CAPTAIN**

Dave J. Abrams

**STAGE MANAGERS**

Camella Coopilton  
Julia Formanek

**ORCHESTRA**

CONDUCTOR / KEYS 1: SEAN KANA  
KEYS 2 / GUITAR / AMD: DAVID MÖSCHLER  
GUITAR: WILLY YANEZ  
DRUMS: ALEX BAILEY  
BASS: JENNIFER LEITHAM  
REEDS: SAL LOZANO  
KEYS 2/GUITAR SUBS: TORY DEXTER, CHRIS HORVATH  
CONTRACTOR: ROBERT PAYNE

*A STRANGE LOOP* WILL BE PERFORMED WITH NO INTERMISSION.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Patrons with disabilities: wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. For our hearing-impaired guests, the theatre is equipped with listening devices; please contact an usher for assistance.

## WHO'S WHO

**DAVE J. ABRAMS** (*u/s Thought 2, u/s Thought 3; he/him*) is exultant to be a part of *A Strange Loop!* Recent credits include: *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical* (*u/s* Tony Cornelius, Ensemble), Center Rep's *In the Heights* (Benny), BAMSF's *Hairspray* (Seaweed) for which he received a Theater Bay Area Award (TBA) for Outstanding Featured Actor, and Berkeley Playhouse's Ragtime (Coalhouse) which awarded him another TBA Award for the principal role. Dave holds a BA in Theater and Dance from the University of California, Berkeley. May you all enjoy this big, Black, queer ass American Broadway show! IG: @davejabrams

**ANGELA ALISE** (*u/s Thought 1, she/her*) is an actor, writer, and producer making her CTG debut. Some regional credits include *The Wolves* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Nothing to Lose But Our Chains and Black Side of the Moon* (Second City @ Woolly Mammoth Theatre); *Almost Accurate Guide to America* (Second City @ The Kennedy Center); *Hairspray* (Drury Lane Theatre); *The Wolves* (Goodman Theatre); *The House That Will Not Stand* (Victory Gardens Theatre), and *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning* (2014 Steppenwolf Garage Rep). Her TV credits include *American Housewife* (ABC), *Pretty Smart* (Netflix), *As We See It* (Amazon), *Perry Mason* (Max), and *South Side* (Max).

**JORDAN BARBOUR** (*Thought 5*). CTG Debut! 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 Peter Brook's *The Suit, Come From Away*, and Young Jean Lee's *The Shipment*. Notable U.S. venues include Theater for a New Audience, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Kennedy Center, Diversionary Theater, Denver Center, Seattle Rep, and Pasadena Playhouse, among others. Additionally, Barbour voices *Black Panther* in Marvel's Mech Strike animated comic series.

**J. CAMERON BARNETT** (*Thought 2, he/him*) is best known for his recurring role as Castle on the series *POSE*. Other Film/TV credits include *Allswell in New York* (Tribeca Film Festival Winner) *Line of Duty*, *The Twilight Zone*, and *Gotham* to name a few. He has toured the world in musicals such as *Hair* (Europe & South America), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Europe), and *The Buddy Holly Story* (National). His select Off-Broadway & Regional credits include *F\*cking A* (Signature Theatre/NYC), *The Emperor Jones* (The Irish Repertory Theatre), *The Wiz*, and *The Winter's Tale* (Oregon Shakespeare

Festival), *Finian's Rainbow* (Goodspeed Opera House), and *The Producers* (Ogunquit Playhouse), and others. Mad appreciation to his team at Buchwald and Vault Entertainment. More at [jcameronbarnett.com](http://jcameronbarnett.com) or follow him on Instagram @jcameronbarnett.

**CARLIS SHANE CLARK** (*Thought 6, he/him*) is so excited to join this talented company! A performer since age 9, Carlis obtained a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has performed on stages in NYC, Edinburgh's International Fringe Festival, and Los Angeles where he was honored at the LA Drama Critics Circle Awards, Stage Raw, and Ovation Awards. Carlis most recently performed with the Boston Lyric Opera and Long Beach Opera's *The Feast*, and episodic series *desert in*. Other recent television credits include *Dear White People* (Netflix) and *Jean-Claude Van Johnson* (Amazon Original). Film: *Clemency* (2019 Sundance Grand Jury Prize) and *Dutch*. Thank you Telsey Casting, NOVA, BQ, and family. @carlisshane

**ALVIS GREEN, JR.** (*Usher Alternate*) made 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* (Gatessingers CO), and *Sister Act* (OFCCreations).

