

**Count Basie Center
Academy of the Arts**

PRODUCTION OF

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" - Adapted by Don Quinn,
From C.S. Lewis' story is produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois



Who's Who in the Cast

THE PROFESSOR.....Emerson Granata
PETER.....Abby Jain
SUSAN.....Athena Barrett
EDMUND.....Neo Vela
LUCY.....Maggie Parker
MR. TUMNUS.....Darren Freeman
THE WHITE WITCH.....Jade Trotte
DWARF.....Daisy Ifantis
MR. BEAVER.....Charlie Costa
MRS. BEAVER.....Emma DePalma
FENRIS ULF.....Katelyn Roche
FATHER CHRISTMAS.....Carl Smith
ASLAN.....Caitlin Connolly
MRS. MACREADY/2ND DWARF.....Caroline Scott

Production Staff

Producer Jessica O'Brien
Directors Anthony Greco & Ariana Centamore
Lighting Design Emily Lovell & Anthony Greco
Sound Design Zach Vivino
Wardrobe Design & Construction Justin Odon
Playbill Design Ainsley Lang
Graphic Design Andrew Musser

Production Interns

Production Intern: Paige Singer
Backstage Crew: Jenna Barry, Gianna Giglio,
Benjamin Neller, Paige Singer, & Carl Smith

Special Thanks

Joanne Penrose, Phoenix Productions,
Andrew Musser, Charlie Christensen,
Mike Jacoby, the Count Basie technical crew,
Chris Lomazzo, Samantha Giustiniani,
the Education Department, our fabulous production interns,
and, of course, the parents for their continued support!



EMERSON GRANATA (The Professor)

is a 6th grader at Indian Hill School in Holmdel. She is thrilled to be part of her first Student Production at The Basie Academy. Previous credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Aladdin Jr.* (Manal), *Life is Like a Double Cheeseburger* (Mom/Victor), *The Enchanted Book Shop* (Cinderella), *The Little Mermaid* with Stage Left Productions and numerous vocal performances. She would like to thank her LWW cast mates and directors for welcoming her into the Basie Family!



ABBY JAIN (Peter)

is a 6th grader at Markham Middle School. She has previously performed in *James and the Giant Peach* and *Seussified*. Outside of theater, she plays cello with the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra, and enjoys tennis. She is happy to be performing with friends and wants to thank her coaches and cast mates!



ATHENA BARRETT (Susan)

is a 6th grader at Markham Place. She's excited to be participating in another show! She has performed in multiple amazing productions including, *Seussified* (Thing 1), *Wrinkle in Time* (Charles Wallace), *Elf* (Charlie the Elf) and many more. She wishes the cast and crew the best of luck in this performance!



NEO VELA (Edmund)

Neo is a typical pre-teen, full of life, questions, love for his family, and athletic ability. He enjoys soccer, surfing and playing chess. Fortunately, he is an intelligent young man and took acting like a duck to water. Don't miss *Almas's Way* on PBS Kids, Neo plays Junior. He is also musically inclined as he displays his progress studying drums.



MAGGIE PARKER (Lucy)

is a 6th grader at Monmouth Beach School and loves being a part of another Basie Academy of the Arts production. She has been with the Basie since she was 6 years old, appearing in *Annie*, *Shrek*, *Frozen*, *Mary Poppins*, *Seussical* and *James and the Giant Peach*. She also loves art and playing basketball. She would like to thank the coaches, production crew and her cast mates for another amazing experience!



DARREN FREEMAN (Mr. Tumnus)

is 9 years old and absolutely loves performing on stage, especially with the Basie Academy of the Arts! He first fell in love with the stage at age 6 performing here as Sultan in *Aladdin Kids*! He has since performed in such Basie productions as: *Seussical* (Who), *Moana* (Villager), *Willy Wonka* (Mike Teavee), *James & the Giant Peach* (Chris Cryermouth) & a *Seussified Christmas Carol* (Young Scrooge). Elsewhere, he has performed in *Peter Pan* (Pirate), *Seussical* (Mr. Mayor), and *Legally Blonde* (Warner). He'd love to thank the production crew for all their hard work and congratulate everyone for another fantastic show!



