

Tufts Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

ALMANAC

Book, Music, Lyrics by:

Harrison J. Clark & Benjamin H. Mizrach

Conceived by:

Harrison J. Clark

Directed by:

Maurice Emmanuel Parent

November 4–5 at 7:30pm

Public Preview \$2

November 6 at 8:00pm

Opening Night Tufts ID/Seniors \$10 General Public \$15

November 12–13 at 8:00pm

Tufts ID/Seniors \$10 General Public \$15

November 13 at 3:00pm \$1

November 14 at 3:00pm \$5



Cohen Auditorium Tufts University 2021-2022 Season

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ALMANAC

Book, Music, Lyrics by
Harrison J. Clark & Benjamin H. Mizrach

Conceived by
Harrison J. Clark

Directed by
Maurice Emmanuel Parent

Scenic Designer &
Paint Charge
Ted Simpson

Sound Designer &
Engineer
Adam Smith

Production Manager
Jo Williams

Technical Director
Jessica Pizzuti

Assistant Technical Director
Nick Hernon

Assistant Director
Caitlin Morley

Assistant Production Manager
Laura Wolfe

Hair & Make-up Designer
Lizeth Licon-Kumi

Lighting Designer
Brian J. Lilienthal

Costume Designer
Linda Ross Girard

Associate Costume Designer
Naomi Pillai

Assistant Costume Designer
Kiara Mastropasqua

Choreographer
Pearl Young

Choreography Mentor
Daniel McCusker

Assistant Choreographer
Charlene Brew

Props Master
Caitlyn Buja

Music Director
Benjamin H. Mizrach

Production Stage Manager
Abby Donaghue

Costume Shop Supervisor
Meghan Pearson

Assistant Costume Shop Manager
Akeem Celestine

Deck Stage Manager
Adeline Grimmett

Department Chair
Noe Montez

Theater Manager
Joanne Bertelsen Barnett

Writing Advisor
Bridget Kathleen O'Leary

This production of *ALMANAC* was originally developed in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies at Tufts University with the support of a grant from the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

SPEAKING OF THE PLAY

Almanac: The Musical is a piece that seeks to explore the central questions: “What is the true price of cultural and artistic agency for the Black American Artist?” and “How can we define ‘Black Art’?” Now more than ever, the artistic universe is seeking to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive arts industry. *Almanac* is a project that stands on the shoulders of decades worth of Black scholars who dedicated their lives and careers to devising their own definitions of “Black Art.” *Almanac* sits at the intersection of two equally pressing issues facing modern American artists: it provides an opportunity to dissect and make sense of the past, while simultaneously looking forward to a reimagined future.

*Conceiver / Co-Writer Harrison Clark and
Director Maurice Emmanuel Parent*

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

David Coleman
Hope Freeman
Katrina Moore
Alonso Nichols
Tufts Fire Safety

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS PRODUCTION OF *ALMANAC* USES HAZE
AND STROBE FEATURES AND CONTAINS A REFERENCE TO AN ACT OF
RACIALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE.**

**Today’s performance of *Almanac* is presentation of the first act of a 2-act musical
still in development.**

Run time: approximately 75 minutes with no intermission

ALMANAC

Cast List

Xander, Arrested Student, Ensemble.....	Ayomide Oloyede
Ari.....	Jenah Gabby
Byron.....	Romello Harvey
Naomi.....	Moriah Granger
Tevina, Ari's Cousin.....	Chance Walker
Akin, Ari's Father.....	Cheonan Kougba
Omar, Ari's Brother.....	Devon Minor
Clarissa.....	Francesca Viggiani
Kirk.....	Gideon Asumeng
Lily.....	Jo Strogatz
Police Officer, Teacher, Ensemble.....	Abby Schell
Ari's Mother, Ensemble.....	Glorious Bombo
S.C.A.R. Rally Featured Dancer, Ensemble.....	Melissa Barbosa
Ensemble, Jazz Dance Trio.....	Emma Downs Hannah Fruitman Juju Zweifach
Ensemble	Daria Black-Hackett Aviance Hayman Aolani Lopez Kevin Yuan

Orchestra

Keyboard.....Benjamin H. Mizrach

Bassist.....William Mabuza

Drums 1.....Will Gordon

Trumpet.....Miles Keingstein

Trombone.....Sam Margolis

Reeds.....Chris Ferrari

Violin 1.....Sebastian Tringale

Violin 2.....Cooper Nesmith

Cello.....Jackson Carter

Drums 2.....Joel Appelkraut

Viola.....Jadyn Mardy

CAST

Gideon Asumeng (Kirk) is a freshman at Tufts University. He attended Laguardia High School in New York, NY and his previous works include Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and *The Sound of Music*. He is so stoked to be making this debut in the Tufts Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies Department and would like to thank the cast of *Almanac* for inspiring him and others around him to be unapologetically unique musically and spiritually.

