

JoMo
Productions



Lil & Louis



a play with music

by Jo Morello

Jan. 21 - 25, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

JoMo Productions

PRESENTS

Lil & Louis

by Jo Morello

Director

Harry Bryce

Technical Director
David Meyersburg

Lighting and Scenic Designer
Ethan Vail

Production Stage Manager
Thomasa Hagney

Technical Consultant
Steve Patmagrian

Technical Assistant/
Sound Board
Shannen McClaren

Recording Engineer
Greg Neilsen

Audio consultant
Mike Treni

Costume Designer
Susan Sajec

Assistant Costumer
Adrienne Pitts

Properties/Crew
**Martha Kesler,
Sandie Sanderson**

Lil & Louis Jazz Band
Arranger/Leader
Randy Sandke

Vocal Coach
Steven Phillips

Choreographer
Brentney J.

Graphic Design
**David Meyersburg
Don Walker
Katherine Zhang**

Marketing/Publicity
Jo Morello Inc.



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EISENBERG | LEHMAN

CAST

MARTA MCKINNON Lil Hardin Armstrong
MICHAEL KINSEY Louis Armstrong
ANDREA COLEMAN. Mae Brady, Frankie, Mae Alix, Fanny, Ensemble
YVONNE LYLES. Mrs. Jones, Decie, Reporter, Ensemble
DONOVAN WHITNEY Red Saunders, Jelly Roll Morton,
Dewey, Joe “King” Oliver, Georgie,
Zutty Singleton, Bill Bottoms, Ensemble

THE SETTING

ACT I

Chicago’s Civic Center Plaza, August 27, 1971. A noontime outdoor concert is being televised as a tribute to super-celebrity Louis Armstrong, who died a few weeks earlier, on July 6. His second wife, Lil Hardin Armstrong, is at the piano playing his favorite song, “Saint Louis Blues.”

(The show will be performed with a 15-minute intermission.)

ACT II

The Dreamland, Chicago’s hottest jazz club, Nov. 25, 1925. The band is Lil Armstrong’s Dreamland Syncopators, featuring her husband Louis Armstrong.

LIL & LOUIS JAZZ BAND

RANDY SANDKE, Arranger & Leader, trumpet & cornet • **HERB BRUCE**, trombone
• **PETER BARENBREGGE**, clarinet & alto saxophone • **ROY GERSON**, piano •
ROBERT PAGE, piano • **KEN SALVO**, banjo • **HOWIE SMITH**, tuba

Music was pre-recorded for LIL & LOUIS by nationally acclaimed musicians.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

(in Order of Appearance)

ACT I

“TRUMPET CHOP SUEY” (*Randy Sandke, 2019**)

“SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*W. C. Handy, 1914*) Lil

LIL’S PIANO AUDITION/JONES MUSIC STORE. Lil & Ensemble

“O SOLE MIO” (*Eduardo Di Capua, Alfredo Mazzucchi, Giovanni Capurro, 1898*)

“AFTER YOU’VE GONE” (*Turner Layton & Henry Creamer, 1918*)

“ROCK-A-BYE YOUR BABY WITH A DIXIE MELODY” (*Jean Schwartz, Sam M. Lewis and Joe Young, 1918*)

“JA-DA” (*Bob Carleton, 1918*)

“DARKTOWN STRUTTERS’ BALL” (*Shelton Brooks, 1917*)

“JELLY ROLL BLUES”/“THE ORIGINAL JELLY-ROLL”
(*Jelly Roll Morton, 1915*) Jelly Roll Morton

CUTTING CONTEST. Lil & Jelly Roll Morton

“PIANO SONATA NO. 2 IN B FLAT MINOR” (*Frederic Chopin*)

“GRANDPA’S SPELLS,” (*Jelly Roll Morton, 1923*)

“FANTASIE IMPROMPTU IN C# MINOR” (*Frederic Chopin*)

“KING PORTER STOMP” (*Jelly Roll Morton. Recorded by Jelly Roll Morton and New Orleans Rhythm Kings for Gennett 5221-a on July 18, 1923*)

“WALTZ IN E MAJOR” (*Frederic Chopin*).

