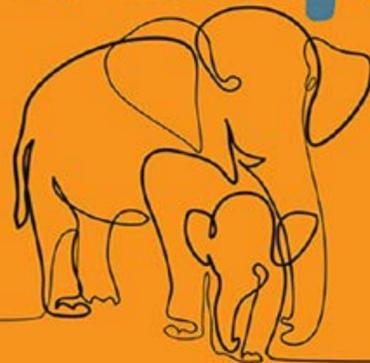


Tenney Theatre
January 2026

Honolulu Theatre
HTy
for Youth



AANIKA'S ELEPHANTS



By Annie Evans



STORIES
FROM HAWAI'I
AND BEYOND

Aloha!

This season we travel! We journey from the mountains of the Philippines to the plains of Africa, from old Hawai'i to outer space, and even into abstract worlds of shapes and colors. The theatre is the perfect place to imagine ourselves in another's shoes, to try on new stories, and to build empathy and curiosity. It is also a place to remember what we already share—what makes growing up as children of this amazing land so special. Young and old alike, these plays are for nā keiki o ka 'āina.

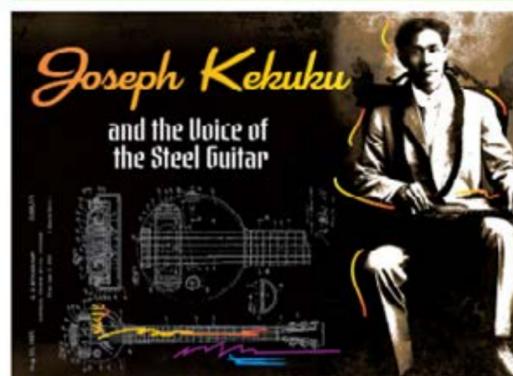
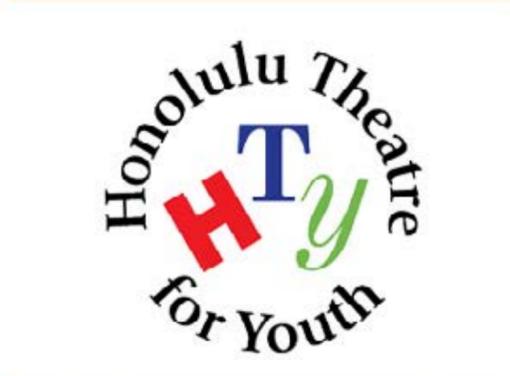
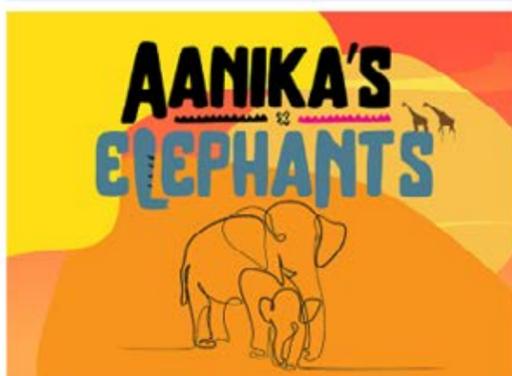
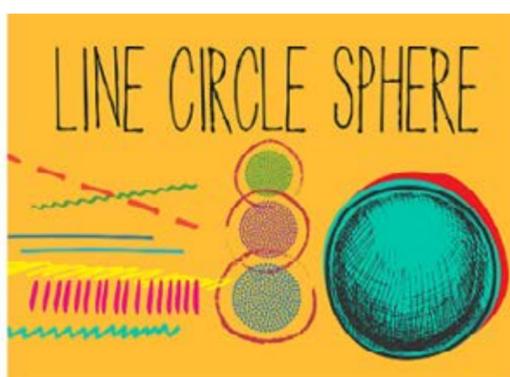
We hope you will consider becoming an HTY Member this season. A month of Family Membership costs less than a single adult ticket, and your entire family can enjoy professional theatre, receive great perks, and know that your support will help HTY to thrive, especially in these challenging times.

Most of all, we hope you have a fantastic time at today's performance and that we see you back soon—in a class, at a show, or in your own homemade spaceship. After all, there is no limit to where your imagination may take you!

Information on membership and tickets at www.htyweb.org

Mahalo,

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director





Production Credits

Produced by

Fiesty Elephant Productions, Pam Arciero Productions, and Little Shadow Productions,
in association with Center for Puppetry Arts

LEAD TEAM

Writer and Producer

Annie Evans

Director and Producer

Pam Arciero

Performer and Producer

Jean Marie Keevins

Puppet Designer and Builder

Martin P. Robinson

Composer and Musician

Paul Rudolph

Principle Performer

Jimmica Collins

Principle Puppeteer

Cedwan Hooks

Show Photography by

Zach Hyman and Martin P. Robinson

HONOLULU THEATRE FOR YOUTH TEAM

Asst. Director

Jill Jackson

Lighting Design

Chesley Cannon

Sound

Jarren Amian

Technical Direction/ Backstage ASM

Eric West

Stage Manager

Sarah Danvers

Asst. Stage Manager

KG Pan

Performers

Jarren Amian

Annie Lokomaika'i Lipscomb

Cameryn Richardson

Jack Romans

Isaiah Johnson

Swing Performer

Mark Branner

Understudies

Cameryn Richardson

Jack Romans

Eric West



Show Synopsis

“In a time when children are feeling so much division and stress, Aanika’s Elephants is a play about compassion, love and conservation.”

