

DON'T  
MISS  
**Doris  
Hines**

**BY TYLIE SHIDER**

DIRECTED BY VANESSA BROOKE AGNES

MUSIC DIRECTED BY AARON VANDANACKER

**SEPT 18-OCT 12, 2025**

**h**istory theatre



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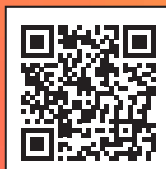
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## WELCOME



### **Welcome to the 147th new work produced at History Theatre since our founding in 1978.**

It's no small feat in this day and age to be creating not only art, but art that centers history. We are honored to be creating a new canon of vital work that will do just as our mission says and entertain, educate, and engage you. From the national headlines created in *Courting Harry*, to the starry rise of Doris Hines, to the personal tragedies and triumphs in *Whoosh!* and *Hungry Like the Wolf*, to the community celebration of St. Paul's own Winter Carnival in *Rollicking!*, we are collectively illuminating what it means to be American. We hope our stories this season will encourage you to connect to our community and each other even more deeply, while reminding ourselves that our strength comes in numbers, caring for one another, and embracing our diversity and common heritage.

*Thanks for being here,*  
*Laura Leffler, Interim Artistic Director*



### **Welcome to a season of wonder, resilience, and rollicking good fun at History Theatre!**

This year marks the 48th season of new work exploring the vibrant history of “Minnesota, the Midwest, and the diverse American experience!” Whether you're here to discover the unfamiliar or revel in the familiar, consider a subscription ticket package that will ensure your front-row seat for a season of remarkable theatre that will move you, at a value that will surprise you! Through donations, volunteering, or cheering from your seats, your involvement strengthens our foundation and allows us to sustain and elevate our unique mission as well as introduce history to hundreds of students in a fresh and lasting way! Your belief in the organization also helps us retain and attract the talented artists, designers, and administrators who bring these powerful productions to life. In short, you're not just supporting a theatre—you're sustaining a legacy, nurturing a community, and helping shape the future of storytelling from our theatre in downtown St. Paul.

*Thanks and see you again at the theatre,*  
*Karen Mueller, Managing Director*

# DON'T MISS Doris Hines

By **TYLIE SHIDER**

Directed by **VANESSA BROOKE AGNES**

Music Directed by **AARON VANDACKER**\*

Scenic Designer  
**URSULA K. BOWDEN**

Video Designer  
**LESLIE RITENOUR**

Wig Designer  
**EMMA GUSTAFSON**

Lighting Designer  
**BILL HEALEY**

Sound Designer  
**CHARLOTTE DERANEK**

Intimacy and Fight  
Choreographer

Properties Designer  
**KIRBY MOORE**

Costume Designer  
**MEGHAN KENT**

**ANNIE ENNEKING**

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager ..... **Lee Johnson\***  
 Stage Manager ..... **Laura Topham\***  
 Assistant Stage Manager ..... **Gianna Haseman**  
 Technical Director ..... **Gunther Gullickson**  
 Master Electrician ..... **Nick Walberg**  
 Sound Operator ..... **Bevibel Harvey**  
 Stage Electricians .. **Samantha Brown, Alan Donahue, Favour Donbraye, Nick Fetting,**  
 ..... **Bevibel Harvey, Parker Love, Brianna Mae, Lucas Martin, Kai Yamanishi**  
 Technical Apprentices ..... **Derrick Marshall, Atim Opoka**  
 Scenic Supervisor ..... **John Lutz**  
 Carpenters ..... **Jess Hermanson, Ian Iosso, Phong Mai**  
 Scenic Charge ..... **Erika Soukup**  
 Open Captioner ..... **Shelia Bland**  
 Audio Describer ..... **Laurie Pape-Hadley**  
 ASL Interpreter ..... **Linda Gill**



\* Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States  
 † Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.  
 • Member, Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians  
 # Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829  
 ▲ Member, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees  
 U Understudy

# WHO'S WHO

## THE ENSEMBLE *(in alphabetical order)*

Jerry Mayeron.....**Neal Beckman**  
Doris Hines..... **Comfort Dolo\***  
Edward “Big Ed” Hines.....**Darius Dotch\***  
Carmella Hines.....**Ashawnti Sakina Ford\***  
Ella Fitzgerald, Grace, Catherine Burney (U/S Doris Hines)..... **Charlotte McDaniel**  
Pianist.....**Raymond Berg\*, Aaron Vandanacker\*** (select dates)

## UNDERSTUDIES

Peyton Dixon\*, Tolu Ekisola, Charlotte McDaniel, and Nick Wolf



NEAL BECKMAN



COMFORT DOLO



DARIUS DOTCH



ASHAWNTI SAKINA  
FORD



CHARLOTTE  
MCDANIEL



RAYMOND BERG



AARON  
VANDANACKER



TOLU EKISOLA U



PEYTON DIXON U



NICK WOLF U

U: Understudy

## PLAYWRIGHT



“Attention must be paid!”

