

**CANDIACE**  
DILLARD BASSETT

**KAREN**  
LINETTE

**DARREL**  
WALLS

**THE MUSICAL STORY OF A LIFETIME**

**KITTY CITY**



DENNIS WILLIAMS'  
**I'VE CRIED THE  
BLUES**

**SHUBERT**

NEW HAVEN

**MAY 2, 2026**

**SHUBERT.COM**

**CAPA**

Living, breathing art.

DENNIS WILLIAMS'  
I'VE CRIED THE  
**BLUES**

**MAY 2, 2026**

**SATURDAY 7:00PM**

**SHUBERT THEATRE**

**DENNIS WILLIAMS**

PLAYWRIGHT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DIRECTOR SONG WRITER

**VICTORIA WOODBURY**

CO-DIRECTOR PRODUCER

**DARIUS "DOC" GAYMON**

CHOREOGRAPHER PRODUCER

**SAREA-FLO**

PRODUCTION &  
OPS LEAD/STAGE MANAGER

**ALLEN BROWN**

MUSIC CONDUCTOR

**ASH HAYNES**

VOCAL COACH

**JONATHAN  
ALEXANDER**

HEAD OF LIGHTING

**SOFALE**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**RONALD COLLINS**

HEAD OF WARDROBE

**CURTIS INABINET, JR.**

AUDIO PRODUCER

**NYE DAVIDSON**

SONG WRITER

**STEVEN STECKLER**

AUDIO ENGINEER

**WILL TAYLOR II**

ORIGINAL VOCAL  
ARRANGEMENT

**JAVARDE SEAY**

VOCAL ARRANGEMENT

**DENNIS WILLIAMS**

VOCAL ARRANGEMENT

**ABREON JENKINS**

KEY MAKE-UP ARTIST

**WILLIAM WAWRO**

EDITOR

**LEONARD ROSELEY**

KEY ART DIRECTOR



## DENNIS WILLIAMS

PLAYWRIGHT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DIRECTOR SONG WRITER

**DENNIS WILLIAMS** (DeWill) is a visionary screenwriter and playwright whose creative journey has been marked by groundbreaking productions that redefine storytelling in the entertainment industry. With a trailblazing start in 2009, he astounded audiences with “I Just Want 2 Sing,” produced by production company Legendary Studio Shows. His productions transcend boundaries, from sold out stage plays like “Forgiving BUT NOT Forgetting”— the first theatrical play in history to premiere at the iconic Howard Theatre—to the emotionally resonant “Love & Therapy Gone Wrong,” exploring deep-seated generational trauma.

Breaking new ground in 2018, Williams took on the challenge of creating a musical, “I’ve Cried the Blues,” a searing exploration of societal issues in 1940s Little Rock, Arkansas. Premiering to rave reviews at Live Nation’s Warner Theater, this production showcased not just his writing prowess but also starred music sensations KeKe Wyatt and Avery\* Sunshine, cementing it as a national theatrical triumph.

Relocating to Los Angeles in 2021, Williams wasted no time in creating waves with “Sincerely, Love,” a captivating scripted series unraveling a complex love saga haunted by unresolved pasts. His talent shone brightly during the pilot presentation tour in 2023, captivating industry insiders and building an intense anticipation for his debut TV venture among networks nationwide. Williams is a masterful storyteller with a proven track record of crafting narratives that resonate deeply and captivate audiences across mediums.

In 2025, Williams brings new life to his acclaimed musical I’ve Cried the Blues, featuring special guest appearances by Real Housewives of Potomac star Candace Dillard Bassett and 4x Grammy Nominated/ 6x Stellar Award Winning artist Darrel Walls. The production delivers a Broadway-caliber cultural experience to audiences on national stages.

# CAST

---

Karen Linette ..... Mattie  
 Darrel Walls ..... Joe  
 Candiace Dillard-Bassett ..... Miss Lilly  
 Javarde Seay ..... Douglas  
 Schelle Purcell ..... Esther  
 Jevone Levi ..... Edward Jr. - EJ  
 Darius "Doc" Gaymon ..... Mailman  
 Victoria Njideka ..... Miss Kitty  
 Taryn Murphy ..... Jean  
 Jasmine Buchanan ..... Carroll



**Karen  
Linette**



**Darrel  
Walls**



**Candiace  
Dillard-Bassett**



**Javarde  
Seay**



**Schelle  
Purcell**



**Jevone  
Levi**



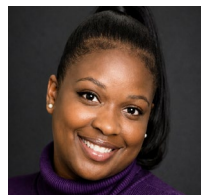
**Darius  
"Doc" Gaymon**



**Victoria  
Njideka**



**Taryn  
Murphy**



**Jasmine  
Buchanan**

# WHO'S WHO

---

**KAREN LINETTE** (*Mattie*) is a songstress, actress, and radio personality from Silver Spring, Maryland. With over 30 years in music, she has performed at renowned venues including the The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Blues Alley, DAR Constitution Hall, Warner Theatre, and the Apollo Theatre.