Melissa Barbosa (Ensemble, Featured Dancer) is a senior from Boston, MA majoring in biopsychology, minoring in Portuguese and is on the pre-medicine track. Whilst this will be her first TPDS production, Melissa is familiar with the stage, having participated in other musicals such as *Les Misérables* and *Godspell* in her high school years. She has been an avid dancer for the last 14 years, specializing in ballet, contemporary and hip-hop, and is excited to be back on the stage applying her skills and contributing to the powerful messages *Almanac!* takes on. On campus, she is also a part of the a capella group, The Ladies of Essence. When not involved in the arts, Melissa is an EMT, working as a COVID-19 tester and vaccinator. She thanks all her family and friends for supporting her throughout her endeavors and hopes you all enjoy the show! :)

Daria Black-Hackett (Ensemble) is a freshman from Cinnaminson, New Jersey. She plans on pursuing the Biopsychology major. Daria has constantly been in the theatre, from elementary through high school. She is excited to continue this in college and hopes you all enjoy the show!

Glorious Bombo (Ari's Mother, Ensemble) is making her Tufts debut in *Almanac*. She is studying clinical psychology and theatre and performance studies. She is excited to become more involved in the department. When she's not on stage you can find her working on Mock Trial. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their incredible talent and hard work on and off the stage to make this such an amazing production, as well as her family and friends for their infinite support and kindness.

Emma Downs (Ensemble, Jazz Dance Trio) is a senior majoring in Political Science and Theater & Performance Studies. Emma is very passionate about musical theater and social justice/diversity and inclusion, so she has been so happy and grateful to be a dancer in this revolutionary production! Previous roles at Tufts includes Heather Duke in *Heathers: The Musical* and Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, both Torn Ticket II productions. She wants to thank her the director Maurice Emmanuel Parent, her advisor Linda Ross Girard, and the rest of the cast and crew for their amazing support and their contributions to this incredible production.

Hannah Fruitman (Ensemble, Jazz Dance Trio) (she/her) is currently a senior at Tufts University majoring in Biology and minoring in Dance. Hannah participates in Burlesque. When she's not dancing, Hannah is fencing on the Women's Fencing Team and working as an EMT in Boston. Hannah would like to thank Caitlin Morley for looping her into this amazing production. Hannah is so grateful to have had the opportunity to be in the ensemble for *Almanac*!

Jenah Gabby (Ari) is a senior from Brooklyn, New York majoring in Biopsychology on the pre-med track. This is her first musical production here at Tufts, but she is not new to the musical theatre scene. In both middle school and high school, she has been a part of musicals such as *The Wiz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hairspray*, and *Good Luck Charlie Brown*. On campus, she has been a member of The Ladies of Essence since her freshman year and is now Co-President. She would like to thank all of her friends for believing in her and pushing her out of her comfort zone to be a part of such an amazing production.

Moriah Granger (Naomi) is a first year from New York excited to be participating in her first TDPS production and actually her first major production ever! She's grateful to be surrounded by such an amazing cast and crew and thanks all of her *Almanac* family for making her feel so welcome. She'd like to give a shout out to LaGuardia for helping her find her voice. Finally, she would like to give a very special thank you to her parents for letting her sing so loudly all over the house 24/7 and to her entire family for always encouraging her to express herself and dream big.

Romello Harvey (Bryon) is a sophomore from Newark, New Jersey majoring in Computer Science in the School of Engineering. This is his first TDPS production and he absolutely loves it. He is so excited to be a part of an original cast for a student-written musical. He would like to

thank his friends and family for the wonderful support. He would also like to thank the cast for accepting him as a performer and just having fun with him on the stage.

Aviance Hayman (Ensemble) Coming from Osceola, Arkansas, Aviance is excited for her first year at Tufts University; she's interested in double majoring in Biology and Community Health! With a long-standing love for dancing, Aviance is always looking for new dance opportunities to pursue! Currently, Aviance is one of the newest #EnvyLadies on Envy Step Team. She is so excited to be a part of *Almanac* and can't wait for you all to see it!

Cheonan Kougba (Akin, Ari's Father) is a senior from Gwinnett County, Georgia majoring in Chemical Engineering. During his time at Tufts, he has been a member of Tufts' S-Factor, Tufts' only all-male vocal group focusing on music of the African Diaspora. His passion for Black cultural expression and art naturally had him excited to play a part in a groundbreaking story.