Doris Hines’ story is an American story driven by her relentless ambition to secure (her best) life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Hines’ ambition is the same ambition that drove Sophocles’ Antigone to bury her brother honorably by any means necessary.

Ambition, like desire and love, is the same motivating force that drove Troy Maxson from working on the back of the garbage truck in 1950s Pittsburgh to driving the truck in August Wilson’s modern classic *Fences*. A promotional poster for *The Key Club*, a popular jazz hub downtown Minneapolis, describes Hines as a “Song Stylist.” It’s true, the archival recordings of Hines demonstrates her singular interpretation of the standards and iconic impersonations that made up her diverse repertoire. But her ability to reframe a universal narrative and make it her own - is just as evident on stage as it is in her life off stage. As a recently divorced creative, I am very familiar with the dizzying juxtaposition of domesticity and a shapeless career in show business - and this, in part, is what drew me to Hines’ story. Her unapologetic drive to believe in her market value, enterprise her creativity, and secure upward mobility is one audiences can relate to, because we all have a proverbial Doris Hines in us somewhere - wrestling with the hand of fate - and staring vacuously into our futures and declaring: “I’m still here!”

I’d like to thank Laura Leffler and the team at History Theatre, Rick Thompson, Gary Hines and his siblings: Diane, Shari, Grace, and the late Ed. Jr and Michael for trusting me with their mother’s story; The Playwrights’ Center for bringing me to the Twin Cities as a Jerome Fellow; and my parents, Keefe and Tracy Shider, and my 5 siblings for their continued love and support.

Lastly, I’d like to dedicate this season in my career to my recently deceased grandmother: Dollie Harrison - who took my writing career seriously ever since I was a boy scribbling short stories in the margins of coloring books. Because she saw value in my dream to tell stories, I see value in the dreams and stories of others.

- Tylie Shider

### SPECIAL THANKS

Calvary Church  
Gary Hines  
Diane Lindquist-Hines

## DIRECTOR



Doris' story is a truly inspiring one. It has been an utter gift to step into her world through this play.

The more I learned about this woman, the more I fell in love with her fierce heart and resilient spirit. Her journey through motherhood, carving out a place for herself, and using her art as a force for good is a masterclass in perseverance.

Tylie has brilliantly woven humor and tenderness into this poetic new work, we get to see complexity, humanity and beauty in Doris' life and legacy. This cast of actors brought so much goodness, intention and hard work into the process, their joy will linger in my heart for a long while. An immense amount of gratitude to all the hands on our creative/production teams and the many minds at History Theatre for their support in bringing this vision to life onstage.

I hope you leave inspired, warmed, and reminded of the power of art to carry us through.

Thank you for being a witness to Doris' song.

- Vanessa Brooke Agnes

### What an unforgettable night!



On August 28, the cast of "Don't miss Doris Hines" attended the 2025 Southside Heroes Hall Unveiling. The remarkable Doris Hines was inducted into the 2025 Southside Heroes Hall at Sabathani Community Center. It was an inspiring evening honoring the people who have shaped South Minneapolis. To learn more about the Living History Museum, please visit: [sabathani.org](http://sabathani.org).

## THE CAST

### NEAL BECKMAN (he/him)

Jerry Mayeron

**History Theatre:** *The Boy Wonder, God Girl*. **Theater:** Children's Theatre Company: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; Six Points Theater: *Torchsong Trilogy*; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: *Mae West and the Trial of Sex*; Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie Saga*; Old Log Theater: *The Play that Goes Wrong*; Park Square Theatre: *Pride & Prejudice*. **Awards:** Lavender Award: Superlative Performance, *Julius Caesar*. Ivey Award: Overall Production, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*. **Training:** B.A., Performance, Fordham University, The Actor's Workout, Guthrie Theater.

