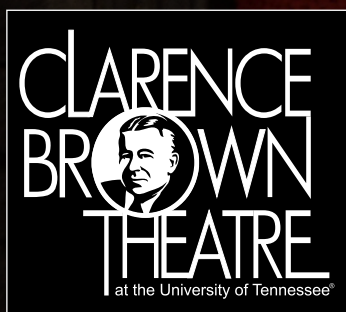


TROUBLE IN MIND

By ALICE CHILDRESS



FEBRUARY 8-26

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CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE
at the University of Tennessee

presents

TROUBLE IN MIND

By ALICE CHILDRESS

Directed by **Marti Gobel** ★

Scenic Designer
Christopher Pickart ♦

Costume Designer
Devario D. Simmons ♦

Lighting Designer
Joshua J. Mullady

Sound Designer
and Composer
Joe Cerqua ♦

Voice Coach
Davion T. Brown

Stage Manager
Topaz Cooks *

Artistic Director/Department Head
Kenneth Martin

Managing Director
Tom Cervone

Production Manager
Susan L. McMillan

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★ The Director is a member of the **Stage Directors and Choreographers Society**, a national theatrical labor union.



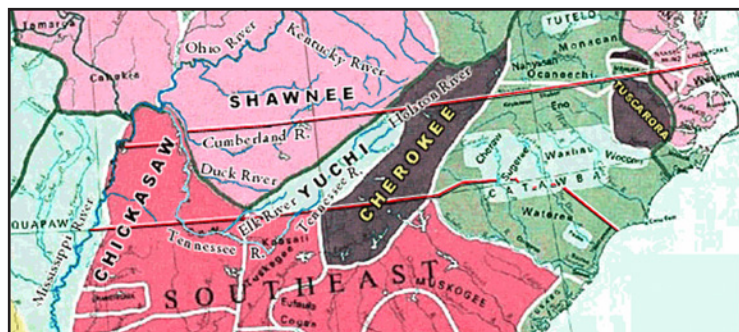
♦ The Designers in LORT Theatres are represented by **United Scenic Artists**, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



* The stage manager appears through the courtesy of **Actors' Equity Association**, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Cover Photo: Shinnerrie Jackson; by Elizabeth Aaron

The Aboriginal People of Tennessee and Surrounding Areas



A Detail map (section) Taken From:
Early American Indian Tribes, Cultural Areas, and Linguistic Stocks
by
William C. Sturtevant
Smithsonian Institution
1966

We acknowledge that we live, work, and create art on the traditional lands of the Tsalagi peoples (now the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians) and the Tsoyaha peoples (Yuchi and Muscogee Creek).

We are indebted to these indigenous peoples for their stewardship, both past and present, of this beautiful land.



We recognize and value diversity in all forms, including age, ethnicity, family structure, gender identity, national origin, race religion, spirituality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, and veteran status.

We believe inclusivity and diversity in our workplace should reflect the increasing multicultural and global society in which we live. We seek to foster excellent creative research, scholarship and professional practice by creating a welcoming environment, ethical recruitment practices, and a diverse student body who will have lives of awareness and understanding through their creative research, teaching, practicing and advocating for others in a diverse world.

Detailed information on our DEI initiatives can be found here:

<https://theatre.utk.edu/diversity-inclusion/>

THE ACTORS

Shinnerrie Jackson * Wiletta Mayer
Tom Parkhill Henry
Will Dorsey IV * John Nevins
Amberlin McCormick * Millie Davis
Rachel Darden * Judy Sears
Rico Bruce Wade * Sheldon Forrester
Joshua Peterson * Al Manners
Michael Najman * Eddie Fenton
Terry Weber * Bill O'Wray

UNDERSTUDIES

Kisha Rockett Wiletta Mayer
Steve Sherman * Henry, Al Manners, Bill O'Wray
Malik Baines John Nevins
McKinley Merritt Millie Davis
Linzy Monks Judy Sears
Kenneth Herring Sheldon Forrester
Joseph Coram Eddie Fenton

TIME PERIOD

1950s

SETTING

A Broadway theater in New York City, 1957

This production is 110 minutes with one intermission.

After the show, please take a moment to fill out a brief 5-minute survey tiny.utk.edu/cbtsurvey about your experiences at *Trouble in Mind*. Your feedback helps us better know our audiences, offer more programming and increases funding opportunities for the CBT. **Thank you in advance!**



* The actors appear through the courtesy of **Actors' Equity Association**, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I was first introduced to *Trouble in Mind* by Alice Childress in 2008 where I served as an understudy for the role of Wiletta Meyer. The production was my first black themed play. Needless to say, I was floored by the brilliance of the piece made even brighter when I realized how and when the play came into being. I then went on to direct and perform in two additional productions and the play continued to hold great power for me with its unvarnished truths and unflinching depictions of the social sensibilities of the day. As an African American woman, actor, and director I am able to track my internal growth and understanding of the large themes addressed within the play as I mature. Those themes include racism, sexism, classism, agism, generational divides within the African American and Caucasian communities and the very notion of self-identify. Oh, yes. This comedy, penned by Ms. Childress, manages to address all of that (and then some) in its 2-hour presentation. A stunning piece of work, the longevity of *Trouble in Mind* is a testament to its very value regarding the American theater canon.

For me, the greatest challenge in directing this play has been to guide my actors to **unknow**. That is, how do we as contemporary artists make real the uncharted, unrecognized, and unexplored realities of our very existence? Further, how do we as artists present the notion of **unknowing** in such a way that the move from said **unknowing** to knowledge rings with clarity and immediacy. In the theatre, we call this being “in the moment.” Being “in the moment” is an extremely hard thing to accomplish for a myriad of reasons. For example, I am keenly aware of my rights in the greater world and in the smaller world of the rehearsal room. I am aware of what I am willing to take, what is unacceptable for a director to ask of me or to do to me in the quest for a quality production, and I know when I can and must speak up concerning injustices that present themselves in the rehearsal hall. But what if these are truly unexplored territories? What if no one has yet to challenge the norms of the day because that speaking up is physically and emotionally dangerous? These are rich questions to ponder for any artist, to be sure.

