

KITFT

KENYA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL TRUST

PRESENTS



>> Performance Dates

11th June - 14th June, 2026

>> Venue

C.U Shah Jain Bhavan, Loresho



Director's Note

Welcome to the PRIDE ROCK!

At its heart, *The Lion King Jr.* is a story about identity, responsibility, courage, and the journey we all take to discover who we are meant to become. While it is set in the vast African savannah and populated by extraordinary animals, its themes are deeply human and resonate across generations.

As a director, I have been fascinated by how nature mirrors society. In the animal kingdom, every creature has a role to play, and the survival of the whole depends on the contribution of each individual. This idea forms the backbone of what the story calls the "Circle of Life"—the understanding that we are all connected and that our actions have consequences beyond ourselves.

Bringing this production to life has been an exciting adventure. Our young performers have embraced the challenge of transforming themselves into lions, zebras, gazelles, birds, elephants, and hyenas through movement, music, and storytelling. Rather than merely portraying animals, they have sought to capture the spirit, energy, and rhythm of life in the Pride Lands.

This production celebrates collaboration. Every costume, every note sung, every dance step, and every moment on stage represents the collective effort of a dedicated team of performers, choreographers, musicians, designers, technicians, parents, and supporters who have worked tirelessly to create this magical world. I am particularly proud of the courage and creativity displayed by our cast. Theatre teaches discipline, teamwork, empathy, and confidence—lessons that extend far beyond the stage. Through this production, these young artists have not only entertained but have also grown as individuals.

As you watch tonight's performance, I invite you to look beyond the spectacle and listen closely to the story's message: that the future belongs to those who learn from the past, embrace responsibility, and find the courage to take their rightful place in the world.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Enjoy the show, and welcome to the Circle of Life.

Michael M. Jones

Director, Lion King Junior Musical

Synopsis

The Lion King Jr. is a heartwarming musical adventure set in the African savannah, following young Simba as he journeys from a carefree cub to a brave leader. After the loss of his father, Simba must overcome fear, discover his true identity, and embrace his destiny. Filled with vibrant music, unforgettable characters, and powerful themes of courage, friendship, and the circle of life, this timeless story comes alive on stage in a captivating performance for all ages.



Cast List

>> Principals

Mufasa
Mufasa
Young Simba
Young Simba
Young Simba
Young Simba
Older Simba
Older Simba
Scar
Scar
Timon
Sarabi
Timon
Pumba
Pumba
Zazu
Zazu
Shenzi
Dance/Lioness
Dance/Lioness
Dance/Lioness

Jordan Ruoro
Powell Gitonga
Samora Fimister
Victor Job
Gabe Wise
Francis Kamau
Han Akot
Melvin Mugambi
Ler Jawar
Prinslow Sigah
Jannelle Tamara
Malaika Matindi
Aleesha Belle
Pascal Githinji
Chantal Wangui
Shantel Marie
Cleivin Njoroge
Tony Barasa
Gladys Kerubo
Davine Nayboke
Kyla Sienna

Young Nala
Young Nala
Young Nala
Young Nala
Older Nala/
Rafiki
Older Nala
Older Nala/
Sarabi/Lioness
Singer/Banzai
Singer/Banzai
Singer/Banzai/
Lioness
Singer/Hyena
Dancer\Lioness
Dance & Hyena
Rafiki/Singer
Nala /Pumba
Lioness/Singer
Dancer/Lioness

Greer Rose
Brianna Wacuka
Beydhan Kullane
Tiffany Nyokabi
Sheila Wanjiru

Aimee Kamzeh
Wendy Nkirote

Natasha Njeri
Ashley Wanjiru
Jael Sarah

Lucie Wangui
Precious Gift
Bibiana Safari
Nyabiya Syekei
Alyce Shamala
Angel Ndemo
Mitchele Jemato



>> Singers

Wesley Wesley
Lucy Ngima
Aart Casey Wambui
King Amani

Sanaa Karithi
Michelle Wairimu
Arianna Makena
Amilia Gakii

Tatiana Wambui
Cara Matete
Abby Kerubo

>> Dancers

Joseph Omondi
Esther Moraa
Charles Lwanga
Jeremy Charles
Fidel Nyabuti
Tracy Moraa
Lynn Tiffany
Adrian Osebe

Stephanie Atieno
Marion Joy
Elvis Omanwa
Moses Jusa
Bravin Obiero
Henry Briel
Caitylenn Mary
Prince Gary

Phanice Atieno
Monica Niviye
Wendy Rita
Shania Kimberly
Francis Mike
Samuel Nyandiba
Gift Precious



>> Band

Trumpeter
Lead Guitar
Trumpeter
Rhythm Guitar
Keyboard
Violin

Abel Maina
Alexander Nyabuto
Lawrence Macharia
Nathaniel Kinyua
Felix Almond
Nelson Jacob Ochieng'

Bass Guitar
Clarinet
Drumset
Saxophone
Trombone
Alto Sax

Ethan Mutiso
Emmanuel Mugambi
Richard Gitau
Simone Eva
Eliana Tamasha
Christopher Munene