“LIVERY STABLE BLUES” (*Ray Lopez Alcide Nunez, 1917*) Dewey & Lil

“CHICAGO, THAT TODDLIN’ TOWN” (*Fred Fisher, 1922*)
. Lil, Mae Brady & Ensemble

“CHIMES BLUE” (*Joseph Nathan “King” Oliver, arr by Lil Hardin, recorded by King Oliver’s Creole Jazz Band with Lil Hardin & Louis Armstrong for Gennett, 1923*)

“KROOKED BLUES” (*Ollie “Dink” Johnson, Benjamin Spikes and John Spikes, 1923*) Lil, Louis, Mae Brady, Alix & Ensemble

“THE PEARLS” (*Ferd “Jelly Roll Morton, 1923*)

“BUDDY BOLDEN BLUES”/“I THOUGHT I HEARD BUDDY BOLDEN SAY”/
FUNKY BUTT BLUES” (*Origin uncertain. Popularized by Jelly Roll Morton in 1938*) Lil & Louis

- “BALLIN’ THE JACK” (*Chris Smith and Jim Burris, 1913*) Lil & Louis
- “WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?” (*Louis Armstrong and Lil Hardin, 1923*)Lil, Louis & Ensemble
- “SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*W. C. Handy, ©1914. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil & Louis
- “LIL & LOUIS TANGO” (*Randy Sandke, 2019**) Lil & Louis
- “THE SHEIK OF ARABY” (*Ted Snyder, Harry B. Smith and Francis Wheeler, 1921. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**)Decie, Lil & Louis
- “SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*W. C. Handy, ©1914. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil & Louis
- “LIL AND LOUIS TANGO” (*Randy Sandke, 2019**). Lil & Louis.
- “THE SHEIK OF ARABY” *Ted Snyder, Harry B. Smith and Francis Wheeler; additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**)Decie, Lil & Louis
- “MAPLE LEAF RAG” (*Scott Joplin; 1899*)
- “THE CHARLESTON” (*James P. Johnson and Cecil Mack, 1923. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Ensemble
- “THERE’LL BE SOME CHANGES MADE” (*Benton Overstreet and Billy Higgins, 1921. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**)Louis, Fanny, Lil, Georgie
- “I WONDER WHO’S KISSING HIM NOW” (*Harold Orlob, Will M. Hough and Frank R. Adams, 1909. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**)Lil
- “HELLO MA BABY” (*Joseph E. Howard and Ida Emerson, 1899*)Lil

ACT II

- “PANAMA” (*William H. Tyers, 1912*) Ensemble
- “ALEXANDER’S RAGTIME BAND” (*Irving Berlin, 1911. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019**)Louis & Ensemble
- “HOT FIVE BLUES” (*Randy Sandke, 2019**)
- “A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND” (*Eddie Green, 1917. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Mae Brady & Lil
- “THE ENTERTAINER” (*Scott Joplin, 1902.*)
- “HIGH-G PRACTICE” (*Randy Sandke, 2019**)

- “THE ONE I LOVE BELONGS TO SOMEBODY ELSE” (*Isham Jones and Gus Kahn, 1924. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Louis & Lil
- “BILL BAILEY, WON’T YOU PLEASE COME HOME?” (*Hughie Cannon, 1902. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Louis, Lil, & Ensemble
- “SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*W. C. Handy, 1914. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil
- “JA-DA” (*Bob Carleton, 1918*) Decie & Lil
- “AIN’T WE GOT FUN” (*Richard A. Whiting, Raymond B. Egan, and Gus Kahn, 1921. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Decie & Lil
- “SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD” (*Traditional Negro spiritual dating back at least to the 1870s and the era of slavery.*) Lil
- “SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*Reprise; W. C. Handy, 1914. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil
- “AFTER YOU’VE GONE” (*Reprise: Turner Layton and Henry Creamer, 1918. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Mae, Ensemble, & Lil
- “WE SHALL OVERCOME” (*Gospel song, later a song of protest, believed descended from the hymn “I’ll Overcome Some Day” by Charles Albert Tindley, 1900.*) Ensemble
- “HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN” (*Attributed to Theodore August Metz and Joe Hayden, 1896. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil
- “HIGH SOCIETY MARCH” (*Porter Steele, 1901; recorded by King Oliver, 1923.* when his band recorded it in 1923.) Lil
- “LIL AND LOUIS TANGO” (*Reprise. Randy Sandke, 2019.**) Lil
- “SAINT JAMES INFIRMARY BLUES”/“GAMBLER’S BLUES” (*Folk song, unknown origin. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Decie
- “SAINT LOUIS BLUES” (*Reprise; W. C. Handy, 1914. Additional lyrics by Jo Morello, 2019.**) Lil
- “WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN” (*Negro spiritual from 1896 - early 1900s*) Ensemble