I have watched my actors of color struggle with processing the micro-aggressions thrown at them in the play. I’ve watched them struggle to receive what they would never take in the present day all while pretending to **unknow** how history would eventually evolve into our current society.

The challenge for the Caucasian characters is equal for they are tasked with speaking and doing things within the context of the play that wrenches their contemporary

selves with wrongness. They also have had to **unknow** what was previously and unabashedly afforded to them in the United States because of their skin color. I have watched them struggle to speak their characters’ words with a genuine flavor of entitlement.

As patrons, you are asked to take this ride with us and to process the contents of the play with an awareness of the time in history in which the story is set. Historically speaking, in 1955 the Civil Rights Movement as a campaign had just begun the year prior. Communism was still a perceived threat. Women had just gained momentum concerning their rights. The elderly and the poor were often dismissed. The ideals of the older generations were at odds with the youth. Further, all these conflicts were swirling around in a powder keg that was bound to explode. And, in the reality of the play, much like the reality of the world at the time, explode these conflicts do. I assert that the explosion is merely the aftershock of a series of happenings that join together in a shattering and palpable manner. It is grotesquely fascinating to watch...

The play begs the patron to consider a few things: First, *Trouble in Mind* by Alice Childress is a comedy. The play is funny until it isn’t. Second, as you witness our work, know that by presenting the wrongs of humanity through this very specific lens, we are also offering a means to highlight a path to universal rights. Lastly, as the character Wiletta Meyer so beautifully states, please remember, “We have to go further and do better.” Enjoy the show.

Marti Gobel

ABOUT ALICE CHILDRESS



Born in 1916 and raised during the Harlem Renaissance under the watchful eye of her beloved maternal grandmother, Alice Childress grew up to become first an actress and then a playwright and novelist. A founding member of the American Negro Theatre, she wrote her first play, *Florence*, in 1949. The script was written in one night on a dare from close friend and actor Sidney Poitier, who had told Alice that he didn't think a great play could be written overnight. She proved him wrong, and the play was produced

off-Broadway in 1950. Childress became, in 1952, the first African American woman to see her play (*Gold Through The Trees*) professionally produced in New York.

In 1955, Childress' play *Trouble in Mind* was a critical and popular success from the beginning of its run off-Broadway at the Greenwich Mews Theatre, and it immediately drew interest from producers for a Broadway transfer. In an ironic twist echoing the tribulations of the characters in the play itself, the producers wanted changes to the script to make it more palatable to a commercial audience. Childress refused to compromise her artistic vision, and the play never opened on Broadway, ending her chances of being the first African American woman playwright to have a work on Broadway. In 2021, she made her long-awaited Broadway debut when Roundabout Theatre Company produced *Trouble in Mind* at the American Airlines Theatre, receiving four Tony Award nominations.

Childress is perhaps best known today for *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But A Sandwich*, her 1973 novel about a 13-year-old black boy addicted to heroin, which was subsequently made into a movie in 1978. Other plays written by Childress include *Just A Little Simple* (1950), *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story In Black and White* (1966) and *Gullah* (1984). Alice Childress died in New York in 1994. Throughout her career, she examined the true meaning of being black, and especially of being black and female. As Childress herself once said, "I concentrate on portraying have-nots in a have society."

River & Rail Theatre Company Presents

THE MOUNTAINTOP

BY KATORI HALL

Performance Dates & Times

Thursday, Feb 16	Free Preview
Friday, Feb 17-Sunday, Feb 19	Opening Weekend
Monday, Feb 20	Free Performance at UTK
Thursday, Feb 23-Sunday, Feb 26	Performances
Thursday, March 2-Sunday, March 5	Closing Weekend

**** Thursdays-Saturdays: 7:30PM. Sundays: 2:30PM ****

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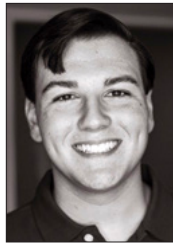
THE CAST



MALIK BAINES

(Understudy - John Nevins) Malik is super excited to be welcomed back to join the CBT family in their current amazing production! He previously performed in the CBT's

2021 production *Airness* as "Golden Thunder" and can be seen performing with many theaters around East Tennessee, as well as in television shows on networks such as TV One and the ID channel. Malik feels that *Trouble in Mind* will definitely be one for the books!



JOSEPH CORAM

(Understudy - Eddie Fenton) is the son of Melissa and Jeremiah Coram and is a Sophomore at UT. You may have seen him in his debut performance in *A Christmas Carol*

this past fall. He has participated in many different shows at the Knoxville Children's Theatre, the most recent of which was *The Little Mermaid*. He is enjoying his Sophomore year at UT. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him and pushing him to be the best that he can be, Coke Morgan for being an amazing vocal coach, Elizabeth Williams for being a fabulous instructor and director, Addison Coram, for being the best little sister ever, and Dennis Perkins for being his acting and directing mentor for many years.



RACHEL DARDEN

(Judy Sears) Rachel grew up on the western slope of Colorado - a place that more resembles Mars than anything John Denver sang about. She earned a

Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre from Colorado Mesa University before beginning a decade long journey away from, then back to acting (there was a yurt, questionable hair choices, and a lot of pie). She is currently in her final year of MFA training. During her time at UTK, she has had the opportunity to play such roles as Agnes in *She Kills Monster*, Greta in *Murder on the Orient Express*. Upon graduation she plans to pursue her craft in Washington, D.C.



