

DIONNE WARWICK

6-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER

PRESENTS

**FROM BILLBOARD
TO BROADWAY**



HITS!
The Musical

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HITS!

The Musical

Inspired by the local Tampa Bay group, Entertainment Revue, and the hundreds of wonderful young women that were part of the group and have brought joy to audiences for the past 33 years!

Executive Producers

DIONNE WARWICK

DAMON ELLIOTT

THADDEUS BULLARD

BOB GRIES

SHEA HUGHES

Produced & Directed by

CYNTHIA NEKVASIL

Musical
Arrangements by

**TONY BRUNO
CYNTHIA NEKVASIL
CAMILLE TRUST**

Book by

CYNTHIA NEKVASIL

Choreographed by

GRADY BOWMAN

Musical Direction by

**CAMILLE TRUST
TONY BRUNO**

Music Composed by

TONY BRUNO

Starring

**JALEEL BATTLES BELLE BONGIORNO NASIR BUTLER JJ CARANDANG
CONNOR CLOSS JULIA DAVO JAEDON DIAZ KASSIDY GAVAGAN
GENEVIEVE GODLESKY LILI GREENBERG NELLA HILDEN D'COREY JOHNSON
MIA LEBERKNIGHT MCKENZIE LEWIS COLIN MASH KAYLIE MOLINA
ASSATA SUN BROOKE NEUMAN LOREN PRISUTA ALYSSA RAGHU
JACOB RASSI KARSEN TAYLOR SHAWN TAYLOR
MADELINE UNDERWOOD JAAZIAH VALLANO JACOB VELLA MATTHEW JOST
JOSEF WRIGHT KAITLIN YAMANO**

Associate Director

CHLOE LOWERY

Assistant Director & Narrator

COURTNEY LOPEZ

Costume Design

**CYNTHIA NORDSTROM
MATTHEW SOLOMON**

Associate Producer

GRACE GORMAN

Set & Lighting Design by

BARRY LATHER

Music Director

CAMILLE TRUST

Social Media Director

GENESIS VIERA

Tour Marketing & Press

**YARNI POLAND
JOHN TELLEM/TGPR**

Operations Manager

SEAN COUGHLIN

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CAST



**JALEEL
BATTLES, JR.**



**BELLE
BONGIORNO**



**NASIR
BUTLER**



**JJ
CARANDANG**



**CONNOR
CLOSS**



**JULIA
DAVO**



**JAEDON
DIAZ**



**KASSIDY
GAVAGAN**



**GENEVIEVE
GODLESKY**



**LILI
GREENBERG**



**NELLA
HILDEN**



**D'COREY
JOHNSON**



**MIA
LEBERKNIGHT**



**MCKENZIE
LEWIS**



**COLIN
MASH**



**KAYLIE
MOLINA**

CAST



**ASSATA
SUN**



**BROOKE
NEUMAN**



**LOREN
PRISUTA**



**ALYSSA
RAGHU**



**JACOB
RASSI**



**KARSEN
TAYLOR**



**SHAWN
TAYLOR**



**MADELINE
UNDERWOOD**



**JAAZIAH
VALLANO**



**JACOB
VELLA**



**MATTHEW
JOST**



**JOSEF
WRIGHT**



**KAITLIN
YAMANO**

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Overture

Stage and Screen

Rock

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

The 60's

The 70's

The 80's

The 90's

The 2000's



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JALEEL BATTLES JR. (Featured Singer) is super excited to make his national tour debut with Hits! The Musical. He is a Singer, Dancer and Actor currently based out of High Point, NC. You may have seen him in productions such as Mamma Mia! (ECU Summer Theatre), Head Over Heels! (Loessin Playhouse), Memphis the Musical (CTC), Pippin (Loessin Playhouse), Lion King, Prince of Egypt and so much more. Jaleel has also performed at The National Black Theatre Festival. Jaleel has dedicated his life to theater and helping spread awareness for black and brown performers who don't have access to the "theatre world" reminding them that there is a place for us too. Jaleel would like to thank his family (special shout-out to mama and mama), friends, and the entire company of Hits! The Musical.
@IG: Kvn9battles

BELLE BONGIORNO (Featured Singer / Guitarist) has always had a love for the art of performing. Ever since making her debut as Clara in Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" in 2016, she found that her creativity shines brightest on stage. Born and raised in New York, Belle grew up as a classically trained dancer. Eventually, she found her love and passion for music. Taking the stage every night around the country as a singer, dancer, and multi-instrumentalist is truly a dream come true. Belle is beyond thrilled to be touring with such a talented group of performers and crew in Hits! The Musical, and would like to thank her friends, family, and especially her dance teachers at Miss Colleen's Elite Dancecenter for all of the love and support. Belle's dream is to write and release hit songs of her own, and to one day travel the world as a performer, sharing her love for the stage, and hoping to inspire generations to come. You can follow her journey @bellebongiorno on all social media platforms!

