

CAST INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

DATE: March 2022

CONTACT: Kori Radloff, korir@rosetheater.org, 402-502-4641

Giraffes Can't Dance: The Musical Cast Information



Carina DuMarce

Carina DuMarce (*Gerald*)

Carina DuMarce (they/them) Carina is an Indigenous Theater Creator and Teaching Artist from South Dakota. Currently based in Omaha, Carina is the Associate Director of CommUNITY Connections and continues to work as a freelance theater artist directing, choreographing, prop designing, stage managing, teaching, and acting. As part of their work, Carina continues to make space for Native youth to share their culture and explore storytelling in a theatrical setting. Some of their favorite theatrical endeavors include *Winnie the Pooh* (as Winnie the Pooh), *Darkness Like A Dream* (as Hermia), *The Jungle Book* (as Baloo), *Eurydice* (Director), *Cinderella: If the Shoe Fits* (Director/Choreographer), *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Stage Manager) and Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Stage Manager/ Prop Designer).



Jay Hayden

Jay Hayden (*Cricket*)

Jay Hayden (they/them) is a genderqueer activist, educator, playwright, performer, and brussels sprouts enthusiast. They are the Director of Teen Programming at The Rose. At The Rose, Jay supervises the High School Internship, oversees all classes for students aged 12-18, and manages the annual Teens 'n' Theater season. They are the director of The Rose's Teen IDEA Coalition, where students explore anti-oppressive politics to engage in meaningful community change. Jay serves on the Advisory Board of the Pride Youth Theater Alliance, is a Theater of the Oppressed practitioner, and has recently been on stage at The Rose in *The Cat In The Hat*, *Howie D: Back In The Day*, and *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus*. Jay has worked as an Educator and Artist with Vermont Stage, Lake Dillon Theatre Company, the American Alliance of Theater & Education (AATE), Upward Bound, Nebraska Thespians, and Vermont Fairy Tale. They have a B.S.E in Secondary Education from the University of Vermont.

=MORE =

The Rose Theater
2001 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102

t (402) 345-4849
f (402) 344-7255
www.rosetheater.org



Cast Information - Giraffes Can't Dance: The Musical
at The Rose Theater

Page 2 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Zoella Sneed

Zoella Sneed (*Elephant*)

Zoella Sneed (she/her) recently graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with degrees in Theatre Performance and Theatre for Youth. In both her fields of study, she has dedicated herself to discovering opportunities surrounding equity/anti racism work and theatre for social change. She uses this focus to help create spaces for marginalized theatre artists to take up space and use theatre as a platform to share their voices. Zoella also has a passion for musical theatre, and aims to bring her social justice work to the art in order to make musical theatre more representative and accessible for all people. Overall, her primary goal is to uplift and enrich the theatrical and emotional learning of young people and the theatre industry as a whole through multicultural, social justice, and empathy based theater practices.



Candace Gould

Candace Gould (*Lion*)

Candace Gould (she/her) is a Omaha-based Private Vocal Coach, Actress and Performer. Over the past almost 10 years she has devoted most of her time serving in the Music Ministry at a local church and teaching students of all ages how to find their voice, through classes and private voice lessons. Even though she's been very busy with her career in music she has never lost her love for theater. She is excited to make a debut in this awesome musical.



Karl Houser

Karl Houser (*Monkey*)

Karl Houser (he/him) Is excited to be back at The Rose in his second primate role (fourth if you include people). A graduate of the IO Chicago, Karl teaches, performs and coaches improv at the Backline Theatre. Karl is a founding member of the Nebraska Improvised Shakespeare Enterprise, which can be seen performing regularly at the Backline as well. Karl also co-hosts "River Heights Radio," a Nancy Drew podcast.



Natalie Hanson

Natalie Hanson (*Zebra*)

Natalie Hanson (she/her/hers) is a multidisciplinary theatre, music, and dance artist from Tacoma, Washington residing in Omaha. Natalie's choreographic and sound design work was last featured in a collaborative performance art piece entitled *Dollhouse* funded by Amplify Arts through their Generator Grant series. Natalie is also an actor and teaching artist with The Rose Theater. Recent theater credits include *It's a Wonderful Life* (Actor 7) *Howie D: Back in the Day* (Pollyanna) and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* (Ensemble) with The Rose Theater. Natalie has worked with Teatro Vista, Comedy Dance Chicago, and Matter Dance company in Chicago where she previously resided. Recently, Natalie was also nominated for "Outstanding New Artist" for the OEAA awards. You can find Natalie's self produced music under her artist name Facade Queen, and her sister duo group Court the Muse on all streaming platforms.