WILL DORSEY IV

(John Nevins) Will is a proud native of Flint, MI. He attended Central Michigan University (96-98) and is a Knoxville College Alum (98-02) Will is a certified personal

trainer and amateur bodybuilder who operates his own business. Will began his local stage acting career in 2010. In 2011, he appeared in Carpet Bag Theater production *Speed Killed My Cousin* and years later, their Anniversary series *Swopera and Red Summer*. Will also appeared in River & Rail's production *SWEAT*. Will is represented by Talent Trek Agency and has appeared in TV Commercials, music videos and Voice Overs. His television credits include

Fatal Attraction, *Homicide Hunter*, *Snapped*, *Murder Comes to Town* and more. Will played the Honorable Judge Henry in an Off-Broadway stage play *Justice on Trial* by Greater Faith Entertainment. Will is the drama director at Overcoming Believers Church where he has written and directed over 30 drama skits. In 2014, Will wrote and directed his own full stage play *The Guiding Light* and from there went on to write and direct the first and second Annual Blessings on Bell St. full stage play productions. He recently acted in and directed the full stage play *Worth It* by Vet-to-Vet foundation.



KENNETH HERRING

(Understudy - Sheldon Forrester) Kenneth Herring grew up in Oak Ridge, TN, just 25 miles from downtown Knoxville. Kenneth holds a BA in

Communications for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Masters in Business Administration from Bethel University. Kenneth has a non-traditional theatre background, having spent the 10 years working in Information Technology sales. Kenneth is a former member of the Hammer Ensemble, which performed at Knoxville's Flying Anvil Theatre. Kenneth is passionate about content creation and creating inclusive environments. Kenneth enjoys basketball and spending time with his son, Rayne.



SHINNERRIE JACKSON

(Willetta Mayer) Shinnerrie earned her Bachelors of Music at Oberlin Conservatory and her MFA at the University of Tennessee. She can be

seen in *30 Rock* and in Whit Stillman's *Damsels in Distress*. Previous theatre productions include *A Night with Janis Joplin* (tour), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Cincinnati Playhouse), and *Ain't I A Woman*: a one woman show about the heroines of African American history.

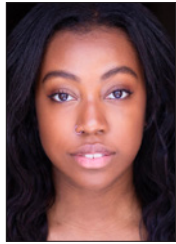


AMBERLIN MCCORMICK

(Millie Davis) is a fourth-year MFA Acting candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Amberlin's credits include: Viola in *Twelfth*

Night (National Black Theatre Festival), Eurydice in *Eurydice* (Warehouse Performing Arts Center) and Avigail in *The Unusual Tale of Mary and Joseph* (River and Rail Theatre). Amberlin would like to thank the wonderful instructors at UT, family, and classmates!

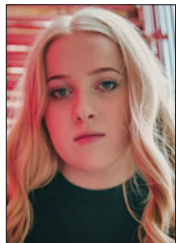
THE CAST



McKINLEY MERRITT

(*Understudy* - Millie Davis) McKinley, a UT Theatre alumni and Nashville native, is excited to be a part of *Trouble In Mind* after a long time away from the Clarence Brown

stage! Her favorite roles include the ensembles of *The Threepenny Opera*, *Monty Python's Spamlot*, *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Sweeney Todd*, as well as Logainne in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a member of the Shakespeare medley, *Will Power!*, and Bec in *4000 Miles* all at the Clarence Brown Theatre. You can often find McKinley interning at a cappella conventions, singing with her 90s cover band, Teen Spirit, and probably laughing too hard at something really silly. Stay healthy, be safe, and, most importantly, enjoy the show!



LINZY MONKS

(*Understudy* - Judy Sears) is a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she is studying theatre with a concentration in

acting. Linzy is originally from Coldwater, Michigan, and has taken part in a variety of theatrical productions since age 10. Linzy's credits include: Chutney Windham in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Coldwater Community Theatre), Tzeitel in *Fiddler On The Roof* (Coldwater High School Musicals), Dr. Melissa Smith in *Anatomy of A Murder* (The Sauk Theatre) LeFou in *Beauty And The Beast: The Musical*

(Coldwater High School Musicals), and #14 in *The Wolves* (River & Rail Theatre). Linzy is honored to be a part of this incredible production, and she hopes you enjoy the show.



MICHAEL NAJMAN

(Eddie Fenton) Born and raised in Queens, NY, Michael moved to Knoxville to attend UTK's Master of Fine Arts in Acting program, and expects to graduate this Spring.

He most recently appeared in the Clarence Brown Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* as Bob Cratchit, as well as in *Murder on the Orient Express* as Hector MacQueen. Additionally, Michael provided voice coaching for *She Kills Monsters* and voice, text, and dialect coaching for ACT's production of *Twelfth Night*. Watch him play Dungeons & Dragons with his actor friends Sunday nights at 6:30pm at www.twitch.tv/magicpodcasters



TOM PARKHILL

(Henry) is the Founding Artistic Director of the Tennessee Stage Company. He began his career with The Playgroup, a Knoxville based improvisational ensemble and has

appeared at the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Provisional Theatre in Los Angeles and been a company member with Charlotte Shakespeare, Flatrock Playhouse, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Playhouse On

THE CAST

The Square, South Carolina Rep and Cumberland County Playhouse among others. He has performed at both the Pico/Spoletto Festival in Charleston, and the Boomershoot Arts Festival in Seattle and has appeared in over a hundred national and regional commercials as well as feature films, television and radio.