**ALBERT HODGE** (*u/s Thought 4, he/him*). Albert is thrilled to be part of this powerful production. Recent credits: Mr. Bones in *The Scottsboro Boys* (42nd Street Moon); Pierre Bezukhov in the West Coast premiere of *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet Of 1812* (Shotgun Players); Narrator in *Passing Strange* (Shotgun); and Tom Collins in *Rent* (Landmark Musical Theatre).

**AVIONCE HOYLES** (*Thought 3, he/him*). Avionce is a Rock Hill, SC native & a graduate from AMDA NY. Some of his credits include (Film/TV) *Grayland*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, *Orange Is The New Black*, (Off Broadway/National Tour) *Bat Out Of Hell*, *Titanique*, *Memphis The Musical*, *Rent*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Recently, Avionce has been touring the globe with his love letter to the Queen of Rock 'n Roll entitled *Dear Tina*. Huge thanks to my Kreativ Artists family, CTG, Kyle Garvin, and this company. Ephesians 3:20 @theavioncehoyles @deartinashow For Quenton.

**TARRA CONNER JONES** (*Thought 1, she/her*). Tarra is a 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*, 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*, *Hairspray*, *The Color Purple*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Shrek The Musical*, *Chicago The Musical*, *Dreamgirls*, and *From Birmingham To Broadway* (A one act play with music about Nell Carter, written by Tarra). Tarra forever performs in memory of her mother, Chonita Conner, who cheers from heaven. Much appreciation to her agent, Dave Secor (Daniel Hoff Agency).

**MALACHI McCASKILL** (*Usher, he/him*) is excited to be making his Center Theatre Group 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 the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he is a current junior obtaining his Bachelor's in Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre. Since being in college, Malachi has been working throughout North Carolina and in his school's program. Some credits include: *The SpongeBob Musical* (Ensemble, Patrick *u/s*, Krabs *u/s*) at UNC Greensboro, *Rock of Ages* (Lonny Barnett) at UNC Greensboro, *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (Dontrell Jones, Jr.) at UNC Greensboro, *Godspell* (John The Baptist/Judas) at UNC Greensboro, *The Color Purple* (Ensemble) at The Barn Dinner Theatre, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Swing) at The North Carolina Theatre, and *Elf The Musical* (Macys Store Manager) at The North Carolina Theatre! Instagram @malachimccaskill

**JOHN-ANDREW MORRISON** (*Thought 4, he/him*) is a Tony Nominee and Lucille Lortel and OBIE Award Winner for his work in *A Strange Loop* (Broadway and Off-Broadway). JAM, as he's commonly called, is on both the Original Broadway Cast and Original Cast recordings for *A Strange Loop*. He was an Outer Critics Circle Honoree for his work in *Blues for an Alabama Sky* Off-Broadway (KEEN Company). His recent work includes Malvolio with The Classical Theater of Harlem and his fourth season with Hartford Stage doing *A Christmas Carol*. He holds a BA from Brandeis University and an MFA from UC San Diego. He is a company Member of The Actors Center. @jandymorri

**TRISTAN J SHULER** (*u/s Thought 5, u/s Thought 6*), a bicoastal writer/director/actor, is lucky to be back in the theatre and making this Center Theatre Group debut after being highlighted in *YesBroadway's* 40Under40. Most recently, Tristan J was seen in the world premiere of *Prelude to a Kiss: The Musical* at South Coast Repertory. More at: @TristanJShuler TristanJShuler.com

**EDMOND O'NEAL** (*Production Stage Manager, he/him*) is a New York-based freelance stage manager and educator. Broadway credits include *Hadestown*. National Tour credits include *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*. NYC workshop/reading credits include *The Wrong Man*, *The Outsiders*, and *Pal Joey*. Selected regional credits include American Conservatory Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Lyric Repertory Company, Guthrie Theatre, and the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. Edmond also works proudly with Broadway and Beyond Access as well as Black Theatre United. Proud graduate of the Stage Management program at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale and the University of Central Florida.