Aanika’s Elephants is the story of a young African girl who meets a baby elephant named Little at the elephant orphanage where her father works. They grow together the way only two young girls can, even if one has a trunk. When Aanika’s father dies, she runs away into the African savannah. Camping that night in the bush the way her father taught her, she is frightened by crashing branches and discovers that Little has followed her. They become a herd of two, working together to survive and steer clear of humanity. Aanika and Little are adopted by a small herd of elephants, and Aanika learns their very beautiful, civil ways. She is finally tested when she must save her new family from poachers.

It’s a story that shows how family can be anything -- a beloved, widowed father or even a herd of elephants. The audience can use their imaginations to fill in the large rattan-framed elephants, an adorable baby elephant and people represented by just hats and gloves. With music, a variety of puppets and humor, Aanika’s Elephants entertains and educates both adults and children on the plight of the elephant and our world with grace and compassion.

Mahalo!

Aanika’s Elephants is the proud recipient of workshop and production grants from The Jim Henson Foundation. Additional thanks to Ridgefield Theatre Barn, Pamme Jones, Tryon Fine Arts Center, Center for Puppetry Arts, Heather Henson, Green Feather Foundation, Cheryl Henson, Flock Theatre, B-Line Medical, LLP, Matt Pagliaro, Paulette Richards, Hillel Friedman, Emily Lawson, Stephen Lanza, Bob Marty & Kim Alonzo

HTY Sponsor

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About the Production Team

A*nika's Elephants* is a beautiful play by Annie Evans, an award-winning Sesame Street writer. The show was produced and developed by a team of acclaimed Sesame Street creatives and is a moving and heartwarming story that also educates on the present-day plight of Africa's elephants. Sesame Street performers and puppeteers will share the stage with members of HTY's Resident Ensemble and graduate students from the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Theatre for Young Audiences program.

Lead Team



Annie Evans (writer/producer) has written children's television for the past twenty-five years, most notably for Sesame Street (13 Emmy Awards) as well as for shows on Nickelodeon, PBS, Discovery Channel, Disney Channel and Animal Planet. She has taught writing for children around the world and story edited for Sesame Street co-productions in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia. She is also a playwright having had plays produced around the world and at such New York City theaters as New York Stage and Film Company, Manhattan Class Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Circle Repertory Lab. She is a graduate of Brown University. www.FunnyGirlscoopingwithboys.com; www.Annieevans.com.



Pam Arciero (director/producer) is a multi-ethnic, multicultural director, born and raised in Hawaii. She directs for live theater, television, film, as well as being a performer and producer. Pam choreographs and directs live walk-around (the big versions of the puppets) shows for Sesame Workshop in such far flung places as Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Barcelona, and Saudi Arabia, Sesame Place, PA and Sea World, USA. She performs for film, television and theater, notably as a puppeteer with Sesame Street (Grundgetta Grouch, Oscar's girlfriend, and assorted characters) and for the Muppets for over 30 years. Pam has taught puppetry all over the world, from New York to Hong Kong, Hawaii to South Africa. Her love and joy of Puppetry is contagious. She is the Artistic Director of the National Puppetry Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.



Jean Marie Keevins (performer/producer) is an Emmy nominated puppet artist, producer and professional coach whose puppetry work spans from film ("The Muppets") and television ("Helpsters" and "The Muppets: A Letter to Santa") to the stage. She co-produced Martin P. Robinson's Off-Broadway Run of All Hallow's Eve, Riddle of the Trilobites, Zwerge (co-writer), The Flatiron Hex (The New York Times Critic's Pic & UNIMA Citation of Excellence), Lunatic Cunning (UNIMA Citation of Excellence), The Joshua Show: Volume 2 (UNIMA Citation of Excellence), The Adventures of Liverwurst Girl and building. Her production company, Little Shadow is known for its excellence in shepherding original productions, as well as education through its academy and Lil' Talks series. The majority of her time is spent coaching original, forward thinking people to create their new narrative and the life and careers that they want. Jean Marie is a proud graduate of the University of Connecticut's Puppet Arts program and the Associate Artistic Director of the National Puppetry Conference and the Tony Award-winning Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. LittleShadowProductions.com

Lead Team (continued)



Martin P. Robinson (puppet designer/builder) Broadway: Little Shop of Horrors (designer/performer); The Frogs(designer). Off Broadway: Little Shop of Horrors (Drama Desk, L.A. Drama Critics, Villager Awards); Go, Diego Go! National Tour (puppet designer); Film: Muppets Take Manhattan, Follow That Bird, Elmo in Grouchland, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, The Producers. TV: Sesame Street—41 years playing Mr. Snuffleupagus, Telly Monster, Slimey, etc. Currently playing Mr. Primm on the new Sesame Street/Apple TV show “Helpsters.”



