A young Black woman with her hair pulled back, wearing a blue, long-sleeved, button-up dress with a ruffled front. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of blue and yellow. To the left, the profile of another person wearing a grey cap is partially visible.

Inner-City Arts,
Fountain for Youth,
The Autry Museum,
and CounterBalance Theater
present

BIDDY MASON

Based on a story by Dana Johnson

Directed by Annie Loui



Presents

BIDDY MASON

based on a story by Dana Johnson
directed by Annie Loui

STARRING
(in alphabetical order)

Voice of the Future	Tanya Alexander
Mr. Smith	Abel Garcia
Biddy Mason	Mary Hill
Charlie Owens	Wesley T. Jones
Mrs. Smith	Leslie Lank
Pio Pico	Alexander Quiñones
Mother / Mrs. Aston	Kayla Quiroz

Production Stage
Manager
Kaitlyn Cramer

Video Design
Morgan Embry

Sound Design
Aerik S. Harbert

Lighting Design
**W. Alejandro
Melendez**

Assistant Projection
Design
Jacob Nguyen

Production Stage
Manager
Nico Parducho

Costume Design
Danyeale Thomas

Technical Director
Scott Tuomey

Produced by
Fountain for Youth

Biddy Mason is performed in 80 minutes
with one intermission

WHO'S WHO



TANYA ALEXANDER (Voice of the Future) is a high school valedictorian, an alumnus of AMDA-New York, and a Summa Cum Laude/Phi Beta Kappa graduate of St. Louis University's theatre program. An artist of the stage, screen, web, and radio, her credits include Off Broadway: *In Dahomey*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Crimson Landbeats*; National Tour: *The Wiz*; LA local: *Clyde's* (Moxie Theatre), *Under the*

Skin (International City Theatre), *Nothing But the Truth & Clybourne Park* (Mark Taper Forum), *Honky* (San Diego Rep), *Day of Absence* (A Noise Within), *Human Interest Story* (Fountain Theatre), *Mono/Poly* (Odyssey Theatre), *Future Sex* (Lounge Theatre), *SuperNatural: The Play* (Chromolume Theatre); Comedy Clubs: The Laugh Factory, The Comedy Union; Poetry Sets: Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Da Poetry Lounge, S.W.A.A.M.; Film/TV: *Bliss*, *The Shield*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Murder Among Friends*, *Coroner: I Speak for the Dead*, *Bones*, *Lucky Louie*, *Recovery*, *Material Girls*, *Minty*, *Beyond Doubt*, *Humble Pie*; Voiceover: *MindsEye*, *Tomb Raider*, *Fire Escape*, *Amazon*, *Indeed*, *WeWork*, *CalFresh*, *SoCal Edison*, *Coca Cola*, *T-Mobile*, *California Tobacco Control*. She has released two spoken word albums and received the keys to the city of Jennings, MO (her hometown!). Follow @Tanyisms & @Tanya.Alexander on Instagram.



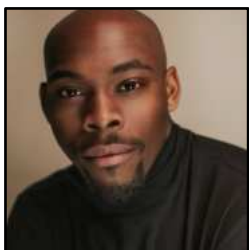
ABEL GARCIA (Mr. Smith) was born and raised in El Paso, Texas where he received his BFA in Theatre Performance from UT El Paso in 2016. Shortly after, he moved to Southern California and received his MFA in Acting from the University of California, Irvine in spring 2021. Abel is an actor as well as a part-time theatre instructor at the Orange County School of The Arts (OCSA). He currently lives in Anaheim with his wife Miriam and their cat Francesco. Abel is

thrilled to be a part of The Story of Bidy Mason again. Thank you, Mom, Dad, Miriam and Eric, for your continuous love and support. Abel will be performing in the New Swan Shakespeare Festival this summer in Irvine, CA as Angelo (*Measure for Measure*) and Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*). Most recent credits include Brutus (*Julius Caesar*), Ralph D (*The Motherf***er With the Hat*), Abel (*Complete Works of William Shakespeare*), Touchstone (*As You Like It*), Dromio of Ephesus (*Comedy of Errors*), Peter- (*Silent Sky*), Pale (*Burn This*).

