BCS PRESENTS

THE ARTSCENTRIC PRODUCTION OF

DREAMGIRLS

A MUSICAL SENSATION

NOV 16 - DEC 12, 2021

ArtsCentric

BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

CONTENTS

2 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3 A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR

4 TITLE PAGE

5 THE CAST

14 THE CREATIVE TEAM

16 ABOUT US

17 THANK YOU

23 STAFF

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Honor Native Land

Responding to a call from our Indigenous colleagues, collaborators, and neighbors, Baltimore Center Stage is working toward building meaningful and accountable relationships with the land we occupy. As a first step on this path, you'll see a land acknowledgement in each of our programs. Acknowledgment is itself a small gesture, and we look forward to continuing our efforts toward decolonization in a good way. If you're interested in more information about the practice of land acknowledgement, feel free to visit the US Department of Arts and Culture's "Honor Native Land" guide.

Baltimore Center Stage acknowledges that the land beneath us, this place, this community, owes its vitality to generations who have come before. Some were brought forcibly to this land, some came here in search of ownership or simply a better life, and some have lived and stewarded this land for countless generations. In a spirit of making erased histories visible, we acknowledge that we are standing on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Piscataway Nation. The Susquehannock, Lenape, and Lumbee peoples have also cared for this land. These peoples are not relics of the past, but they continue to steward this land today with care, vitality, and tradition. Their relations are numerous throughout Turtle Island, and they are continuing to grow. We pay respects to their elders past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Additionally in the spirit of reconciliation, you can honor the Indigenous peoples of this land by donating to Native American Lifelines, donating to or visiting the Baltimore American Indian Center & Heritage Museum, and supporting local Indigenous artists. These are only a few suggestions of the many ways we can move towards reconciliation.

WELCOME





Dear BCS and ArtsCentric Communities,

We are beyond delighted to officially welcome you all to Baltimore Center Stage for the ArtsCentric production of *Dreamgirls*. We can think of no better way to ring in the holiday season than sharing in this joyous musical celebration.

It is ironically fitting that *Dreamgirls*—a show about how challenging and cutthroat and heartbreaking the performing arts industry can be—has become a shining example of collaboration, interdependence, and abundance between our organizations. This partnership has been a dream from the very first Zoom calls. ArtsCentric and Baltimore Center Stage have long coexisted in the Baltimore theater ecology, admiring each other's work from afar, so it feels so good to finally be working together to bring this production to life. Joining forces to create art in such a challenging time demonstrates the best of what our industry can be.

It feels so special to be bringing these communities together – our staffs, our artists, and all of you in the audience. To be able to gather safely in this time is a gift, and the incredible talents of these artists makes this show the best gift of all. From the powerhouse voices to the beautiful production designs to the moving performances, *Dreamgirls* brings us some of the best of Baltimore. We can't wait to share this dream with you.

Kevin McAllister
Artistic Director, ArtsCentric

Stephanie Ybarra
Artistic Director, Baltimore Center Stage

BCS PRESENTS

THE ARTSCENTRIC

PRODUCTION OF

DREAMGIRLS

Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyen

Music by Henry Krieger

Original Broadway Production Directed and Choreographed by Michael Bennett

Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler

Produced on Broadway by Michael Bennett, Robert Avian, Geffen Records and The Shubert Organization

NOV 16– DEC 12, 2021

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Kevin S. McAllister
DIRECTOR

Sean-Maurice Lynch
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Cedric D. Lyles
MUSICAL SUPERVISOR

Joshua Sommerville,
Cynthia Saffron
ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTORS

Shalyce Hemby
CHOREOGRAPHY

Antonio Beverly
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

Emily Lotz
SCENIC DESIGN

Kitt Crescenzo
COSTUME DESIGN

Jalisa Williams
WIG DESIGN

Corey Brown
LIGHTING DESIGN

Cedric Khalil
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Keith Person
SOUND DESIGN

