

Full Credits

Thank you St. Stephen's!!!

Scene 1: Umoja/Unity

◆ Ibenagod: Spoken Word Artist

Film: "Kwanzaa: The Village it Takes" (KTVIT)

Photos: Caitlin Ung

Music: Free Wake Music

Scene 2: Kujichagulia/Self Determination

Film: KTVIT

◆ Eric Williams: Vocalist

"Make them Hear You" from the musical

Ragtime by Brian Stokes Mitchell

Scene 3: Ujima/Collective Work & Responsibility

Film: KTVIT

◆ LaToya Cruise: Interpretive Dance

RAYDLE: Guitar Accompaniment

Music: "Explore" by Christian Drummond a.k.a.

Drum Beatz Music

Scene 4: Ujamaa/Cooperative Economics

Film: KTVIT

Scene 5: Nia/Purpose

◆ Film: KTVIT

◆ The Kwanzaa Krew Band: "Sonnymoon for

Two" by Sonny Rollins

Lady J Huston (Music Director): Trumpet, Vocalist

Eric L. Johnson (Music Arranger): Trombone

Hope Walker: Tenor Saxophone

Nicholas Williams: Clarinet

RAYDLE: Lead Guitar

Keith Fowler, Jr.: Keyboards

Frank Dunbar: Bass Guitar

Bailey Williams IV: Drums

Scene 6: Kuumba/Creativity

The AfroKuumba Dancers: LaZarria Thomas and

Wendy Johnson

Music: "Strive" by Christian Drummond a.k.a.

DrumBeatz Music

Special thanks to participants at our 2024

Vendor Fair for their contributions and

Ujamaa/Coopertive Economics!

Scene 7: Imani/Faith

◆ The Kwanzaa Krew Singers: "Keep the

Faith" by Michael Jackson

Lead Vocalists:

Jessica Johnson: 1st Soprano

Erica Williams: 2nd Soprano

Erisha Tyus: Alto

Eric Williams: Tenor

Cameron Williams: Bass

Background Vocalist:

LaToya Cruise: Tenor

◆ Film: "Kwanzaa: The Village it Takes"

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Directed, Written, Produced by Jessica

Johnson

◆ Voiceovers:

Narrator, Teacher, Mayor: Erica Williams

Piper, Nicole, Mayor's Assistant: Jessica
Johnson

Mr. Morris, Mr. Baine: Eric Johnson

Mr. Samson: Eric Williams

Ms. Walters: Drew Foster

Musicians:

Drew Foster & Danielle Ellis: Percussion

Bailey Williams: Drums

Nicholas Williams: Clarinet

Erica Williams: Tambourine, Maracas

Illustrated by

Jessica Johnson & Eric Johnson

Recording Engineers and Videographers:

Certain Media LLC: Darian Wigfall,

Jelani Buchanan

Executive Director: Erica Williams

Imagery by Canva

Special thanks to A Red Circle Staff for

production assistance!

*Disclaimer: A Red Circle, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the
Vine, and its affiliates in this production does not own the rights to the
music with the exception of KTVIT.



Kwanzaa: The Village it Takes

Community Celebration December 21, 2024
St. Stephens Episcopal Church and the Vine
33 N Clay Ave, Ferguson MO 63135

3pm Vendor Fair | 5pm Dinner | 7pm Stage Show



www.aredcircle.org

Vendor Fair 3-6pm



Mika Brielle

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BlessedStylns.com



BlessedStylns



Harley's Fly Girl Bling Bar

As an independent paparazzi consultant, I sell fashionable affordable jewelry, while also running my own entrepreneurial venture creating and selling all-natural hair care and spa products.

paparazziaccessories.com/1122561/



Archwell Health

Primary Care Medical Services for Seniors 60yrs and older. Four locations to services the Senior population w/Medicaid & Medicare -health coverage. Ferguson

-Overland-North City-South City

<http://www.archwellhealth.com/>



Jessica D. Johnson is the Community Arts Director for A Red Circle. With the help of the team and staff, she created Kwanzaa: The Village it takes as a gift to the community. Having been a vocalist for many years, she uses her talents and gifts to uplift North County. From performing in high school musicals to singing at The New Church Stl, her experience on the stage is vast and continues to grow.