NASIR BUTLER (Featured Singer) is very excited to begin his first tour with Hits! The Musical. He is a singer and resides in Pittsburgh, Pa. His favorites roles include Jean Valjean (Les Mis) and Bobby Strong (Urinetown). He is very enthusiastic about working with this amazing cast. Be sure to remember his name as you will see it on stages all around the world very soon. He would like to thank his family and friends for their abundance of love.

JERALD JOSEPH "JJ" CARANDANG (Featured Dancer) is a versatile 12 y/o Filipino performer from Los Angeles, CA. His professional dance career began with the NBA Kidclippers at the age of seven - he was the youngest dancer then. After four years of performing with the NBA Kidclippers, JJ now dances for the WNBA LA Sparks. JJ has done numerous print and multinational television adverts for top brands, and has made appearances on famous channels such as Nickelodeon and Disney. His most recent appearance was on Disney Plus' Christmas comedy series, "The Santa Clausies". He did music videos with KidzBop and has also worked with famous Hollywood artists like Travis Scott and Rosalia. Performing has always been JJ's passion. He is a Filipino, and is proud to represent his heritage on stage. With his positive energy, immense talent, and charming confidence, he is ready to hit the stage for his first national tour debut on Hits! The Musical - JJ would like to thank his family, friends, mentors (Veda Burton, Tiffany Pojas, Vanessa Bryan), his talent manager (Deb Berger), and everyone who has shown great support in his journey. Most of all, JJ would like to dedicate his performance to his late grandfather, Papa Fred Lumampao Sr. Buckle up as we take you back to the Biggest HITS! Of all time- HITS THE MUSICAL "Never give up; Trust God's Plan"

CONNOR CLOSS (Featured Singer) is absolutely ecstatic to be making his National Tour debut in Hits! The Musical! His favorite credits include Newsies (Jack Kelly), Children of Eden (Adam/Noah), and the workshop of Radio 930: A New Musical (Bern). Before being cast in Hits, he was headed into his sophomore year studying Musical Theater at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Connor would like to thank the cast, crew, and creative team of Hits! The Musical for all of the hard work they've done for this show, as well as his family for always believing in him.

JULIA DAVO (Featured Singer / Guitarist) (Marilyn, Madonna, Gwen Stefani, Joan Jett etc...) is delighted to be making her national tour debut! Most recent theater credits include Legally Blonde the Musical (Elle Woods), The Addams Family (Morticia Addams), both Off-Broadway. She was recently in her first National Commercial for America's Next Investment, which airs regularly on CNBC. Davo is also a songwriter/recording artist. While attending Long Island H.S. for the Arts, Davo won first place in the NCC Monologue Competition, received the Huntington Tony Award for "Best Actress", and was the recipient of the Dream Recording Studios Songwriting Scholarship which allotted her 10 hours of free studio time, where she recorded some of her original songs that can be found on all music streaming platforms. Last year, Davo attended NYU Tisch Drama, but after two semesters, she decided to pursue performing full-time. Working five jobs at just 18 years old, she threw herself into the NY and LA music/theater scene, determined to make a name for herself. She is honored to be portraying various female icons that have inspired her from a young age. IG: @juliadavz Spotify/Apple Music: Julia Davo

JAEDON DIAZ (Featured Dancer) is elated to be making his national tour debut with Hits! The Musical. California native his favorite credits include Lost Boy in Peter Pan (Laguna Playhouse) and dancer (Rose Parade Opening number). Preparing for this show has been a dream and he is delighted to be on this talented cast. Many thanks to his family, dance teachers and this amazing cast and crew! IG: @jtturtleswag

KASSIDY CAVAGAN (Featured Singer) is beyond excited to be making her national tour debut with the cast of Hits! The Musical. She is a singer, dancer and actress based out of Tampa, FL. Kassidy was a member of Tampa Bay's premier All Star Cast of Entertainment Revue for 7 years. She was a guest vocalist with Chloe Lowrey in Transiberian Orchestra. She was the recipient of the Best Vocalist Award with her A Capella group the Mello Divas at the Sing Song competition in NYC. Some of her favorite credits include Eponeine in Les Miserable, Velma Kelly in Chicago, and Fiona in Shrek the Musical. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her and loving her endlessly.