**CAMELLA COOPILTON** (*Assistant Stage Manager, she/her*). Camella Coopilton's stage management credits include *Both/And* by Carolyn Ratteray at The Wallis Annenberg/Boston Court, *SHE* by Marlow Wyatt at Antaeus Theatre Company, *Blues for an Alabama Sky* by Pearl Cleage, and *King James* by Rajiv Joseph at Center Theatre Group.

**JULIA FORMANEK** (*Assistant Stage Manager, she/her*) is a Bay Area based stage manager. Recent credits include: *A Strange Loop*, *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical* (American Conservatory Theater), *Let The Right One In*, *Cambodian Rock Band*, *Goddess*, *Culture Clash* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Sleeping Beauty: Panto in the Presidio* (Presidio Theatre), *Romeo y Juliet*, *House of Joy*, and *Everybody* (California Shakespeare Theater).

**MICHAEL R. JACKSON** (*Book, Music, and Lyrics; he/him*) is one of *Time* Magazine's 100 most influential people of 2022. His Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle winning *A Strange Loop* (which had its 2019 world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in association with Page 73 Productions) received 11 Tony nominations in 2022, and was called "a full-on laparoscopy of the heart, soul, and loins" as well as a "gutsy, jubilantly anguished musical with infectious melodies" by Ben Brantley for *The New York Times*. In *The New Yorker*, Vinson Cunningham wrote, "To watch this show is to enter, by some urgent, bawdy magic, an ecstatic and infinitely more colorful version of the famous surreal lithograph by M. C. Escher: the hand that lifts from the page, becoming almost real, then draws another hand, which returns the favor." In addition to *A Strange Loop*, he also wrote book, music and lyrics for *White Girl in Danger*. Awards and associations include: a New Professional Theatre Festival Award, a Jonathan Larson Grant, a Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, an ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, a Whiting Award, the Helen



Merrill Award for Playwriting, an Outer Critics Circle Award, a Drama Desk Award, an Obie Award, a Fred Ebb Award, a Windham-Campbell Prize, a Dramatist Guild Fellowship and he is an alum of Page 73's Interstate 73 Writers Group.

**STEPHEN BRACKETT** (*Director, he/him*) has directed *A Strange Loop* on Broadway (Tony nomination), in London, DC, and Off-Broadway (Obie Award for Creative Team and Ensemble, Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Director of a Musical.) Other credits include *A.D. 16*, *Be More Chill*, *The Lightning Thief*, and *Buyer & Cellar*.

**RAJA FEATHER KELLY** (*Choreographer, he/him*) 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 theatre 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 Tony Award-winning musical *A Strange Loop*, to name a few.

**ARNULFO MALDONADO** (*Scenic Designer, he/him*) is a New York City based set and costume designer. He is a Tony Award Nominee for Best Scenic Design of a Musical for the Broadway production of *A Strange Loop* by Michael R. Jackson (Lyceum Theatre) directed by Stephen Brackett. Notable design credits include the recent 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Broadway production of *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan-Lori Parks (Golden Theatre), directed by Kenny Leon and the Broadway premiere of Alice Childress' *Trouble In Mind* (American Airlines Theatre), directed by Charles Randolph-Wright. West End/U.K.: *A Strange Loop* (Barbican Theater), *In Dreams* (Leeds Playhouse), *The Comeuppance* (Almeida). Off-Broadway: Atlantic, CSC, Lincoln Center, MCC, MTC, New Group, Playwrights Horizons, Public Theatre, Roundabout, Second Stage, Signature, Soho Rep. Regional: Alley Theatre, Berkeley Rep, CTG, Guthrie, Steppenwolf, Woolly Mammoth. International Tour: *The Magnetic Fields: 50 Song Memoir*. In addition, Arnulfo received

an OBIE for Sustained Excellence in Set Design, as well as a Special Citation Obie as part of the Creative Team of the Pulitzer Prize winning *A Strange Loop*. Arnulfo is a recipient of a Princess Grace Faberge Theater Award, Lucille Lortel Award, and a multiple Henry Hewes Design nominee. [arnulfomaldonado.com](http://arnulfomaldonado.com) IG: [@arnulfo.maldonado.design](https://www.instagram.com/arnulfo.maldonado.design)

