

# Starlight BROADWAY

## CAST BIOS



**CARRIE ST. LOUIS** (Elle Woods) Oh my god you guys! Carrie is absolutely thrilled to be playing her dream role here in Kansas City! What, like it's hard? Carrie was last seen as Rose Dewitt-Bukater in the Lucille Lortel-winning hit musical *Titanique* Off-Broadway. Broadway: *Wicked* (Glinda), *Kinky Boots* (Lauren), *Rock of Ages* (Sherrie). National Tour: *Wicked* (Glinda here in KC in 2015!). She originated the role of Annette in *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical* Off Broadway, and her voice can be heard on the Original Cast Recording which topped the Billboard Broadway chart. Her television credits include roles on "The Good Fight" (Paramount+), "Elementary" (CBS), "Blindspot" (NBC) and "Younger" (TV Land). Her solo show, *Something Good*, which she debuted at Feinstein's/54 Below, has been performed in cities across the US. A graduate of USC's Thornton School of Music, Carrie is also an esteemed vocal coach with a private vocal studio in New York City. All the thanks to DGRW, Ted and Rachel, Robert and my parents. Harvard law, here I come! Website: [www.carriestlouis.com](http://www.carriestlouis.com) Instagram: @carriestlouis

**GERALD CAESAR** (Emmett) Gerald is thrilled to be making his KCS debut! Broadway/National Tours: *A Bronx Tale* (OBC), *Choir Boy* (OBC), *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* (OBC), Disney's *The Lion King* (National Tour). Film/TV: "Only Murders in the Building," "Dear Evan Hansen," "Law & Order," "Helpsters." Represented by DGRW, inc. and 11:11 Entertainment. BFA Music Theatre Elon University.

**SOARA-JOYE ROSS** (Paulette) Broadway: *Hadestown* (Fate 3), *Les Misérables*, *Dance of the Vampires*. Select: *Carmen Jones* (CSC, Lortel Winner/ Drama Desk Nom), *Promenade* (City Center), *Dessa Rose* (Lincoln Center), *Porgy and Bess* (National Tour), *Anything Goes* (Arena Stage). Film/TV: "Garden State," "Flight Attendant," "Crashing." Love to my #LevitationTeam & Almighty God! @Lyricalsoulj

**EDWARD WATTS** (Professor Callahan) Broadway and NYC credits include: *Scandalous*, *It's a Bird... It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *The Fantasticks*, *Black No More*, *Most Happy Fella* and *Show Boat*. Tours: *The Book of Mormon*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Little*

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*Mermaid*. Numerous Regional Theatres including: The Old Globe, Goodspeed, The Guthrie, Shakespeare DC. TV/Film highlights: "NCIS: New Orleans," "The Sopranos," "Rescue Me," "Better Nate Than Ever." EdwardWatts.net

**LUKE HAMILTON** (Warner Huntington III). Featured credits include *Something Rotten!* (National Tour), Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots* (North Shore Music Theatre), Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* (Ogunquit Playhouse) and Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys* (NSMT). Television: "The Food that Built America," "The Tonight Show." Film: "Breaking Girl Code" (Lifetime) @looqhamilton  
www.lukehamiltonactor.com

**LISSA DEGUZMAN** (Vivienne Kensington) Lissa deGuzman is thrilled to be making her KC Starlight debut after finishing her run as Elphaba on the *Wicked* National Tour. Broadway: *King Kong*, *Aladdin*. First National Tour: *Aladdin* (Jasmine). Regional: The 5th Avenue Theatre (*Bliss*), the MUNY (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Goodspeed Opera House (*Chasing Rainbows*), Studio Tenn (*West Side Story*, *Les Miserables*). BFA, Belmont University. Endless love and gratitude to DGRW, my wonderful family and my incredible friends. Salamat! @lissadegu

**JESSICA CROUCH** (Brooke Wyndham) most recently seen playing Kit DeLuca in the first national tour of *Pretty Woman The Musical*. Broadway/National Tours: *Pretty Woman* (OBC swing, Kit u/s), *We Will Rock You* (Killer Queen & Oz u/s). Regional: Pittsburgh CLO, Sacramento Music Circus, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Bay Street Theatre, Theatre Aspen. Professional Highlights: Narrator (*Joseph... Dreamcoat*), Gloria (*Damn Yankees*), Witch (*Into The Woods*), Velma (*Chicago*). @jessgoober @jcrouchfitness