Patrick Lord
PROJECTION DESIGN

Zavier Taylor and
Clara Ashe-Moore
ASSISTANT PROJECTION DESIGN

Amy Kellette Props
DESIGNER

Keith Person
SOUND DESIGN

Jordan Ross
STAGE MANAGER

Robert Lee Poole
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Asia-Ligé Arnold
CASTING DIRECTOR/
COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER:

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Dawn Chapman,
Melanie Hines
DRESSERS

THE CAST

Elijah Ali
LITTLE ALBERT/TUXEDO/STAGE MANAGER/ENSEMBLE

Catrina Brenae
EFFIE MELODY WHITE

Tyrel Brown
TINY JOE DIXON/ENSEMBLE

Peri Ellis
ENSEMBLE/DANCE CAPTAIN/ STEPP SISTER(COVER)

Edima Essien
CHARLENE/JERRY MORGAN/ ENSEMBLE

Crystal Freeman
EFFIE MELODY WHITE

Malshauna Hamm
JOANN/LES STYLES/EFFIE (COVER)

Ryan Holmes
M.C./TUXEDO/WAYNE/CURTIS (COVER)

Jayme Howard
STEPP SISTER/ENSEMBLE

Whitney Jefferson
MICHELLE MORRIS

Bryan Jeffrey
JIMMY EARLY

Raquel Jennings
LORRELL ROBINSON

Shayla Lowe
DEENA JONES

Curtis McNeil
MARTY

Jodeci Milhouse
DEENA JONES

Dana Nearing
CURTIS TAYLOR, JR.

Avery J. Pearsall
ENSEMBLE

Tyrell Stanley
C.C. WHITE/ENSEMBLE

Quincy Vicks
C.C. WHITE/ENSEMBLE

Gabrielle Williams
(Gabby Samone)
STEPP SISTER/LES STYLES/LORRELL (COVER)

Janae Witcher
STEPP SISTER/ENSEMBLE

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MUSIC COORDINATOR

Cynthia Saffron,
Joshua Sommerville,
Nathan Scavilla,
Cedric D. Lyles,
PIANO CONDUCTORS/ KEYBOARDS

Michael Kellam
BASS

Tarek Mohamed
DRUMS/PERCUSSION

Jared Bailey
TRUMPET

Langston Hughes
REEDS



ELIJAH ALI

Little Albert/Tuxedo/ Stage Manager/Ensemble

Elijah Ali is a native of Charlotte, NC. The Arts have opened many doors for Elijah, and will continue doing exactly just that! BNS Productions: *Be A Lion* (Tin Man), *The Gift* (Jackie Wilson), *Daughter of The King* (Rev. King). Former Company Member: Harold Odom Dance Theater, Christian School of Dance, Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, Gospel recording group Dennis Reed & G.A.P (Gods Appointed People).



CATRINA BRENAE

Effie Melody White

ArtsCentric: *Hair* (Dionne Cover/Ensemble), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal u/s). Regional: Baltimore Center Stage (May 2022) BCS Soundcheck, *The Christians* (Ensemble), Signature Theatre (2022): *The Color Purple* (Swing/Church Ladies); Anacostia Playhouse: *Black Nativity* (Lead/Ensemble). Film/TV: *The Black Joy Experience Docu-Series, Legal Enterprise Web Series*. Capital City Web Awards Nominee, Black Joy Experience Season 1 Grand Prize Winner. Education: Clark Atlanta University, Bachelor of Arts, Music: Vocal Performance.



*TYREL BROWN**

Tiny Joe Dixon/Ensemble

Endangered Species Project: *The Comedy of Errors* (Angelo), Towson University: *Hamlet* (Rosencrantz), *Othello* (Othello), *Fuente Ovejuna* (Esteban). Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Nominee. Education:Towson University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting.