### COMFORT DOLO\* (she/her)

Doris Hines

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** Penumbra: *Remember*; Cleveland Play House: *Into the Breaches!*, *Antigone*; Pipeline; Guthrie: *To Kill a Mockingbird*; CWRU/CPH: *Merchant of Venice, Hay Fever, The Seagull, Fifth of July*. **On Camera:** Illusion Theatre: *Touch*; Drive-Thru Productions: *Quit Cash Challenge*; Hungry Man Productions: *Rasmussen College*; MN State Lottery. **Training:** MFA, Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House, B.A. Gustavus Adolphus College. [comfortdolo.com](http://comfortdolo.com). IG: @comfyd

### DARIUS DOTCH\* (he/him)

Edward "Big Ed" Hines

**History Theatre:** *Behind the Sun, A Civil War Christmas, Lombardi, Not In Our Neighborhood, Parks, Diesel Heart*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *Skeleton Crew, Sweat, A Raisin in the Sun*; Penumbra Theatre: *Pipeline, Wedding Band, Detroit 67*; Mixed Blood Theatre: *Miz Martha Washington, Colossal*; Park Square Theatre: *Between Riverside and Crazy, A Raisin in the Sun, Color Purple, Stick Fly*; Jungle Theatre: *Bars and Measures*; Pillsbury House Theatre: *Marcus or the Secret of Sweet, The Road Weeps the Well Runs Dry*. IG: @dariusdotch

### ASHAWNTI SAKINA FORD\* (she/her)

Carmella Hines

**History Theatre:** *A Crack In The Sky, Teen Idol, All The Way* (Understudy). **Theater:** Penumbra Theatre: *Weathering*; Pillsbury House and Theatre: *The Great Divide*; The Jungle Theatre: *A Jumping Off Point*; Children's Theatre Company: *Cinderella*. **Other:** International Teaching Artist, Improv Artist. **Training:** BFA, Viterbo University. **Upcoming:** *Ten Thousand Things: Men on Boats*; *Yellow Tree Theatre: Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous*; *Oslo Impro Fest*

### CHARLOTTE MCDANIEL (she/her)

Ella Fitzgerald, Grace, Catherine Burney

**History Theatre:** *Whoa, Nellie!*. **Theater:** Penumbra Theatre: *FLEX*; Classical Actors' Ensemble: *Much Ado about Nothing*; Playwrights Center. **Other:** commercial on-camera and voice over. **Training:** BFA Acting, UMN/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program. [charmcdaniel.com](http://charmcdaniel.com). IG: @char.mcdaniel

## UNDERSTUDIES

### PEYTON DIXON\* (he/him)

**History Theatre:** *Buddy Holly, The Boy Wonder, Diesel Heart, Runestone, Teen Idol: Bobby Vee Story, Christmas of Swing*. **Theater:** *Ten Thousand Things*;

*Thunder Knocking on the Door*; Zeitgeist Theatre: *Rent*, Full Circle Theatre: *Wear Teal Ribbons around Their Tongues*; Frosted Glass Creative: *Mary Poppins*; Transatlantic Love Affair: *Promise Land*; Artistry: *Hairspray*; Paul Bunyan Playhouse: *Smokey Joe's Café, Hairspray*; Rochester Civic Theatre: *Jesus Christ Superstar, Elf, MPP: CCP: 25th Putnum Spelling Bee*; Actors Theatre of Minnesota: *A Miracle on Christmas Lake*, and more! IG: [dixon\\_peyton](https://www.instagram.com/dixon_peyton)

### TOLU EKISOLA (she/her)

Understudy

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *Yellow Tree Theatre: Steele Magnolias, Once Upon a Time Josephine Baker*; *Mixed Blood Theatre: The Most Spect... Miz Martha Washington*; Nebraska Shakespeare: *Hamlet, All's Well That Ends Well*; Renegade Theatre: *Lizzie The Musical*. **Other:** *Amazon Prime, Hulu: Soñadora*. **Training:** MFA Acting, UC Irvine. **Upcoming:** *Theatre Elision: Terce*.

### NICK WOLF (he/him)

Understudy

**History Theatre:** Debut. **Theater:** *TC Horror Fest: Schaulust*; Actor's Theater MN: *Hunting Shack Christmas*; *Umbrella Collective: Ex-Gays, Penelope, These are the Men, The Ravagers, The Awakening*; *Transatlantic Love Affair: Ashland, 105 Proof*; *Market Garden Theatre: Public Exposure*; *Sheep Theater: Tamburlaine, George, Good Boy and the Kid*. **Other:** *Colette* (short film). **Training:** BA Theater, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

### TYLIE SHIDER (he/him)

Playwright

*Don't Miss Doris Hines* is his History Theatre debut. Tylie Shider's plays explore the intersection of journalism and theater. Recent productions include: *Certain Aspects of Conflict in the Negro Family* and *The Gospel Woman*. He is a Core Writer at the Playwrights' Center, a resident playwright at Calvary Church in the Whittier neighborhood, Minneapolis, and a staff writer for Minnesota Playlist. A proud member of the Dramatist Guild, he holds a BA in Journalism from Delaware State University and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, and a recipient of the August Wilson Research Award.