GENIEVIEVE GODLESKY (Featured Dancer) is a 15 year old dancer based in New York City. She trains at Broadway Dance Center and is a part of their award winning performance company AIM. She has been competing for the last 8 years, where she has won numerous awards and scholarships. Genievieve is currently a member of the We Are Queens Organization where she continues to spread positivity to others. Some of her past credits include: Dance Against Cancer Gala (Lincoln Center), Dance Divas Nutcracker (Off-Broadway), Connect2 "Little bit of love" (Music Video) and many more. She would like to thank her incredible mentors and agent for their guidance and belief in her. Genievieve would like to express her gratitude to her Mom, Dad, younger sister Arianna and the rest of her family and friends for their constant love and support. IG: @genieviegegodesky_

LILI GREENBERG (Featured Singer) is thrilled to make her National tour debut in Hits! A native of New York's Lower East Side, Lili is a passionate lover of life, she's excited for this amazing opportunity to express her art and bring joy to music fans all across the country. Lili is trained as a classical singer with a vocal degree from NY City's LaGuardia High School For The Arts and has trained for two years in the UMass Amherst BFA dance program. When Lili was eight years old her dream was to be Hannah Montana and now she's living her dream and beyond. Check out Lili's new original singles "Let Me Breathe" and "But Quietly" on all streaming platforms. She wants to thank her spectacular family, her wonderful friends, all her past mentors and teachers, and the rest of the Hits! cast and creative team! Find your passion, chase your dreams and live every moment like it's your last! Follow Lili's journey on Instagram @liligrnbg

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

NELLA HILDEN (Featured Singer) can't believe she is making her national touring debut with the incredible cast of *Hits! The Musical*! Nella is a 12-year-old who lives in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania with her parents, older sister, two crazy dogs, and adorable hamster. Nella was bit by the performing bug at an early age. She was six years old when she debuted as a choir soloist in her local high school's production of *Evita*. In more recent years, Nella has had the opportunity to perform in some amazing roles at SALT Performing Arts, a local community theater. Her favorite roles include Young Fiona/Baby Bear in *Shrek*, Middle Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and Gomez in *Addams Family*, School Edition. Nella would like to thank the staff of *Hits!* for believing in her and giving her this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

D'COREY "DC" JOHNSON (Featured Singer) is a fifth-grader at Bates Elementary whose success began with his viral rise to fame by singing the National Anthem in the third grade. His soothing, angelic, soulful voice lead him to adopt the motto, "A Voice 4 All People," and has been traveling the world singing at events like Churchill Downs, Tennessee Titans, Cincinnati Reds, Patriot Awards, Daytona 500, Triller Fight Clubb, Patti LaBelle's Concert, Honor Flights, etc. At the age of six, DC enrolled in theater classes at Louisville Central Community Center (LCCC) where his exuberant personality filled the room when performing in plays like *The Wiz*, *Aladdin*, *Annie*, *Cats*, *Elf*, *Broadway Review*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Kinky Boots*. His dream is to one day perform on Broadway. When not acting or singing, DC loves doing charity work, spending quality time with his granny, talking on the phone with family and friends, and playing with this dog *Aladdin*. DC has a special place in his heart for Veterans, his first supporters!

MATTHEW JOST (Featured Singer / Guitarist) starred in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway production of *School of Rock* in the Principal role of Zack the guitarist playing in the iconic Winter Garden Theatre in front of 1,000s each night through to the show's close. Lead guitarist and singer for @mischiefboys (IG) and songwriter/producer focused on blues, pop, R&B, and rock. Performed original music at The Bitter End, City Winery, The Iridium, Terminal 5, and all around NYC. Matthew's dream is to make memories with his music for audiences all over the world so follow as his dream comes true at @matthewjost (IG and TikTok) and <http://matthewjost.com>. Thanks to Tim Borecky and Music Will for getting me into music and *Hits!* The Musical production cast and creative team for this incredible musical experience across the USA!