PERI ELLIS*

Ensemble/Dance Captain/
Stepp Sister(Cover)

Regional: BSU Theatre with Cyrus Chestnut & Diane Schuur (Ensemble dancer), Sankofa Dance Theatre presents *"The Fifth Element"* (choreographer/ensemble dancer); Studied at Virginia State University (Bachelors of Arts), New York Film Academy Acting Conservatory, University of the Arts Pre-College Intensives, Suitland's Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, Kennedy Center's Dance Theatre of Harlem Pre-Professional program.



EDIMA ESSIEN*

Charlene/Jerry Morgan/Ensemble

Regional: Imagination Stage: *Spy Academy* (News Anchor), Infinity Theatre Company: *Broadway Cabaret, The Fantasticks* (The Mute u/s). University of Maryland: *A Doll's House* (Dr. Rank), *Orlando* (Chorus), *Flyin' West* (Miss Leah u/s). Education: University of Maryland, BA in Theatre. @edimaessien



CRYSTAL FREEMAN

Effie Melody White

Regional: Toby's Dinner Theatre: Godspell (herself), *Elf* (Macy's Saleswoman), *Shrek* (Dragon, Thelonius, Three Bears, Mama Ogre)



MALSHAUNA HAMM

Joann/Les Styles/Effie (cover)

ArtsCentric: *The Wiz* (Aunt Em). Solomons Word Theater Inc.: *The Anatomy of Love* (Older Autumn), Love University (Professor Camille Hart). Education: Towson University (Environmental Science & Studies).



*RYAN HOLMES**

M.C./Tuxedo/Wayne/Curtis (Cover)

Cockpit in Court Summer Theatre: *Disaster!* , *Nice Work If You Can Get It,* Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Kinky Boots,* The Beth Tfiloh Community Theatre:*42nd Street*. Very new to theatre and excited for the opportunity to work with such great talent here at ArtsCentric. Would love to thank my loving kids, Quinn and Jacob, and their mother Kim for the support and the rest of my family for the unbelievable support in chasing my dreams and passion.



*JAYME HOWARD**

Stepp Sister/Ensemble

Jayme Howard has been dancing for 10 years. She started dance at Five678 Studio of Dance and transitioned through Dance Dimensions and CenterStage Academy for the Arts. She was inducted into the National Honors Society of Dance Arts in 2019. Jayme has recently been in *Hip Hop Nutcracker,* an Evolve Dance Competition. Jayme is currently furthering her training of singing, dancing, and acting while receiving her education majoring in Business Administration concentration Entrepreneurship as a Junior at Towson University.



WHITNEY JEFFERSON

Michelle Morris

Bowie State University: *Little Shop of Horrors,* Clarion University of PA: *Godspell* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Education: Bowie State University, BS in Musical Theatre.

BRYAN JEFFREY

Jimmy Early

BRYAN JEFFREY is a Philadelphia, PA native. Credits include: *Dreamgirls* (James Thunder Early - Helen Hayes Award Nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical), *Amazing Grace* (Tyler), *Snapshots* (Dawan/ Brian Logan/David), *My Kind of Blues: A Sam Cooke Short* (Sam Cooke), *The Wiz* (Scarecrow), *Rent* (Angel), *Treemonisha (*Zodzetrick*), See How They Run* (Bishop), *Blues for Mister Charlie* (Meridian), *Mary Sunshine* (Chicago),*Thunder Knocking On The Door* (Jaguar Jr.), 2021 Broadway World Baltimore Performer of the Decade-Winner.
Thanks to Jesus and his Ma, Dr. Dolores L. Daniels. "Be Legendary"



RAQUEL JENNINGS

Lorrell Robinson

Raquel Jennings is a singer and actress born and raised in Philadelphia, PA and now based in the DMV.
Some of her favorite musical theater credits are *Ragtime* (Sarah), *The Last 5 Years* (Cathy), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chiffon). Other credits include *Aida* (Amneris u/s), *Memphis*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Porgy & Bess*. Raquel is also scheduled to shoot her first lead role in a feature film in 2022. She's excited to be back with ArtsCentric and making her first appearance at Baltimore Center Stage!
IG: @raqu_jraqu_j