JOSHUA PETERSON

(Al Manners) is the Founding Artistic Director of River & Rail Theatre Company here in Knoxville. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Southern Methodist

University in Dallas. Joshua is Texas transplant via Paris, France and New York City and now claims Knoxville as his home. Prior to moving to Knoxville, Joshua served as the Artistic Director of Firebone Theatre Company in New York City. He's appeared in River & Rail Theatre's productions of *Constellations* & *Every Brilliant Thing*. Previously at CBT he's appeared in *Of Mice & Men* and *A Christmas Carol*. Other selected regional acting credits include *Measure for Measure* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival), *House and Garden* (Theatre Three), *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Kitchen Dog Theatre) and *Tape* (Dallas Theatre Center.) Joshua would like to thank Amelia, his best friend and wife, and their children, Penny, Eli & Maeve for all their love and support!



KISHA ROCKETT

(*Understudy* - Wileta Mayer) Kisha has been performing for over 20 years. She has toured in many plays across the United States and several local plays here in Knoxville, Tn.

with The Carpetbag Theatre Inc. Kisha has appeared on TVOne, and recently can be seen in Dolly Parton's *Magic Mountain Christmas* special on NBC. Her passion for acting has been there since she was a child, and now she is pouring into other youth by teaching them how to create their own stories and produce and share their work. Kisha Rockett grew up in Milwaukee, Wi and now lives in Seymour, Tn. She is a mother of 3 and dedicated wife to her supporting husband for over 20 years. She is currently being represented by the Stair Agency.



STEVE SHERMAN

(*Understudy* - Henry, Al Manners, Bill O'Wray) Steve received his MFA in Acting from UT in 2016 and has performed in 12 productions at the CBT including

The Whipping Man, *Spamalot!*, *4000 Miles*, *Of Mice & Men*, *The Open Hand* and most recently *King Charles III*. In 2018 he began teaching acting and theatre undergraduate courses at UT. He has worked as an actor and writer all over the country including the new work process at The Kennedy Center and O'Neill Theatre Center. As an undergraduate at Western Washington

THE CAST

University he was nationally recognized for acting and playwriting by the Kennedy Center for his play *Brian and Joe*. On camera work includes several independent films and commercials. He also serves as Artistic Director of the Knoxville Children's Theatre. Thanks to God, Hana and our little rock star William. www.SteveMSherman.com

He'd like to thank all the connections at the CBT for their support and their commitment to artistic excellence.



TERRY WEBER

(Bill O'Wray) is Professor Emeritus of Theatre at UT (retired after 31 years). He is currently Artistic Director of The WordPlayers.

Terry's acting career has taken him to theatres in New York, Seattle, Milwaukee, Louisville, Chicago, Kansas City, Montgomery, Knoxville, Toronto, Orlando, Charleston, Asheville, Cincinnati, and Avignon (France). Recent roles at the Clarence Brown Theatre: Chairman in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Larry Morrow in *Dream of the Burning Boy*, Mrs. Bumbrake/Teacher in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Sir Jealous Traffick in *The Busy Body*, Rev. Parris in *The Crucible*, Marcus in *Titus Andronicus*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Captain Keller in *The Miracle Worker*.



RICO BRUCE WADE

(Sheldon Forrester) is honored to return to the Clarence Brown Theatre. Previously, he appeared in the CBT production of *Master Harold... and the boys*. Mr. Wade is an

associate artist with the Flint Repertory Theater, where he has appeared in multiple productions including *Death of a Salesman*, *The Boatman* and *Into The Woods*. Other credits include Ixion Ensemble's production of *Broke-ology*, the Riverwalk /CAP production of *Jitney*, and Williamston Theatre's production of *Blue Door*. He worked extensively with the Second City-Detroit, collaborating on over a dozen revues. His film work includes Ken Nelson's *Sincerely, Brenda*, Scot Magie's *FOUR-NINETY* and Jeff Wray's *Songs for My Right Side*. In 2022, he was the recipient of an Ohio Valley Regional Emmy award for his performance in *Learning Through Art - A Black Anthology of Music*. Rico is also an instructor at Wayne State University and has been a teaching artist with the Detroit Creativity Project, Planet Ant Theatre, and the Michigan Actors Studio.

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THE ARTISTS



MARTI GOBEL

(Director) Marti Gobel is a nationally recognized actor, director and teaching artist. Upon graduating from UW-Whitewater in 2008 with a degree in Performance, Theatre and Philosophy (with an emphasis in Religious Studies), Ms. Gobel began a rich career in both theatre and television and film. Her need to add to the tapestry of the mid-west professional theatre scene led to the founding of the now defunct UPROOTED theatre. As Producing Artistic Director (from 2009-2015) she worked tirelessly to diversify the arts through her efforts. Ms. Gobel is a current member of both Actors Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA. Selected Stage Credits include: Milwaukee Shakespeare (*Henry IV, part 2*), Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (*Well, Around The World In 80 Days, Broken and Entered, Fires In the Mirror*) Renaissance Theaterworks' (*NEAT: Milwaukee, Sheboygan and South Africa, The Persians, Crumbs From the Table of Joy, The Violet Hour, Still, Sex With Strangers, The Roommate*, and a reading of Tanya Saracho's *El Nogular* and Gwendolyn Rice's *The Griots*), First Stage Children's Theatre (*The Neverendingstory* and readings of *Jackie and Me, The Promised Land*), The Milwaukee Repertory Theater (*Clybourne Park, A Christmas Carol: 2012-2014, Yankee Tavern, Trouble In Mind*), Forward Theater (*In The Next Room, Mr. Burns, Skeleton Crew, Mom, How Did You Meet The Beatles*) and UPROOTED theatre (*Beauty's Daughter: Milwaukee, Chicago and Memphis, A Streetcar Named Desire, Yellowman, Crumbs From the Table of Joy, *Pink Champagne, Jack and Jill, HooDoo Love, Oleanna, I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document Given To Me By A Young Lady From Rwanda, The Philadelphia Story, *Man From Madisonville, The Sunset Limited, Suddenly*