MIA LEBERKNIGHT (Featured Singer) is delighted to be making her national tour debut! She is originally from Holmdel, New Jersey and has performed many live shows as a lead vocalist and pianist at The Cutting Room (NYC) and the Stone Pony (Asbury Park, NJ). Her favorite musical theater credits include, *Shrek Jr.* (Dragon) and *Seussical Jr.* (Young Kangaroo). She has also been featured in the *Nutcracker Rocks* Ballet and *Midsummer Night's Dream* Ballet at the Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theater and has appeared in several Kidz Bop videos. Many thanks to her loved ones, friends, and this amazing cast and crew! IG: @mia.rae10

MCKENZIE LEWIS (Featured Dancer) was born in Atlanta, GA, but left her city to pursue a career in acting and dance in Los Angeles, CA. She is very excited about joining the cast of *Hits! The Musical* and traveling to perform in different cities. She brings over 12 years of experience in ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, African, and Latin Fusion. In addition, she has trained under renowned instructors such as Lauren Anderson, Anthony Burrell, and Debbie Allen. IG @mckenziejordanlewis and website mjdances.com.

COLIN MASH (Narrator / Featured Singer) is ecstatic to be making his national tour debut! He is originally from Conshohocken, PA and studied musical theater at Temple University. Favorite theater credits include *Cabaret* (Emcee) and *Legally Blonde* (The Musical (Warner Huntington III)). He also won a BroadwayWorld Philadelphia award for Best Supporting Actor with his portrayal of Lucas Beineke in *The Addams Family*. Recent film credits include *Knock At The Cabin* (dir. M. Night Shyamalan) and *The Magician* (dir. Brielle Carroll). In his time off the stage Colin also enjoys coaching and mentoring kids for various performance programs such as Julia's Joy, Colonial Middle School, and Firebird Theater. Colin sends his utmost love and thanks to his cast, staff, family, friends, Hannah, Hailey, Brooke, and the love of his life, Joe. IG: @colinmashofficial

KAYLIE MOLINA (Featured Dancer) is beyond excited to be making her national tour debut! She is a Puerto Rican actress/dancer from Miami, FL. She has danced in a TV show and commercials such as *Fam Jam* (Disney Channel) *Swoosh* *High: God to Be Back* (Nike) *Get Down with Summer* (Walmart) *Back to School* (JCPenney) *Promotional Video for the Movie Vivo* (Netflix). She voiced a Spanish Little Red Riding Hood for a children's puppet show at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in New York, as well as filmed educational videos for a homeschool program. Aside from dance, she is currently working very hard to pursue her biggest dream of becoming a series/film actress by training with the best acting coaches and working with a reputable agency. Giving thanks in all circumstances and truly believing and working hard for your dreams are few of many positive words she lives by. Huge thank you to mom, dad, family, cast and crew for this opportunity and the endless love and support!! IG: @itskayliemolina

BROOKE NEUMAN (Featured Dancer) is thrilled to be part of the cast of *Hits! The Musical* for her first national tour! She is from Tenafly, NJ and has been dancing since she was 2 years old. Recent credits include her work as a model and actress for campaigns with J. Crew, Abercrombie, Samsung, and Hard Rock. Brooke is excited to join this amazing cast and crew as they perform across the country. She is forever grateful to her family and friends for their love and support @brookemneuman

LOREN PRISUTA (Featured Singer), age 13, from Pittsburgh, PA is thrilled to make her national tour debut! Member of Jeter Backyard Theater, favorite roles include Peter Pan, JR (Peter Pan), Moana, JR (Moana), & Shrek, JR (Fiona). NYC iTheatrics Academy's Elephant and Piggy We are in a Play! Zoomsical (Piggy) & School of Rock YPE (Shonelle). Loren trains at Wexford Dance Academy, and studies voice with Molly Stater Voice Studio. Special thanks to Christie Jeter, Molly Stater, Liz Karas, Beth Robertshaw, Keely Singer, & Beth Leckey. Forever grateful to Mom, Dad, Sarah, and all four grandparents for their endless love and support. She can't wait to share her love and passion for music with audiences around the country!