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CAST



ANDREA (:|:) “LADYBUGG” COLEMAN (*Mae Brady, Frankie, Mae Alix, Ensemble*) is a veteran of musical theatre as a dancer, singer, actor, director, choreographer, and teacher. Her credits include multiple roles in Belize, California, Florida, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. One of her favorite credits is *Ain't Misbehavin'*, which she has performed three times, most recently at Eight O'Clock Theatre in Largo and Manatee Players.



MICHAEL KINSEY (*Louis Armstrong*) comes to this play with a long list of credits that includes performances at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, freeFall Theatre Company, Historic Asolo Theatre, The Players of Sarasota, and Starlite Players. His most recent performances were in *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* at freeFall and *The Amen Corner* at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (both in 2019). He is also a professional portrait photographer.



YVONNE (RONIN) LYLES (*Decie, Reporter, Ensemble*) has acquired extensive experience as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, director, puppeteer, musician, teacher, and voice artist in New York, Vermont, and elsewhere. She has toured France, London, Brussels, and Germany, and has appeared on stage with Paul Simon, Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry, the Neville Brothers, and others. Most recently she appeared in *The Amen Corner*, directed by Chuck Smith at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (2019).



MARTA MCKINNON (*Lil Hardin Armstrong*) brings some of Lil's talents to this role. A singer and musician herself (violinist), Marta is known in this area for her work with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, including the lead role of Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has also performed for Starlite Players and at numerous other venues locally and regionally including Walt Disney World's Epcot and II Live Productions. She has just returned to this area after touring nationally and internationally.



DONOVAN WHITNEY (*Red Saunders, Jelly Roll Morton, Lawrence Duhe/Dewey, Joe “King” Oliver, Georgie, Bill Bottoms, Ensemble*) is so grateful and excited to help tell this story about an unsung heroine. He is from Indianapolis but resides in Saint Petersburg. Recent Florida theatre credits include: *Immurement* (Theatre Odyssey); *Between Riverside and Crazy* (American Stage); and *The Wind in The Willows* (American Stage School Tour). He would like to thank Jo Morello for writing such a needed story, and he would like to thank this cast for the constant laughs and camaraderie.

COMPANY AND CREW



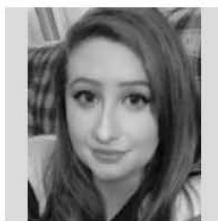
THOMASA HAGNEY (*Production Manager, Stage Manager*), a recent graduate of State College of Florida, has been stage managing for the past two years. Her credits include an internship with Florida Studio Theater as a general production intern and stage managing the original musical *The Song of Paul and Private Eyes*.



BRENTNEY J (*Choreographer*) is a native of Atlanta. Her training and talents have allowed her to be a featured dancer in films “Bessie” and “Bolden”. She has also been featured on stage in shows such as: *Amen Corner, Raisin, Black Nativity, In the Heights*, and *Chicago the Musical*. She recently launched her business Music Acting Dance, LLC. to share her gifts through educating, inspiring, and creating art, and training talent to get involved in musical theatre. Choreographing *Lil & Louis* has been an honor.