A composer, arranger, and a multi genre instrumentalist, **Keith Fowler, Jr.'s** musical foundation is rooted in church. In addition to various genres, he enjoys various musical settings like video scoring, theater, concerts, worship, etc. He has an eclectic taste and loves to learn.



LaToya Cruise a.k.a. Toya comes from a musical family. She believes music and dance give and add life. She's a nurse by trade and she loves teaching dance! She has been teaching Zumba, Line Dancing and Dance Fitness for 8 years now and was certified to teach Mixxed Fit in 2023. She has also sung background, opened up for local blues artists, and performed around STL and IL teaching and performing at events, and organizations. Toya says "DANCE and us are like a marriage....Until death do us part!"



Lady J Huston is a multi-award-winning vocalist, trumpeter, songwriter & conducts workshops with her "Roots & Blues" music enthused with family history program. Residing in Las Vegas for 25 years, she won many awards & reigned several years as the "Las Vegas Queen of Blues". Lady J has performed on America's Got Talent, on "ABC World News Tonight", St. Louis Public Radio, Associated Press and other news outlets. In 2023, she received the Blues Blast Magazine New Artist Debut Album award for "Groove Me Baby". At A Red Circle, Joyce "Lady J" Huston serves as the Community Arts Program Coordinator; visit <https://ladyjhuston.com> for more info.



Raymond Douglas a.k.a. RAYDLE started performing with the Double O Shuttle band in 2008. He went solo 2011 and played locally in restaurants, backyard parties, senior residence, and on Fitz patio as well as in front of their restaurants. He also played in 2018 at Fubar Bar with his own band and original songs.



Eric Williams the Food and Farm Associate of A Red Circle. He was a student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he graduated in December 2018 with a vocal performance degree. He has performed all around the city with groups like the InUnison Chorus at Powell Symphony Hall and the Ambassadors of Harmony, he's performed with Brian Owens, along with multi award winner Bebe Winans. Eric loves his work as a farmer and is still able to stay true to his love and passion for music.



Eric L. Johnson has been a trombonist for 23 years with a passion for music since the age of 12. He began playing professionally at the age of 17 with the St. Louis Low Brass Collective and now serves as Band Director for Hazelwood Northwest Middle School. Outside of his profession, he is a devoted family man to his beautiful wife and 3 beautiful children! It is his absolute honor to serve the community in this facet.

Bios



Drawing from personal experiences, **IbenaGod** uses artistic expression to illuminate a path where Black men can express themselves positively, empowering themselves and enriching their communities. By leveraging music, poetry, comedy, and candid dialogue, he advocates for healing vibes. When Black men are afforded avenues for artistic expression, it mitigates the manifestation of toxicity such as dysfunction and violence within our communities.



When **Frank Dunbar** is not playing the bass guitar, he's flying high in his ultralight airplane. He began playing bass for Mr. Albert King back in the late '70s. Before then, he was bassist for the Charles Drain review, and Casey & the Matadors band. He played for Mrs. Loyce Huston for many years as bassist, and band leader. Now he works alongside Lady J Huston and it's been a great adventure! He also performs as a single act singing, playing guitar and harmonica. He did busking all last year downtown in the city of St Louis and surrounding areas, and loved it!



Hope Walker has served as a music educator for over 25 years. She is currently a Director of Bands in the Hazelwood School District at the middle school level. Ms. Walker is a clarinetist and saxophonist. She received her degree in Music Education from Missouri State University. Ms. Walker is a member of The Jazz Edge Orchestra and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Erica R. Williams is the Founder and Executive Director of A Red Circle, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community betterment in North St. Louis County through a racial equity lens. As an adult learner, she attended St. Louis Community College Florissant Valley, earning a BA in Paralegal Studies and an MBA from Maryville University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy and Administration with a concentration in policy analysis from Walden University. Under Erica's leadership, A Red Circle has initiated several impactful projects in the arts, education, and community wellness.



Nicholas Williams is a talented clarinetist and has played the instrument since 2012. He's always loved being around music in many ways and hopes he can bring some wind to the musical performance for Kwanzaa.