### VANESSA BROOKE AGNES (she/her)

Director

**History Theatre:** *So Help Me God*. **Theater:** *Guthrie Theatre: The Nacirema Society, Dial M for Murder*; *Artistry: Godspell, Songs for a New World*; *Lytic Arts: Kinky Boots, Smokey Joe's Cafe*; *Theatre in the Round: Sanctuary City*; *Lakeshore Players: The Niceties, Beehive*; *Playwrights' Center: K'E*; *Red Eye Theatre: On Freeing Fire*; *Children's Performing Arts: Mean Girls, FAME!*; *Blue Water Theatre: 13 Jr., Fantastic Mr. Fox, High School Musical Jr*. **Other:** *Founding Artistic Director, Dark Muse Healing Arts*; *Playwright, Moonspell*. **Training:** *Theater Arts & Communication Studies dual degrees, UW-River Falls*. **Upcoming:** *Guthrie Theatre: A Christmas Carol*; *Theatre in the Round: How to Catch Creation*. [darkmusearts.org](https://www.instagram.com/darkmusearts) IG: @darkmusearts @vanessabrookeagnes



The Director is a member of the STATE DIRECTORS AND CHORIOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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\* Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.

\* Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians

\* Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

**RAYMOND BERG\* (he/him)**

Piano

**History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James, Sisters of Swing*. **Theater:** *Orday: Beauty and the Beast, 42nd Street, West Side Story, Mamma Mia!, Love, Janis, A Chorus Line, Songbook Series, Damn Yankees, Grey Gardens; Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol, Stage Kiss; Mixed Blood: Interstate*. **Awards:** Ivey Award Best Musical Direction *Urinetown, Jungle Theatre 2013; Love, Janis Orday 2007*. **Other:** Teaching SPCPA, McNally Smith, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera.

**AARON VANDANACKER\* (he/him)**

Music Director/Piano

**History Theatre:** *Debut*. **Other:** Spotlight Showcase Production Music Director and Conductor; a multi-certified voice teacher and music/vocal director and pianist for touring, professional, amateur, educational theaters. [avvocalstudio.com](http://avvocalstudio.com). IG: @aaronvandan; TikTok: @avvocalstudio

**URSULA K. BOWDEN (she/her)**

Scenic Designer

**History Theatre:** *I Am Betty (2023, 2024), Unique Assignment*. **Theater:** *Jungle Theatre: Six Pack; Theater Mu: Kung Fu Zombie Saga; nimbus theatre: Take Two for Christmas, The Red and the Bright, The Remarkable Life and Pathetic Afterlife of Elmer McCurdy; the Worst Train Robber in the West, The River Becomes Sea, and over 20 titles; UMN Theatre and Dance Dept.: The Ferryman, Witch, Cabaret, Pride and Prejudice, Silent Sky, She Kills Monsters; Open Door Community Theatre: School of Rock, The Little Mermaid; Park Square Theatre: Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Pageant, The Pirates of Penzance; and Swandive Theatre, Theatre Pro Rata, Theatre Unbound, Drake University Theatre, Hamline University, 20% Theatre, Woodbury Community Theatre, Circus Juventas, Frank Theatre, Theatre Laté Da; overhire props artisan for Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Opera. **Awards:** *American Theatre Magazine: Swandive Theatre: Utopia for Pigeons*. **Other:** Member, Society of Properties Managers. **Education:** BFA, Theatrical Design and Technical Theatre, Drake University. **Upcoming:** UMN Theatre and Dance Dept: *The Skin of Our Teeth, MacBeth, Welcome to Thebes; History Theatre: Hungry Like the Wolf*.*