**MONTANA LEVI BLANCO** (*Costume Designer, he/him*). CTG debut. Broadway: *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *A Strange Loop*. Select Off-Broadway: *Fairview*, *Is God Is* (Soho Rep); *The House That Will Not Stand* (NYTW); *Ain't No Mo'* (Public). Opera: *Champion*, *El Niño* (Metropolitan). Honors: Tony, Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Henry Hewes, and Obie Awards. Education: Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music, Brown University, and the Yale School of Drama. [montanaleviblanco.com](http://montanaleviblanco.com)

**JEN SCHRIEVER** (*Lighting Designer, she/her*) was lighting designer on *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical* at A.C.T. Broadway credits include *Mother Play*, *A Strange Loop* (Tony nomination), *Death of a Salesman* (Tony nomination), *1776*, *Birthdays Candles*, *Lackawanna Blues*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Lifespan of a Fact*, *Eclipsed*, *Ghetto Klown*. Jen recently lit *A Transparent Musical* at the Mark Taper Forum in L.A. Opera credits include *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (world premiere, Seattle Opera), *Die Fledermaus*, *Pearl Fishers* (Metropolitan Opera), *Faust*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Traviata* (Mariinsky, Russia). Jen has an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence and is an adjunct at Purchase College. Mom to Henry. [jenschriever.com](http://jenschriever.com)

**DREW LEVY** (*Sound Designer, he/him*). Broadway: *A Strange Loop* (Tony nom.), *Oklahoma!* (Tony nom., Drama Desk nom.), *Honeymoon in Vegas* (Drama Desk nom.), *Chaplin* (Drama Desk Award), *The Winslow Boy*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Present Laughter*. *West End: A Strange Loop*, *Oklahoma!* (Olivier nom.). Off-Broadway: *Brynolf & Ljung's Stalker*; *Oh Mary!*; *Judgment Day* (Park Avenue Armory); *Oklahoma!* (St. Ann's); and others. Regional: The Old Globe, ART, Williamstown, Huntington, Two River Theater, and others. Other: Reconfiguration: *An Evening with Other Lives* at BAM; Metropolitan Opera 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala; annual holiday installations for Saks 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cartier, and others.

**COOKIE JORDAN** (*Wigs, Hair, and Makeup Designer*). Broadway: *A Strange Loop*, *Camelot*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Into the Woods*, *Trouble In Mind*, *Clyde's*, *POTUS*, *Slave Play*, *Choir Boy*, *The Cher Show*, *Once on This Island*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *In Transit*, *Eclipsed*, *Side Show*, *After Midnight*, *FELA!*, *A*

*View From The Bridge*, *South Pacific*. Off-Broadway: *Flex*, *Orpheus Descending*, *White Girl in Danger*, *Flex*, *Girls*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Ain't No Mo'*, *Fairview*, *Toni Stone*, *If Pretty Hurts*, *The Secret Life of Bees*, *Boseman and Lena*, *Fabulation*, *Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street*, *In The Blood*, *Daddy*, *Hercules*. Television: Emmy nominated for makeup design for NBC's *The Wiz Live*. Recipient of 2019, 2020 OBIE Award.

**SEAN KANA** (*Music Director/Keys 1, he/him*). Kana is an award-winning music director known for his recent work on *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical*, as well as being the associate music director for the show run and pre-Broadway tour of *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Sean just finished a world premiere new musical at Brava Theatre, *Larry the Musical*, where he served as co-composer, orchestrator, and music director. Kana has been involved with BRT as music director on *Swept Away: A New Musical Tale*. Sean has worked extensively with TheatreWorks and CenterREP and has toured around the globe in varying capacities. [seankana.com](http://seankana.com)