Last Summer), Next Act Theatre (*Perfect Mendacity, No Child, Twilight: Los Angeles, The Taming, The Christians*), and Theatre Lila (*No Child*). Marti plays an ongoing role as the Civil Rights suffragist, Ida B. Wells for the Kenosha Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and is often featured in local and regional commercials and voice-overs. She appeared in the short film, *Spare Change*, as well as the web-series *Gettin' Grown*; both directed by the award-winning film director Aaron Greer and Faith Flix's *Come Follow Me, Mary, Mother of Jesus* and the feature film *Game Day* produced by Chicago Studio City. National television credits include NBC's *Chicago PD* in addition to several regional commercials. Selected Professional Directing Credits include: National Project 1 Voice staged reading of *Trouble In Mind*, (Ten Chimneys Estate), *A Soldier's Story* (Isitatha Theatre in South Africa) the staged reading of *A Lesson Before Dying* (Duncan Entertainment Group), and the world premiere productions of Reginald Edmund's **South Bridge* (The Broadway Theatre Center), Laura Lynn MacDonald's **Through The Eyes Of Jim* (Young Auditorium & Milton House Museum), and Caleen Sinnette Jennings' **Hair, Nails & Dress* (Tenth Street Theatre, Milwaukee) and **Freedom High, In The Red And Brown Water* a collaboration with Marquette University and UPROOTED theatre. *The Ballad Of Emmett Till, Native Gardens* and Staged Reading of Philana Omorotionmwan's *Before Evening Comes* (Renaissance Theaterworks). *Exit Strategy* (Forward Theatre) and *The Brothers Size, Marcus: The Secret Of Sweet, Eeny Meeny Miny No* (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre) and *Blood At The Root, Principal, Principle, The Christians, Kill Move Paradise* (Next Act Theatre). University Productions include: *Airness* (Hendrix College), *Wine In the Wilderness, Crumbs From the Table of Joy, The Light* (Marquette University), *Trojan Women* (UW-Milwaukee). Marti has served as

a lead teacher at First Stage Theatre Academy in Milwaukee as well as a lead teacher and program designer for UPROOTED theatre's education department. She is currently an adjunct professor at Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee and Carthage College. She is a JF Kennedy Center trained Teaching Artist who worked closely with Master Educator, Randy Barron for 6 months developing her residency which is now offered through The Young Auditorium and The Overture Center. She currently serves as Artistic Consultant for Black Arts MKE. Ms. Gobel will serve for a third term as a KCACTF adjudicator for Region III. She looks forward to her next project with A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago as the director of *Is God Is*. Above all, Ms Gobel knows that she must "Stand Up. Take my people with me..." (Cynthia Erivo).
*Indicates World Premiere's

CHRISTOPHER PICKART

(Scenic Designer) Chris was a freelance designer located in New York City for many years and a professor at Washington University in St. Louis before coming to the UT in 2005. He has designed numerous Off-Broadway shows including the critically acclaimed *End of the World Party* at the 47th Street Theatre, and *Always...Patsy Cline* at the Variety Arts Theatre. Other Off-Broadway shows include the long running *Perfect Crime, The Bench, Between Daylight and Booneville, Washington Heights, Savage in Limbo, and Independence by Lee Blessing*. Chris has designed the NY premieres of *Hidden in this Picture* and *What is This Thing*, by Emmy Award winning writer/director Aaron Sorkin. He has also designed the world premiere of *Heaven and the Homeboy*, directed by Tony Award winning director /choreographer George Faison. Regionally, Chris has designed over 150 shows at theatres across the country. Recent designs include productions at the

Tony Award winning Utah Shakespearean Festival, the Tony Award winning Children's Theatre in Minneapolis, Arden Theatre in Philadelphia, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, City Theatre in Pittsburgh, Virginia Stage Company, Olney Theatre Centre in DC, Coast Playhouse in Los Angeles; among many others. In 1997-1999 Chris was the recipient of the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group's Young Designers' Fellowship. Chris has been nominated in the Outstanding Scenic Design category twice for the Barrymore Awards in Philadelphia and twice for the Kevin Kline Awards in St. Louis.



DEVARIO D. SIMMONS

(Costume Designer) Simmons is an American Costume Designer of staged productions. His design credits include *Between the Bars, TUMACHO, Thoughts of a Colored Man, The*

Merchant of Venice, In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play, Man of La Mancha, and A Streetcar Named Desire. Other credits include three seasons of AMC's television show *TURN*, the 2nd National Touring production of the Broadway hit *In the Heights* and two seasons of the PBS television series *Mercy Street*. He is currently the Associate Costume Designer for all productions of *Come From Away* worldwide and Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Ithaca College. He received his MFA in Costume Design from Virginia Commonwealth University.

THE ARTISTS



JOSHUA J. MULLADY

(Lighting Designer) Joshua is a third-year MFA candidate with a focus in Lighting Design. He previously designed

lights at the CBT for *She Kills Monsters* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. He also designed lights for Marble City Opera, Dragonfly Aerial & Circus Arts Studio, Momentum Dance Lab, and groups in Knoxville. He is the Resident Lighting Director at The Shed Smokehouse & Juke Joint in Maryville, where he has had the pleasure to light national touring acts such as George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Puddle of Mudd, and The Steel Woods. He is incredibly grateful to Kenton, his classmates, and the rest of the faculty and staff for their knowledge, support, and kindness throughout his time here, especially all they gave last semester. He would also like to send his love and appreciation to his beautiful wife, Victoria, for her love and support during this journey. His work can be seen at www.joshuamullady.com



