

PLAYERS BY THE SEA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

TARZAN®

THE STAGE MUSICAL

BASED ON THE *Disney* FILM

MUSIC & LYRICS BY PHIL COLLINS
BOOK BY DAVID HENRY HWANG

Adapted from the story "Tarzan of the Apes" by Edgar Rice Burroughs
Originally Produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions

TARZAN® owned by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.

DIRECTED BY MIKE BEAMAN MUSIC DIRECTION BY ANTHONY FELTON CHOREOGRAPHY BY EMMA CATE DAVIS

**PLAYERS
BY THE SEA**

JULY 12 - 28, 2024



UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

NEXT UP

THE **REVOLUTIONISTS**

September 13 - 22, 2024

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SUMMER THE DONNA SUMMER MUSICAL

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THE CAST

TARZAN	Chris Berry
JANE	Abigail Douglas
KALA	Jocelyn Geronimo
KERCHAK	Jeremy Obach
TERK	Elijah Simms
PORTER	Dave Gowan
CLAYTON	Christopher Watson
YOUNG TARZAN	Elijah Lawless
ENSEMBLE	Gray Jensen, Abby Doyle, Courteney Phillips, Ava Chung, Savannah Lawless, Darvin Nelson, Ethan Walls, Michael Dunne

THE CREATIVE TEAM & CREW

DIRECTOR	Mike Beaman
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Anthony Felton
CHOREOGRAPHER	Emma Cate Davis
STAGE MANAGER	Bethany Powell
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Darryl Beamon
SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER	Jereme Raickett
COSTUME DESIGNER	Tracy Olin
WIG STYLIST	Phedre Delinois
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Ben Sparenberg
SOUND DESIGN & ENGINEERING	GoldenStage Solutions
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STAGEHAND	Alyssa Green
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Judy Gookin
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Jax Beach Brunch Haus
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ABOUT THE COMPANY

CHRIS BERRY (Tarzan) is elated to be joining his fellow castmates in bringing this beloved story to life in our jungle. A biomedical engineer by trade, Chris has performed professionally in Greenville, SC during his studies at Clemson University. In Jacksonville, you may have seen him in (much less acrobatic) shows like *Murder Ballad*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *The Toxic Avenger*, *Violet*, and *The Wild Party*. Much love to his incredible wife Joanna and baby Emerson. Thank you for letting Dad play and be silly with others.

ABIGAIL DOUGLAS (Jane) is thrilled to be back on the stage at Players by the Sea! She is an incoming sophomore at the Hartt School, getting her BFA degree in Musical Theatre. You could have seen her around town at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in *Seussical*, *Sound of Music*, and *Elf*, at FSCJ in *Cinderella*, or here at PBTS in *Ruthless!* Her favorite credits include Winnie Foster in *Tuck Everlasting* and Ensemble in *Rock of Ages* in Michigan last summer. This has been the most wonderful experience to be able to perform again and would like to thank the entire production team for making this show possible.

JEREMY OBACH (Kerchak) is thrilled to return to the musical theatre stage for the first time since high school, reigniting a passion that has been simmering for years. Prior to Tarzan, Jeremy dedicated five years to serving in the Navy, a journey that broadened his horizons and deepened his appreciation for teamwork and discipline. Now, as he steps back into the spotlight, bringing a wealth of life experience and a renewed enthusiasm for the art of storytelling. He is excited to share this performance as Kerchak with you and hopes it will be as inspiring for you as it is for him.

JOCELYN GERONIMO (Kala) is a Florida native and grew up in Atlantic Beach. She's excited to be back on the Players stage after a long hiatus from performing & directing. She is the founder of SET Studios, a children's theatre for kids ages 4-17, and also teaches dance at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. She enjoys directing and choreographing for both community and professional theatres in town, as well as, for the NFL Alumni Jacksonville Chapter where she stays active with the Jaguars Alumni. Jocelyn would like to thank her entire family for their continuous love & support! @SET-Studios

ELIJAH SIMMS (Terk/Dance Captain) has been acting and singing since he was young and has always had a love for musical theatre. Elijah is overjoyed to be performing in *Tarzan*. You may have seen him in: *Chicago* (Douglas Anderson) *West Side Story*, *The Addams Family* (Players

by the Sea), as Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* (Saltwater Performing Arts Center), and as Papa Ge *Once on This Island* (Douglas Anderson).