Her musical collaborations include Dawn Robinson, Najee, and Eric Roberson. In 2019, she released her EP *Upside of Life*, featuring charting singles that earned placement on Billboard's Smooth Jazz Most Added list and international charts, along with Grammy consideration.

Karen began her acting career in stage productions including *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* and *The Vagina Monologues*. She later starred as "Mattie" in *I've Cried the Blues* at the Warner Theatre, reprising the role in 2025. A passionate performer and music historian, Karen continues to captivate audiences through both music and theatre.

**DARREL WALLS** (*Joe*) is a 2026 Grammy Award-winning vocalist, songwriter, and recording artist best known as the lead voice of The Walls Group. Emerging onto the national stage in 2009 alongside his siblings, he quickly became known for his distinctive tone, dynamic range, and deeply expressive delivery. The group's tight harmonies and contemporary approach to gospel have earned them six Grammy® nominations and six Stellar Awards, establishing them as one of the most influential voices in modern gospel music.

Throughout his career, Darrel has collaborated with renowned artists and producers including Kirk Franklin and Warryn Campbell, and has received recognition from artists such as Brandy, Frank Ocean, and PJ Morton. In 2025, he released his debut solo album *Heart of Mine*, produced by PJ Morton, earning his first Grammy® Award and further solidifying his place among today's most compelling gospel vocalists.

Known for his authenticity, vocal excellence, and unwavering commitment to the music community, Darrel continues to inspire audiences worldwide through his music, ministry, and creative collaborations.

**CANDIACE DILLARD-BASSETT** (*Miss Lilly*) Candiace Dillard Bassett is a multifaceted entertainer, entrepreneur, and former Miss United States (2013) who has become a standout television and music personality. Born in Biloxi, Mississippi, she rose to prominence

as a fan-favorite cast member on *The Real Housewives of Potomac*, known for her sharp wit and commanding presence. Prior to her television career, she served in the Obama Administration as a White House liaison to the African American community. Expanding her brand beyond reality TV, Candiace has built a successful entrepreneurial portfolio, founding Candiace Dillard Pageant Consulting and *My Sister's Keeper*, and co-founding *Prima Hair Collection*. As a recording artist, she made a strong debut with her 2021 album *Deep Space*, which landed in the Top 25 on the Billboard Current R&B Albums chart and earned praise from icons like Toni Braxton, Anita Baker, and Nicki Minaj. She has since been inducted into the Recording Academy's 2022 class and continues to build momentum with new music releases, national touring, and her recent appearance on Peacock's *The Traitors*, further solidifying her status as a dynamic and evolving force in entertainment.

**JAVARDE SEAY** (*Douglas*) Is a multi-talented performer and professional whose career spans entertainment and technology. He's appeared in several independent and theater productions, earning praise for his emotional depth and versatility. His passion for music, the arts and ministry has led him to serve as Director of Music and Productions as well as creative advisor for various organizations within the DMV area and abroad. In addition to his artistic and ministry pursuits, Javarde is a certified life coach, helping clients find clarity, confidence, and purpose through personalized coaching. He also heralds over 2 decades of experience as a professional IT technician, specializing in cybersecurity and system optimization. With a unique combination of creativity, empathy, and technical skill, Javarde continues to inspire others both on and off the stage.

**SCHELLE PURCELL** (*Esther*) is a versatile actress from Gulfport, Mississippi, now based in Atlanta. She is recognized for her standout performance as "Gloria, The Landlord" in *STRAW*, acting opposite Taraji P. Henson. The film has garnered over 48 million views and won Outstanding Limited Television Movie at the NAACP Image Awards. She also appeared as "Adeline Loggins" in the award-winning series *Women of the Movement*.