ALYSSA RACHU (Featured Singer / Guitarist) is a recording artist and songwriter previously seen on Seasons 16 & 17 of ABC's *American Idol*. She's delighted to participate in her first National Tour with *Hits! The Musical*. She's performed alongside stars such as Lionel Richie, Patti LaBelle, Julia Michaels and Rebel Wilson. Working with brands such as Netflix and Fender, her other credits include performing as "Nina" in a production of "In The Heights" along with "Anita" in West Side Story. Alyssa believes impacting others with the gift of music is what makes the world a more positive place.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JACOB RASSI (Featured Dancer) is beyond excited to make his national tour debut as a featured dancer with Hits! The Musical. Jacob is originally from the East Coast and travels from New York to California to further his training in dance, acting & modeling. His credits include "13" The Musical on Netflix, National commercials for Target, Spin Master Games & Kingsford Charcoal, Disney's FAM JAM on the Disney Channel, Disney Descendants 3 stage production at Vidcon & several music videos for Kidzbp. Jacob is represented by Clear Talent Group in New York & Los Angeles. Jacob would like to thank his family & friends, especially his parents for encouraging his love of the arts & supporting his journey. Please follow him on IG @jacobrassi

ASSATA SUN (Featured Singer) is delighted to be making her first national tour debut with Hits! The Musical. She was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio where she attended The School of Creative and Performing Arts as a vocal major. She has had a love for theatre since a very young age. Her theater credits includes Annie Jr (Annie) school production, and Theory of Relativity (ensemble) theatre production. I would like to thank my family for all the love and support. TOMORROW X TOGETHER for a wonderful Atlanta show which inspired me to audition for Hits! The musical, and the wonderful cast and crew that I am thankful to share this moment with. IG: @assata_sun_

KARSEN TAYLOR (Featured Singer) feels truly blessed to be making her nation tour debut with HITS! THE MUSICAL. Karsen hails from Louisville Kentucky, and is the youngest cast member at the age of 10. Stage credits/accolades: The Magic Playground (Lead), Sankofa Experience (Little Miss), Goldie Locks on Trial (Juror #1), The Little Mermaid, and Matilda round out her favorite casted plays. In 2022 she won a National Championship at the ESPN-Disney Cheer Championships, with the Tumble Tribe Elite (Flyer). Karsen credits Wave3 News with her television debut in 2020, as she won 1st place in a singing contest hosted by the network. Her first solo came with the Rays of Hope (Green Castle Baptist Church). Karsen sends love to her family, friends & NEW cast family.

SHAWN TAYLOR (Featured Dancer) is ecstatic to make his national tour debut with Hits! The Musical! His favorite credits include an NFL Promo for the Superbowl (2021), "Let Go" (music video), Project Blindfold (PSA), as well as his ten years as a competitive dancer and performer, for Savage Dance Company, a multi-faceted performing arts center in Sykesville, Maryland. Shawn's dance stage performances consisted of elements of jazz, musical theater, contemporary, jazz funk, modern, and his favorite genre, hip-hop. Shawn is thrilled to tour the country with an amazing cast of vocalists, dancers, and an outstanding executive and creative team who believe in his talent to help make this show an outstanding one. Shawn thanks his Savage family for their education and support, especially the "Mamas", his newfound Hits! Family for the opportunity and trust in his talent, and last but not least, his mother, sister, grandparents, father, and cousins for their endless love, support, and encouragement, because without them, none of this would be possible! Thank you for coming out and enjoy Hits! The Musical! IG: @shawn.21_savage"

MADLINE UNDERWOOD (Featured Dancer) is thrilled to be touring with "Hits The Musical" as a featured dancer. She was born and raised in Jamestown, North Carolina where she grew up in the competition dance world. She now lives in California, training at The Space in Brea. She has appeared in music videos, commercials and modeled for various dance wear companies. Favorite credits include "Dance moms" (candy apple team) "This Is Us" (ballerina) the short film titled "Saturday Night" (lead role if the artist) and being a member of Jaclyn Royal's company "Royal Flux". She would like to thank her agency, MSA and her family. IG @_madlineunderwood_

JAАЗIAH VALLANO (Featured Singer / Guitarist) (He/Him) is so extremely excited to be making his National Tour Debut with Hits! The Musical. Jaaziah is a New York Based Actor/Singer/Dancer/Musician. He was last seen as a Semi-finalist for Best Actor in the 2021 Jimmy Awards. Some of his favorite credits are The Last Five Years (Jamie Wellserstein), Footloose (Ren McCormack), Newsies: The Broadway Musical (Racetrack Higgins), Bring It On! (Twig), Guys and Dolls (Sky Masterson), and many more. He would like to thank his Mom, Dad, Brother, Mya and all of friends and family in NYC for the endless love and support. Also a very special thanks to everyone for coming to the show and helping keep the theatre alive! @Jaaziahvallano

