



BURNING
COAL
THEATRE
COMPANY

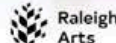
RIDE THE CYCLONE

Part of Burning Coal's Second Stage Series

**Music & Lyrics by
Brooke Maxwell & Jacob Richmond**

Book by Jacob Richmond

Directed by Jireh Ijeoma



Pure Life Theatre, Revolutionary Voices Theatre, & Burning Coal Present

RIDE THE CYCLONE

Music & Lyrics by Brook Maxwell & Jacob Richmond

Book by Jacob Richmond

STARRING

Autumn Clark Rebecca Hodge River Mann
Marian Matos Mason Miller
Aliya McCryndle Dan Rajaratnam

PRODUCTION TEAM

Musical Director
Sky Symonds

Stage Manager
Janaya Farrar

Assistant Stage Manager
Rayne Hooks

Sound Designer
James Woodhouse

Costume/Prop Designer
Jennifer Ijeoma

Costume/Prop Designer Mentee
Jady Farrar

Set Designers/Build Team
Deb Royals
Wendell Scott

Scenic Design Mentee
Emily Uwabor

Choreographer
Aya Wallace

Assistant Choreographer
Hannah Ackman

Marketing
Tiffani Staten

Marketing Mentee
Neveah Brown

Producer
Verlene Oates

Directed by
Jireh Ijeoma

Produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing (www.broadwaylicensing.com)



**PURE LIFE THEATRE &
REVOLUTIONARY VOICES**

The *Disney*
Jungle Book **KIDS**

SUMMER CAMP 2025

June 16-July 6, 2025

**Camp Info.
June 16 – July 3**

**Performance Info.
July 5 & 6, 2025**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

RIDE THE CYCLONE

A Part of Burning Coal Theatre's Second Stage Series

A NOTE

As a college student and emerging artist, directing this production with Revolutionary Voices Theatre—Pure Life Theatre's platform for young and emerging voices—has been a deeply transformative experience. This show is a reminder of the fierce honesty, vulnerability, and hope that live in the hearts of young people. Centering themes like identity, loss, belonging, and the desire to be seen, it speaks directly to anyone who's ever felt overlooked or misunderstood. Collaborating with such a passionate and fearless ensemble has reminded me that young voices don't just echo—they ignite, challenge, and transform.

We are truly thankful for Burning Coal's invitation to showcase young storytellers like us. Thank YOU, audience, for witnessing our work and, in doing so, affirming that the next generation has something vital to say. This show says: You are not alone. Your voice matters. And even in the face of uncertainty, your story is worth telling.

Aşę,

Jireh Ijeoma



RIDE THE CYCLONE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

OCEAN O'CONNELL ROSENBERG..... AUTUMN CLARK
JANE DOEREBECCA HODGE
NOEL GRUBERRIVER MANN
RICKY POTTS MARIAN MATOS
MISCHA BACHINSKI MASON MILLER
CONSTANCE BLACKWOOD ALIYA MCCRYNDLE
THE AMAZING KARNAK DAN RAJARATNAM

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- 1.Karnak's Dream of Life
- 2.Welcome...
- 3.The Uranium Suite (includes "Uranium" and "Minor Turn")
- 4.Meet Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg
- 5.What the World Needs
- 6.Meet Noel Gruber
- 7.Noel's Lament
- 8.Every Story's Got A Lesson
- 9.This Song Is Awesome
- 10.Talia
- 11.Meet Ricky Potts
- 12.Space Age Bachelor Man
- 13.Meet Jane Doe
- 14.The Ballad of Jane Doe
- 15.The New Birthday Song
- 16.Jawbreaker
- 17.Sugar Cloud
- 18.It's Not A Game/It's Just A Ride

Ride the Cyclone is a 90-minute thrill ride with no stops and no intermission.
Buckle up and enjoy the journey.

CAST BIOS



Autumn Clark
(Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg)

Autumn Clark is a Meredith alum ('25) who is so excited to make her Pure Life debut! Recent credits include a Diva in "DIVAS" (Raleigh Little Theatre), Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing" (Meredith College) and Liv, in "Committed! The Musical" (Meredith College). She couldn't do anything without the support of her parents, peers, partner, or pet, so all her love to them. Thank you for supporting local theatre and enjoy the show!



Rebecca Hodge
(Jane Doe)

Rebecca Hodge is eternally grateful to join this team for the ride of a lifetime! She is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist with experience in directing, performance, dramaturgy, and playwriting. Recent projects include directing Carousel (Drop Spindle), dramaturgy for Sonia Flew (Cary Players), assistant directing Between the Lines (NRACT), and starring as Fiona in Brigadoon (Cary Players). She received a BFA in Dramaturgy from Carnegie Mellon University, and looks forward to returning later this year to pursue a Master's Degree in Arts Management.