DAVID GOWAN (Porter) Most recently, David has performed in seven musicals at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining, including such shows as *Footloose*, *42nd Street*, *Music Man*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Sound of Music*. David's community theatre experience is extensive, with 30+ shows in the Jacksonville area spanning over 30 years. His connection to PBTS is strong, having served as Board President, as well as being involved in many fundraising projects for our beaches theatre. Kudos to the staff, cast and crew of *Tarzan* for retelling this dynamic classic story. And, finally, thanks go to my beautiful wife, Victoria, for her constant love and support.

CHRISTOPHER WATSON (Clayton) is excited to be back on the Players by the Sea stage! He was last seen here as the narrator in *Alabama Story*. If you just can't get enough of me, be sure to check out Lumen Rep Theater's *ShakesBeer* tour happening at local breweries around town until November. He hopes you enjoy the show!

ELIJAH LAWLESS (Young Tarzan) is elated to have the opportunity to play Young Tarzan in his first production at PBTS. He has been featured in theatre shows, movies, commercials and modeling since he was 7 days old, but this is his first named role. He thanks Mike, the whole team, and all of his castmates for being so supportive and allowing him to work alongside them to tell this beautiful story. His hope is that one day someone writes a musical that features a Nerf War, so he can combine his two favorite things.

MICHAEL DUNNE (Snipes/Ensemble) is returning, after a 5 year break, to theatre. He's excited to get back to his roots (i.e. his old passions), and do so with such a meaningful show. He'd like to say 'thank you' to Players by the Sea for giving him this opportunity, and welcoming Him into their (PBTS) space. To his fellow cast & crew, Michael would like to say "E-e-ooo-e HUH".

GRAY JENSEN (Ensemble) is in the ensemble and will be attending Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in the fall as a freshman focusing on performance theatre. This is his debut show at Players by the Sea. Previous performances at Fletcher Middle School include *High School Musical* and *Once Upon a Mattress* in which he played a principal role. In addition to theatre, Gray enjoys playing the piano and doing aerial silks.

ABBY DOYLE (Ensemble) is an aspiring actress whose dream is to make it on Broadway! In her

ABOUT THE COMPANY

free time she enjoys playing beach volleyball, coaching youth softball, and working with the young children at her church. She would like to thank her entire family for always being in full support of her dreams and always encouraging her to work towards whatever she wants to accomplish. She will be joining Douglas Anderson School of the Arts next year and is excited to continue working in performance there. She hopes you enjoy the show and cannot wait to be part of more!

COURTENAY PHILLIPS (Ensemble) is excited to be back on stage at Players by the Sea. Previously seen in *Winter Wonderettes* as Suzy at PBTS, Courtenay is grateful for getting another opportunity to perform at this wonderful theatre. Some other credits include *Miracle Worker* (Kate Keller), *Play On* (Violet), *Night of January 16th* (Karen Andre), and *Southern Fried Funeral* (Harlene Frye). She would like to thank her family, friends, her husband Justin for being her biggest supporters and Mike for giving her this opportunity.

AVA CHUNG (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is a junior at Douglas Anderson. You may have seen her in DA's productions as Abigail in the *Crucible* or as Masha in *The Seagull*. She also performed in *The Music Man* at Alhambra Theatre & Dining, and as Wednesday Addams in Players By the Sea's *The Addams Family*. She would like to thank her parents and teachers for the amazing support.