MARTHA KESLER has been a theatre director, bookstore manager, art gallery curator, and music director of ensemble choral groups at Holderness School in Plymouth, NH. She returned to Sarasota in 1999 and found a home with at the Players of Sarasota assisting with props, costumes and other backstage activities. She directed the Sarasota Jewish Chorale for 15 years and was musical director and often play director of the Sarasota Senior Theatre, sometimes singing onstage as well. She is pleased to be on crew with Jo Morello and her exciting piece of musical history.



SHANNEN McCLURE (*Technical Assistant, Sound Board Operator*) is from Marlinton W.V. And a recent graduate of Davis & Elkins College with a Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre Arts and History. She was scenic designer for Playmakers at Florida Studio Theatre and hair and makeup designer for *Mary Poppins* and *Mamma Mia!* at The Prizery, along with multiple other technical credits. She is very excited to extend her professional work on this production of *Lil & Louis*.



DAVID MEYERSBURG (*Technical Director*) has appeared locally in several of Theatre Odyssey's Ten-Minute Play Festivals and this season's Theatre Odyssey One-Act Play Festival, as well as in *Annie Get Your Gun, Mammoth Bones, Beau Jest* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at The Players Performing Arts Center. He has also lent his voice to scores of play readings, and admits to being a performance junkie.



GREG NIELSEN (*Recording Engineer*) holds a B.A. in Music Education from the University of Michigan. He was very active in the Detroit and metropolitan jazz scene, playing trombone professionally with many name jazz artists. In 1983 he moved to Florida and made his living writing and performing music. Greg continued to share the stage with many famed touring jazz artists and musicians. In 1986 he returned to the education field to instruct young musicians and is currently a music educator in Sarasota, teaching instrumental music at Booker Middle School. He continues to make his presence known in the jazz field through professional performances, composing, arranging, recording and recently, Argentine tango dancing.



STEVEN PHILLIPS (*Vocal Coach, Pianist*) holds a bachelor of music degree in organ performance, a master of music degree in choral conducting and has over thirty years of experience as a church musician. He also is near completion of a master of arts in religion. At First Presbyterian Church, he spends three-quarters of his time director of music ministries and the balance as director of congregational care.



ADRIENNE PITTS (*Assistant Costumer*) has been working with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe as an actress and stagehand for over 15 years. She started out on stage but after learning how behind-the-scenes works, she realized that she loved working backstage more than being on stage. Adrienne has been the wardrobe manager and lead stage hand for the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe since June 2017.



SUZIE SAJEC (*Costume Designer*) has been a tailor, costume designer for the performing arts, and bridalwear designer for many years. She and her husband Larry have lived in the Bradenton-Sarasota area for seven years. She is happy to have the opportunity to work with this delightfully diverse group of people.



SANDIE SANDERSON (*Props/Dresser/Crew*) has crewed in church and amateur productions in Sarasota and is known for doing her best work in the dark. She says, "If you don't see me in the show, I did it right!"



MIKE TRENI (*Audio Advisor*) is a recent arrival to Sarasota from the New York metropolitan area, where he performed with many top jazz artists including Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Pat Metheny, and Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Orchestra. He worked on Broadway and also arranged and composed music for jingles, recordings, film, and theatre. A member of ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild of America, Mike records with his own group, the Michael Treni Big Band. He is also a board member of JoMo Productions.

ETHAN VAIL (*Lighting and Scenic Designer*) has worked with The Players of Sarasota: *Shout: The Mod Musical*, *All Shook Up*; Millbrook Playhouse (Mill Hall, PA): 65 Productions including the regional premiere of *Fun Home*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Little Mermaid*; Compass Rose Theatre (Annapolis, MD): *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Manatee Players: *Anne of Green Gables*. He received the 2013 USITT YD&T Award sponsored by Barbizon Lighting Company for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that he designed at Purdue University. He is also the Master Electrician at Asolo Repertory Theatre.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE. . .

LIL & LOUIS could not have gotten to this stage (literally) without generous support from so many members of our community. We extend our deepest thanks to the special friends who always have our back—those who contributed financially, those who shared their wisdom and advice, those who gave us some of their precious time, and the ones who were there with a pat on the head or a hug on the days when things got tough.