**CHELSEA PACE** (*Intimacy, she/her*) returns to A.C.T. following her work on *Big Data*. Pace's credits include the Broadway productions of *A Strange Loop*, *Leopoldstadt*, and *K-POP*, and a number of Off-Broadway productions. Select regional credits include La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Signature Theatre, Studio Theatre, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, and Philidelphia Theatre Company. Her film and television work includes *Drive Away Dolls*, *HARLEM*, *Dr. Death*, *A League of Their Own*, *Ramy*, *Wu-Tang*, and *Elsbeth*. Pace founded Open Intimacy Creatives and is the author of *Staging Sex: Best Practices, Tools, and Techniques for Theatrical Intimacy*. [chelseapace.com](http://chelseapace.com) [@professorpace](https://www.instagram.com/professorpace)

**THE TESLEY COMPANY / DESTINY LILLY, CSA** (*Casting*). With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theatre, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy. [thetelseyoffice.com](http://thetelseyoffice.com)

**KATIE CRADDOCK** (*Casting, she/her*) is the literary manager and casting associate at A.C.T. Her favorite casting processes here so far include *The Headlands*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Big Data*, and workshops of commissions by Aleshea Harris, Eisa Davis, Craig Lucas, RyanNicole Austin & Adesha Adefela & Beau Lewis, Anne Washburn, and Kate Attwell. Previously, she was the artistic associate at Berkeley Rep,

where she supported season planning, casting, and dramaturgy; mentored artistic fellows; moderated post-show discussions; taught playwrighting and dramaturgy to teens; served on the board/staff anti-racism taskforce; and facilitated the making of new plays at The Ground Floor.

**NAILAH HARPER-MALEVAUX** (*Associate Director, she/her*) is a director and a member of the Shared Leadership Team at Crowded Fire Theater. Directing credits include the West Coast premiere of *Edit Annie* by Mary Glen Fredrick and the world premiere of *Getting There* by Dipika Guha. She has worked at Woolly Mammoth, Pasadena Playhouse, Williamstown Theater Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and Baltimore Center Stage. Yale University: BA in American Studies and Theatre Studies.

**CANDACE TAYLOR** (*Associate Choreographer, she/her*) is a multi-passionate, Dream Doula, whose work exists at the intersection of coaching, consulting, personal empowerment, and creative expression. She has had the honor of working on *A Strange Loop* since 2019 helping to bring to life the Playwrights Horizon production and has had the pleasure to reimagine the piece with every production since! [@candacethedreamdoula](https://www.instagram.com/candacethedreamdoula)

**AARON TACY** (*Associate Lighting Designer, he/him*) is a lighting designer who primarily works as an associate on a wide variety of creative projects. With Jen Schriever on Broadway: *A Strange Loop*, *1776*, *Birthdays Candles*, *Lackawanna Blues*; Off-Broadway: *White Girl In Danger* (2ST/Vineyard); Regional & Touring Includes: *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical* (A.C.T.), *A Transparent Musical* (CTG), and *Blue Man Group* (North American Tour). Activist for equitable practices in the arts, eliminating uncompensated labor, and a union-strong entertainment industry. Proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE. [aaronontacy.com](http://aaronontacy.com)

**DAVID MÖSCHLER** (*Associate Music Director*) is an award-winning conductor based in Oakland and is thrilled to make his debut at CTG and return to A.C.T. where he was last seen music directing *The Wizard of Oz* and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*. Since then, he has music-directed over 135 professional theatre productions and toured with bands like *The Dear Hunter* and *Pop Up Magazine* throughout North America. Möschler has worked as Resident Music Director for YMTC since 2010 and has served on the music staff at College Light Opera Company since 2005. In 2013 he founded Awesome Orchestra Collective, which he conducts every month. [davidmoschler.com](http://davidmoschler.com).

**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER** is an essential gathering place bringing artists and communities together. Now in its sixth year under the leadership of Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon and Executive Director Jennifer Bielstein, A.C.T. is charged with fulfilling its mission to engage the spirit of the San Francisco Bay Area, activate stories that resonate, promote a diversity of voices and points of view, and empower theater makers and audiences to celebrate liveness. A.C.T. is a Tony Award-winning nonprofit theater serving almost 200,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area annually through theater, training, education, and community programs.