SAVANNAH LAWLESS (Ensemble) is excited to make her debut performance at PBTS in *Tarzan*. After a break from theatre to focus on academics and career, she returns to the stage excited to perform alongside her younger brother once again. Favorite past credits include *Matilda* (Miss Honey), *Footloose* (Ariel Moore), *Newsies* (Katherine) in local community theatre, as well as professional roles at Alhambra Theatre & Dining and The Wick Theatre. She thanks Mike and team for such a fun opportunity, and her pup daughter Zephyr Sun for making certain she glitters with white fluffy sparkles everywhere she goes.

DARVIN NELSON (Ensemble) Jacksonville, FL native Darvin Nelson is thrilled to join *Tarzan* as his second show with Players by the Sea. He made his musical theatre debut earlier this year in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, as one of The Drifters. He is an actor, singer, song-writer and producer who performs in the Jacksonville open-mic circuit. Darvin has also worked in multiple local short films and projects, such as *Blood Reckoning* (2023), *Break the Broom* (2020), and a few other local film festival projects. When he's not on-stage or on-camera, he's behind one working

as a photographer. Now a college graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Darvin is diving into the world of arts and entertainment and hopes to tell beautiful stories for as long as he can.

ETHAN WALLS (Ensemble) is proud to be making his debut with Players by the Sea! He was last seen as Bobby in Greenlight Theatre Co.'s production of *Cabaret* on the Mainstage! Most notable credits include *Snoopy The Musical* (Woodstock/Stage Manager), *Miracle Worker* (Jack Keller), *Seussical* (Ensemble), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Harvey Johnson). He also sings with the FSCJ Vocal ensembles and studies voice under Lisa Lockhart. "A huge thank you to my family, friends, and my partner for their never-ending love and support! And to the cast and crew for making this an incredible experience!"

PHIL COLLINS (Music & Lyrics) One of today's most popular vocalists, songwriters and performers, and has been hailed as one of the best drummers in the world. Collins has won seven GRAMMY® Awards and released solo albums with sales totaling more than 70 million copies. Among his accomplishments in film, he contributed songs to the GRAMMY® winning soundtrack of Disney's film, *TARZAN®*, including "You'll Be in My Heart, which was nominated for a GRAMMY® and won the Academy Award® and Golden Globe® for Best Song. Most recently, Collins wrote six songs and made his film-score composing debut (in collaboration with Mark Mancina) on Disney's Brother Bear and also composed the score for *TARZAN® II*. His 25 years with Genesis as drummer and singer resulted in another 130 million records sold, and factoring in his work with Brand X and a gallery of star groups and performers (including Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant, Eric Clapton, Brian Eno, Robert Fripp, John Cale, Quincy Jones, and Tony Bennett). Collins has left his mark on some 250 million records worldwide. His hit songs include "In the Air Tonight," "One More Night," "Subsidio," "Take Me Home," "Another Day in Paradise" and two other Oscar®-nominated songs: "Against All Odds and the Golden Globe®-winning "Two Hearts." Phil's catalog has proved to be hugely popular with hip hop and R&B artists who continuously cover his songs. Among his other accomplishments, Collins fulfilled a lifetime ambition by touring with his own 20-piece big band, which made its debut in London's Royal Albert Hall in the company of conductor Quincy Jones and vocalist Tony Bennett. In 1981 Collins embarked on a solo career as well as continuing in his role as front man and drummer with Genesis. His solo albums include Face Value, Hello, Must Be Going, No Jacket Required, ...But Seriously; Serious Hits... Live, Both Sides, Dance Into the Light; Hits: Hot Night in Paris and Testify. Collins

ABOUT THE COMPANY

most recently completed his successful Find Farewell Tour, playing to more than one million people in 25 countries.