Creative Team



Mitchel Sommers
Executive Producer



Kevin Kimani
Producer



Benson Ngobia
Co-Producer



Michael Mwangi
Director



Gabriel Muloki
Musical Director



Oscar Mwalo
Choreographer



Nancy Aluoch
Production Designer



Judy Mwaura
Stage Manager



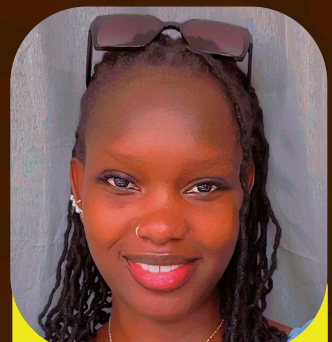
Calcine Antonett
Acting Coach



Irene Munene
Assistant Choreographer

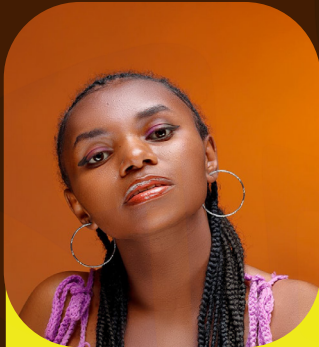


Hadasa Kariuki
Production Manager



Fiona Oyugi
Corporate Affairs

Creative Team



Asnath Mumbi
Production Assistant



Charles Stephen
Lighting Designer



Mickey Ludenyo
Sound Engineer



Festus Kuria
Social Media Manager



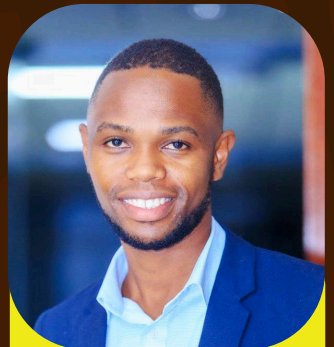
Emmanuel Sete
Videographer



Dikayo
Photographer



Joseph Gateru
Web Developer



Emmanuel Ogutu
Graphic Designer



John Mwaura
Asst. Stage Manager

Production Support

Set designer

Nancy Aluoch Oluoch

Set design assistants

Saumu Kombo
Verah Oduor
Sandra Rakwar

Hair Stylist

Winnie Atieno

Prop master

Nancy Aluoch Oluoch

Design Concepts by

Nancy Aluoch

Key stylist

Pearl Aluoch

Design and styling assistants

Dee touch
Yvonne Chockey
Jojo Designer
Makenah- design
Tigaad
Victor Muriithi
Ashley Anyenya- on
Accessories

Construction

Benson Ng'ang'a & Team

Choreography

Charles Graafin (Lachu)
Muriuki Samuel

Stage & Crew

Sally Oliech
Gideon Kinyenje
Eric munga
Moses Miringu
Sasha Gift Sangale
Vincent Njoroge
Danson Muchiri
Alicia Auma
Cybil Njeri

FRONT OF HOUSE

Ticketing & Community

Esther Kimotho
Bernice Wangeci
Precious Wambui
Caroline Damaris
Purity Nyambura
Vivian Wanjiku
Gift Juma
Victor Kamau

Sound & Lighting

Kimemia Wachira
Sharon Mwarinda
Emmanuel Musisi

Special Thanks & Acknowledgments

Some events in our lives are truly God inspired, or at the very least, partially driven by powers higher than ourselves. Such has been my magnificent journey with the youth of Kenya.

What started out as a safari in the spring of '25 led to a "Kibera Slum Tour with Lucas" and my being a guest speaker at KITfest's County Theatre Fiesta. Here we are a year later with our first community theater production of "Lion King, Jr "!

What you will experience today on stage is the culmination of year-long professional theatrical training of 25 talented youth at the Hope and Shine Center in Kibera joining over 50 other talented youth throughout Nairobi and beyond who have devoted the last 6 months of their lives to this production while keeping up with school, work and home responsibilities.

As a kid who did not excel in sports, it was theater that gave me confidence, communication skills, a good work ethic, a sense of responsibility, the joy of working with others who may be different than myself, and a way to express my talents and who I truly am. It has been my life's work to pass this gift on to others. Theatre is powerful! Theatre is transformative! Theatre, music and dance feed our soul!!

At a time when more and more USA and international programs that help Africans are being cut, and hatred of the "other" is once again on the rise, it was personally important to me and my friends back in the United States to show Kenyans that there are still Americans that really care and stand beside you! I even love ugali!!

Hakuna Matata and enjoy the show!

Mitchel Sommers

Special Thanks & Acknowledgments

- » Equity Bank
- » Lucas Rapela
- » KCA University
- » Kenya Cultural Center Incorporating
- » The National Theatre
- » Andy Nicole head Artist from
Lintons Academy

- » Ann Mwangi
- » Jack the Puppeteer
- » Yuri Wambyakale
- » Delight Fashion School
- » Daniel Mutiso
- » Mercy Angwachi
- » Parents and Guardians

Special Thanks & Acknowledgments

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the performances of Lion King Jr. The Musical, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support throughout this journey. Thank you for trusting us with your gifted children and for the many ways you have contributed to this production through your time, financial support, resources, ideas, volunteering, and constant encouragement. Your commitment and belief in both your children and this project have been instrumental in bringing this production to life. We are incredibly proud of what the children have achieved and deeply appreciate your partnership in nurturing their talent, confidence, and love for the arts.

With heartfelt appreciation

The Lion King Jr. Production Team