JACOB VELLA (Featured Singer) a seventh-grade student from Queen Creek, Arizona, is ecstatic to be a part of the inaugural national tour of Hits! The Musical. Jacob has an impressive list of previous performances under his belt, including Fletcher Blake, Pugsley Addams, and Michael Banks at the Hale Theatre. He also received recognition for his portrayal of JoJo in Seussical the Musical Jr. which earned him a nomination for the "Rising Star Award" at the Arizoni Awards. When not on stage, Jacob can be found honing his dance skills at Rhythm and Motion Dance Center in Mesa, Arizona. He expresses his gratitude to his family for their support and sacrifices that have allowed him to pursue his passion and chase his dream.

JOSEF WRIGHT (Featured Singer) (James Brown, MC Hammer, John Travolta, Ensemble) is extremely excited to make his national tour debut with Hits! Musical! Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Josef has performed throughout his city and surrounding area since age 4. Favorite Stage Credits: The Donkey/Shrek The Musical, Jerome/South Pacific Musical, Tiny Tim/ Scrooge: The Musical, Micheal Jackson/Motown: The Musical, Ensemble/Jesus Christ Superstar, Young Simba/The Lion King Musical just to name a few. Josef would like to thank his family, friends and the amazing Hits! family, creatives and audiences! IG: theblackspji

KAITLIN YAMANO (Featured Dancer) is thrilled to be on her first national tour with Hits! Regional credits include Oklahoma (3DTheatricals), Billy Elliot (San Diego Musical Theater), Aladdin (Lythgoe Panto), and Oliver! (Musical Theater West). Kaitlin also has numerous TV (Chicago Fire, On My Block, and Single Parents), music video (Sia, Say Grace, Matty B), and national and global commercial (McDonalds, H&M, and Sony to name a few) credits. Kaitlin trains in all styles of dance and acro with an audition only program in Brea California called The Space TV. As a native Californian, and living at the beach, when Kaitlin isn't dancing, she is surfing and soaking up the sun at the beach. Kaitlin is represented by MSA agency. Follow her journey @kaitlinyamano



CREATIVE TEAM

Cynthia Nekvasil (Director / Book / Arranger) Director of nationally acclaimed Entertainment Revue girls performing group of 25 years. The group performed across the US for national conventions, charity, and political events including appearances before three US Presidents. From this group came some of the brightest young stars in theater and the recording industry. Cynthia developed and managed artists signed to RCA and Epic records and created the kids television show DIVAS for Fox Family Channel. She splits her time between St. Petersburg, FL and Chatham, MA, and she has a 24 year-old daughter that lives in Boston.

Grady Bowman (Choreographer) has been recognized by Dance Magazine as "exceptionally versatile" and "on the rise." He has created work for Broadway, off-Broadway, television, circus, dance companies, and numerous universities. Select credits: The Cher Show (Broadway: Finale Co-Choreographer), Big Apple Circus (Lincoln Center), World's Got Talent (Fremantle Media/Hunan TV, China), The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show (off-Broadway), Joseph...Dreamcoat (Drury Lane - Chicago), and Singin' in the Rain (Olney Theatre Center - DC) where he was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award. Grady just completed his 4th commission, Before We Go, for NC School of the Arts - a new 20-minute work to music by Grammy Award-winning artist Jacob Collier featuring 30+ dancers. As a performer, he was in the original Broadway companies of Billy Elliot, South Pacific (2008 Revival), Honeymoon in Vegas, Wonderland, and The Pirate Queen. He toured internationally with Fosse and Pilobolus Dance Theatre and also appeared in the films Forrest Gump and The Last Five Years. [@instagrady_](http://www.gradymcleodbowman.com)

Chloe Lowery (Associate Director) is a singer, artist, actress, dancer, and vocal coach (Vocals By Chloe Lowery) with professional credits that include: Lead Vocalist with Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Rocktopia (Broadway), PBS, RCA Records, Disney Records, Yanni Voices and many more. Chloe is excited to be lending her talents and expertise to Hits, making her debut Associate Director position. Thank you so much to Bob Gries and Cynthia Nekvasil for this beautiful opportunity. www.chloelowery.com | Instagram: @chloelowery