River Mann
(Noel Gruber)

River Mann is an emerging actor and performer in the Raleigh area, he has recently appeared in productions like Cinderella 40 at Raleigh Little Theatre (Prince), Much Ado About Nothing at Meredith College (Claudio), and Divas! 2025 at RLT. He will also be making his debut into the world of professional theatre in ONCE at Burning Coal in the fall. River is incredibly excited to be playing one of his dream roles in this production. All his thanks go out to the entire production team and fellow cast members for helping to bring this wacky but beautiful story to life. Please enjoy the show, and be sure to Ride The Cyclone. Bonsoir!

CAST BIOS



Marian Matos (They/He)
(Ricky Potts/Dance Captain)

Marian Matos is grateful for the opportunity to play Ricky in Pure Life's production of Ride the Cyclone! RTC is one of their favorite shows and he is thrilled to be apart of this talented cast! They have performed with a variety of community theaters in the Triad area with shows such as; Rent, Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Newsies. He has over a decade of experience in performing arts including ballet! He would like to thank all of his friend and family for their support. They're just a swinging, space age, bachelor man!



Mason Miller
(Mischa Bachinski)

Hello! My name is Mason Miller and I am so excited to be part of the Ride the Cyclone cast as the role of Mischa. I've been doing theater for a couple years now, but this is my first time doing a show with this group and it's been a blast! I am super excited for everyone to see this show, it's going to be a great one!



Aliya McCryndle
(Constance Blackwood)

Aliya is an eighteen year old freshman at William Peace University. She has worked with the Pure Life Company before in their previous 2024 production of "The Motown Sound of Christmas" & "Bright Star Star" and hopes that this show will help broaden her theatrical horizon and help her become more adjusted to the acting world.

CAST BIOS



Dan Rajaratnam
(The Amazing Karnak)

Dan is a passionate young theatre performer whose love for performing grows with every performance. He is excited to be making his debut with Pure Life Theatre Company. Previous credits include Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia*, Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma*, and King Triton in *The Little Mermaid*. You will soar to new heights, be sure to enjoy the show.

ABOUT THE CAST

The cast of Ride the Cyclone brings together an extraordinary group of emerging artists—actors, dancers, directors, writers, and storytellers—each lending their unique voice to this powerful ensemble production. From first-time performers to seasoned young artists with years of experience, their combined energy fuels this thrilling, emotional ride. With passion, curiosity, and courage, they invite you to explore the big questions of life, loss, and legacy... all aboard a rollercoaster that's as strange as it is unforgettable.

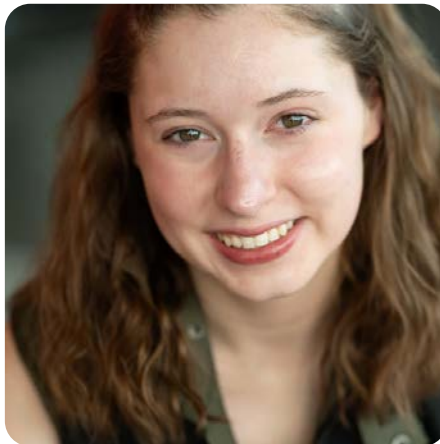


TEAM BIOS



Jireh Ijeoma
(Director)

An 18-year-old college student, Jireh Ijeoma has performed with several Raleigh-Triangle theaters. Notable roles include Anthony (I and You, Burning Coal Theatre), Emmett Till (The Face of Emmett Till, Pure Life Theatre), and Ziggy (Bob Marley's Three Little Birds, Raleigh Little Theatre). He is passionate about theater and fostering youth voices, co-developing a leadership team for young creatives of color. Jireh continues to explore and develop his craft on stage.



Hannah Ackman
(Assistant Choreographer)

This is Hannah's first show with Revolutionary Voices! Credits include: Dial M for Murder (UT), Bright Star (PureLife), Carousel (Drop Spindle), Brigadoon (CaryPlayers), and A Christmas Carol (TIP). Hannah wants to thank her parents and sister who always encourage and support her passions.



Neveah Brown
(Marketing Mentee)

Nevaeh Brown is a senior at Knightdale High School. She enjoys drawing, writing, and watching movies. One of her favorite movies is Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure. Nevaeh started theatre in middle school and has been involved ever since. Theatre has become a huge part of her life! She was recently in her school's production of Hometown: Teen Edition. Nevaeh has also been in the International Thespian Society for two years. She is currently the president for her troupe. She is thrilled to be involved in Ride the Cyclone. She helped market and advertise on social media platforms. Her favorite song from the show is "Noel's Lament".