The danger in making a list is forgetting someone. I know I'll miss some of your names. If I do, please forgive me.

Here are a few of the people we absolutely must thank:

The LIL & LOUIS companies, past and present—and hopefully others in the future.

Our sponsors: Florida's Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs • Caldwell Trust Company • Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe • First Presbyterian Church • Eisenberg Lehman • One Stop Housing • The Exchange • Jazz Club of Sarasota

JoMo Board of Directors: Nancy Roucher, Alan Blair, and Mike Treni. • Julie Leach and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe • Dick Hyman • Steven Eisenberg, my IP attorney • Ricky Riccardi, Director of Research Collections, Louis Armstrong House Museum • Ellen Berman • Sophia La Russo • Peg Pluto and Bob Dunn • Ed Linehan • Carline Ash • Luca Stine • Janet and George Allgair • Judy McElderry • Pauline Smith • Jenny and Don Walker • Marie Kilker • Lenore Walsh • My husband Jack, for too many reasons to mention.

Thank you. We love you all!

THE LIL & LOUIS JAZZ BAND

A play with music requires the very best musicians, and we're lucky to have them. Acclaimed trumpeter Randy Sandke called on respected colleagues to create the LIL & LOUIS Jazz Band—and he even composed three songs just for LIL & LOUIS: “Trumpet Chop Suey,” “The Hot Five Blues,” and “Lil & Louis Tango.” In addition, we also called on vocal coach Steven Phillips from First Presbyterian Church for some additional piano tracks.



PETER BARENBREGGE (*Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet*) has performed for kings, queens, presidents, and millions worldwide in the finest concert and opera halls, jazz clubs, and international jazz festivals such as Montreux, Umbria, Istanbul, Jazz á Juan, and Jazzaldia. The former musical director and featured soloist with the USAF Airmen of Note has recorded and produced over 19 Airmen of Note albums during his highly successful military career. Peter has done extensive recording for radio, television, and record singles with top artists, appears on 33 albums, and

has three of his own.



HERB BRUCE (*Trombone*) is a virtuoso praised for his versatile style. In Nashville he worked with international stars including Boots Randolph, Nashville Brass, Back Street Boys, Hank Williams, Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme, Bob Hope, Wayne Newton and Burt Bacharach among others. He has numerous CDs including those with the acclaimed group “Herbicide.” He also plays with the trombone group “Spiritual to the Bone” and in several Disney World bands.



ROY GERSON (*Pianist*) has appeared in over a dozen movies including Cotton Club, Crimes and Misdemeanors, The Mirror Has Two Faces and The Associate. His rendition of “If I Had You” appeared in the film Eyes Wide Shut. He has three CDs: That Gerson Person, I Love Louis and Gerson Swings Disney, featuring Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein and John Pizzarelli. The Roy Gerson Swingtet has performed at many NYC clubs including the Village Gate, Blue Note, Zanzibar, Irving Plaza, and “Mid Summer Night’s Swing” at Lincoln Center.



BOB PAGE (*Pianist*) brings a distinctive flair to his piano with a heavy left hand and versatile style. He has played with such accomplished musicians as James Cotton, Muddy Waters, Dave Mason, John Hammond, Maria Muldaur and Chuck Berry. He has toured extensively in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean, released six CDs, and been nominated twice for a Grammy Award. In 2012, he wrote a song that was featured in Clint Eastwood’s movie Trouble With the Curve.



KEN SALVO (*Banjo*) has been performing professionally for over five decades. The Chicago native won first place at the Illinois State Fair's banjo competitions for three consecutive years. He has performed with well-known jazz groups including the Original Dukes of Dixieland, the Village Stompers, Woody Allen's jazz band, Wynton Marsalis and his Jazz at Lincoln Center orchestra, Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, and others. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and even a theme park in Nagasaki, Japan.