Bailey Williams IV has been a musician for over 50 years. He has a degree in Computer Programming and Internet Programming. Interests are computers, science, space, and other fields. He has 5 children and grandchildren and is married to the Executive Director for this amazing organization.



Cameron Williams is a young vocalist from St. Louis MO. He has performed in church productions and his most recent performing endeavour was in McCluer High School's production of The Wiz "Performing has always been fun to me. I get to become acquainted with people who all love music how I do. We get to learn together, practice together, and hear the beauty that is the culmination of hours of hard work in the end. Being able to meet new people through this art and broaden my circle of understanding has helped me be more in tune with the world around me."

Bios



A Red Circle's Parent Cafe

A Red Circle's Parent Cafe serves families of North County St. Louis with children attending Ferguson/Florissant, Riverview, Hazelwood, Normandy, and Jennings school districts. Parent Cafes consist of three crucial parts: the parent meeting, childcare, and healthy meals. Parents are brought together to learn from one another on how to navigate various topics faced in today's parenting landscape. This includes building community, increasing parental involvement, and reducing the challenges associated within the public school system.

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Butterfly Beginnings: My Journey to My Destiny

Butterfly Beginnings serves St. Louis with critical support to navigate breast cancer patients by providing resources to aid them through pre and post cancer treatment. Butterfly Beginnings also combats disparities that impact the lives of racially minoritized and disenfranchised groups to ensure access to proper breast treatment, healthcare options and resources. www.butterflybeginnings.org

Dinner 5-6:30pm

Show 7pm

Menu

Baked Chicken	Mac N Cheese	Yams
Mostaccioli	Green Beans	Jack Bites
Greens	Potato Salad	Holiday Cookies
Cornbread	Rice & Beans	

Meet our Chefs!



Jessica Moore Nutrition Culinarian
Raised in Ferguson Missouri Jessica Moore grew up in a God fearing Community oriented family. In The Culinary world, she honed skills in various restaurants. Now pursuing certification as a plant-based culinary chef, she aspires to promote wellness and healthier living within her community

Robert Rusan is a St. Louis based chef. He connects to the community youth through his food- and he remains committed to the freshest ingredients possible. His immaculate kitchen, school garden produce and mouth-watering, house-made meals, make for a memorable and incredible mealtime. He also owns and runs Just Us Goats, a natural landscape clearing by goats.



Drum Warriors Ensemble (D.W.E.)
Solomon Ahmed, a West African percussionist is the leader of D.W.E. They have performed at multiple venues such as: The Muny, St. Louis Art Museum, and the Missouri History Museum. One of their most notable performances occurred at the Fox Theater where they were finalists for three years in the Teen Talent competition. Other percussionists in D.W.E. include Addison Jones, Corrin Ward, and Ismail Botcway.

Welcome.....Erica Williams
Executive Director of A Red Circle
Introduction.....Film
Scene One: Umoja.....Ibenagod: Spoken Word Artist
Scene Two: Kujichagulia.....Eric Williams: Vocalist
Scene Three: Ujima.....Latoya Cruise: Dancer
& RAYDLE: Guitar
Scene Four: Ujamaa.....Film
Scene Five: Nia.....Kwanzaa Krew Band
Scene Six: Kuumba.....AfroKuumba Dancers
Scene Seven: Imani.....Kwanzaa Krew Singers
Close.....Jessica Johnson
Community Arts Director



Erisha Tyus is a St. Louis native. She studied classical piano and voice in college and has a genuine passion for music. "Music has given me opportunities that I never would have had without it. I've had the chance to perform locally and internationally. Performing has always been therapeutic for me. Art is one of the joys of my life." She serves as Executive Assistant for A Red Circle.



The AfroKuumba Dancers (T.A.K.D) is a vibrant youth training program dedicated to empowering lives through the rich vitality of Afrocentric dance and culture. Founded by the dynamic Alicia "Coach Sunshine" Gbaho, T.A.K.D serves as a pre-professional training company, showcasing the talents of its principal dancers while celebrating the essence of African Diaspora heritage. The name "AfroKuumba"—pronounced Afro - Coo - Oom- buh—beautifully captures the spirit of creativity and expression inherent in African culture.