=MORE =

Cast Information - *Giraffes Can't Dance: The Musical*

at The Rose Theater

Page 3 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Denise Chapman

Denise Chapman (*Director*)

Denise Chapman is excited to return to The Rose for *Giraffes Can't Dance*. She is an Omaha based theater practitioner. Currently she is the Producing Artistic Director of Theatre at The Union for Contemporary Art and an adjunct professor at Creighton University and UNL. She holds a BA in Theatre from Creighton University and a MFA from the Theatre Conservatory at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Most recently she was awarded the 2020 Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the Nebraska Arts Council, she is an alumni of the fellowship program at the Union for Contemporary Art. She was an Artist in Residence at the Carver Bank project, a collaboration between Bemis and Theater Gates and "Liveness is Critical" at the Bemis Center.



Gloria Bond Clunie

Gloria Bond Clunie (*Playwright*)

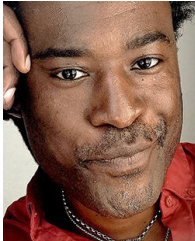
Gloria Bond Clunie is an award-winning playwright, director and educator. She is a founding member of the Playwriting Ensemble at Chicago's Regional Tony Award winning Victory Gardens Theater and the founding Artistic Director of Evanston's Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre. Her plays include *Sweet Water Taste*, *SMOKE*, *Sing*, *Malindy*, *Sing!*, *BLU*, *Buck Naked*, *DRIP*, *Patricia McKissack's Mirandy and Brother Wind*, *Bankruptcy*, *Merry Kwanzaa*, *Mercy Rising* and *QUARK*. Her plays have been produced and workshopped in a variety of theaters including Victory Gardens Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, ETA, Alliance Theatre, Triad Stage, Her Story Theatre, MPAACT, Chicago Children's Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Penobscot Theatre and Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Ms. Clunie has been recognized for her work in theater and education by the NAACP, AKA and DST Sororities, American Alliance for Theatre and Education and the Vision Keepers. Awards include a Chicago Jeff, a Children's Theater Foundation of America Orlin Corey Medallion, a Scott McPherson, a Dramatists Guild Fellowship, Theodore Ward African-American Playwriting Prizes, New York's New Professional Theater Award, Chicago Black Theatre Alliance Awards, NEA and Illinois Arts Council Fellowships, a YWCA YWomen Leadership Award, and the Evanston Mayor's Award for the Arts. Her drama *Shoes* was included in the 2015 Women Playwrights International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa; *SMOKE* was featured in Chicago's Her Story Theater Writers Series, Dayton Playhouse's FutureFest, New Works at Playhouse On The Square in Memphis, Barter Theatre's Appalachian Festival of Playwrights in Virginia, and as a part of New Play Lab at Florida Rep. Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre commissioned and premiered her play *A Shot - #Love Stories* inspired by Black Lives Matter which has been performed virtually in 2021 at both Horizon Theatre and American Blues Theatre. Ms. Clunie has been an Artist-In-Residence at Byrdcliffe Arts Colony in Woodstock New York and at 360 Xochi Quetzal Arts Residency, Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico. Currently, fueled by her love of Chicago architecture, she is working on the musical *SKY* which was begun at California's Djerassi Resident Artists Program; adapting *The Hula-Hoopin' Queen* for a Childsplay/Imagination Stage joint commission; and excited about two world premieres in April 2022 – *Tall Enough* at DePaul University's PlayWorks and her musical *Giraffes Can't Dance* at Omaha's Rose Theater. Originally from Henderson, North Carolina, she and her husband Basil live in Evanston, Illinois and are the proud parents of Aurelia.

= MORE =

**Cast Information - Giraffes Can't Dance: The Musical
at The Rose Theater**

Page 4 of 5

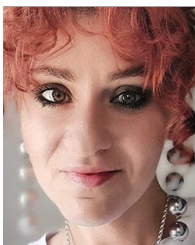
Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Everett Elton
Bradman

Everett Elton Bradman (*Music Composer*)

Everett Elton Bradman's 2021 composer/sound designer credits include audio dramas (Aurora Theater's *The Bluest Eye*), student productions (ACT's *The House of Yes*), Zoom theater (Actors Theaters' *Romeo & Juliet: Louisville 2020*), podcasts (*Z Space/Word for Word's Retablos* trilogy), filmed theater (San Francisco Playhouse's *Hieroglyph*), hybrid visual/audio (New Conservatory Theater Company's *Interlude*), and outdoor performances (Oakland Theater Project's *The Waste Land*). Other recent adventures include Shotgun Players' *The Light and The Niceties*; Aurora Theater's *The Flats*; ACT's *Ironbound*; and *Snowflakes*, or *Rare White People* for UC Berkeley. He is currently co-writing a musical for Bay Area Children's Theater and The Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska.