Aolani Lopez (Ensemble) is a freshman from New York City and is planning on double majoring in Economics and Psychology. Although she has experience in theatre, *Almanac* will be her first ever musical! She hopes that you recognize the message of the production and that you thoroughly enjoy your time watching!

Devon Minor (Omar, Ari's Brother) is a junior from Boston, MA, majoring in Computer Science in the engineering school. He is ecstatic to be back on the stage for his first production since high school with such a talent cast. Outside of the musical, you can find him performing with or managing business for Tufts S-Factor. He is also working on a startup to promote diversity and mental health in the Boston area.

Ayomide Oloyede (Xander, Arrested Student, Ensemble) a freshman, is the son of Florence and Joseph Oloyede. Ayo has been in many productions and his credits include: *Wizard of Oz* (Munchkin Mayor), *Peter Pan* (Captain Hook), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Charlie), *Grease* (Roger), *Permanent Collection* (Sterling North), *Anatomy of Grey* (Galen P Gray), *Footloose* (Reverend P Moore), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Randle McMurphy).

Abigail Schell (Police Officer, Teacher, Ensemble) is a senior from Austin, Texas studying International Relations with a double major in Chinese. While she deeply enjoyed acting in high school and has had the pleasure of taking several classes with Maurice Parent, this is her first Tufts main stage production. In in-person times, she also enjoys taking up the stand-up comedy mic. She is so grateful to be a part of this insanely creative and talented group of people who crafted a show with passion, love, and a sense of community. This show will evoke important emotions, and she hopes you will take those emotions with you when you leave. Enjoy.

Joanna (Jo) Strogatz (Lily) is a sophomore from Ithaca, New York, majoring in Music, Sound, and Culture with minors in English and Music Engineering. In her free time, she can be found hanging out with friends, overwatering all her plants, and getting way too invested in bad reality TV relationships. Jo is also a singer/songwriter and plans to release new music under the alias "jo next door" (@itsjonextdoor) in December! She is so honored to be a part of the original cast of *Almanac* and would like to thank Maurice for being everyone's own personal cheerleader,

Abby for somehow managing everyone's schedules, the cast for being so inspiring and amazing to work with!

Francesca Viggiani (Clarissa) is so excited to be a part of the *Almanac* cast! She is a senior at Tufts majoring in Biology with a minor in Music. During her time at Tufts, she's been lucky enough to be in *The Last Five Years* with Torn Ticket II and in *Violet* with TDPS. When she's not rehearsing, you can find her not doing her laundry and eating her housemates' groceries. She would like to give a special shout-out to her sister who always pushes her to continue singing and performing <3.

Chance Walker (Tevina, Ari's Cousin) is a freshman from Los Angeles, California, and a potential political science major. Outside of the classroom, Chance enjoys acting, dancing and writing. She would like to thank her supportive family, friends, cast and crew, and is honored to be a part of the original *Almanac* production.

Kevin Yuan (Ensemble) is a freshman from Zhengzhou, China. This is his first show with the TDPS department and he is super excited to be involved in it! Kevin has previously acted in *And the Moon Stay* and *All Shook Up* and is thankful to be part of the *Almanac* family! He can't wait for the opening night because he thinks this musical is going to blow everyone's mind! Please enjoy the show!!!

Juju (Julia) Jaffe Zweifach (Ensemble, Jazz Dance Trio) is a junior from San Francisco majoring in International Relations/Global Health and minoring in Dance while also completing her pre-med requirements. Trained in Vaganova classical ballet, Juju also competes in Latin Ballroom competitions and dances with Encendido at Tufts. She is both grateful and thrilled to be in her first Tufts TDPS production and hopes you enjoy the musical and the dancing as much as she does. She's confident the music will have you dancing, too! A huge thank you to the wonderful *Almanac* cast and production team and to my family and friends for all of your support, love and laughter!

CREATIVE TEAM

Charlene Brew (Assistant Choreographer) is a Tufts alumna who graduated in 2019. She majored in Child Study and Human Development and is currently working in cancer research at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She is very excited to be back dancing at Tufts again. Charlene grew up on Long Island, New York and has been dancing since the age of three. She has studied styles such as ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap, African and hip-hop. Additionally, Charlene is grateful to have had the opportunity to train with two professional dance companies: The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the American Ballet Theater in New York. She has grown tremendously as a performer throughout the years but is delighted to share her work as a choreographer and approach the stage from a new angle. Charlene would like to thank all of the cast and crew for their countless efforts and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Caitlyn Buja (Props Designer) graduated with a BFA in technical theatre from Salem State University in 2019. She is happy to be back with Tufts after propping their previous production of *Silent Sky* (2020). Caitlyn is currently freelancing in the Boston area. Prior to graduating, she propped multiple shows with her alma mater and spent her summers at The Barnstormers Theatre (2018) and The Cape Playhouse (2017). She also had the pleasure of accepting Salem State University's 2018 Creativity Award. Caitlyn is thrilled to be back working in theatre after this long hiatus and is excited to keep collaborating and creating.