JOE CERQUA

(Sound Designer and Composer) Joe is thrilled to be back at the Clarence Brown Theatre after composing music and sound design for *Alabama Story*, *Outside Mullingar*, *The*

Miracle Worker, and *Charley's Aunt*. He is a freelance, award-winning composer, producer, vocalist and sound designer. Joe has composed/designed sound for over 300 productions nationally and internationally. Original music and sound design: Steppenwolf, Goodman Theatre,

American Players Theater, Milwaukee Rep, The Alliance, Mark Taper Forum, Deaf West, Northlight Theatre, Skyline Opera, Cleveland Playhouse, Clarence Brown Theatre, Forward Theatre, Kansas City Rep, Indiana Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Shakespeare and Co, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Repertory Theatre of St Louis, Remy Bumppo. National Tours: *Sideman*, *American Buffalo*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Laramie Project*, *Broken Glass*, and *Master Class*. Joe is the Producing Director/Composer in residence for the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre and the Director of Production for the Music Department at Columbia College. Future projects include concerts with Cerqua Rivera, original music/sound designs for productions at American Players Theater and Forward Theater.



DAVION T. BROWN

(Voice Coach), is a third-year grad student in pursuit of his MFA in Acting at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville. Before joining the UTK roster, Davion spent three years as a freelance Actor

touring the country. Davion has been cast in a cornucopia of productions, and has held an assortment of iconic roles throughout his career thus far. Including: in *Hamlet* (as Hamlet), in *Macbeth* (as Macbeth), and in *No Exit* (as Joseph Garcin), just to name a few. Davion is excited and honoured to be the Voice Coach for this CBT production of *Trouble In Mind*. Lastly, Davion would like to take this time to thank **You** for continuing to support the Arts and her Artists."

THE ARTISTS



TOPAZ COOKS

(Stage Manager) is an AEA Stage Manager based in San Diego. Originally from Minneapolis, Topaz was the Production Manager / Production Stage Manager of the Duluth

Playhouse from 2016-2018 while overseeing the renovations and reopening of the historic NorShor Theater. Select credits include productions with: The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Utah Shakespeare Festival, The Children's Theatre Company, Clarence Brown Theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, Theatre Latté Da, Lyric Opera of the North, The Public Theatre of Minnesota, Artistry Theatre, and Walking Shadow Theater Company. She received her BFA in Theatre from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and her MFA in Stage Management from UC San Diego.



KENNETH MARTIN

(Department Head, Artistic Director) Ken comes from the University of Missouri, at Kansas City, where he was the Patricia McIlrath Endowed Professor and Chair of the Theatre

Division. His 26-year career in academia also included nearly 18 years serving as chair of the theater departments of Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina and Ashland University in Ohio. Tremendously successful as an administrator at both institutions, Martin navigated curricular revisions and development, managed resources effectively and efficiently, created innovative collaborations, cultivated significant enrollment growth, and forged international partnerships. A member of United Scenic Artists, his designs have been seen at theatres across the country including Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Florida Repertory Theatre, New Theatre, Ohio Light Opera, Cleveland Ensemble Theatre, Ocean State Theatre and many others. He has also designed shows for many colleges and universities including Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Coastal Carolina University, Cuyahoga Community College, and The Ohio State University. Martin has actively served his profession as a respondent for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, as a consultant for several regional theaters and through active participation in organizations like the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Educational Theatre Association and the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

THE ARTISTS



TOM CERVONE

(Managing Director)
has dedicated most of his professional career (and life) advocating for and working in the best interests of the arts and culture industry, 25 years (and counting) serving

proudly as the managing director for the Clarence Brown Theatre/Department of Theatre at UTK. He previously served as the first executive director of the Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation and the executive director for Dogwood Arts. Cervone spent many years on the board of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Greater Knoxville, and currently serves on the boards of the WordPlayers, the Knoxville Children's Theatre, Department of Theatre and recently appointed to the Board of Governors of West Liberty University. Cervone remains active within the UTK community as a member of the Exempt Staff Council and Chancellor's Commission for LGBTQ people. He received the Chancellor's Citation for Outstanding Service to the University in 2010. He is a longtime member of the Actors' Equity Association. Cervone holds his undergraduate degree in Speech and English Education with an emphasis in Theatre from West Liberty University in West Virginia and an MFA (1993) and MBA (2010) from UTK. He is a graduate of and was selected as the Class Representative of the Leadership Knoxville class of 2011. Cervone is a member of his undergraduate alma mater's class of 2015 Alumni Wall of Honor.



SUSAN L. McMILLAN

(Production Manager)
is in her ninth year as Production Manager at CBT and UT Department of Theatre. In addition, she teaches Stage Management. Prior, Susan was

the Production Manager and Stage Management Instructor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, for 6 years. Susan is a member of Actors' Equity Association, and was a Stage Manager at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 18 years. Additionally, she has stage managed at the Guthrie Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Portland Center Stage, PCPA, Rogue Valley Opera, Portland Civic Theatre, and has toured to the Kennedy Center. Through science and music (B.S. degrees in Biochemistry and Biology from Oregon State University), Susan found her passion in theatre. She is incredibly grateful for the opportunities and adventures, inspirational mentors, artistic and talented colleagues, amazing students, and the love and support of her family and friends.