**MEGHAN KENT (she/her)**

Costume Designer

**History Theatre:** *Secret Warriors, A Unique Assignment, Behind the Sun*. **Theater:** *Artistry: Newsies; Lakeshore Players: Calendar Girls, She Loves Me, Little House on the Prairie: The Musical, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Christmas Carol, and Misery; The Phipps Center for the Arts: Something Rotten, Murdered to Death; Old Log Theatre: Once Upon a Mattress, The Reluctant Dragon, Snow White and the Seven Vikings, Million Dollar Quartet; Stages Theatre Company: Once Upon This Island, Newsies Jr. Matilda Jr.; Ashland Productions: Company; Freshwater Theatre Company: The Bucket List of Booze Club; Youth Performance Company: Little Women, Elf, Freedom Riders, Velvetene Rabbit, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, A Woman Called Truth, A Year with Frog and Toad, Tuck Everlasting, Frozen Jr., Hairspray, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; Steppingstone Theatre: Nate the Great,*

*Fly Guy the Musical, Annie; and Theatre Unbound, Cromulent Shakespeare Co., Eden Prairie Players, Masquers Theater Company, Concordia Academy, Southwest High School, Apple Valley High School, Mounds Park Academy, and Eden Prairie High School. **Training:** BFA Theatrical Performance and Costume Design, Iowa State University.*

**BILL HEALEY (he/him)**

Lighting Designer

**History Theatre:** *Glensheen*. **Theater:** *The Jungle Theater, Open Eye Figure Theater, Walking Shadow Theater Co, The Minnesota Opera Company, UMNATD, The Orday Center for the Performing Arts. **Awards:** Emmy Award, 2003, tpt production, SPCO - Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. **Other:** Since 2010, Lighting Supervisor UMN Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance. He creates opportunities for young theater designers and technicians, much as those who welcomed, fostered, and shepherded his generation into this wonderful theater community. He would be wandering lost in the wilderness without his guides; Julie, Maxwell and Stella.*

**KIRBY MOORE (he/him)**

Properties Designer

**History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story, Coco's Diary, Courting Harry, Lombardi, Christmas of Swing. **Other:** 40+ years of stage, film, and commercial production in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles. He's grateful to Circa 21' Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island Ill., and Children's Theatre Company for their design internship programs which helped him get his start in the professional arts.*

**CHARLOTTE DERANEK (she/they)**

Sound Designer

**History Theatre:** *Debut. Theater: Theatre Pro Rata: Top Girls; Park Square Theatre: Sound Supervisor, Sound Engineer; Lakeshore Players: Company. **Other:** Various shows and Gallery Opening for Walker Art Center. **Training:** BA Theatre Arts, Sound Design & Sound Engineering, Saint Mary's University of MN. **Upcoming:** Park Square Theatre: *Goosebumps the Musical*. IG: @charlotteasound*

**LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)**

Video Designer

**History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady, I Am Betty, Handprints, The Defeat of Jesse James. **Theater:** *Jungle Theatre: The Effect; Collide Dance Co.: Bonnie and Clyde, Romeo and Juliet, Broadway Dancin' 2025. **Training:** B.S Psychology, B.A Theatrical Arts, UMN-TC. **Upcoming:** *History Theatre: Rollicking!, Hungry Like the Wolf; Collide Dance Co: Dracula, Holiday Spectacular, Little Women. [LDUSTOUR.com](http://LDUSTOUR.com) @Babybeanlettuce***

**EMMA GRISTAFSON (she/her)**

Wig Designer

**History Theatre:** *Blended 和 (Harmony): The Kim Loo Sisters. **Theater:** *Minnesota Opera: Barber of Seville, Elixir of Love, Cruzar la Cara de la Luna, Song Poet, Daughter of the Regiment, Rinaldo, Anonymous Lover; Geva Theatre: The Color Purple, A Christmas Carol, Little Women; Theater Laté Da: Passion, Fun Home, Scotland PA, Johnny Skeezy, The Color Purple, Next to Normal, Hello, Dolly!, Merrily We Roll Along; Lakes Area Music Festival: The Rake's Progress, Hänsel and Gretel; Park Square Theatre: Holmes/Poirot; Jungle Theater: *Cambodian Rock Band; Open Eye Figure***

## CREATIVE TEAM

Theatre: *Chinese Lady*; Ten Thousand Things: *Emilia, Thunder Knocking On The Door*; Children's Theatre Company: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Bina's Six Apples, Annie*; Mixed Blood: *Roe*. Education: Aveda Institute Minneapolis, Cosmetology, 2015. Santa Fe Opera, Wigs Apprentice 2018-19. Augsburg University, B.A. in Theatrical Design, 2020. **Upcoming:** Minnesota Opera: *Così fan Tutte*; Theater Latté Da: *My Fair Lady*.