Harrison J. Clark is a writer, composer, and lyricist who has dedicated his artistry to the celebration, performance, preservation, and advancement of Black American Music. The Seattle native has written and arranged for a variety of instrumentations including drumline, jazz big band, string quartet, and choir. Harrison is also a passionate archivist, with many of his music projects originating from archival research. *Almanac* was originally inspired by renowned Black American composer and former Tufts University Music Department Chair T.J. Anderson's 1983 show *Thomas Jefferson's Minstrels*, a musical commentary on the evolution of minstrel blackface performance.

Abby Donaghue (Stage Manager) is a junior double-majoring in Biospsychology and Child Studies & Human Development, with a significant side-gig in theatre. Like most stage managers, her love language is pleasantly color-coded google sheets. To fill any free time that may have slipped into her schedule, she loves to adopt first years, cook without recipes, harass people into joining her clubs, and geek out about research. She is incredibly honored to be working on *Almanac* and is endlessly grateful to be witness to this process. She extends her thanks to Harrison and Ben for giving us this story, to Maurice and Caitlin for keeping rehearsals bright and warm, and to the entire cast for redefining talent and artistry.

Brian J. Lilienthal (Lighting Designer) This is Mr. Lilienthal's 9th year at Tufts, where he teaches Lighting Design. Outside of Tufts, he has designed over 300 productions at: Huntington Theatre, Merrimack Rep (over 30 productions), Arizona Theatre Co, Alley Theatre, Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville (over 60 productions and 20 world premieres at the Humana Festival), Arden Theatre, Trinity Rep, GEVA Theatre Center, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, among many. He has spent 11 seasons at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center as a resident lighting designer for the National Playwrights Conference. NYC: 59E59, Cherry Lane, La Mama. Mr. Lilienthal has won the Los Angeles Ovation Award for lighting design, and has been nominated multiple times for Boston's IRNE and Norton Awards. BFA: Emerson College, MFA: California Institute of the Arts. He is a drummer with a rockabilly/jump blues quartet that performs throughout New England. www.BrianJLilienthal.com

Ben Mizrach Hailing from Westfield New Jersey, Ben Mizrach is primed to take his seat amongst the next generation of artist dedicated to performing and evolving the Black American art form of jazz music. On the alto saxophone, Mizrach is an intensely eloquent storyteller with an ever-expanding collection of flavors to offer on top of his rich and alluring tone. As a white student studying jazz music, Ben quickly recognized an irony at place in jazz education: A primarily white student body attempting to academically understand the unique Black American music that is jazz. Through his compositions written alongside Harrison Clark in *Almanac*, Ben

attempts to expose and grapple with these racial and cultural incongruities present in jazz music today.

Caitlin Morley (Assistant Director) (she/her) is currently a senior at Tufts University double-majoring in Education and Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Caitlin has also directed two productions at Tufts, *Romeo and Juliet* and (almost) *The Wolves* by Sarah Delappe. Later this semester, she will be directing *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spiegel. Caitlin is so grateful to have had the opportunity to assist the fantastic director Maurice, she learned so much from him throughout this semester. She would also like to thank her two wonderful freshmen roommates. Caitlin is honored to have had the opportunity to work on *Almanac*.

Adam Smith (Sound Designer) is currently in his fourth year with Tufts Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies where he oversees the Sound Department and teaches an intro to sound engineering and design course. Previously, he has worked as a sound technician at Actors Theatre of Louisville and was the staff sound technologist at The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago. Additionally, Mr. Smith is a freelance Sound Designer and Engineer, having assisted at The Goodman Theatre and The Marriott Lincolnshire, as well as designing sound for many storefront theaters in Chicago, Illinois including Stage Left Theatre, Babes with Blades, and The Artistic Home. Locally he has worked at Merrimack Repertory Theatre and North Shore Music Theatre. While away from the theatre, Mr. Smith is a musician and recording engineer as well as a founding member of Off Target Productions and LBK Productions. A proud Maine native, he is happy to be back home in the Northeast.