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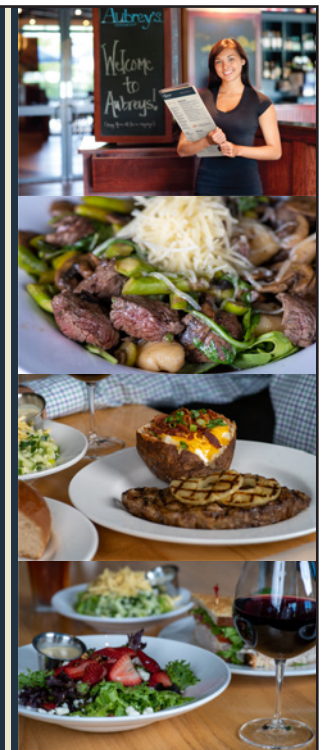
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Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor

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Casey Crowe

LIGHTING

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Kate Henry

Light Board Operator

Joseph Coram

SOUND

Assistant Sound Designer

Amoirie Perteet

Sound Board Operator

Alex Dally

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PRODUCTION

Production Manager - **Susan L. McMillan**

Rental Coordinator/Assistant Production

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Costume Assistants - **Alex Heder, M.J. Hromek,**

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Wig Design - **Siobian Jones**

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Senior Carpenter - **Kyle L. Hooks**

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Scenic Artist - **DJ Pike and Sophie Smrcka**

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Lead Properties Artisan - **Sarah Gaboda**

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SOUND

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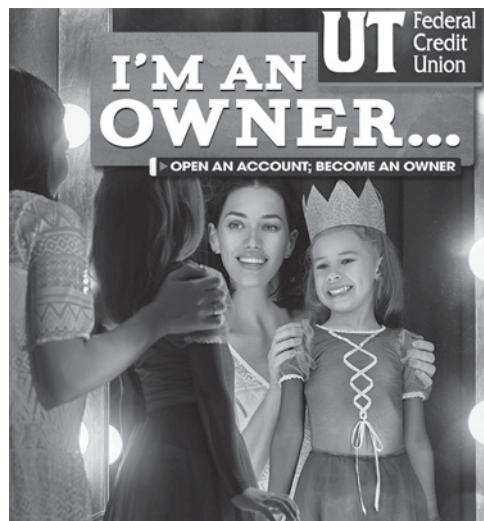
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Clarence Brown Theatre



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The CBT Society has come a ways since its early days. What hasn't changed though is the vital investment CBT Society members provide for the Clarence Brown Theatre's programs and activities, year after year.

Become a member today and make a difference in the next generation of theatre artists!



Interested?

Visit us at

clarencebrowntheatre.com/cbt-society

2022/2023 SEASON - LEVELS AND BENEFITS

ARTISTS CIRCLE (\$2,500+)

Benefits listed below, plus:

- ★ Dinner with new Producing Artistic Director
- ★ One private viewing for two from the Stage Manager booth for select MainStage shows (*excludes Opening Nights; must be requested two weeks in advance.*)

PRODUCER CIRCLE (\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Benefits listed below, plus:

- ★ Invitation to the annual Donor Appreciation Party
- ★ Reserved Seating for Lab Theatre shows (first come, first served)
- ★ CBT will donate up to 10 tickets to a non-profit organization of your choice, upon request (*excludes Opening Nights; subject to availability; must be requested two weeks in advance.*)

DIRECTOR CIRCLE (\$750 – \$999)

Benefits listed below, plus:

- ★ VIP Parking* (first come, first served)
- ★ One personalized behind-the-scenes tour during the 2022/2023 Season (must be requested two week in advance; subject to availability)

RISING STAR (\$500 – \$749)

Benefits listed below, plus:

- ★ CBT Society tumbler with unlimited refills for the 2022/2023 Season*
- ★ Pair of complimentary vouchers for a performance during the 2022/2023 Season* (*excludes Opening Nights*)

LEADING PLAYER (\$250 – \$499)

- ★ Listing on the CBT website, and in all the virtual season programs
- ★ Invitation to Season Opening Celebration (*tentatively scheduled for fall 2022*)
- ★ Invitation to the annual NYC Theatre Trip (*tentatively scheduled for spring 2023*)
- ★ Invitation to first read-throughs and design presentations

**All levels are fully tax deductible.*

**** Benefits are subject to change, cancellation, and/or may be moved to virtual if needed. CDC and University of Tennessee guidelines will be adhered. ****

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Casey Sams Movement & Musical Theatre,
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Kenton Yeager Lighting Design,
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Jed Diamond Acting
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Christopher Pickart Scenic Design

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Neno Russell Costume Technology

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Kaylin Gess - Lighting Design
M.J. Hromek - Costume Design
Michaela Lochen - Scenic Design
Amberlin McCormick - Acting

Josh J. Mullady - Lighting Design
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For additional information or to join, please contact us at CBTSociety@utk.edu

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New this year, we will have one membership level which will include all the literary lunches. Look for the return of Page2Stage Events in the future.

MARIAN BROWN'S CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP (\$100) includes the following benefits:

- Personal scripts of four plays (*Murder on the Orient Express*, *Adaptive Radiation*, *Trouble in Mind*, and *Men on Boats*)
- Marian Brown's Circle tote and journal
- Listing on the CBT website, and in the CBT MainStage & Lab Theatre virtual programs
- Invitation to attend the Literary Lunches (lunch provided)
- Invitation to attend Page2Stage events (for additional cost – currently on pause for the 2022/2023 Season)
- One guest pass (to be used for one Literary Lunch)

SPRING MEMBERSHIP (\$50) includes the following benefits:

- Two literary lunches
- Scripts for *Trouble in Mind* and *Men on Boats*

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~ MBC Member

For questions about your MBC membership or benefits, please contact us at Marian_Brown_Circle@utk.edu or call Hana Sherman at (865) 974-7160.

clarencebrowntheatre.com/mbc

Benefits are subject to change, cancellation, and/or may be moved to virtual if needed. CDC and University of Tennessee guidelines will be adhered to.

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By Mail { Checks, made payable to **University of Tennessee**, can be mailed to: { Clarence Brown Theatre
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(Unless otherwise stated, donations received via mail will go towards our general Theatre Enrichment Fund.)