WHO'S WHO



MARY HILL (Biddy Mason) is a dedicated actor and educator with a passion for the arts that shines both on and off the stage. Graduating with her MFA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine in 2023, Mary has honed her craft and developed a deep commitment to storytelling and performance. Her love for the arts extends beyond acting, encompassing a strong enthusiasm for arts education. Mary is incredibly honored to be playing the role of Biddy Mason, a character whose inspiring story resonates deeply with her. Bringing Biddy's narrative to life has been a profound experience, and Mary is thrilled to share this journey with audiences. When she's not on stage, Mary channels her creativity into teaching her cat Spooki amusing "dog" tricks and mixing music under her DJ persona, DJ SMOURZ. This unique blend of interests highlights her animated personality and diverse talents. She hopes to continue to walk on the path of the Arts in the future and wants to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support along the way! Marymariehill.com



WESLEY T. JONES (Charlie Owens) is a stage and television actor born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where he began his acting journey at Cass Technical High School. He would then go on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Carnegie Mellon University's Conservatory Acting Program, and since graduating he's landed roles in shows like *Chicago PD*, *Bull*, *Blue Bloods*, and Part Three of Ava DuVernay's Netflix original series *When They See Us*.

Theatrically, Jones has done several regional and off-broadway staged works, most proud to have revived Anna Devereaux Smith's *'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992'* at New York's Signature Theatre in 2021, which was remounted in 2022 by Harvard's American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Most recently, Wesley starred in the world premiere of Adrienne Kennedy's *Etta and Ella On The Upper West Side* at REDCAT in Downtown Los Angeles, directed by Monty Cole. He is thrilled to take part in the telling of Biddy Mason's life story, in collaboration with Fountain Theatre and Inner-City Arts.

WHO'S WHO



LESLIE LANK (Mrs. Smith) is originally from Chicago and holds an MFA in Acting from UC Irvine and a BA in Theatre & English Lit from Butler University. Favorite regional performance credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Henry V* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), *The Madwoman of Chailot* (A Noise Within), *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Richard II* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet* (New Swan Shakespeare Festival). Her wide-ranging work in LA includes improv & sketch comedy, indie film, and numerous national commercial campaigns. Leslie is currently an adjunct faculty member at AMDA College of the Performing Arts and Moorpark College.



ALEXANDER QUIÑONESIS (Pio Pico) is a classically-trained actor with a degree in Theatre and History from Northwestern. Originally hailing from Denver, he has appeared on stages across the country (including DC's Kennedy Center and Chicago's Goodman Theatre) and is delighted to call Los Angeles home now. If you want to talk to him about LA history - please do! When he isn't acting, Alex leads wilderness backpacking tours, writes, cooks, and produces comedy podcasts. @AlexanderPGQ



KAYLA QUIROZ (Mother / Mrs. Aston) Regional: *Real Women Have Curves*- World Premiere (Ana U/S and Swing) American Repertory Theatre; *The Comedy of Errors* (Luciana) New Swan Shakespeare Festival; *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* (Thaliard/Lychorida/Bawd) New Swan Shakespeare Festival; *Tarzan* (Ensemble and Mother U/S) Moonlight Stage. TV/Film: *Top Voices* (Alejandra Kim, Series Regular) USC School of Cinematic Arts. Educational Performances: *RENT* (Mimi Marquez, Nominated for Best Young Actor in the Orange Curtain Review); *Next To Normal* (Natalie Goodman). Education: University of California, Irvine B.F.A. in Musical Theatre with Honors in Acting, Awarded Chancellor's Award of Distinction and Academic Honors. Kayla also wants to give a special thanks to her parents, Erica, Charlie, Cameron, and Christopher for their unconditional love and support.

CREATIVE TEAM



KAITLYN CRAMER (Stage Management) is thrilled to be part of the *Biddy Mason* team as Production Stage Manager after previously managing the staged reading of the show at The Autry Museum. Prior to *Biddy*, Kaitlyn spent nearly two years on the road as the Touring Stage Manager for the immersive theatrical production of Netflix's *Stranger Things: The Experience*, and recently remounted the production earlier this year in São Paulo, Brazil. Other previous credits include *Freight: The Five Incarnations of Abel Green* at The Fountain Theatre, *Arcane: Enter the Undercity* in collaboration with Secret Cinema and Riot Games, *Love, Me* a new one woman musical, and Assistant Stage Managing for the Canva Create 2024 Keynote at the YouTube Theatre.



MORGAN EMBRY (Video Design) is a production designer, creative director, and dancer currently based in Los Angeles, California. She received her BA in Dance from The University of Alabama and her MFA in Lighting Design from the University of California, Irvine. She designs for dance and theatre, acting as resident lighting designer for Willing Kompany and Festival Ballet Theatre, and projection designer for CounterBalance Theater. She is also a production designer for live music; Vance Joy, Bryce Vine, Beabadoobee, Ashnikko, and SWISS being among the list of wonderful collaborators she gets to regularly create with. Morgan is excited for this opportunity to collaborate with fellow artists and creators. www.morganembry.com



AERIK S. HARBERT (Sound Design) is an LA based sound designer, audio engineer, educator and graduate of the UCI MFA in Sound Design. Coming from Maryland, Aerik has worked up and down the East Coast at numerous theatre companies such as the Hangar Theatre Company, Totem Pole Playhouse, and Baltimore Center Stage. This will be Aerik's third production of *Biddy Mason*, serving as the assistant sound designer in the first production, now working to integrate the design into the latest iteration with some additional original design. Some of his favorite past productions include *The Revolutionists*, *Xanadu*, *This Is On Fire*, *Far Away*, and *Indeterminacy*. When he isn't working on a project, Aerik can usually be found playing video games or streaming a new TV series. He also enjoys his weekly D&D game, and always says he'd like to go hiking more often but rarely does.