**LILY KAUFMANN** (Margot) is elated to perform in her hometown! Broadway: *Mean Girls* (u/s Janis). National Tour: *Mean Girls*, (u/s Regina, Gretchen), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (u/s Veruca). Regional: *Kinky Boots* (Lauren), *Hairspray* (Penny), resident company PCLO, MTWichita. Blue Star/Jimmy Awards alum! Dedicated to all KC teachers, friends & family who shaped and supported my journey.

**NICOLETTE SHIN** (Serena) is ecstatic to be making her KC Starlight debut! Credits include *Avenue Q* (Christmas Eve), *Endangered! The Musical* (World Premiere), *Golden Mickeys*, *Frozen*, and *Disney Dreams* on Disney Cruise Lines, and AIDA cruises. Graduated from Marymount Manhattan College. Special thanks to mom, dad, and her blonde bestie for their endless support. www.nicoletteshin.com @missastonishin

**KARMA JENKINS** (Pilar) is thrilled to make her Kansas City debut (OMG!) National Tours: *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Phyllis Who). Regional: *Rock of Ages* (Waitress #1, TUTS), *West Side Story* (Consuela, 5th Ave Theatre), *In The Heights* (Vanessa/Nina Cover, Stages St. Louis), *The Wiz* (Ensemble, The MUNY). TV: "Time Travelers Wife" (Ruth), "The last O.G" (Waitress), "Ghost: Power Book II" (Alexis). Special thanks to CESD, Ben & and the entire Legally Blonde team! IG: @Karmanoell

**GABBIE FRIED** (Enid/Courtney) is psyched to return to Starlight after appearing in *Hairspray*, *Grease* and as a Starlight Star. A Miller Marley and MTKC alum, Gabbie has appeared on The "Drew Barrymore Show," "Tonight Show" and "SNL." Gabbie encourages everyone 18+ to register to vote, and find more voter information at vote411.org. @goobiefried

**CATHY BARNETT** (Ensemble) is a professional actress based in Kansas City, Missouri. She voices the Hallmark greeting card character, "Maxine," and played her live in the musical, *Maxine's*

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*Christmas Carol*. She has toured nationally and internationally in *Forbidden Broadway*, *Forbidden Hollywood* and *Always, Patsy Cline*. She dedicates her performance to Cheryl Weaver.

**MAURICE DAWKINS** (Ensemble) has longed to perform in *Legally Blonde* and is so excited to finally do so with Starlight Theatre! Broadway tours: *Cats* (Coricopat and understudy for Mr. Mistoffelees) and *The Prom* (Ensemble). Regional: *West Side Story* (Baby John) at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, *A Chorus Line* (Mike) at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, *Cats* (Mr. Mistoffelees) with Royal Caribbean, multiple productions of *Newsies*, and many more! He is a proud alum of Sarah Lawrence College and LaGuardia High School for the Arts, and he is grateful to all of his teachers and mentors who've fostered his artistic and personal growth throughout the years. Much love to his mom, his partner, Laura, and to his cats, Mr. Business and Luna! You can follow him on Instagram @dawkinsmaurice.

**NIANI FEELINGS** (Ensemble) She/Her. Niani is so excited to make her Starlight debut in her long time favorite, *Legally Blonde*! Nat'l tour: *Mean Girls* (Dance Captain), Regional: MUNY, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. BFA: Boston Conservatory. Big thanks to DGRW & Nikki! Endless love to my family, friends & Mom, always. @niani\_

**ROBERT "SHAPIRO" GARRIS** (Ensemble) Robert "Shapiro" Garris is excited to be making his KC Starlight debut. He is a DC native and attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Professional credits includes Nat'l Tour of *Chicago The Musical*, Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wish*, *Guys & Dolls* VSC and Busch Gardens. "Thank you to my support system" @shapiro\_villa