SHAYLA LOWE

Deena Jones

ArtsCentric: *Sister Act* (Deloris Van Cartier), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Patti), *Sincerely, Me* (Self), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene), NextStop Theatre Company/ESP: *Beehive* (Tina Turner), Keegan Theatre: *Hands on a Hardbody* (Norma Valverde), Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Showboat* (Queenie u/s), *The Color Purple* (Shug Avery), *Grease* (Teen Angel), *The Wiz* (Addaperle). @DevaDollShay #iloveyou #yesyou



CURTIS MCNEIL

Marty

Curtis McNeil is an award-winning film writer and actor from Baltimore, Maryland. Curtis started his theatrical career at Lake Clifton Eastern High School in Baltimore, Maryland. *Purlie* (Purlie*), A Soldier's Play* (C.J. Memphis),*Twelfth Night* (Orsino), *The Meeting* (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), "*Courageous*" as Avon Flubber Johnson, *Aida* (King Amonasro). Curtis has since been directing film and video for his production company. Curtis' motto is "Let's make magic! Curtis pays homage to such people as Hugh Carey, Scott Blanks, Linda Kershaw, Sheria McNeil, Minnie Stanley, Awilda McNeil (wife), and a host of others for without their push none of this would be possible. Last but not least he thanks God for the many blessings of opportunity. LuvIsLuv, enjoy.



*JODECI MILHOUSE**

Deena Jones

New York: The Lincoln Center Clark Theatre: SOLE Defined's *Zaz: The Big Easy* (Lynette). Regional: Signature Theatre: *After Midnight* (Dancin' Doll). www.jodecimilhouse.com



*DANA NEARING**

Curtis Taylor, Jr.

Originally from Detroit, Dana is heavily influenced by his Motown roots and draws inspiration and energy from his family and community. Recent credits includ Keegan Theatre: *Legally Blonde* (Kyle/Ensemble u/s), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Ensemble/Swing-Chris/Greg/Mike/Ronald), Gay Men's Chorus of Washington: *Working* (Lovin' Al/Babe/Tom Patrick/Ensemble). Dana has been a member of GMCW since 2013 singing to promote equality and inclusion.



AVERY J. PEARSALL

Ensemble

ArtsCentric*: Little Shop of Horrors* (Mrs. Luce/Ensemble), *Black Nativity* (Wise Man). Regional: Unified Voices: *Serenity's House* (Mr. Jenkins), *Five Guys Named Moe* (Four Eyed Moe), Arena Players: *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Adrian). Film/TV: *For My Man*. Education: Full Sail University, Masters in Entertainment Management and Bowie State University, Bachelor in Public Relations.



TYRELL STANLEY

C.C. White/Ensemble

Tyrell Stanley is beyond grateful & excited to be back performing onstage with ArtsCentric! Tyrell was previously cast in Keegan Theatre's *Memphis* before the pandemic shutdown. Other credits include, Regional: ArtsCentric: *The Wiz* (Ensemble (Lion/TinMan u/s), *Snapshots* (Ensemble) *Aida* (Ensemble), *Memphis* (Ensemble/Wailin' Joe u/s). *Cockpit in Court, Sister Act* (TJ), *Wedding Singer* (Mookie), *Gypsy* (Yonkers); Phoenix Festival Theater: *Legally Blonde* (Grandmaster Chad) Virginia: The Heritage Ensemble Theatre Company: *Confessions of a Black Cowboy* (Nat Love/Willie Kennard)

Tyrell is also a Lighting Designer, Creative Consultant and Educator. He is a recipient of the 2021 BroadwayWorld.com Baltimore Regional Award for Lighting Design of the Decade. Special thanks to God, my friends & family, Drew, Alyssa, Baltimore Center Stage, ArtsCentric, & the Dreamgirls creative team and cast. Instagram: stagerightt



QUINCY VICKS*

C.C. White/Ensemble

Regional: *Cosby Satires* (Pudding), *Friendlier Fables* "Virtual" (Ensemble), *The Piano Lesson* (Doaker). Film: *Brown Girl, Brown Girl What Do You See?*, *A Tale about the Peach*, *Check Please*. Education: Morgan State University, B.A. in Theatre Arts. He would like to dedicate this performance to his Theater Angel Shirley and his Drama Mama Shanelle Ingram.