### ANNIE ENNEKING (she/her)

Intimacy and Fight Choreographer

**History Theatre:** *Whoa, Nellie! The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West, Diesel Heart, Secret Warriors*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Little Shop of Horrors, Skeleton Crew, The History Plays, A Raisin in the Sun*; University of Minnesota: *James I, As You Like It, Troilus and Cressida, Hamlet*; Theater Latté Da: *Man of La Mancha, Cabaret*; Jungle Theater: *Hand to God, Noises Off, The Effect*; Park Square Theatre: *Of Mice and Men, Cyrano*; Theater Mu: *Cambodian Rock Band, Man of God*; Shakespearean Youth Theatre: *Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar*; Dark & Stormy Productions: *Extremities, Fool for Love*; Theatre Pro Rata: *Bernhardt/Hamlet, Three Sisters/No Sisters*; St Olaf: *The Effect*. **Music:** Annie and the Bang Bang. **Teaching:** University of Minnesota. **Awards:** Jerome Foundation, 2010 McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship.

### LAURA TOPHAM\* (she/her)

Stage Manager

**History Theatre:** *Behind the Sun, Handprints, The Boy Wonder, Diesel Heart, Parks*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *Cabaret, A Christmas Carol, English, Skeleton Crew, Murder on the Orient Express, The Little Prince, A Raisin in the Sun*; The Kennedy Center: *Grey Skies Blue*; Park Square Theatre: (selected) *Holmes and Watson, The Rocky Horror Show, Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant, Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, and The Diary of Anne Frank*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *A Streetcar Named Desire, Another Miracle on Christmas Lake*; Collide Theatrical Dance Company: *C.L.U.E., Romeo and Juliet*; Theater Latté Da: *Candide, Beautiful Thing*; Artistry: *Godspell, Follies*. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN. **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*

### GIANNA HASEMAN (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

**History Theatre:** *Whoa, Nellie! The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West, Handprints, The Root Beer Lady*. **Theater:** Park Square: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; New Arab American Theater Works: *Rosette*; Gremlin Theatre: *Apples In Winter, The Thin Place*; Twin Cities Theater Camp: *Something Rotten! Jr., Matilda The Musical, The Music Man, The Logic Pit*; UMN Theatre Arts & Dance Dept.: *Energy & U, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Moliere One Acts, She Kills Monsters*. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN-Twin Cities.



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DORIS HINES

*The Vivacious*

# DORIS HINES

★ ★ INTERNATIONAL NITE CLUB STAR ★ ★





## Doris Hines was a phenomenal singer and impersonator.

She was frequently called “The Satin Doll” and “Queen of the Eastern Supper Clubs.” Hines grew up New York City, navigating a childhood marked by a revolving door of foster homes following the loss of her mother. As a child, she had a black cat named “Snowball,” a name that would later inspire the title of her memoir.

After 17 auditions, she finally won on “Arthur Godfrey’s Talent Scouts” (the American Idol of the era). In Yonkers, N.Y., she raised six children while pursuing her passion a singer. In 1965, she embarked on a tour of the Far East with the USO, dedicated to uplifting American troops. Hines earned her degree in African American studies at the University of Minnesota.

She recorded with the Grammy-Award winning group Sounds of Blackness under the direction of her son Gary Hines, and showcased her talents in productions at Penumbra and Guthrie theaters. Additionally she performed at popular Twin Cities venues Big Al’s, the Manor and Ruby’s Cabaret.

She made history as the first African-American female vocalist to be featured in a television commercial for Northwestern Bell Telephone company. Her life was marked



Winner, National Talent Contest “Arthur Godfrey Show,” CBS, New York

by both hardships and triumphs, enriched by the brilliance of jazz luminaries and literary works of writers like her friend Maya Angelou. In the mid-1960s, Angelou was passing through Honolulu. She’d heard what Nat King Cole had told Ella Fitzgerald: Do not miss Doris Hines. After Angelou saw Hines perform, the two forged a lasting friendship. Hines died in 2015 at the age of 91.

## DORIS HINES



(left to right) Doris Hines, Ella Fitzgerald

Maya Angelou was passing through Honolulu.

**She'd heard what Nat King Cole told Ella Fitzgerald: Do not miss Doris Hines.**

Angelou saw Hines perform, and ever since they remained friends.




(left to right) Hubert H. Humphrey, Muriel Humphrey, Doris Hines

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Doris Hines opened for Nat King Cole (center) and Della Reese.

DORIS HINES



(left to right) Kirk Stuart, Doris Hines, Della Reese, Florita, Maurice King, "Ziggy" Johnson MC. January, 1959



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