**CENTER THEATRE GROUP**

**SNEHAL DESAI** (*Artistic Director, he/him*) was appointed Center Theatre Group's third artistic director in 2023. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness on social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling. Previously, he was the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Snehal was the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship. He has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (Caata), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT). Snehal was on the faculty of USC's graduate program in Arts Leadership and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

**MEGHAN PRESSMAN** (*Managing Director/CEO, she/her*) joined Center Theatre Group in 2019. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.), Director of Development for Signature Theatre (N.Y.), and Associate Managing Director of Berkeley Rep. She is a graduate of Yale School of Drama/Yale School of Management and serves as a mentor in the Theater Management program. Meghan has served as the Vice-Chair for the Theatre Communications Group Board of Directors and is a member of the Broadway League.

**DOUGLAS C. BAKER** (*Producing Director, he/him*) joined Center Theatre Group in 1990. Doug is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), and is a proud member of the Association of

Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM). In 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

**LINDSAY ALLBAUGH** (*Associate Artistic Director, she/her*) is a member of Center Theatre Group's artistic staff and has served in varying capacities for the past 15 years. Selected producing credits include—Mark Taper Forum: *Archduke, Bent, What the Butler Saw, Steward of Christendom, Waiting for Godot*; Kirk Douglas Theatre: *Block Party, Big Night, Good Grief, Vicuña, Throw Me on the Burn pile and Light Me Up, Endgame, Women Laughing Alone With Salad, Chavez Ravine, Race, different words for the same thing, The Nether*. Co-Artistic Director of the Elephant Theatre 2004–2014.

**GORDON DAVIDSON** (*Founding Artistic Director*) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. *The Kentucky Cycle and Angels in America (Part One)* won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

**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

**ADDITIONAL STAFF**

Associate Scenic Designer ..... Corey Umlauf  
 Associate Sound Designer ..... Brian Hsieh  
 Lighting Design Associate ..... Hannah Solomon  
 Production Electricians ..... Jeremy Lane, Jeremy Wahlers  
 Moving Light Programmer ..... Ben Fichthorn  
 Audio Mixer ..... Christian Lee  
 Keyboard Programming ..... Julianne Merrill, PatchMaster Productions  
 Music Consultant ..... Mike Pettry  
 Psychologist ..... Dr. Cathia Walters (Walters Wellness Group)  
 Barber ..... Pierre Murrell  
 Loctician ..... Kyla Eveillard

**CREDITS**

Lighting and Automation by PRG. Sound Equipment by DnB Design, LLC.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Barbara Whitman, Ken Silverman, Zach Stafford, Matt Parritt



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States. This theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians.

The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

The House Managers employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.

The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706.

United Scenic Artists represents designers and scenic artists for the American Theatre.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the National Alliance for Musical Theatres (NAMT), the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

## Come Together: Creating Community

By Zach Stafford

In 2019, I was living in New York City, and one day my phone rang. It was a call from a dear friend and collaborator, songwriter Benj Pasek, who could not stop gushing over a show he'd just seen Off-Broadway called *A Strange Loop*.

Soon after this call, the show would win a Pulitzer and become a darling within the New York theatre scene as people began to see more and more how brilliant Michael R. Jackson was and continues to be. And Benj, a friend of Michael's already, was making sure everyone in town—even outside the theatre world—knew how amazing it was.

With every call he made, he was not just able to talk a lot of us into seeing the show who may have missed it otherwise. And eventually many of us finally got to meet producer Barbara Whitman who was then able to create an incredible tapestry of people to join her in bringing this show to life on Broadway. People including luminaries like Jennifer Hudson, RuPaul, Billy Porter (and many others) who all stood up as co-producers during a global pandemic to make sure the world got to see how incredible *A Strange Loop* is on Broadway.

If you're reading this right now, it means you are probably seated for a production of the show as it continues to live a life way past the streets of New York City—and even London—here in California. And how it got here to you is through very similar efforts of community, friendship, and people stepping up for Broadway to make sure art like this can be seen by as many people as possible.

The incredible communities that make up both the American Conservatory Theater of San Francisco and Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles, came together and worked tirelessly to find a path for this show to make its West Coast premiere. Through their partnership, this show was able to dream a California dream with the original creative team coming in to help shape it with a brand-new cast plus our original Thought 4 (Tony nominee John-Andrew Morrison) returning.