**JULES GEISS** (Ensemble) (They/Them) is so excited to be doing *Legally Blonde*! Tours: *Cats* (1st National Revival). Regional: *Newsies*, *A Chorus Line*. They also trained at Houston Ballet Academy and danced with Milwaukee Ballet II. Huge thanks to Daniel Hoff Agency, and Dan, Pheza, and Nyx for constantly supporting them. @jwgeiss

**LUKE HARWERTH** (Ensemble) a Kansas City-based actor, is thrilled to make his Starlight Theatre debut. With a global reach on @twinsauce, his performances have enthralled audiences worldwide. He recently appeared in TIP's production of *Newsies* and *Curtain*. Luke is thankful for the unwavering support of his friends, family, and Miller Marley.

**PAUL HARWERTH** (Ensemble) is a Kansas City-based actor who is thrilled to make his Starlight debut. Paul primarily dances for an international audience via his work with @twinsauce but had recently appeared in TIP's production of *Newsies* and *Curtains*. He's thankful for his family, friends, and training at Miller Marley.

**MICHAL KOLACZKOWSKI** (Ensemble) Broadway: *The Cher Show*. Broadway Tours: *Chicago*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Beauty and the Beast*. Select Regional: *JOY* (World Premiere at George Street), *The Wanderer* (World Premiere at Papermill), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Goodspeed). Dance: MET Opera Ballet, The Verdon Fosse Legacy, iLuminate. Film/TV: "Katy Keene," "Modern Love," "I'm Not Gay" (Upcoming Film). Gratitude to this creative team, casting, and CESD.

**JEFFREY KELLER** (Kyle/Dewey/Ensemble) Is thrilled to be making his KC Starlight debut! A few past credits include *Last Five Years* (Jamie), *Xanadu* (Sonny), *Elf* (Buddy), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin/Dentist), *Footloose* (Willard), *Hair* (Berger), *Mamma Mia!* (Sky). He received his BFA in musical theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University. When not acting, Jeffrey does

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stand-up comedy all around NYC and Chicago. Jeffrey would like to thank his parents for their never-ending love and support and Amanda for putting up with him. @Jeffrey\_Keller

**REAGAN KENNEDY** (Ensemble) Is so excited to be making her regional theatre debut with Starlight. Reagan was previously the Dance Captain, Swing, Elle u/s on The *Legally Blonde* National Tour and is beyond grateful to revisit this show. Thanks to The University of Arizona BFA, her family, parents and friends, SNAPS! @\_reagankennedy\_

**DAVID PAUL KIDDER** (Ensemble) Starlight Debut! KC: *Chicago* at New Theatre. National tours: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. NYC: *American Dance Machine* (The Joyce), *American Dance Spectacular*, *NBC Upfronts* (Radio City Music Hall). Film: *Imaginary Friends* (dir. John Krasinski, chor. Mandy Moore). TV: “Late Show with Stephen Colbert.” Regional: Muny, Pittsburgh CLO, Fulton, Riverside, Flat Rock, Disney World. Dancer with Kristin Sudeikis Dance. @davidpaulkidder

**MADOKA KOGUCHI** (Ensemble) Select credits: National tour of *Miss Saigon* (Gigi u/s), *Busch Gardens, Rent* (Tokyo), *Mother “Tome Torihama story”* (East Japan Tour) and *Diggin’ The Decades* (Toronto). Aside from performing, Madoka is a manager at KC’s 1st Vietnamese coffee shop “Cafe Cà Phê”! Huge Arigato’s to mom & dad, Chikara, Jackie and the entire Cafe Cà Phê family! @madoka\_koguch

**JESSICA MARTENS** (Ensemble) is excited to be making her Starlight debut! Proud alum of Oklahoma City University. Regional: Ellen in *Miss Saigon*, *Annie* (Casa Mañana); Sophie in *Mamma Mia*, *Bright Star*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *When You Wish* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma). All glory to God! 1 John 4:9-10. @jess.martens

**TIA PETERSEN** (Ensemble) is grateful and joyous to be part of the KC Starlight family this summer! Regional highlights: Tuacahn Center of the Arts, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theatre. Proud graduate of The University of Washington. All the love & thanks to her family and to her Kyle. @t\_uhpetersen