GABRIELLE WILLIAMS* ***(GABBY SAMONE)***

Stepp Sister/Les Styles/Lorrell (cover)

Gabby Samone, the youngest of eight siblings, is a 19 year old Baltimore native seeking to pursue a career as an R&B artist, while remaining true to her gospel heritage. Gabby is a viral vocal superstar on Instagram. With over 85K followers, the sensational Samone averages 3,000 plus new followers per post. Gabby aspires to develop her sound, brand and image on her journey to releasing new music. Some of Samone's musical influences are Beyonce, Jazmine Sullivan,Fantasia, H.E.R.,Whitney Houston, Jhene Ainko, Rachell Ferrell and Lalah Hathaway. Gabby currently enjoys performing with The Baltimore Urban Inspiration Choir (BUIC) under the direction of her mentor,Therron Fowler.Gabby has an interest in psychology and desires to learn to play the guitar and piano.



*JANAE WITCHER**

Stepp Sister/Ensemble

Janae Witcher is an aspiring professional actress, dancer and singer from Prince George's County, Maryland. She spent 4 years in Bishop McNamara High School's Theater and Dance programs and was a member of International Thespian Society and the National Honor Society of Dance Arts. She is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University that minored in Dance and Choreography. She has performed with PG County's Teens Performance Ensemble, Little Theater of Alexandria's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ensemble, Dance Captain), Isokan Dance and Performance Company (Principal Dancer). She is currently an Assistant Dance Instructor and choreographer for Zion's Daughters Dance Ensemble. Janae is very excited to be making her ArtsCentric debut in *Dreamgirls*.

*ArtsCentric Debut

THE DIRECTOR



KEVIN S. MCALLISTER
Director

Kevin S. McAllister was most recently cast in the upcoming revival of *Caroline or Change* alongside Cassie Levy, Sharon D. Clarke and Broadway legend Chip Zien. He was also recently seen in the hit Broadway musical, *Come From Away*. When not in NYC, he can be seen often on regional stages around Washington D.C where he is a two time Helen Hayes Award winning actor with 12 nominations under his belt. His favorite roles being The Tin Man in *The Wiz*, Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in *Ragtime*, and Tom Collins in *Rent*. Regional venues include The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, Signature Theatre, and Ford's Theatre. Mr. McAllister's opera background has also afforded him the opportunity to perform in Washington National Opera's revival of Kurt Weill's *Lost In The Stars* with Eric Owens. He's participated in several world premieres and workshops with works written by Pasek and Paul, Jeanine Tesori, Rowe and Dempsey and living legend Bruce Hornsby. As an actor, Kevin is a firm believer in the idea of reimagining roles and has often taken on roles not originally written for African-American actors. Regionally, he has played Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, File in *110 In The Shade,* Murdoch in *Titanic the Musical*, Herman Preysing in *Grand Hotel* and Burrs in *The Wild Party.*

When not on the stage, Kevin is the artistic director of ArtsCentric, a performing arts organization in Baltimore dedicated to re-examining traditional roles in the arts. He has served on the production team of various works that have been featured at Ford's Theatre, Toby's Dinner Theatre, NextStop Theatre, Olney Theatre and Monumental Theatre Company. He is also a recurring guest lecturer at Montgomery College, American University, Howard

University, University of Maryland and in January 2021 will join the Musical Theatre Department at Catholic University. In November 2020, Kevin was nominated as DC's Artist of The Decade by Broadway World for his continued commitment to arts advancement in Maryland/DC region. He was also selected as the Director of the Decade by Broadway World in the Baltimore region.

