



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Operations Team Positions the Lincoln Theatre for Bright Future

As the performing arts begin to emerge from the effects of the pandemic, the Lincoln Theatre is poised for a new age of reinvention, rebirth, and revival with a new operations team. Up to full staffing for the first time since the pandemic began, the Lincoln Theatre will tap the skills, experience, and creativity of these performing arts professionals as it broadens and deepens its signature programming and strives to further improve the patron experience.

“This work isn’t accomplished single handedly and the new, highly skilled, and knowledgeable staff brings to the table a wholesome perspective of building artistic communities, helping local artists find homes in places they never imagined and bringing the magic of the Lincoln to life,” stated Lincoln Theatre Executive Director Suzan Bradford. “Our team serves as staff, supports as artists, and appreciates as an audience. You won’t find that anywhere else.”

Gamal Brown, Associate Director (New Hire)

A career educator and arts advocate, Brown has used his playwright skills to develop productions on behalf of the Lincoln Theatre for gala performances. He is also a 2018 graduate of the Lincoln’s “Expand Your Horizon” Artist Incubation Program and a 2019 Backstage at the Lincoln featured artist. As associate director of the Lincoln Theatre, Brown will assist in all aspects of operations, programming, and staffing to fulfill the vision of the executive director and bring a top-quality experience to all Lincoln

patrons. Creator/producer: *The Colored Section*, King Arts Complex's *20 & Odd*. Artistic director: King Arts Complex's *HeArt of Protest* Maroon Arts Group's *Inside the Riot*. Choreographer: Columbus Museum of Art's *Wonderball* (2019) and *DiverCity Project* (2016-19). 2019 Community Arts Fellow from The Ohio State University African and African American Studies and Cultural Extension Center. 2018 and 2019 Columbus Dances Fellowship sponsored by Columbus Dance Theatre and the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Corey Lynn Carter, Technical Director (New Hire)

A proud Eagle Scout and full-tuition Capital University fellowship recipient, Carter completed his Bachelor of Music in 2014. Since then, he has executed more than 2,000 professional events, traveled to 49 states and much of Canada as a tour manager and audio engineer with artists such as Rhiannon Giddens, Goitse, Trevor Hall, Daya, and many others. Carter also serves as an audio engineer, lighting designer, and consultant for a variety of central Ohio venues and organizations, most recently with Natalie's Grandview and Rock City Church. In his new role as technical director of the Lincoln Theatre, Carter will manage all stage operations, stagehands, and audio/visual equipment for all events and performances happening at the Lincoln.

Quianna Simpson, Program Coordinator (New Hire)

In addition to scheduling seasonal staff and interns for the Lincoln, Quianna Simpson will organize and manage the Lincoln's signature programs including the Artist Production Development Workshops, Backstage at the Lincoln, Community Conversations, and Patternz Summer Camp. In 2018, Simpson choreographed the Lincoln Theatre's Harlem Renaissance musical, *Renaissance Magic*, and restaged the work in 2019 for the OSU Jazz Big Band's *Echoes of Harlem...and Chicago*. Simpson is currently serving as a teacher with Thiossane West African Dance Institute, board member with OhioDance, board member with Columbus Optimistic Ladies' competition team, and instructor for BalletMet's "Soar on Saturdays" community class. She is also currently an MFA candidate with The Ohio State University.

Kevin Seals, Facility Coordinator (Returning Staff, New Title)

In his returning role with the Lincoln Theatre, Kevin Seals will ensure the highest quality patron experience through management of all operating activities and coordination of various departments, working closely with staff to focus on space optimization, finding the best solutions for immediate needs, and devising and driving long-term strategies. Prior to this position, Seals began with the Lincoln part-time in 2009 and was promoted to assistant to the executive director in 2016. A traditional percussionist, he serves as lead drummer and artistic director for Thiossane West African Dance Institute and has also been a featured guest musician with Professor Dr. Kimberly Goodman at Otterbein University, facilitating lectures, demonstrations, and workshops for their World Music curriculum. Seals served as percussionist for the Wexner's *Let the Rhythm Hit 'Em* and has instructed and performed at Las Vegas' Taste of Africa. Currently, Seals provides traditional musicality content for a variety of curriculum within the OSU department of dance.

Sabrina Dukes, Operations Assistant (Returning Staff)

Dukes has been serving the Lincoln since 2009, maintaining the theatre's integrity by providing a clean, safe environment for patrons, employees, and user groups.

Dautri Erwin, Marketing Intern

Originally from Atlanta, Erwin is a second-year master's student at The Ohio State University, studying arts policy and administration, with a bachelor's in theatre and marketing. In her current internship with the Lincoln Theatre, she supports social media marketing efforts and assists in program and event management.

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Support for the Lincoln Theatre's 2021-22 season is provided in part by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the City of Columbus, AEP Foundation, Nationwide, The Columbus Foundation's Fred Sands Family Fund with the assistance of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

About the Lincoln Theatre

First opened in 1928, the Lincoln Theatre is a landmark in African American and jazz history. After undergoing a \$13.5 million renovation funded by a partnership of public and private support, the Lincoln reopened in May 2009 as a multi-use, state-of-the-art performing arts and education center serving the diversity of the central Ohio community. The Lincoln is a bustling hub of activity 365 days a year hosting performances, rehearsals, and classes

in the performing arts, as well as a wide variety of community events such as film festivals, meetings, and receptions.

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