Her television credits include *All the Queen's Men*, *Found*, *Atlanta*, and *The Big Door Prize*, along with the Amazon film *The Underdogs*. She has also starred in Tubi Originals, including *Hot Girl Winter* and *Twisted House Sitter 2*.

# WHO'S WHO

Purcell recently completed roles in independent films and appears in the stage play *I've Cried the Blues*. Beyond acting, she is the CEO and founder of "On Your Feet," a nonprofit supporting teen parents, and the creator of her handcrafted line, "Southern Girl Savors." Follow her journey: @schellepurcell | [www.schellepurcell.com](http://www.schellepurcell.com)

**JEVONE LEVI** (*Edward Jr. - EJ*) is a dynamic actor and vocalist with a strong presence on both stage and screen. He was featured in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, produced by Denzel Washington, alongside Chadwick Boseman and Viola Davis. A standout performer, Jevone has also toured with *The Soul of Motown* tribute group, honoring legendary artists such as The Temptations. He is grateful to be doing what he loves and thanks his family and supporters for their continued love and encouragement.

**DARIUS "DOC" GAYMON** (*Mailman, Choreographer, Producer*) Dr. Darius Gaymon, affectionately known as "Dr. Renaissance," or just "Doc," was born in Washington DC and grew up in Prince George's County. As a student at Suitland high school, he was able to cultivate his love for both science and the arts. He began dancing at the University of Maryland-College Park and after, he trained and performed with Culture Shock DC for many years before starting his own performance company, New Renaissance Arts, Inc. Alongside that, Darius completed four degrees, including a PhD in Tumor Biology from Georgetown University in 2019. The name "Dr. Renaissance" was given to him by Rocky McKoy, a videographer who did a documentary on Doc's life as an artist and a PhD Scientist. After his postdoctoral fellowship, Doc was casted as "Slink" on Netflix's *Dance Monsters* and to a talent agency, opening his world and the world of the arts company to acting, singing, and writing. This amazing opportunity led to several commercial castings, an upcoming lead role in a tv show as well as the creation of the hit two-part stage play: *Drowning and 'Til Death Do Us Part*. New Renaissance dancers were recently seen as Transylvanians in the Neopolitan Rocky Horror Experience at Blerdcon and will be returning as dancers in *I Cried the Blues* where Doc is the production's choreographer.

**VICTORIA NJIDEKA** (*Miss Kitty*) is a dynamic emerging writer and director whose work spans stage and screen. She is the founder of V List Productions, established in 2020, and launched The V List Podcast as a space for artistic expression and storytelling.

In 2024, she made her stage directorial debut with *String of Pearls*, a vibrant jazz musical that marked a defining moment in her theatrical journey. Since then, she has expanded her creative footprint by directing music videos and contributing to short films and podcasts.

Driven by a passion for performance and authentic storytelling, Victoria approaches each project with vision and intention. Whether behind the scenes or shaping stories for the stage, she remains committed to creating impactful, meaningful work that inspires and evolves audiences. Follow her journey: @victoria\_njideka | @vlistproductions

**TARYN MURPHY** (*Jean*) Taryn Murphy is a triple threat: actor, singer, and dancer in the DMV area, known for her magnetic stage presence, versatility, and energy. Taryn Murphy has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Temple University, where her previous credits include "Spring Awakening" (Wendla), "From Okra to Greens" by Ntozake Shange (Okra), and "Xanadu" (Terpsichore). Most recently, Taryn graced the stage as Shelby in "Steel Magnolias" at Great Plains Theatre in Kansas and as Grace Farrell in "Annie" at Compass Rose Theatre. Up next, Taryn will be performing in "Gay Soul Food" (Felicia) with Cagedbirds Productions in Chicago at Definition Theater!

**JASMINE BUCHANAN** (*Carroll*) Jasmine Buchanan has loved music and acting for as long as she can remember. As a child, she turned her parents' living room into her first stage, performing shows for the entire house. Throughout school, she split her time between choir and band, nurturing the artistic spark that never left her. A proud graduate of Delaware State University (B.A., Public Relations, 2009) and Trinity Washington University (MBA, 2012), Jasmine has continued to pursue her passion for the performing arts. She has appeared in numerous plays and musicals, including works by today's acclaimed playwright Dennis Williams. Jasmine is thrilled to return to the stage with this incredible cast. She resides in Hyattsville, Maryland with her husband and their two daughters, while holding in her heart their son in heaven, Omari.