By Phone { Provide your credit card information via phone by calling our Development liaison at **(865) 974-5654**.

For more ways to give, including UT Payroll, Corporate matching gifts, and planned giving, please visit clarencebrowntheatre.com/ways-to-give

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Inc.
Liz and Wes Stowers
UT Federal Credit Union



Headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., **Pilot Company's** mission is to make life better for America's drivers. With more than 650 locations nationwide, Pilot Company is the largest retail operator of travel centers in North America. At Pilot Company we believe it is essential to give back to the community. Our founder, Mr. James A. Haslam II, established our philanthropic spirit when he started the company in 1958. Our employees all take part in giving their time, talents and efforts to various organizations throughout the year. Together we work to make our communities better places to work, play and live. Visit www.pilotflyingj.com for more information.



City of Knoxville - Knoxville's roots run deep and strong. The city has served as the hub of the region since its founding in 1791. The best of its Appalachian heritage remains today — a strong work ethic, a family-centered community, and an intense respect for the natural beauty that envelopes the region. The metropolitan Knoxville area was ranked the "best place to live in the United States and Canada" among cities with a population of fewer than 1 million. The ranking came from the Millennium edition of Places Rated Almanac. The results confirmed what most in this area have known for a long time - Knoxville is one of the best cities in the country!



The Clarence Brown Theatre is a proud member of the **Arts & Culture Alliance's Knoxville Tourism Consortium**, joining with 25 other art and heritage non-profits to attract and entertain more than 1.3 million people annually from countries as distant and diverse as Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Liberia, the Netherlands, and across South America. With support from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund, the Consortium contracts with Knoxville County to present more than 4,200 visitor-focused events and activities throughout the year.



The Department of the Treasury is the executive agency responsible for promoting economic prosperity and ensuring the financial security of the United States. The Department is responsible for a wide range of activities such as advising the President on economic and financial issues, encouraging sustainable economic growth, and fostering improved governance in financial institutions. The Department of the Treasury operates and maintains systems that are critical to the nation's financial infrastructure, such as the production of coin and currency, the disbursement of payments to the American public, revenue collection, and the borrowing of funds necessary to run the federal government. The Department works with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and international financial institutions to encourage global economic growth, raise standards of living, and to the extent possible, predict and prevent economic and financial crises. The Treasury Department also performs a critical and far-reaching role in enhancing national security by implementing economic sanctions against foreign threats to the U.S., identifying and targeting the financial support networks of national security threats, and improving the safeguards of our financial systems.

The Mildred Haines and William Elijah Morris Lecture Endowment supports campus visits of lecturers and scholars in all disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences. The dean of the college solicits proposals from departments and academic programs for the use of the funds, appoints an advisory committee to review and make recommendations regarding the proposals, and makes awards

to the successful proposals. The advisory committee has a representative from the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences and the arts faculties of the college. The committee selects a chairperson from among its members. Committee members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed at the discretion of the dean.



Knox County is a county in the U.S. state of Tennessee. As of the 2010 census, the population is 432,226. Its county seat and largest city is Knoxville. The county is at the geographical center of the Great Valley of East Tennessee. Near the heart of the county is the origin of the Tennessee River at the union of the Holston and French Broad Rivers. Knox County was created on June 11, 1792 by Governor William Blount from parts of Greene and Hawkins counties, and has the distinction of being one of only eight counties created during territorial administration. It is one of nine United States counties named for American Revolutionary War general and first United States Secretary of War Henry Knox. Parts of Knox County later became Blount (1795), Anderson (1801), Roane (1801), and Union (1850) counties.



The **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**, established in Congress in 1965, is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States. The NEA's primary activities include grantmaking to nonprofit arts organizations, public arts agencies and organizations, colleges and universities, federally recognized tribal communities or tribes, and individual writers and translators. Grant applications are reviewed by panels of arts experts and individuals from across the country. All grants must be matched one-to-one by nonfederal sources, except for individual grants to writers and translators. NEA funding is appropriated by Congress annually.



The Shubert Foundation, Inc., was established in 1945 by Lee and J.J. Shubert, in memory of their brother Sam and is dedicated to sustaining and advancing the live performing arts in the United States, with a particular emphasis on theatre and a secondary focus on dance. They are the nation's largest funder dedicated to unrestricted funding of not-for-profit theatres, dance companies, professional theatre training programs and related service agencies. The Shubert Foundation is especially interested in providing support to professional resident theatre and dance companies that develop and produce new American work.



The **Tennessee Arts Commission**, was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly with the special mandate to stimulate and encourage the presentation of the visual, literary, music and performing arts and to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of Tennessee. TN Arts Commission Governing Policies can be found here. The mission of the Tennessee Arts Commission is to cultivate the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities. Our vision is a Tennessee where the arts inspire, connect and enhance everyday lives. The Commission is supported by in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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•••• EACH YEAR OUR CLUB ••••

- Awards as many as three \$20,000 college scholarships
- Recognizes two Knox County teachers of the year with \$500 awards and \$250 gift certificates
- Provides \$20,000 for underserved students to take part in programs at the Knoxville Museum of Art and attend performances at the Clarence Brown Theatre, the Knoxville Opera, and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
- Grants as much as \$10,000 to a local community service project, and Volunteers at Free Flu Shot Saturday

•••• INTERNATIONALLY, WE ••••

- Support preschools in Knysna, South Africa, in conjunction with local Rotary clubs
- Continue funding the End Polio Now effort, Rotary International's signature project
- Sustain clean water projects in 115 villages in Thailand
- Provide administrative support, water tanks, medical equipment, and kidney transplants to children in and around Mexico City
- Sent medical equipment and a vocational team to train medical professionals in Zimbabwe

Learn more at www.knoxvillerotary.org