



THEATER
COMPANY

2020/2021
SEASON

ST. LOUIS' PREMIER THEATER
FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

JACKED!



BY
**IDRIS
GOODWIN**

JANUARY 21 THRU MARCH 31, 2021

Soundtrack by Jackie "Jackpot" Sharp

Directed by Jamie McKittrick

Originally commissioned by Cleveland Play House and developed as part of Cleveland Play House's Classroom Matinee Touring Program with a soundtrack by Rhythm Science Sound.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: WHITAKER FOUNDATION

A VIRTUAL PRODUCTION STREAMING AT [METROPLAYS.ORG](https://metroplays.org)

JACKED!



BY
IDRIS
GOODWIN

THE CAST

JACK

Jarris L. Williams

ENSEMBLE

The Knuckles (Rockwell Knuckles and Aloha Mischeaux)



PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR

Jamie McKittrick

SOUNDTRACK AND MUSICAL DIRECTION

Jackie "Jackpot" Sharp

VISUAL ARTIST

Nicholas Kryah

COSTUME DESIGNER

Dorathy Lee Johnston

ANIMATION DESIGNER/VIDEO EDITOR

Michael Tran

STAGE MANAGER

Jimmy Bernatowicz



JARRIS L. WILLIAMS (Jack)

returns to Metro Theater Company, where he was last seen making his MTC debut in the leading role of Castle Cranshaw in *Ghost*. In 2019, the St. Louis native completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University, where he took on the numerous roles in several productions including Leroy Barksdale/Herb Forrester in *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* and Oliver in *As You Like It*. His other credits include *The Royale* (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *The Verge* (ANNONYArts at Satori), *My Alexandria* (Asheville, NC Fringe Festival), *Orders* (Tesseract Theatre Company), and *The Apotheosis of Big Jim* (St. Louis Fringe Festival).



THE KNUCKLES (Ensemble)

Rockwell Knuckles and Aloha Mischeaux make up popular punk pop duo, The Knuckles. Together, they have created hundreds of songs, released albums, and found a magic musical connection in creating their own unique style and sound. Carving out their own respective following in St. Louis, the two have joined forces like a modern-day Lucy and Ricky Ricardo. Hip hop/rap artist Rockwell Knuckles is a respected star of the St. Louis underground hip-hop scene. Aloha Mischeaux is the other half of The Knuckles. This singer and writer trained in music, dance, vocals, acting, and musical theatre at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Together, they've earned local and national recognition for their musical contributions, including multiple write-ups in St. Louis publications, Best Group Award from the *Riverfront Times*, and a performing appearance on the Season 2 finale of *Good Trouble*, a Freeform TV show now streaming on Hulu.



PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

JAMIE MCKITTRICK (Director) joins Metro Theater Company again after previously starring in MTC's production of Eric Coble's one-woman play *A Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. She also recently directed and choreographed *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, choreographed and performed in *Frida Libre*, and choreographed *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*. McKittrick straddles the modes of theatre, dance, and performance art as performer, creator, choreographer, director, and teacher. Recently, she directed *Gruesome Playground Injuries* for Creative Inhabitor, *The Birds* for UMSL, and *Lysistrata* for Webster Conservatory of the Arts. Notable original work includes *Sparkle-TA-DAAA!!!* (Critic's Choice Award winner of the St. Louis Fringe Festival), *SURVIVE!* ("Best of the Year" – Philadelphia Weekly), *Lady M* (curated by LiveArts Fest), and national tours with Enchantment Theatre Company. Other theatre credits include Mac Wellman's *Anything's Dream*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, and *In the Heights*. Jamie is a Kevin Kline Award nominee. She's been on faculty at Muhlenberg College, UMSL, Lindenwood University, and Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre teaching directing, acting, movement, and storytelling.

JACKIE "JACKPOT" SHARP (Soundtrack and Musical Direction) is a St. Louis-based music producer, sound designer, and percussionist. He recently worked with Metro Theater Company as sound designer on Idris Goodwin's *Ghost*. He has several sound design credits from productions at University of Missouri-St. Louis, including Idris Goodwin's *How We Got On*, *L-vis Lives!*, *Chasing the White Rabbit*, and *In The Red and Brown Water*. He was also the percussionist for *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* (University of Missouri-St. Louis). Jackie attended St. Louis Community College–Forest Park and St. Louis Community College–Florissant Valley.

NICHOLAS KRYAH (Visual Artist) was Metro Theater Company's resident artist for 37 years. He is an actor, director, designer, playwright, and jack-of-all-trades. He last appeared on screen with MTC in *Early Days: Stories of the Pandemic* and onstage in *Bud, Not Buddy*. Since retiring in 2014, Nick has focused on exploring new ways to write plays for very young audiences. In 2017 his play *My Name is Loofa Tutu* was one of five plays honored in the national playwright program, Write Now in Tempe, Arizona. In 2019 Pollyanna Theatre presented the world premiere of his play, *Everything is Round*, which is currently being broadcast digitally by Magik Theatre. The world premiere of his play *Luna*, was scheduled to open last summer in Austin, but is on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. Nick is glad to be a part of the Metro Theater Company team again, making new work in new ways in a new world.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

DORATHY LEE JOHNSTON (Costume Designer) Dorothy is currently a junior studying costume design at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. There she designed *Canfield Drive* and *Miss You Like Hell*, and assistant costume designed *Twelfth Night*. Dorothy also served as associate costume designer for *Fefu and Her Friends* with Theatre Nuevo.