JADE TROTTE (The White Witch)

is thrilled to be making her Basie Academy of the Arts debut in *The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe*, as White Witch. She recently made her Count Basie MainStage debut in *Elf* as an elf and the girl from Macy's. Other past productions include *Aladdin Jr.* (Genie), *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Brooke, Paulette), *Seussical Jr.* (Jo-Jo), *Matilda Jr.* (Lavender), and *Peter Pan Jr.* (Lost Boy). Jade is in the 4th grade and when not gracing the stage, can be found playing softball, laughing with friends, and strumming her ukelele. She cannot wait to journey to Narnia and show you all her Statuary.

Break-a-leg everyone!



DAISY IFANTIS (Dwarf)

is in the 4th grade at Saint Leo the Great School in Lincroft, NJ. Daisy has performed in a number of junior productions through the Count Basie Performing Arts Academy such as *Seussified Christmas Carol* (Christmas Present), *Wonka Jr.* (Veruca Salt), *Moana Jr.* (Hei-Hei), *Aladdin Jr.* (Iago), *Mary Poppins Jr.* and *Seussical*. She has also been in productions outside of the Basie including *Annie Jr.*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Scrooge*. Daisy is so excited to be part of such an awesome cast and crew in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.



CHARLIE COSTA (Mr. Beaver)

is in third grade and is thrilled to be in another Basie Academy of the Arts performance! He has been a part of other Basie productions including *Moana Jr.* (Villager), and *A Seussified Christmas Carol* (The Scrooge). Charlie also performed in *Hansel & Gretel* (Hansel) with Taubenslag Productions, and contributed to the Moana documentary titled “We Know the Way.” Charlie thanks Miss Jess, Coach Anthony, and Miss Ariana for all of their guidance and for making theater so fun! He also thanks his family for always encouraging and practicing with him. Break-a-leg to an amazing cast!



EMMA DEPALMA (Mrs. Beaver)

is in 6th grade at St. Benedict School, and is excited to be back on the Basie stage. Previously, she has played the roles of Thing 2 in *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, Sandy in a *Wrinkle in Time*, and Michael/Curly in *Tinker Bell*, as well as performed in *Moana Jr.* and *Elf Jr.* With other theater companies, she has played the roles of the Tin Man in *Wizard of Oz*, Amanda in *Matilda, Jr.*, Billy Bones in *Little Mermaid*, and Young Simba in *Lion King, Jr.*, as well as performed in ensembles in *The Hundred Dresses*, *Footloose*, *Spamalot*, and *School of Rock*. Professionally, she has also been in a commercial and played the voice of Ayane in *Weathering with You*. Emma would like to say thank you to everyone involved in making this production magical!



KATELYN ROCHE (Fenris Ulf)

is a 4th grader at Lincroft Elementary School, and has been a student at Count Basie Performing Arts since 2020. Katelyn has participated in several core classes, including *The Show Must Go On* where she has been cast in leading roles. Katelyn is excited to perform in her first student production as the vicious talking wolf, Fenris Ulf, chief of the secret police under the White Witch. Katelyn enjoys the arts including drawing, painting, dance and music, but Katelyn's true passion is acting, so she is thrilled to be apart of this amazing show. She would like to thank the production crew and her cast mates for this amazing experience!



CAITLIN CONNOLLY (Aslin)

is a 5th grader at Lincroft Elementary School and is thrilled for her first performance with the Basie! Caitlin's debut in acting began with the *The Acting Space* in Jersey City where she played the role of Marie in the *Aristocats*. Since that time she has been in various roles as part of acting camps and programs including most recently playing Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. She would like to thank the team and cast for this opportunity!

PRODUCTION INTERNS



CAROLINE SCOTT (Mrs Macready/2nd Dwarf)

is thrilled to perform again with the Basie Academy of the Arts! Caroline started with the Basie Academy at 5 playing a frog in Miss Marjorie's acting class! Caroline has performed in *Moana Jr.* and *Aladdin Jr.* with the Basie Academy. Elsewhere she has been in *Annie*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Lion King Jr.* and *Elf the Musical*. Caroline would like to thank Coach Anthony, Miss Jessica and Miss Ariana for this experience!