Pearl Young (Chorographer) is a senior at Tufts studying Biopsychology with a double minor in Dance and Child Studies & Human Development. While *Almanac* has been Pearl's first experience choreographing a musical, she has had extensive prior experience as a dancer and choreographer. After beginning her career in the competitive dance world, by the end of high school, Pearl had choreographed multiple pieces ranging in style and was one of six people in the world with the rights to perform modern dance pioneer Pearl Primus's "Strange Fruit". Young's passion for immersing herself in Black American dance stemmed from her annual trips to watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre with her grandmother. This passion has since manifested in Pearl's founding of Harlem Grooves, a collegiate dance company dedicated to Black American dance. Pearl plans to continue choreographing after graduation and looks forward to seeing her work in the Tufts dance community develop further. Lastly, she would like to thank Charlene Brew for her incomparable assistance in the choreography of the show.

ALMANAC Production Staff

Box Office Assistants:

Tatyana Emery
Caeden Fial
Francesca Guthrie
Andra Preda
Marilene Rivas-Chavez
Francesca Viggiani

Scene Shop Assistants:

Jaden Cheeks
Mira Eschtruth
Fergus Ferguson
Caeden Fial
Emily Glickman
Thomas Grant
Andi Gray
Liv Lapine
Charlotte Magee
Lili Mooney
Nicholas Mui
Danielle Page
Margaret Parish
Kieran Pierre
Zev Pogrebin
Carlos Pulido-Escalante
Asher Smith
Eliza Smith
Abi Steinberg
Sam Tardif

Scenic Overhires:

Bill O'Donnell
Jonathan Rooney

Lighting Assistants:

Caledonia Grant
Cal Mahoney

Lighting Overhire:

Carter Miller

Costume Stock Manager/Firsthand

Brighid DeAngelis

Stitchers:

Claire Ammirato
Glorious Bombo
Emilia Dick Fiora Del Fabro
Zoe Haralambidis
Mirabelle Khazei
Isadore Leginsky
Kiara Mastropasqua
Stepanie Rinzler
Tate Olitt
Samantha Truong

Dressers:

Blake Bunney
Zoe Haralambidis
Meghan Kelly
Libby Moser

Backstage Run Crew:

Elizabeth Foster
Maeve Hagerty
Anna Li

Light Board Op:

Claudia Henry

Sound Board Op:

Cali Grant

A2

Daniel Scherzer

Front of House Managers:

Javier Hurtado
Micaela Slotin

Covid Compliance Officer:

Lindsey Cooke

Department of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies

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Ian Berg— Tap Dance

Jennifer Burton — Filmmaking & Film Studies

Akeem Celestine — Assistant Costume Shop Manager

Renata Celichowska, Director of Dance — Creative Process, Dance Education, History & Aesthetics

Lindsey Blair Cooke, Department Staff Assistant

Deborah Cooney — Public Speaking

Linda Ross Girard, Associate Chair — Costume Design

Barbara Wallace Grossman — Theatre History, Dramatic Literature & Criticism, Directing, Voice & Speech

Gretchen Hayden — Kathak Dance

Nicholas Hernon, Assistant Technical Director

Khary Jones — Film & Media Studies

Kareem Khubchandani, Director of Graduate Studies — Performance Studies, Queer Studies, Southeast Asian Studies

Brian J. Lilienthal — Lighting Design

Taylor Travassos-Lomba — Hip Hop & Breaking

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Adam Smith — Sound Engineering

Sheriden Thomas, Head of Performance — Acting & Directing

Jaclyn Waguespack — Dance on Camera, Creative Process & Performance, Contemporary Modern Dance

Ruka White — Modern, Contemporary Jazz Dance

Jo Williams, Production Manager — Stage Management

Laura Wolfe, Assistant Production Manager

Graduate Instructors and Teaching Assistants

Whitney Brady-Guzman, Stephanie Engel, Amelia Estrada, Jenny Henderson, Javier Hurtado, Teri Incampo, Mac Irvine, Mia Levinson, Manjari Mukherjee, Jessica Pearson, Jo Rezes, Hesam Sharifian, Peter Spearman, Wenxuan Xue

TUFTS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

2021-2022 Season

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS

Almanac

Book, Music, Lyrics by: Harrison J. Clark & Benjamin H. Mizrach
Conceived by: Harrison J. Clark

Directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent

November 4-6, 2021
November 12-14, 2021

Cohen Auditorium

Spring Awakening

Book & Lyrics by Steven Sater
Music by Duncan Sheik
Based on the play by Frank Wedekind

Directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent

March 3-5, 2022
March 11-13, 2022

Balch Arena Theater

Spring Awakening is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

TUFTS DANCE PROGRAMS

Fall Dance Concert

November 19-20, 2021
Jackson Dance Lab

Spring Dance Concert

April 22-24, 2022
Jackson Dance Lab