MICHAEL TRAN (Animation Designer/Video Editor) is beyond thrilled to receive his first designer credit as an animation designer / video editor for *Jacked!*. As a St. Louis native, he has performed in the ensembles of The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Opera Theatre Saint Louis, and The Muny. Michael will graduate with a BFA in acting from Webster Conservatory in May 2021. tranmichael.com. #UnapologeticallyAsian

JIMMY BERNATOWICZ (Stage Manager) is a local stage manager and director, returning to Metro Theater Company after stage managing *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. He is a graduate of St. Louis University, with a B.A. in theatre and English. Previously, he stage managed MTC's touring show *Frida Libre*. He has also stage managed for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, COCA, The Midnight Company, Equally Represented Arts (ERA), and the Indiana University School of Music. He directed, wrote, and produced Post-Romantics' premiere production of *Doomsday Faust*; and will serve as production stage manager for COCA's *Suffer the Children* and *Billy Elliot*.



MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT

IDRIS GOODWIN



Idris Goodwin is a multidisciplinary arts leader and creative community builder. Across two decades he's forged a multi-faceted career as an award-winning scriptwriter for stage and screen, Break Beat poet, director, educator, and organizer. He is the new director of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The author of [FREE PLAY: Open Source Scripts Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow](#), Goodwin is committed to using the arts to spark meaningful conversation.

His plays include the widely produced *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *Ghost* adapted from the novel by Jason Reynolds, *How We Got On*, *This Is Modern Art* co-written with Kevin Coval, *Bars and Measures*, *The Raid*, and *Hype Man: a break beat play*. His *The Way The Mountain Moved* was commissioned and produced as part of Oregon Shakespeare's American Revolutions series. Idris also created the [FREE PLAY](#) project, which consists of five open sourced plays that can be used to create conversation around race and the Black experience in America.

His work has been produced by or developed with Metro Theater Company, Actor's Theater of Louisville, Steppenwolf Theater, The Kennedy Center, Denver Center for The Performing Arts, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Children's Theater, Nashville Children's Theatre, Boulder Ensemble Theater, TheaterWorks, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor Program, La Jolla Playhouse, Eugene O'Neill Center, The Lark Playwriting Center, and The New Harmony Project.

Idris has received support from the NEA and the Ford, Mellon and Edgerton Foundations, and is the recipient of InterAct Theatre's 20/20 Prize and The Playwrights' Center's McKnight Fellowship. Idris is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves on the boards of TYA/USA and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

COREY ROSE
JACQUELINE THOMPSON

METRO THEATER COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF *JACKED!* WAS RECORDED AT DOORWAY STUDIOS.



1. **What do you think the egg could represent in the real world?**

2. **At the beginning of the play, Jack asks, “Do you ever think you’re doing a good thing but the more you do it you realize that you’re just making things worse?” Can you think of a time when you have done something with good intentions, but then found out it hurt someone?**

3. **Why did Jack choose to steal the goose that laid the golden eggs?**

4. ***JACKED!* is a new and different retelling of the fairytale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. If you know the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, why do you think the playwright made the changes he did to the story?**

5. **If you were to rewrite a fairytale, which one would you rewrite?**

6. **Why do you think Gina Giant decides to speak up at the end of the play, when Jack is stuck on the beanstalk between the giants in the sky and the townsfolk down below?**

7. **At the end of the play, all the townsfolk work together to farm and make their soil healthy again. What’s a time people in your community came together to help each other out?**

8. **The actors play multiple characters throughout the play. What were some of the ways you noticed the actors bring to life these different characters?**

9. **Visual art is used to enhance the storytelling in *JACKED!* Was there a collage or piece of art that stuck out to you? Why?**

10. **Jack’s mama and the other townsfolk are all part of Jack’s community. What is a community? Who all makes up your community? Are you part of more than one community?**

11. **Why do you think Jack’s mama tells him that “It’s not your fault”? How do you think Jack felt when she said that?**

12. **At the end of the play, Jack talks about gardening with his mama and calls that “a powerful feeling.” What does he mean by that? What’s something good in your life that gives you a powerful feeling?**

13. **How did music play a role in the play? How would the play have been different if there hadn’t been music?**





MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community, and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.

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Joe Gfaller Managing Director

Karen Bain
Education Director

John Wolbers
Producing Associate

Sarah Thompson
Director of Communications
& Media

Jennifer Lin
Content Marketing
Manager

Gen Zoufal
Resident Teaching Artist

Erik Kuhn
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Lauren Brooks
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Metro Theater Company is a professional theater for young people and families and a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. It is a proud member of the Theatre Communications Group (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (the U.S. chapter of the international association of theaters for young people) and Missouri Citizens for the Arts, as well as a proud Cultural Partner of the School District of Clayton. Metro Theater Company receives financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Missouri Humanities Council, a state agency; the Regional Arts Commission; the Arts and Education Council; and numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.