TEAM BIOS



Jady Farrar
(Costume/Props Mentee)

Janaya is thrilled to serve as Stage Manager for this production of Ride the Cyclone. She brings a wealth of experience in stage management, with credits including Radio Golf, Motown, and Loving at Pure Life Theatre; Bud, Not Buddy, Into the Breeches, and Peace of Clay at Theatre Raleigh; and A Soldier's Play with The Justice Theatre Project. In addition to her work behind the scenes, Janaya has appeared on stage in Black Nativity and The Color Purple at The Justice Theatre Project. She also has extensive experience in lighting and sound design. Her technical credits include productions with Pure Life Theatre (The Face of Emmett Till, Fences, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, She Persisted), Theatre Raleigh (ASBX Live, NC Playwrights Lab, Twist of Jazz, Bull Durham, Deconstructing, National music Theatre Foundry, and more), and Starbright Theatre (The Lion King Kids), among others.



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(Stage Manager)

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TEAMBIO



Rayne Hooks
(Assistant Stage Manager)

Janaya is thrilled to serve as Stage Manager for this production of Ride the Cyclone. She brings a wealth of experience in stage management, with credits including Radio Golf, Motown, and Loving The Wedding Singer, The Face of Emmett Till, Fences, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Motown, and Jitney. A recent graduate of North Wake College & Career Academy, Rayne is now pursuing a career in the medical field. When she's not immersed in theatre, she enjoys reading and dancing.



Jennifer Ijeoma
(Costume/Props Designer/ Program Manager)

Jennifer Ijeoma is excited to be working on Ride the Cyclone. Jennifer works alongside the leadership of Pure Life Theatre Company as the managing director of Revolutionary Voices Theatre Company. Her love for the arts has propelled her to dive more into costuming the theatre world. Jennifer has costumed Being Chaka, The Motown Sounds of Christmas, Fences, MaRainey's Black Bottom, She Persisted, Hymn, Home and Jitney. She has created costumes for Burning Coal Theatre, Pure Life Theater and Revolutionary Voices summer camps production of Newsies, Beauty and the Beast Jr, and Willie Wonka Jr. Jennifer has worked in education for 27 years and strongly advocates for the NAACP's ACT-SO program.



Verlene Oates
(Producer/Producing Manager)

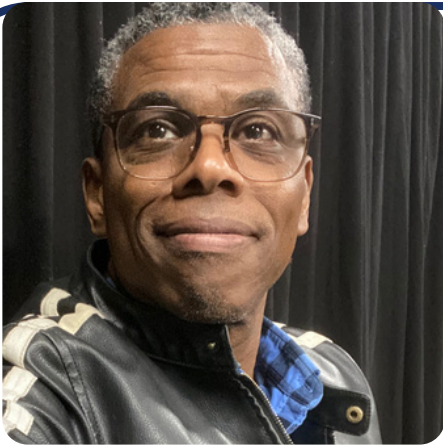
Verlene is the Producing Manager for Pure Life Theatre and Revolutionary Voices Theatre. She is the proud Nana of four adorable young people. She loves live theater and has performed with Pure Life Theatre, Justice Theater Project, Garner Towne Players, Women's Theatre, MOJOAA, Raleigh Little Theater, DL Production, NC State University Theatre and Li V Mahon. She is excited to pull double-duty as a member of the ensemble as well as a producer.

TEAM BIOS



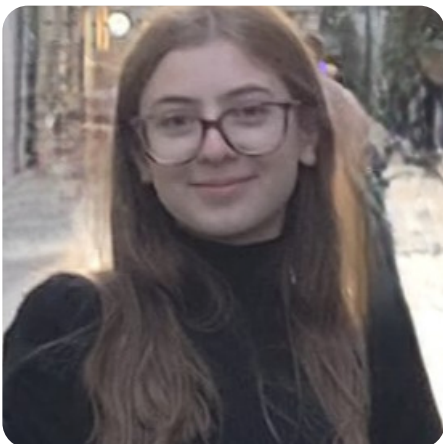
Deb Royals
(Scenic Designer/Build Team)

Deb is honored to serve as part of the Core Leadership for Pure Life Theatre Company, which is dedicated to exploring and nourishing truth, hope, redemption, and love through the power of storytelling. She is proud to support Revolutionary Voices Youth Theatre, Pure Life's emerging artist initiative, which empowers young performers to shift norms and inspire change through theatre and performance. Deb is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of her husband, Joe, and cherishes their three sons—Danny, Noah, and Eli—beyond words.



Wendell Scott
(Scenic Designer/Build Team)

Wendell is excited to work with Pure Life again. He is an experienced bass and lead guitar player and enjoys playing all types of music. Wendell is a master carpenter and loves woodworking. He currently works as an IT professional.