Paul Rudolph (composer/musician) is a composer, arranger, instrument builder, and vocal music director/recordist/composer for “Sesame Street”, where he received 3 Emmy nominations for Music Direction, and won 3 Emmys for music editing. Music direction/composition/arranger credits include Sesame Street (HBO/PBS) (includes TV, web, live shows and app content), Nature Cat (PBS), Toca Boca, Heather Henson, Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, Martin P. Robinson’s All Hallows’ Eve, the Jim Henson Company, Muppets Tonight (ABC), Jerry Nelson’s original CD Truro Daydreams.

The Cast



Jimmica Collins (Aanika/ Principle Performer) is an actor, performer, and voiceover artist with a love for Children’s Theatre. She graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A in Theatre and a minor in Child & Adolescent Mental Health Studies. Jimmica trained as a puppeteer with Sesame Workshop, The Jim Henson Company, and The Center for Puppetry Arts. She is a puppeteer on the PBS pre-school series, Donkey Hodie playing Rockstar Penguin & Frannie Fox. Jimmica is heading into her 5th season as a Muppet performer on Sesame Street playing Grandma Nell and other friendly monsters. Some additional credits: Helpsters (Sesame Workshop/Apple TV), Feel Your Best Self (UConn/Ballard Institute of Puppetry), Puppet Up! (Jim Henson Company), Stellanuna, Harold and the Purple Crayon, Peter & Friends, Fancy Nancy the Musical, Lyle the Crocodile. You can see more of her puppetry work in the upcoming Buddy movie, (BoulderLight/Low Spark Films) premiering 2026 at Sundance! Represented by Atlas Talent Agency, you can hear her voiceover work in commercials with Peacock TV, Pluto TV, Chase, United Airlines, and Busy Bee Honey. Thank you all for welcoming the elephant herd to Hawaii! (photo: Zach Hyman)



Cedwan Hooks (Warden/Uncle) Cedwan Hooks is a puppet artist from Kansas City, KS who has worked internationally. His puppeteering credits include The Curse of Bridge Hollow (Netflix), Helpsters (Apple TV+/Sesame Workshop), Moon and Me (BBC), His History (Fabric Workshop and Museum), Albie’s Elevator (PBS Kids), and Doom Patrol (DC Universe). He is the spokesperson for Primrose Schools as Percy the Rooster. Cedwan has designed walkaround/puppet works for Aerosmith, Warner Brothers, Comedy Central, Georgia Aquarium, The Public Good Projects, and 20 th Century Fox World in Malaysia. He also worked as a puppet designer and walkaround trainer for DreamWorks Experience in Macau. (photo: Janet S. Kim)

Cast (continued)



Jarren Amian (Ant/Poacher/Understudy Papa) was born and raised in Kalihi where he found his passion for theatre at Farrington H.S. He holds a B.A. in Theatre from UH Manoa and is enjoying his fourth season as part of HTY's Resident Ensemble. He has performed for many communities on and off island.



Annie Lokomaika'i Lipscomb (Mrs. Mutembi) is a multidisciplinary artist, born and raised in the islands of Hawai'i. With a background in hula, performance, and creative writing, she has spent years sharing the richness of Hawai'i with communities across the globe. She is a member of HTY's Resident Ensemble and is thrilled and grateful to be part of the incredible HTY 'ohana.



Isaiah Johnson (Little/ Spider) is thrilled to be making their debut here at HTY! Originally from Huntingtown Maryland, Isaiah is currently pursuing their MFA in Theatre for Young Audiences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. They have been previously seen in productions of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, *The Snowy Day*, and *Mother Goose*.



Cameryn Richardson (Understudy Aanika/ Puppeteer) is thrilled to make her debut at HTY. She is an MFA candidate in Theatre for Young Audiences at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is a performer with a passion for puppetry and storytelling. Before graduate school, Cameryn spent eight years as a company member and education coordinator with the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, nine years collaborating with various theatre companies and cultural education programs, and five years working as a docent and interpreter with the Atlanta History Center. She is delighted to be back onstage creating theatre for audiences of all ages. This semester, Cameryn will also be seen as a shadow actor in *Panji and the Lost Princess* (UHM) and as co-director of *Helping Hands* with classmate Jack Romans (Alliance Theatre). Cameryn also serves as Director of Education for the Association of Mental Health Coordinators, working to uplift mental health in creative industries.



Jack Romans (Papa/ Understudy Uncle/Warden) is an American theatre maker and educator. His work uses youth-inclusive and puppetry techniques to create bridging moments across ages and cultures through live performance. His work commits to learning from all things and challenging the notion of waste through wonder. Sparking & including young imaginations is at the heart of his craft.



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