HOWIE SMITH (*Tuba*) has played for USO tours, the Mike Douglas and Tonight Shows, a guest spot with the Boston Pops, and concerts with Leon Redbone. This musician/vocalist leads jazz, contemporary and big bands. He has also played with four Disney groups nationally and was featured in The Holiday Brass for Christmas at SeaWorld. He plays with several groups in Pinellas and Southwest Florida and has a regular gig at the Coliseum. Howie is the original bass and sousaphone player in the "Florida Boyz."



Marta McKinnon as Lil Hardin Armstrong. (Photo by Michael Kinsey.)

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By Harry Bryce



Listening is the key to imagination. Lil and Louis created for the ear. However, their lives were as colorful as their music. Jo Morello has cleverly crafted a play with music, fusing dramatic historical facts with the complexities of a love built around an insatiable desire to create--all seen through the lens of the African-American experience. A director's dream!

Thanks to JoMo Productions, our brilliant cast and designers, a wonderful choreographer, and our fearless and fierce stage manager and crew, you all get to take this bus ride back in time with us. Enjoy!



*Congratulations Jo Morello
on bringing this unique
love story to life!*

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THE STORY OF LIL & LOUIS

LIL & LOUIS got its start in March 2017 when Jo Morello, a decades-long consultant with the Jazz Club of Sarasota, attended a Sarasota Jazz Festival concert where her friend, NEA Jazz Master Dick Hyman, mentioned Lil Hardin Armstrong. Morello, who has often observed the scarcity of female instrumentalists in jazz, knew about Lil and decided to tell her story—and she knew she would tell it with music.

She approached Dick; Julie Leach, executive director at Sarasota's Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe; and Chuck Smith, resident director at Chicago's Goodman Theatre and WBTT. Everyone liked the idea and decided to move forward. WBTT agreed to be the artistic home for the creation and development of the play and Chuck was onboard as director. Morello began researching and writing the script—and looking for funding. She formed JoMo Productions Inc., a nonprofit organization, to help.

JoMo's first venture, in March 2019, was a two-performance workshop production of LIL & LOUIS at WBTT. Jo and Chuck collaborated closely on script development and the staging of the workshop production.

Presented in conjunction with the 39th Sarasota Jazz Festival, the two workshop performances sold out quickly. JoMo added a third, which also sold out. Audience response and strongly positive feedback encouraged them to plan a full production, scheduled for January 2020. Unfortunately, Smith became ill in December 2019 and had to withdraw. Fortunately, the talented Harry Bryce, another resident director from WBTT, had not yet begun his next show for WBTT so he was available to bring LIL & LOUIS to the stage.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The LIL & LOUIS artistic team includes multi-award-winning playwright Jo Morello; respected director Harry Bryce; acclaimed trumpeter Randy Sandke; vocal coach Steven Phillips; choreographer Brentney J.; and dramaturg Jack Gilhooley, among others.

Sandke called on several nationally recognized musicians to form the LIL & LOUIS Jazz Band. He arranged music for the songs Morello had selected—and composed three new songs especially for LIL & LOUIS.

As noted within these pages, credentials of the entire company are also impressive. A talented troupe of actors, techies, advisers, and volunteers have enthusiastically joined forces to present LIL & LOUIS. Chuck Smith said, "Lil is going to take us on a wonderful musical ride." Thank you for joining us!



JO MORELLO (*Playwright/Producer*) has written three plays about Lil and Louis Armstrong: LIL & LOUIS, full-length play with music; HOT MISS LIL & LITTLE LOUIS, 15-minute dramedy about the younger Armstrongs; and BORN TO SWING, a 10-minute monologue of Lil at 73. Her produced work includes three other plays with music about historical figures, as well as numerous other plays including dramas, romantic comedies (some with Jack Gilhooley) and three plays about Eugene O'Neill. Productions: Off-Off Broadway/NYC, Florida, Kentucky, Texas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kent/UK. Readings: 10 states; includes Neighborhood Playhouse, O'Neill Theater Center.