Cynthia Nordstrom (Costume Designer) A fashion design-based costume designer based out of NYC, Cynthia has been designing costumes and creatures for family based shows and tours worldwide for over 20 years with Disney and Universal Studios, Dreamworks and Nintendo. [Cynthianordstromdesigner](https://www.instagram.com/cynthianordstromdesigner) (instagram)

Camille Trust (Musical Director) is a soul-pop singer, songwriter & vocal arranger featured in Billboard, Nylon and TIME magazine. Vocal credits include "Saturday Night Live" (Shawn Mendes & Nathaniel Rateliff) "MTV Video Music Awards" & "The Colbert Report" (Chelsea Cutler & Fleet Foxes). A proud member of The Resistance Revival Chorus & co-founder of Femme Jam, Camille is thrilled to be on the creative team for Hits! Special thanks to Cynthia, Bob and my family for their constant support. @camilletrust

Tony Bruno (Arranger / Composer) is thrilled to be a part of the Hits creative team. He is responsible for creating these seamless arrangements and recording all of the music. His past works include Music Director for Rihanna, Enrique Iglesias and The Voice. Tony considers it a privilege to work with such amazing young talent. He is currently working on a new series for Amazon and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Barry Lather (Set & Lighting Designer) has developed world tours & award show performances for Carrie Underwood, Usher, Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Justin Bieber & Paula Abdul. Early in his career, Barry worked with Michael Jackson, Prince & Janet Jackson winning several awards including an MTV & Billboard award. His vast experience in live entertainment covers a wide range from film, video, commercials, theme park, cruise ship & ice skating shows. The Super Bowl Halftime show, Academy Awards & Grammy Awards are among his prestigious credits, along with a Primetime Emmy award nomination in 2001. Barry has directed Las Vegas residency shows for Donny & Marie Osmond, Carrie Underwood and Robbie Williams...and recently worked with music composer Hans Zimmer for his European tour.

Courtney Lopez (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be joining the national tour of Hits! The Musical. Courtney served as the Assistant Director of Tampa's prestigious all-girls performance troupe "Entertainment Revue" for 7 years. Courtney was a young performer herself as a 13-year cast member of "Entertainment Revue" as well as a professional child actor and model appearing in commercials for Disney, Universal, Publix, and Coca-Cola. She is honored to be working with the incredibly talented cast of Hits! as she makes her debut as Assistant Director. Thank you to Bob and Cynthia for the amazing opportunity and to Sean and my family for their constant love and support <3



EXECUTIVE TEAM

Robert Gries is a recognized Tampa Bay businessman and philanthropist. He is the founder of the Gries Investment Funds which are active in both the real estate and private equity industries. His greatest joy, however, has been helping young people pursue their dreams and reach their greatest potential. His inspiration for this show comes from 30 wonderful years of watching a group in Tampa, Entertainment Revue, perform. His entrepreneurial instinct inspired him to create a show of the highest caliber with the most talented young singers and dancers in the country. Thus, Hits! The Musical was born. Mr. Gries also has a youth volleyball club, OTVA which has won 44 national championships. He has a daughter, Zoe, 24 that was adopted from Wuhan, China and now lives in Boston.

Damon Elliott is the newest triple threat as of January 24, 2023. As part of the Applause Best Song from a Motion Picture team with Diane Warren, Elliott garnered an Oscar 2023 nomination to be awarded early March. Last month, Damon earned a Grammy nomination for producing WHITE SUN; together they are nominees Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album with ceremonies. And, on February 3rd, the major motion picture 80 For Brady for which he produced the hit song, Gonna Be You (#6 on the Billboard charts in its 1st week), comes out nationwide and is expected to set the box office on fire with its star power. Damon started his career getting a chance with the late Easy E and his burgeoning group, working on multiple songs with Bone-Thugs-n-Harmony, primarily with Flesh-N-Bone, producing 10 songs for them and having a notable hand in his debut solo album release entitled "T.H.U.G.S." He then went on to work with the group (Bone) producing multiple songs and several solo albums for Krayzie Bone, Flesh N Bone and the Mo Thugs' compilation album, all achieving gold status. Damon then began to work with Beyoncé on multiple projects including her title track for the blockbuster Austin Powers in Goldmember. Simultaneously, Damon hit it off with Pink and found a synergy where they were able to create a new sound and produce their most successful project to date, "Mizundastood," with a record 29 million records sold. In 2009, Damon was sought out to work on music on one of the biggest films at the time, the remake of the classic movie Fame which led to several other box office hits. Damon continued his work in film with his next production from The Lincoln Lawyer (2011) and shortly after, added reality tv to his credits including Holly World and Kendra On Top for six seasons. His foray into filmed entertainment eventually led to the formation of NomaD in 2017, a reggae artist alter ego taking the imprint to Hawaii where he refined its brand, released several popular records and became many of the island's most successful commercial releases. Damon returned to the mainland and started managing his mother, Dionne Warwick, while launching his record label, Kind Music Group. Damon produced and released Dionne's next two albums, "She's Back" (2019) and "The Voices of Christmas" (2020) which both charted on Billboard's Top 20.