Lila Oleszkiewicz

Lila Oleszkiewicz (*Music Composer*)

Composer, songwriter, and vocalist Lila Oleszkiewicz has been a performer since the age of five. Her work as a vocalist has ranged from classical art songs and pop music to '70s singer-songwriter jams. She is half of synth-pop duo Basetla (basetlamusic.com), who released their debut album *Woman on The Run* in 2021. Lila first began absorbing Eastern European folk and classical idioms while growing up in Poland. After years of traveling the world and working as a singer, dancer, lighting designer, and emcee, Lila earned a degree in composition at Mills College, where she studied with Roscoe Mitchell, Fred Frith, Maggie Payne, and Zeena Parkins. Her composition "On Water" earned her the Elizabeth Mills Crothers Award. Now based in Los Angeles, she makes her living as a songwriter, vocal coach, vocal editor, a choir soloist, and producer.



Giles Andreae

Giles Andreae (*Book Author*)

Giles Andreae is one of the UK's most popular picture book authors, with many bestselling and award-winning titles to his name. These include *Giraffes Can't Dance*, *Rumble In The Jungle*, *Commotion In The Ocean* and *Pants*. Recent work includes *Winnie-The-Pooh: The Great Heffalump Hunt*, commissioned to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the publication of the first Winnie-the-Pooh book, as well as the ever popular *I Love...* series, illustrated by Emma Dodd. Giles's children's books have sold over 12 million copies worldwide. Giles's first animated television series, *World of Happy*, was commissioned by CBBC for broadcast in 2010. *Captain Flinn & the Pirate Dinosaurs* (a 52 part animated series) was broadcast in 2016. Giles is also the creator of the stickman bard, Purple Ronnie, and of the philosopher/artist, Edward Monkton. With over 150 million greetings cards and 3 million books sold between them, these iconic characters have made Giles the country's top selling living poet. Giles lives with his wife, Victoria, a children's clothes designer, and their four children beside the river in Oxfordshire.

= MORE =

Cast Information - *Giraffes Can't Dance: The Musical*

at The Rose Theater

Page 5 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Guy Parker-Rees

Guy Parker-Rees (*Book Illustrator*)

Guy Parker-Rees is the international best-selling illustrator of *Giraffes Can't Dance*, written by Giles Andreae which recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Guy has collaborated with Giles Andreae on several other titles, including *The Chimpanzees of HappyTown* and *Be Brave Little Penguin*. Their latest book was published in 2020 as *Elephant Me* in the UK and *Free to Be Elephant Me* in the US. Guy has won many awards including the FCBG Book Award as well as the Sheffield Book Award, the Portsmouth Book Award and Blue Peter Book Award finalist – all twice. Guy has collaborated with many authors, including a range of successful picture books with Tony Mitton for Orchard Books such as *Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus*, *Down by the Cool of the Pool* and *Twist and Hop*, *Minibeast Bop*. He has also collaborated with Gareth Edwards on *Never Ask a Dinosaur to Dinner* and *Fabulous Pie* (Scholastic). A number of his titles are sold in the US through Scholastic Inc. Guy has also authored and illustrated the vibrant *Dylan the Dog* series for Alison Green Books and the *Tom and Millie* books for Hachette.



Justin Payne

Justin Payne (*Music Director*)

Justin Payne (he/him) has performed on stages in Germany, Austria, Italy and China for various collegiate music programs and summer opera programs. He currently teaches music in the Omaha community and is the minister of Music at Pleasant Green Baptist Church. Payne sang at the Holland Performing Arts as a tenor soloist with the Voices of Omaha for their Handel's Messiah Presentation. He also studied voice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Michigan State University. Payne is also a composer and playwright. His musical theater collaborations include playwright/author Lisa Harrison on "The Draft," a new musical about the challenges African American male athletes face who don't have a father. "Heaven Come Home," a collaboration with Dani Cleveland and Julie Baker, is a new musical that sends the audience on an emotional journey as they answer the question, "If you had 'One More Day' with a loved one who has passed on, how would you spend it?" "Little Brown Boy," another collaboration with Cleveland, is a musical about the effects of gentrification. One of Payne's newest creations is "Belle Terre the Musical," a whimsical story that sends an adolescent young woman on a journey to self-discovery with music inspired by the New Orleans brass band style. Justin believes in and lives by the motto "There is no limit to what you can accomplish."

###