

The logo for Newton Theatre Company is a black square with the text "NEWTON THEATRE COMPANY" in white. "NEWTON" and "COMPANY" are in a sans-serif font, while "THEATRE" is in a red, serif font.

**NEWTON
THEATRE
COMPANY**

Newton Theatre Company Presents

A Medal for Willie

By William Branch

Saturday, February 27th

**Co-Directed by Melissa Bernstein
and Tatiana Ramos**

**Talkback to be moderated by members of
Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ)**

Cast & Crew

JANITOR (Harriet) - Tamika Olszewski

TAYLOR - Devlin Scott

MRS. JACKSON - Tatiana Ramos

LUCY MAE - Regan Sims

CAPTAIN/EDITOR - Elliott Purcell

MAYOR - David Tabish

SUPERINTENDENT - Chuck Schwager

GENERAL/CUSTOMER - Matt Goldstein

BARBER - Adam Brown

REPORTER - Jonah Michel

PRINCIPAL - Gregory Burgess

MUSICIAN - Danny Rivera, Jr.

CO-DIRECTOR - Melissa Bernstein

CO-DIRECTOR - Tatiana Ramos

CREATIVE TEAM - Tamika Olszewski

CREATIVE TEAM - Devlin Scott

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Bernie Bernstein



HARMONY
FOUNDATION



This production is made possible by a generous grant from the Harmony Foundation, and is being produced in partnership with Overdue: Confronting Race and Racism in Newton.

Who's Who

Adam Brown (Barber) is a Newton resident and has been the Director of Theatre Ink, Newton North High School's Teaching and Working Theatre for the past 20 years. Before coming to NPS he spent an incredible 10 years teaching theatre in the Boston Public Schools. He grew up in Queens, NY, and is a proud graduate of Binghamton University. He truly believes that theatre is a true game changer in every child's life and the support for the Arts in our schools is paramount. Adam is married and has two incredible kids who are students in the NPS.

Gregory Burgess (Principal) is a resident of Takoma Park, Maryland, and is a resident actor at Chesapeake Shakespeare Theater in Baltimore and has performed in CSC's productions of *Henry IV Parts I and 2*, *The Fantastiks*, *A Christmas Carol* (2014 - 2020) and *The Merchant of Venice* among many others. His training includes The Martin Blank Studio, The Shakespeare Theater and Howard University.

Jonah Michel (Reporter) is thrilled to be in his fourth show with Newton Theatre Company. You may remember him from his role as Jack in NTC's premiere production of *Wonder* or as Meany Jim in *Junie B. Jones*. Jonah is a graduate of Newton North High School where he appeared on stage with Theatre Ink, under the tutelage of fellow *Willie* castmate Adam Brown. Jonah comes to Midway from his dorm room at Northwestern University outside Chicago, where he is a freshman studying environmental science. Jonah hopes to combat climate change and save the world, one tree at a time. He would like to thank his parents Karen and Larry for all their support throughout the years, as well as his little brother Spike who he hopes to see on stage soon.

Who's Who Continued

Matt Goldstein (General/Customer) a father of two teenage girls and a middle school math teacher in Brookline. He has been in many shows with Newton Theatre Company, including *The Song of Achilles Parts 1 and 2*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Would-Be Hipster*, *Women*, *Pinocchio* and four Junie B. Jones shows. His current record for most characters played in a single production is four.

Tamika Olszewski (Janitor/Creative Team) is a Newton resident and parent. As a board member for Newton Theatre Company, Harmony Foundation, and Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ), and as a representative on the Newton School Committee, Tamika is a powerful voice for change within our community. She was recently seen in Newton Theatre Company's production of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Tatiana Ramos (Mrs. Jackson/Co-Director) is a global health researcher who has loved performing for years, from minoring in theatre at the University of Vermont to now a part of the Newton Theatre Company! Based in Boston, Tatiana combines theatre with public health and non-profit work. Previous NTC productions: *Sorry*, *Wrong Number* and *Antigone*.

Danny Rivera, Jr. (Musician) is a multidisciplinary artist, record producer, and thoughtful advocate for social impact, equity, and empowerment. With his soulful voice and powerful performances, Rivera is constantly discovering new ways to unite us all, reimagining what it means to be an artist, educator, and social activist. Danny currently studies voice at The Longy Music School of Bard College but remains busy traveling nationally as he continues to expand his reach and fulfill purpose, creating and occupying space for young artists to express their creativity to the fullest degree.
www.dannyriverajr.com

Who's Who Continued

Elliott Purcell (Captain/Editor) has been seen live on the NTC stage in many shows, including *Ethan Frome*, *Living in Exile*, *Song of Achilles*, *Marie Antoinette*, and *Antigone*. Selected Local Credits: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (IRNE Nomination Outstanding Actor), *Hand to God* (Elliot Norton Nomination Outstanding Actor) *appropriate* [SpeakEasy Stage Company]. Education: Boston College Class of '14.

Chuck Schwager (Superintendent) is pleased to be back working with Newton Theatre Company. He has performed in the Boston/Berkshire areas for 20 years. In addition to stage work he has appeared in films and commercials.
www.chuckschwager.com

Devlin Scott (Taylor/Creative Team) is a local parent and community leader. The Lead Pastor at NewCity Church, a Board Member of Harmony Foundation, and the CEO & President at NewCommunity, Inc., Devlin is consistently searching for ways to make our community stronger and more connected. He is excited to be back at Newton Theatre Company after several meaningful partnerships.

Regan Sims (Lucy Mae) is an actor and mime from Manhattan, NY. This is her fourth production with Newton Theatre Company. Other theatre credits include roles with TheaterWorksUSA, 59E59, ART/NY Theaters, The PIT, Crossroads Theatre Company, Mile Square Theatre, Hudson Valley Shakespeare, Bay Area Children's Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe, London. Education: Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts. www.regansims.com

David Tabish (Mayor) has performed professionally for almost fifty years in both small and great regional theaters as well as over 15 seasons with Indiana University of Pennsylvania's professional resident companies. Favorite roles include Bottom, Polonius, Big Daddy, Richard Lionhearted, Bellomy, Chasuble, several Neil Simon folks, and many unknown new play originals.

Anti-Racist Learning and Action

We hope you'll consider incorporating some of the following resources into your anti-racist pursuits.

Click on the links to learn more.

Further Reading

["Civil Rights Playwrights as Black Intellectuals"](#)

["Theatre and Civil Rights: Dr. Julie Burrell on the Importance of A Medal for Willie"](#)

["103 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice"](#)

Local Organizations to Support

[Harmony Foundation](#)

[Families Organizing for Racial Justice \(FORJ\)](#)

[Overdue: Confronting Race and Racism in Newton](#)

Action Steps

[Donate to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#)

[Shop at Black-Owned Businesses](#)

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"It's communication —
that's what theatre is all about!"

— Chita Rivera



Thank you, Newton Theatre Company, for a season of
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