PAIGE SIGNER (Company Management, Crew)

is a senior at Holmdel High School and is very excited to be interning for *Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*! She previously interned for *Puffs*, & *Willy Wonka Jr. Kids*. Paige has performed in numerous Count Basie shows, such as *Moana Jr. (Maui)* and *Mary Poppins Jr. (Miss Andrew)*. She wishes the cast and crew to break-a-leg!



CARL SMITH (Father Christmas, Crew)

is a sophomore at Communications High School. He is over the moon to be returning to the Basie Academy's intern program! He would like to thank all of the teaching artists for their constant support!



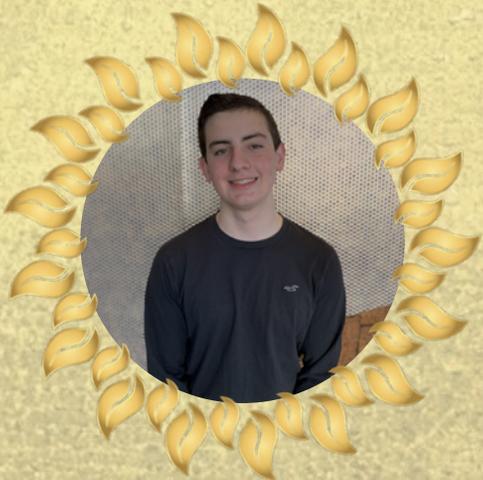
JENNA BARRY (Crew)

is a sophomore at Brick Memorial High School and this is the first time she's interned at the Basie! She has worked in tech in *The Great Gatsby*, *Little Women*, and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* She also stage managed for *Radium Girls*. She would like to wish everyone break-a-leg!



GIANNA GIGLIO (Crew)

is a junior at Red Bank Regional High School and is so excited to be doing another fantastic show with the Basie Academy. She has been in many of the other productions at the Basie such as *Frozen* (Sven), *Radium Girls* (Mrs. Fryer), *Moana* (Gramma Tala), *A Seussified Christmas Carol* (Bob Cratchit), *Puffs* (Wayne) and so many more. She was also in *Moby Dick: Rehearsed* at her high school.



BENJAMIN NELLER (Props Manager/Crew)

is a sophomore at Brick Memorial High School and is very excited to be interning again at the Basie! He has interned for various other shows including: *Wrinkle in Time*, *Radium Girls*, *Moana Jr*, *Willy Wonka Jr*, *Sister Act Jr*, *James and the Giant Peach Jr*, *The Addams Family*, and *Puffs*. He would like to wish the rest of the cast good luck and hopes the audience enjoys the show!

CONGRATULATIONS to our little Faun,
(Faun with a "u", a fawn with a "w" is a little deer)

**You've worked so hard and shine so bright,
& We are SO Proud of you!**

We LOVE YOU FAR BEYOND THE EASTERN SEA!

Love, MOM & Dad

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE ENTIRE CAST & CREW OF
THE LION THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE!!**

THANK YOU TO THE PRODUCTION STAFF & ALL WHO
WORK SO HARD TO HELP OUR CHILDREN SHINE SO BRIGHT!



NEO

Tus padres, Cami y Emilio estamos muy orgullosos de ti y de todos tus logros, te amamos y te deseamos lo mejor del mundo, te lo mereces!



Neo, te miro avanzar en la vida con orgullo y admiración, pues todo lo que haces me llega al corazón.

-Your mom ❤️

And remember “no pares, sigue, sigue” as Lin-Manuel Miranda told you!



We love you and we will always support you.



Jade, it has been such a gift to watch you bring White Witch to life. We love you to Narnia and back!
Congratulations to the entire cast.
Break a leg!



Love,
Mom & Dad



NEO,

You are so talented and funny. I can't wait to see what big things you will continue to do in the future. I am always proud of you and will always be your second biggest supporter because you already know mom is #1 ❤️

Love you and have a great show !!



Dearest Daisy,

We can't wait to watch you bring warmth to Narnia. You continue to surprise us with your acting skills more and more with each performance. A huge congratulations to all of the LWW cast, especially the very talented and brilliant teaching staff, Coach Anthony, Miss Jess and Miss Arianna.