In the midst of all these heroic efforts, our friends at Gilead—who had always been so supportive of the show since Broadway—raised their hands to do something many companies would never do: sponsor a piece of theatre. But they didn't stop there and neither did our two theatres presenting this amazing show for you now.

As *A Strange Loop* makes its California debut, A.C.T. and CTG will be doing deep community engagement work—thanks to our producing partner, Gilead—to ensure communities that are rarely seen in theatre are not only welcomed to these performances, but celebrated while they are here. This will be done through amazing nights like a Black Out Night and Pride celebrations.

They have also chosen community partners who do the real work every day in many communities to make sure they have tickets to join our ever growing *Strange* family—among many other initiatives all in the hopes that people are as changed by this piece as many of us were back in NYC a few years ago.

All of this—everything from the initiatives to just the act of presenting this performance you're about to witness—are being done as ways to build bridges for us all to come together. And it couldn't happen at a better time.

We are all currently living in a country where LGBTQ+ folks, people of color, and those that live on the intersections of these two identities face so many hurdles in front of us. And a lot of the vitriol or hate we face across this country begins with people not truly knowing our stories, which is what makes *A Strange Loop* so important today—even every day.

Because, at the end of the day, the act of bringing people together from all walks of life to witness a story is still radical and art can still touch each and everyone of us if we let it. It is why all of us involved in theatre making keep getting up every single day and fighting to keep doing it over and over again—like our own *beautiful and strange...loop*.

And it is through this act of you sitting here in this theatre that we can all begin to peer through a window into someone else's life, someone else's story, and realize the world is big enough for all of us.

---

Zach Stafford is a journalist, editor, and a Tony Award-winning producer. He is the co-host of the SiriusXM podcast *Vibe Check*, which *The New York Times* named one of the best podcasts of 2022. Prior, he was the first Black editor-in-chief of *The Advocate*, served as the chief content officer of Grindr, and was a journalist at *The Guardian*. Zach is also the author of two books titled *Boys* and *When Dogs Heal*. In 2019, he was included in the *Forbes 30 Under 30* list and named as one of the most influential Black people living today by *The Root*.



# Clue

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*-The Philadelphia Inquirer*

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TIFFANY SLAGLE° ..... Artistic & Literary Administrative Assistant  
CASEY NICHOLAW, PHYLICIA RASHAD,  
PAULA VOGEL ..... Associate Artists

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KHANISHA FOSTER ..... Director of Equity,  
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A'RAELLE FLYNN-BOLDEN ..... Staff Programs Manager  
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and Managing Director/CEO

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JARED BATTY ..... Head Electrician (Ahmanson Theatre)  
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## ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMISSIONS

As part of our commitment to supporting new plays and playwrights, we foster and develop a broad range of theatrical work from diverse artists locally, nationally, and abroad.

### Artists creating new work commissioned by Center Theatre Group this season:

AZIZA BARNES	YOUNG JEAN LEE	CYNTHIA GRACE ROBINSON
LISA D'AMOUR	MATTHEW LOPEZ	SARAH RUHL
LARISSA FASTHORSE	ROGER Q. MASON	T.TARA TURK-HAYNES
JENNIFER HALEY	TAHIRH MOELLER	LUIS VALDEZ
ALEXHEA HARRIS	JANNIE NABERS	PAULA VOGEL
GERALDINE ELIZABETH INOA	QUI NGUYEN	KAREN ZACARIAS
LISA KRON	LYNN NOTTAGE	
KIMBER LEE	MARCO RAMIREZ	

## LA WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Since 2005, we have invited local playwrights to spend a year researching and writing a new work with the feedback of their fellow writers and artistic staff as part of our L.A. Writers' Workshop.

Learn more at [CTGLA.org/Artists](http://CTGLA.org/Artists).

### 2023/24 COHORT:

AMY BERRYMAN	CHRISTOPHER OSCAR PEÑA
INDA CRAIG-GALVÁN°	RAMIZ MONSEF
ISAAC GÓMEZ	JASMINE SHARMA

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LARISSA FASTHORSE  
MICHAEL FEINSTEIN  
MICHAEL JOHN GARCÉS  
DANIEL ALEXANDER JONES  
MADELINE SAYET  
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