Emily Parris
(House Manager/Accessibility Coordinator)

Emily is a junior Psychology and Anthropology major at William Peace University and eventually hopes to get her Master's in Social Work. She has been with Pure Life Theatre since September 2024, working on shows including Three Little Birds, Jitney, and Bright Star. When not in the theatre, she can be found hiking with her Mastiff puppy, Bonnie.

TEAM BIOS



Tiffani Staten

(Marketing Project Manager/Graphic Designer)

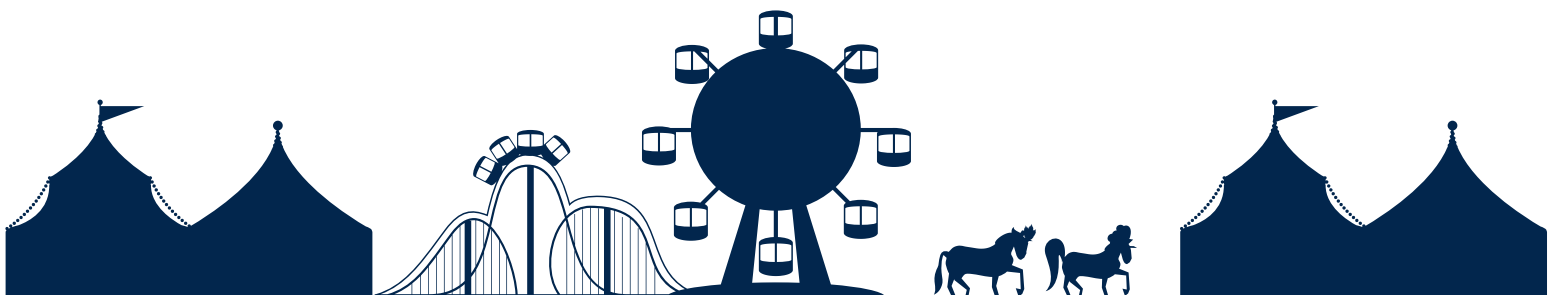
Tiffani brings two decades of theatrical expertise to August Wilson's *Jitney*. As a veteran stage manager, she has shepherded productions across the country, including previous stagings of *Jitney* and *King Hedley II* at Ensemble Theatre, Robert Townsend's Musical Theatre of Hope for Gospel Music Channel, and *Fences* at Pure Life. Currently dividing her time between project management in entertainment technology and children's book writing, Staten continues to champion storytelling in all its forms.



Sky Symonds

(Musical Director)

Sky is a music director, actress, and voice teacher across the Triangle area. Music direction credits include *Tuck Everlasting: TYA* (Applause! Cary Youth Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Miscast Cabaret* (Meredith College Theatre), *Seussical Jr.*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, and *Annie Jr.* (Academy for the Performing Arts), *Xanadu*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Little Women* (Research Triangle High School), and an Assistant Music Director credit for *Committed: The Musical* (Meredith College). Recent acting credits include *Margo* (*Bright Star* -- Pure Life Theatre), *Jules/Online* (*Between the Lines* -- NRACT), *Nickie* (*Sweet Charity* -- Meredith College), *Cleante* (*Tartuffe* -- Meredith College), and *Carrie White* (*Carrie: The Musical* -- Meredith College). She sends her thanks to her friends and family for their endless support!



TEAM BIOS



Aya Wallace
(Choreographer/Artistic Director)

Aya is the Artistic Director of Pure Life Theatre, a performer, educator, and advocate whose work spans dance, theater, and corporate leadership. She holds a Master's in Dance from NYU and a B.S. in Kinesiology from Temple University. Aya has taught all ages, choreographed for major NC theaters, and performed award-winning roles. Her work explores culture, identity, and social justice. She's also a Client Specialist and an active community volunteer and board member.



James Woodhouse
(Sound Designer)

James is very excited to be working on this show, for it's his first ever time doing sound design for one. You may have seen James doing shows for NRACT like Southern Baptist Sisses, Fun Home, and Everybody's Talking About Jamie. He's also done shows for TIP like Harold & Maude and Into The Woods. He hopes you enjoy the show!

RIDE THE CYCLONE

SPECIAL THANKS

Benaiah Adesoji
Kevin Aponte
Brenda Bailey
Amanda Boswell
Veniza Catlett
Julianna Frasca
Juan Isler
Douglas Kapp
Amy Langston
Howie Lewis

Joe Mizerk
Thomas Oates
Melanie Payne
The Pure Life Theatre Board
Amy Royals
Dewayne Steward
Alisha Thomas
Triad Pride Acting Co.
William Peace University
Emily Uwabor



Raleigh
Arts