DAVID HENRY HWANG (Book) Awarded the 1988 Tony®, Drama Desk Outer Critics and John Gassner Awards for his Broadway debut, *M. Butterfly*, which was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. For his play *Golden Child*, he received a 1998 Tony® nomination and a 1997 Obie Award. His new book for the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical *Flower Drum Song* earned him his third Tony® nomination in 2003. He was also a book writer on Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*. Hwang's other plays include *FOB* (1981 Obie Award), *The Dance and the Railroad*, *Family Devotions*, *The Sound of a Voice* and *Bondage*. His opera libretti include three works for composer Philip Glass – *1000 Airplanes on the Roof*, *The Voyage* and *The Sound of a Voice* – as well as *The Silver River* with music by Bright Sheng and Amoramor with Osvaldo Golijov. Hwang penned the feature films *M. Butterfly*, *Golden Gate* and *Possession* (co-writer) and co-wrote the song “Solo” with composer/performer Prince. His new play, *Fellow Face*, will premiere next season. Hwang serves on the Dramatists Guild Council.

MIKE BEAMAN (Director) is on the Performance & Technical Theatre Faculty at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, most recently directing *Crucible*. Mike has worked in NYC, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Florida as an actor, director and educator. Favorite roles as an actor include Emcee in *Cabaret* (Limelight Theatre), Squidward in the *Spongebob Musical* (Players by the Sea) and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Orlando Shakes). Mike sits on the State Board of the Florida Thespian Festival of the Educational Theatre Association, representing Northeast Florida as District Chair. As a theatre educator, Mike has been recognized by the National YoungArts Foundation (2020) and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC (2015 Distinguished Director of a Play Award for *Endgame* at Flagler College).

ANTHONY FELTON (Music Director) A native of Jacksonville Florida, pianist/vocalist Anthony Jerrod Felton is acclaimed for his performances with both Vocal and Instrumental colleagues alike throughout the east coast. Anthony Felton began his professional studies at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts under the tutelage of Russian pianist Vera Watson. Mr. Felton is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he holds both Bachelor and Master Degrees. While pursuing his master's degree under the wing and tutelage of Canadian pianist Dr. Allison Gagnon, he served as staff accompanist

for the Alabama State Concerto Competition, mock audition accompanist for the Fletcher Opera Institute, and accompanist for the North Carolina district Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Anthony has had the privilege of serving as Musical Director for the Broadway Musicals throughout the years and is grateful for the path his musical career has taken him. *Fame, Annie, The Color Purple, Smokey Joe Café, Nonsense, Bye Bye Birdie, Joseph and the Amazing Techno-colored Dream Coat, Bingo, 13 the musical, Miracle on 34th Street, Title of Show* to name a few. Recently, he was just awarded Outstanding Music Director at the 2024 Applause Awards.

EMMA CATE DAVIS (Choreographer) is thrilled to be choreographing her first show here at PBTS! Other choreography credits include *Tuck Everlasting* (Limelight Theatre); *First Date* (Limelight Theatre); *Money from Cabaret* (District 2 Student Choreography Critics Choice Winner 2024); & many other musical pieces! Emma Cate is also a performer, recently receiving a Jimmy Award Nomination for her role as *Natasha in Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812*. She graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in May and is headed to Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the fall to receive her BFA in Musical Theatre. She sends many thanks and much gratitude to Mr. Beaman for this opportunity and her mom for all her love and support.

BETHANY POWELL (Stage Manager) is delighted to be making her PBTS debut! She recently stage managed *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday* and *POTUS* at The 5 & Dime. She is a Douglas Anderson Theater alumni and is currently studying English Education at the University of North Florida. She is also on staff at Mandarin Baptist Church. Bethany has been surrounded by theater and music her whole life and enjoys being on stage and behind the scenes. She would like to thank Mike Beaman for this opportunity, as well as her family for supporting her passions.

ALYSSA GREEN (Stagehand) has been in love with theatre since she was a child and participated in musical productions in middle and high school. After a break while beginning college, Alyssa is excited to participate in her first local production at *Players by the Sea*.



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FEATURED ARTISTS:

Ray Richter

Sky Davis

Black Rozz the Artist

William R. Bowers

Matthew Harper

Rachel the Chaos Pixie

Jared Seth Carpenter (aka Dr. FreakShow)

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Ellen Golombek	Chris Orellana	Rabbi Mark Wieder
Harry Graham	JoAnn Parnell	Elizabeth Woods
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**as of July 11, 2024*

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