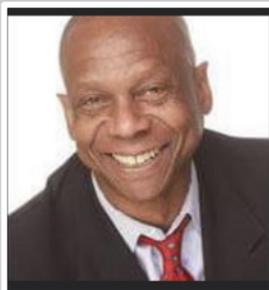
Love Mom, Dad and Daphne





Neo Vela has more people skills than most and he knows how to give love. With this, reaching the moon will be easy, no matter what his age.

-Batt Johnson, *Acting Coach*



MAGGIE,
KEEP FINDING NEW ADVENTURES!
**WE LOVE YOU TO
NARNIA AND BACK!**

MOM, DAD AND BAY



Neo is a director's dream; a good listener, takes direction beautifully and has no fear! His humor and warmth reach everyone he works with.

-Angela Lomangino, TVT3 Director and Acting Teacher



Neo is a very spontaneous, imaginative actor. He follows direction really well, has good instincts when he's in action, and is wonderful to work with.

-Susan Rybin, Rybin Studio of Drama





Abby,

We are so proud of you and how hard you work. We can't wait to see you shine on stage!

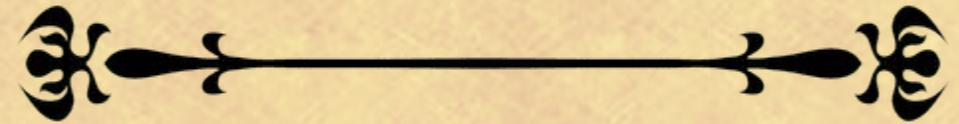
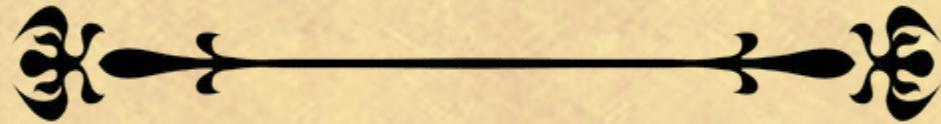
Love, Mom, Papa and Ellora



Dear Caitlin,

We are so proud of you and your dedication!! We love you!

-Mom, Dad, and Avery



Congratulations *Athena* & the entire cast on a fantastic production! We are so proud of your hard work & dedication. It is a blessing to see you do something that brings you so much joy! Keep smiling Athena & enjoy every second of the ride!

Love,
Your Family



Congratulations, ***Katelyn!***

We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Tim,
and Charlie



AUDITION SLOTS AVAILABLE NOW!!!



Tuesdays & Thursdays • 4-5:30PM & Sundays 11AM-12:30PM

March 17 - May 10

Ages: 7-12

Instructor: Jessica O'Brien & Anthony Greco

For audition information please email Jessica O'Brien at jobrien@thebasie.org

The Basie Academy's Student Production series offers young performers a chance to be part of professionally-mounted productions on the Basie Center stages. These experiences take students from rehearsals to showtime as they hone their acting skills and prepare for a public performance.

- AUDITIONS: In person Thursday, March 17 4-7PM; Sunday, March 20th 10-11AM
- REHEARSALS: Starting March 22 – Tuesdays / Thursdays 4-5:30PM; Sundays 11AM-12:30PM
- PERFORMANCE: May 10 | The Vogel at Count Basie Center for the Arts



SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Tuesdays & Thursdays • 6-9PM & Sundays 1-4PM

March 7 - May 18

Ages: 10-18

Instructor: Jessica O'Brien & Anthony Greco

For audition information please email Jessica O'Brien at jobrien@thebasie.org

The Basie Academy's Student Production series offers young performers a chance to be part of professionally-mounted productions on the Basie Center stages. These experiences take students from rehearsals to showtime as they hone their acting skills and prepare for a public performance.

- AUDITIONS: Accepting video submissions starting March 7th
- CALLBACKS: In person callbacks Sunday, March 20 • 11AM-1PM
- REHEARSALS: Starting March 22 – Tuesdays / Thursdays 6-9PM, Sundays 1-4PM
- PERFORMANCES: May 17th & 18th | Hackensack Meridian Health Theatre at the Count Basie Center for the Arts

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