**TAY MARQUISE** (Ensemble) is a Florida native who loves doing turns, shopping, and food. You can catch him at a Broadway stagedoor, *MJ the Musical*, or the nearest screen dancing, singing, and creating viral videos on tiktok and Instagram @taymarquise where he shares his black boy joy with the masses—Taymarquise.com

**JULIE POPE** (Ensemble) Theatre: *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles) MTH, New Theatre, Drury Lane & The Marriott. National Tour: *Evil Dead* (Linda). Vocalist: Lost Wax, Tokyo DinseySea, and Hong Kong Disneyland. Commercial/VO: Hallmark, Garmin, Ace Hardware, Price Chopper, H&R Block, etc. Film: “Early Bird & Nelly Don; the Movie Musical.” Represented by Moxie Talent. www.juliepoppe.me

**WILL PORTER** (Ensemble) Starlight debut! KC: *Peter Pan and Wendy* (KC Rep). Upcoming: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (KC Rep). Tour: *CATS*, *Bye Bye Birdie*; Tokyo: *A Chorus Line*; Favorites: *The Little Mermaid*, *All Shook Up* (MUNY), *How To Succeed* (TUTS), *HAIR* (Berkshire Theatre), *Shrek*, *Mary Poppins* (NSMT), *Spamalot* (PCLO), *Bells Are Ringing* (Off-Bway). MFA: UMKC 24

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**KEN REMMERT** (Ensemble) Ken has been an Equity Actor and Union Musician for over 40 years, he has been fortunate to stay busy in the Kansas City area. Ken also portrays President Harry S Truman, with “A Tribute to Truman” [www.atributetotruman.com](http://www.atributetotruman.com) Love to his family. Enjoy the show everyone!

**BEN SEARS** (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his KCS debut! National Tours: *Cats* (1st Nat'l), *A Bronx Tale*. Regional: *Gypsy*, *The Music Man* (Goodspeed), *Catch Me If You Can* (REV), *West Side Story*, *Newsies!* (LEX) Shoutout to The A Squad & love to Nikki & Elle-May. Love to my family. As always, this is for Dad.

**MARYANN TRAXLER** (Ensemble) recent performance credits include: *Freaky Friday* at The New Theatre (Monica), Singer/Dancer for Carnival Cruise Line, RWS Entertainment Group, *Kinky Boots* at The White Theatre (Lauren), *Meet Me In St. Louis* at Theatre in the Park (Esther), and American Idol Season 14. Love to Robb & Wolfe. Snaps!! @maryannrosinski

**WESTON THOMAS** (Ensemble) Weston Thomas is a Missouri State University alum. Select performance highlights: *Freaky Friday*, *Seussical*, *SpongeBob*, *Something Rotten*, *Matilda*, *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia*, *Annie* (Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park); *Something Rotten*, *Newsies* (White Theatre); *Funny Girl* (MTH Theatre); *The Prom*, *Elf* (MTKC Pro); *Crazy For You*, *Damn Yankees*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tent Theatre). Upcoming: *A Chorus Line* (MTH Theatre). @Weston\_Thomas

**WILLA H. WALBERG** (Ensemble), is thrilled to return to the Starlight stage after 12 years! Willa is a BFA Musical Theatre student at Missouri State and received the Starlight Blue Star Award for Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role in 2020. Love to Elaine, Megan, and her family! @willawalberg

**MARLEY** (Bruiser Woods) Marley began her journey as a rescue pup in Manhattan, KS. She is well-travelled and has been from coast to coast in the U.S. Marley works by day as a law clerk for her mom, who also went to law school. This cuddly pup leaves a paw print on the heart of everyone she meets. Please put your paws together for this great show.

**ARTY** (Rufus) Arty was surrendered to Kansas City English Bulldog Rescue in July of 2022. Arty is easy going and is a lover, not a fighter. He enjoys meeting people, other animals, and cuddling. Arty lives on a small farm in Kansas City with 5 other English bulldogs (KCEBR rescues), 3 cats, 7 horses, 2 tortoises, several chickens and a pot bellied pig. As a KCEBR alumni, Arty participates in rescue events and is an excellent rescue ambassador.

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