Winner or finalist: dozens of fellowships, grants and/or contests including Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs (eight awards); National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); O'Neill Theatre Center (twice); Kentucky Women Writers Conference. Producer: five years, including three years as managing director of a summer stock theater 15 months as founder and producing artistic director of Starlite Players in Sarasota. Memberships: Eugene O'Neill International Society board, newsletter editor/five years; Dramatists Guild of America. Jo also operates a small public relations agency, serving as PR director of the Sarasota Jazz Festival among other prestigious clients. Jomorello.com



HARRY BRYCE (*Director*) is a resident director with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. He has developed visionary works as a director, choreographer, writer, and arts educator for over thirty years, directing for professional theater companies throughout the U.S. He received the 2000 Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit for Lifetime Achievements in Performing Arts. He is best known locally for his work with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, where he has directed nine shows including *Dearly Departed*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Bubbling Brown Sugar*.

In 1997 Bryce founded the Memphis Black Repertory Theatre, where he was producing artistic director for five seasons, producing and directing 21 shows. He has also directed for the past 11 years at Cumberland County Playhouse, the largest and oldest professional regional theater in Tennessee). He has led dance companies in Richmond and Atlanta where his original concert ballet, *Beyond the Cane Breaks: Moments in the Life of Harriet Tubman* performed to sell-out crowds and received national and critical acclaim at the National Black Arts Festival.



RANDY SANDKE (Creator and leader of LIL & LOUIS Jazz Band, arranger, composer, trumpet & cornet) has toured Europe over forty times; performed extensively throughout Japan, the U.S., Canada, and India; and recorded over twenty albums as a leader. He has recorded with instrumentalists including Michael Brecker, Benny Goodman, Kenny Barron, Dick Hyman, Bill Charlap, and numerous other jazz luminaries. He's also worked with many singers including Mel Torme, Rosemary Clooney, Cab Calloway, John Pizzarelli, Gregory Hines, Art Garfunkel, Dr. John, Diane Reeves, Sting, Elton John, Billy Joel, Bette Midler, James Taylor, Chaka Khan, and more.

Randy has played on the soundtracks of several films, including Francis Ford Coppola's *The Cotton Club*, Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *American Splendor*, and five Woody Allen movies. On Broadway, Randy played in the production of *Chicago* with Beebe Neuwirth at the City Center. He also played the on-stage Harry James trumpet solo which climaxes the show Fosse. He recorded all trumpet solos for the recent production of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* starring Whoopee Goldberg. He has performed on television in Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, in the U.S. with Benny Goodman for a PBS special, and on the Late Show with David Letterman.



CHUCK SMITH (*Consultant on script development; Director of LIL & LOUIS workshop production*) is a resident director at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (WBTT) in Sarasota, Florida, where his credits include *The Amen Corner*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Knock Me a Kiss* and, in 2020, *Flyin' West*. In Chicago he is a member of the Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees and a resident director. He is also a Chicago American Blues associate artist (Leroi Jones' *Dutchman* and Pearl Cleage's *Flyin' West*). In 2019 Chuck was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Governors State University in University Park, IL. He is a 2003 inductee into the Chicago State University Gwendolyn Brooks Center's Literary Hall of Fame and 2001 Chicago Tribune Chicagoan of the Year. He

is also recipient of the 1982 Paul Robeson Award and the 1997 Award of Merit presented by the Black Theater Alliance of Chicago.



DICK HYMAN (*Adviser*) provided valuable guidance and advice in the creation of LIL & LOUIS. Dick is an NEA Jazz Master, pianist, organist, arranger, music director, and composer with over 100 albums under his name. He was among the first to record on the Moog synthesizer and his Minotaur hit Billboard charts. Dick has won seven Most Valuable Player Awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and two Emmy awards. He was music director for Benny Goodman's final TV appearance, *In Performance at the White House*, and orchestrator of Broadway's *Sugar Babies*. In addition, Dick was composer/arranger for twelve Woody Allen movies, *Moonstruck*, *Scott Joplin* and other films. He was also artistic director for *Jazz in July* at the 92nd Street Y for twenty years. A member of the Jazz Hall of Fame of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies and the New Jersey Jazz Society, Dick has

been awarded honorary doctorates from the Juilliard School of Music and Wilkes College and the Satchmo from the Jazz Club of Sarasota.