CREATIVE TEAM



NATHAN JAMES (Theater Education Manager) is a proud native of Pittsburgh, where he began his career with KuntuRepertory Theater. He received a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.F.A from Penn State University, where he also served as an instructor in the Fundamentals of Acting. With over twenty years in arts education, he started out as a teaching artist for the Pittsburgh C.L.O. While living in New York, he taught stage combat for the McCarter Theater at Princeton University,

and screenwriting for Urban Arts Partnership and HBO (MAX). Nathan is one of the seven playwrights who contributed to the New Black Festival's 'Hands Up: Seven Playwrights, Seven Testaments,' which was featured in American Theater Magazine and on BBC Radio, with his specific piece chosen as BBC Radio's Play of the Week. Theater Credits: Off-Broadway: *Travisville* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Playing with Fire* (Gene Frankel Theatre), *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* (St. Luke's Theatre). NY: *Maid's Door* (Billy Holiday Theatre). Film/TV credits: *Standing Up*, *Falling Down* (Tilted Windmill Productions), *Madam Secretary* (CBS), *Shades of Blue* (NBC), *Quantico* (ABC), *Blindspot* (NBC), *VINYL* (HBO), *Person of Interest* (CBS), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *The Path* (Hulu), *Service to Man* (STARZ).



ANNIE LOUI (Director & Choreographer) works as a director/choreographer, and is the Artistic Director of *CounterBalance Theater*. She trained with dancer Carolyn Carlson (at the Paris Opera), and studied in France with Etienne Decroux, Ella Jaroszewicz and Jerzy Grotowski. Original physical theater pieces have been seen in France, Monaco, Germany, Italy, at the Edinburgh Festival, and in the United States at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, among other venues. She has choreographed for the American

Repertory Theater, Boston; Trinity Repertory Theater, the Orchestra of St Lukes NYC, South Coast Repertory Theater, and off-Broadway for the Signature Theater. Annie's book [The Physical Actor](#) was published by Routledge Press; 2nd edition 2019. She runs the Movement Program for the MFA Actor Training at UC Irvine. <http://counterbalancetheater.com>



W. ALEJANDRO MELENDEZ (Lighting Design) is a first-generation Latiné designer working in theatre, opera, and live events. Recent credits include a disability-affirmative production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream for Phamaly Theatre Company* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and the West Coast premiere of *Dutch Masters* at the Odyssey Theatre. Alejandro is a 2024 USITT Emerging Creative, a 2023 ETC Fred Foster Mentee, a 2023 Wally Russell Lighting Design Intern for LA Opera, and was

selected for the 2023 Latinx Theatre Commons Colaboratorio. To connect with Alejandro and see more of his work, find him on Instagram @wamelendez

CREATIVE TEAM



JACOB NGUYEN (Assistant Projection Design) is a freelance designer based in Orange County. Primarily a lighting designer, Jacob often delves into the realm of Projections and Video design. Recent credits include *Mars or Die!*, *Turn of the Screw*, *A Phantom Tollbooth*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Red Demon*. Born and raised in Orange County, Jacob has worked in venues such as Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, South Coast Repertory, The Broad Stage, Irvine

Barclay Theater, Costa Mesa Playhouse, and Long Beach Playhouse. He is a recent graduate from the University of California, Irvine from 2024, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Drama. A more complete design portfolio can be found at www.jdnlighting.com.



DANYELE THOMAS (Costume Design) is thrilled to officially be a part of the Fountain Theatre family. She is an accomplished Los Angeles-based Costume Designer, Assistant Costume Designer, Wardrobe Stylist, and Jewelry Designer with design credits and collaborations with the Pasadena Playhouse, Los Angeles Opera, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Robey Theatre Company, and others.

This project would not be possible without the generous support from

The University of California, Irvine
Inner-City Arts
Victor Leo Walker, II
Charles Floyd Johnson
CHARTOR Entertainment LLC
Nannie E. Johnson Trust
Earline Battle

Fountain for Youth is the Fountain Theatre's arts education umbrella that includes Fountain Voices, which provides students in underserved schools with the opportunity to tell their own stories while engaging with each other through acting games and writing exercises and Walking the Beat, a groundbreaking community-building program that sees cops and kids working together to create theater.