ABOUT ARTSCENTRIC

ArtsCentric, Inc. is an African American performing arts organization; a color-conscious organization committed to reexamining traditional roles in the arts, advancing original stories of specific cultures, and fostering educational advancement to strengthen the community through the power of theatre. ArtsCentric approaches the arts with a color-conscious lens when creating community-oriented and enriched education programs. The organization started with a dream in 2003, when the founders dreamed of creating more performance opportunities for young African-American artists like themselves. What began as a dream slowly morphed into an experiment: a core group of young artists armed with talent and fresh ideas, committed to producing and performing. ArtsCentric forged partnesrships and relationships with Baltimore/D.C. area organizations which paved the way for what would become the fiber of ArtsCentric's mission and model: providing entertainment that is color-conscious, community-oriented, educational and enriching. Today, ArtsCentric emerges as a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization, producing five productions of traditional, contemporary and original staged-shows per season. In addition to our mainstage productions, ArtsCentric holds two summer institutes for young artists, and offers arts training via ArtsCentric Academy through distance learning and traditional in-person classrooms. Ultimately, ArtsCentric strives to positively impact a broad and diverse audience base, and uphold high standards of quality entertainment, while using the arts to inform, change, and enhance lives, one audience at a time.

Upcoming Programming:
ArtsCentric Original
Coming January 2022



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ArtsCentric

To learn more about ArtsCentric, including upcoming programming, classes, and how to support, visit https://www.artscentric.org

ABOUT BCS

Founded in 1963 and designated the State Theater of Maryland in 1978, Baltimore Center Stage provides the highest quality theater and programming for all members of our communities, including youth and families, under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephanie Ybarra. Baltimore Center Stage ignites conversations and imaginations by producing an eclectic season of professional productions across two mainstages and an intimate 99-seat theater, through engaging community programs, and with inspiring education programs. Everything we do at Center Stage is led by our core values—chief among them being Access For All. Our mission is heavily rooted in providing active and open accessibility for everyone, regardless of any and all barriers, to our Mainstage performances, education initiatives, and community programming.

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RENTALS

Baltimore Center Stage has been in its historic Mt. Vernon home since 1975. In 2017, we completed a $28 million renovation to create more opportunities for art making and community building, with new public spaces to gather in before and after shows, and state-of-the-art performance spaces with the best in theater design and technology. Since then, we have hosted parties, company meetings, weddings, and performances for those in the Baltimore community.



Many of our spaces are available to rent for events, and all of our spaces are ADA-compliant.

LEARN MORE HERE

Contact rentals@centerstage.org with any questions.

NOV 27-DEC 19, 2021 • LIVE IN PERSON

FIRES IN THE MIRROR

CROWN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN AND OTHER IDENTITIES

A CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

BY ANNA DEAVERE SMITH • DIRECTED BY NICOLE BREWER
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LONG WHARF THEATRE

In the late summer of 1991, long-simmering tensions between Black and Jewish residents of Crown Heights, Brooklyn erupted in a series of violent events. Renowned playwright Anna Deavere Smith interviewed more than 100 people about those tension-filled days, creating a striking tapestry of oral histories examining that flashpoint moment in American history. A single performer brings those stories to electrifying life in Fires in the Mirror.

BUY YOUR TICKETS!

MAR 17 - APR 10, 2022 • LIVE IN PERSON

THE FOLKS AT HOME

A BALTIMORE SITCOM

BY R. ERIC THOMAS • DIRECTED BY STEVIE WALKER-WEBB

A Baltimore Sitcom

Roger and Brandon, an interracial couple living in South Baltimore, are doing the best they can. Their mortgage is late, Roger's been laid off for months, and there might be a ghost in the attic. It's a lot. And that was before all of their parents had to move in with them. From the hilarious mind of Baltimore's own R. Eric Thomas and directed by Obie Award winner Stevie Walker-Webb, *The Folks at Home* is a contemporary riff on the beloved family sitcoms of the 1970s.

BUY YOUR TICKETS!

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