JACK GILHOOLEY (*Dramaturg*): New Dramatists alum, double NEA playwright (including Montreal's Centaur Theatre), double Fulbright Guest Artist, NYFTA grant, O'Neill Conference Playwright, Four Florida Cultural Affairs grants, double Puffin grants, PEN award, etc. Guest Artist: MacDowell, Yaddo, Djerassi, Millay, Hawthornden Castle (SCOT), Guthrie Inst (IRE). Productions: Public Theatre NY, Circle Rep, Phoenix (NYC), 59E59, Theatre Row, Folger Theatre (DC), Asolo (FL), Indiana Rep, ACT/SF, Theatre of the First Amendment (VA), Focus Theatre (Dublin), etc. Development: Long Wharf, Mark Taper Forum, Sundance Inst, Southern Theatre, Carnegie Mellon, Avignon, NY International, Capital Fringe, Edinburgh Festivals, etc.

JoMo Productions

Meet JoMo Productions Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization created in October 2018 to present events in the performing arts, with an emphasis on live performance. JoMo Productions will also consider related endeavors, including but not limited to recorded and educational components in the performing arts.

JoMo's first venture, in March 2019, was a two-performance workshop production of LIL & LOUIS at Sarasota's Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Its success encouraged the JoMo team to schedule a full production for January 2020. Morello built a strong artistic team and began a search for funding.

She was awarded a \$25,000 matching grant from Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs, along with unrestricted grants from Caldwell Trust Company and The Exchange. She has also received generous in-kind support from WBTT, One Stop Housing, Eisenberg Lehman, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, and the Jazz Club of Sarasota. The grants won't be enough to cover all costs (grants seldom are), so JoMo Productions will work on fund-raising before taking on its next venture.

JoMo's future activities will be selected by a vote of its board of directors, a small but mighty quartet.

The officers are Jo Morello, president;

prominent arts educator Nancy Roucher, vice president; Caldwell Trust Company trust officer and senior vice president Alan Blair, treasurer; and audio advisor Michael Treni, a composer/arranger of music for recordings as well as a jazz trombonist, music educator, playwright, and music publisher

To learn more, visit our website at LILandLOUIS.com or email jo@jomorello.com.



Louis Armstrong (Brian Boyd) and Lil Hardin Armstrong (Jai Shanae) share a tender moment in the March 2019 workshop production of LIL & LOUIS.

If you'd like to contribute funds, time, or talent, please contact Jo at jo@jomorello.com.

JoMo Productions • 6620 Grand Point Avenue • University Park, FL 34201

JoMo Productions has been approved by the IRS as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are deductible to the full extent provided by law. A copy of Florida's official registration and financial information for JoMo Productions (# CH57207) may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

OAK STREET STAGE PRESENTS



Friday, Mar 13
~ 7pm
**DAVE MEDER
TRIO**

Dave Meder is quickly becoming one of the top jazz pianists

of his generation. He is also a skilled composer-arranger, earning the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. As Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano at the University of North Texas, he is currently the youngest instructor at one of the nation's most renowned jazz programs.

Friday, May 1
~ 7pm
**HARVEY
MILK PRE-
FESTIVAL
CONCERT**



TOMBOi is the creative project of

Alexander Eli, Paige McMullen and Summer Wood. Founded in 2014 in Northeast Florida, the band started as an outlet for sharing members' experiences living as queer folx in the South, and now expands its reach through community involvement, touring, and assisting other LGBTQIA artists. Their music blends 90's and R&B influences with driving guitar melodies and live and electronic beats.

See other HMF events online at harveymilkfestival.org.

First Presbyterian Church ~ Admission by Voluntary Donation
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MICHAEL JACOBS
& NATE JACOBS**

**BOOK BY
NATE JACOBS &
MICHAEL JACOBS
DIRECTED BY NATE JACOBS**

Ruby was allowed to describe how, and in 1948, during an extended absence of her husband, she hid in her home, and she went to the doctor. She allowed to state that her youngest child was his. Yet thirty-eight times Frank Cann attempted to



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sarasotajazzfestival.org



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