Iconic entertainer **Dionne Warwick** and her son/producer/manager **Damon Elliott** are co-executive producers of Hits! The Musical. This 50-city national tour, which features 29 youngsters, ages 7 - 18, singing and dancing to a medley of 80 of America's most iconic songs. Six-time Grammy winner and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Dionne has a gospel duet with Dolly Parton, "Peace Like A River," which Dolly wrote and Damon produced. Damon also co-directed the video. The song will be released on February 24 on Dionne and Damon's Kind Music Group label. The "Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over" documentary is currently streaming on HBO Max. Dionne has been dubbed the "Queen Of Twitter" for her outspoken comments on social media for which SNL does a recurring parody skit.

Thaddeus M. Bullard a.k.a. WWE, global ambassador Titus, O'Neil is a global entertainer, accomplished athlete, and philanthropist. Bullard went from being a resident of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as a troubled, underperforming young man to being a mentor, role model and honorary Deputy for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Bullard's passion and commitment to not only succeed personally but also to help others succeed is derived from an early seed planted at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, where many invested in him when, in his words, "they had nothing to gain in return." Bullard has meaningfully supported various organizations, locally and globally, by giving of his time, talent, and finances. Although Bullard, a product of a rape, lacked a strong male role model in the home, his commitment to family, most notably his two sons, TJ (17) and Titus (15), are nothing short of remarkable. Bullard's first priority is being a father and role model to his children. For the past ten (12) plus years his "Joy of Giving" holiday event has garnered over 15,000 gifts annually to underprivileged children and families in need throughout the Greater Tampa area. Bullard is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity incorporated, the president of the Bullard Family Foundation (an organization that provides programs and resources to help build character and improve outcomes in the community) and a member of Revealing Truth Ministries in Tampa, Florida, where he resides.

Grace Gorman is manager of Oscar nominated Two-Time Grammy award winning, multi-platinum producer, Damon Elliott. She is CEO of Miracles of Management, a full service talent management company. Grace is Executive Director of Kind Music Academy, a nonprofit focused on musical education, where kids teach music. She is proud and honored to join Hits! The Musical, as Associate Producer.



STAFF FOR HITS! THE MUSICAL

Director.....Cynthia Nekasvil
Associate Director.....Chloe Lowery
Assistant Director.....Courtney Lopez
Musical Director.....Camille Trust
Choreographer.....Grady Bowman
Casting Director.....Cynthia Nekvasil
Musical Composer.....Tony Bruno
Set & Lighting Designer.....Barry Lather
Costume Designer.....Cynthia Nordstrom
Tour Marketing.....Yarni Poland
Public Relations.....TGPR/John Tellem
Social Media Director.....Genesis Viera
Voice Coach.....Chloe Lowery
Voice Coach.....Tina Novak
Travel.....Road Rebel

TOURING COMPANY

Production Manager.....Ryan Matthias
A1 Audio Tech.....Richard Peraza
A2 Audio Tech.....Shaun Schwebel
Lighting Director.....Aleksander Skowron
L1 Lighting Tech.....Joshua Wilson
L2 Lighting Tech.....Aidan Murphy
Costuming 1.....Claire Mezzeta
Costuming 2.....Amaya Coleman
Carpenter.....Tommy Anderson
Carpenter.....Jacob Lopez
Stage Manager.....Francis Fucile

HITS!
The Musical



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together we are...



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Cancer
Thrivers



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College
Basketball
Analyst and
Cancer Thriver

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