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**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS  
THE KENNEDY CENTER THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES  
ON TOUR PRODUCTION OF  
*ACOUSTIC ROOSTER'S BARNYARD BOOGIE: STARRING INDIGO BLUME***

Adapted from the books by Kwame Alexander

By Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess

Music by Randy Preston

Directed by Lili-Anne Brown

Saturday, April 22, 2 pm - Sunday, April 23, 2023, 11 am

Post-Performance Talkback-Book Signing with Kwame Alexander on April 23, 2023

The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater

(Beverly Hills, CA, March 27, 2023) – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences On Tour Production of ***ACOUSTIC ROOSTER'S BARNYARD BOOGIE: STARRING INDIGO BLUME***, directed by Lili-Anne Brown, from Saturday, April 22 to Sunday, April 23, 2023, in The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater. *New York Times* best-selling author Kwame Alexander brings two of his beloved children's books, *Acoustic Rooster* and *Indigo Blue*, to the stage in this Kennedy Center commission, teaming up with his writing partner Mary Rand Hess and long-time musical collaborator Randy Preston to tell a story about being scared, being brave, and believing in yourself. With special guests like Duck Ellington and Ms. Dairy Parton, this musical adaptation will have children (and families) dancing in their seats. The production is *Recommended for ages 5+*. A TALKBACK WITH KWAME ALEXANDER takes place for ticketholders only after the final performance on Sunday, April 23, followed by a book signing of *Indigo Blume and the Garden City*. Books will be available for purchase!

The cast features Daniel Riley (Acoustic Rooster/Dad), Kanysha Williams (Indigo Blume), Lauren Davis (Chickee Minaj/Mom), Caitlin Witty (Miss Dairy Parton/Samantha), Vaughn Ryan Midder (Duck Ellington/Elijah), and Jaysen Wright (Mules Davis/Mr. Woody). Performing in Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Band are Mark G. Meadows (keyboard), Zack Pride (bass), Carroll Dashiell III (drums), and Joe Herrera (trumpet).

This production is made possible by generous support from the Nemeroff family.

Tickets (\$20-\$35) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. [TheWallis.org/barnyard](http://TheWallis.org/barnyard).

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm), email [Tickets@TheWallis.org](mailto:Tickets@TheWallis.org) or visit [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis' ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, staff, and artists inside and outside the venue are a top priority for The Wallis. Facial masks are no longer required but are strongly encouraged and recommended. The Wallis' health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue's sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at [TheWallis.org/Safety](http://TheWallis.org/Safety). Policies are subject to change.

**KWAME ALEXANDER** (Author) has written 37 books, three of them in a chair next to a fireplace at his neighborhood Panera Bread. He now writes in a penthouse in London, where he lives. But, he misses the writing studio he built in Virginia a few years ago. It has huge windows, a large painting of John Coltrane, 3000 books, heated floors, a blue couch, and a loft. He has eaten snails, chocolate covered bugs, and grasscutter, which is like a big rat, which he had no idea he was eating because it was in a really tasty stew he ate in Ghana while building a library and a health clinic in a village called Konko. He's never eaten frogs. But, he has written a book about them called *Surf's Up*. And, some other books you may have heard of like *The Crossover* and *The Door of No Return*, and *How to Read a Book*, all New York Times bestsellers, which his Dad likes to brag about in grocery stores and doctor's offices. Oh, he also wrote the book this musical is based on: *ACOUSTIC ROOSTER'S BARNYARD BAND*. Kwame loves jazz. Kwame loves his family. Kwame loves his job. Part of Kwame's job is to write and produce the Disney Plus TV series based on his novel *The Crossover*. The other part of Kwame's job is to Change the World One Word at a Time. Oh yeah, he also won the Newbery Medal. Whoa!

**MARY RAND HESS** (Playwright) is a poet, playwright, screenwriter, and New York Times bestselling author of notable and award-winning books such as *Solo* (CABA Honor Book and NAACP Image Award Finalist) and *Swing*, coauthored with Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander, *The One and Only Wolfgang: From Pet Rescue to One Big Happy Family*, written with Steve Greig of @wolfgang2242 Instagram fame, and the forthcoming picture books *Belong* and *Quiet is Strength*. Hess loves collaboration and is currently at work on several exciting film and media projects. *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume* is Hess' first musical collaboration but certainly not her last. She lives in California with her husband, two wildly creative sons, and one quirky dog, who loves to sing while she composes on the piano. [www.maryrandhess.com](http://www.maryrandhess.com)

**RANDY PRESTON** (Composer), an African Native American, is a singer-songwriter, educator and storyteller and was raised and educated in the UK and Kenya. He taught English literature for 18 years before switching careers, spending the past seven years touring with Kwame Alexander, visiting over 700 schools throughout six different countries and 48 of the 50 U.S. states. Preston starred in the Kennedy Center's limited episode series, *Songbook*, where he wrote and sang songs with selected young poets. He recently signed a two-book deal with Penguin Books and is eagerly awaiting the publication of his picture book collaboration with Alexander titled *How to Sing a Song*, releasing in the summer of 2023. He was thrilled to present his original score for *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: starring Indigo Blume* and played the role of Acoustic Rooster in the KCTYA debut in November of 2021.

**LILI-ANNE BROWN** (Director), a Chicago South Side native, works as a director, actor and educator, and has performed in, directed, and produced many award-winning shows in Chicago and nationally. Recent directing credits include: *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Huntington Theatre), *School Girls, or The African Mean Girls Play*, and the world premieres of Ike Holter's *I Hate It Here* and *Lottery Day* (Goodman Theatre); *Ain't No Mo'* (Woolly Mammoth and Baltimore CenterStage), *The Color Purple* (The Muny), *Once on This Island* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Acoustic Rooster...* (Kennedy Center), *Put Your House in Order* (La Jolla Playhouse), and *Cullud Wattah* (Victory Gardens). She is the former Artistic Director of Bailiwick Chicago, where she focused programming on Chicago-premiere musicals and new play development with resident playwrights. She is a member of SDC, AEA, and SAG-AFTRA, and is represented by William Morris Endeavor. [www.lilbrownchicago.com](http://www.lilbrownchicago.com).

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#### **About Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:**

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national, and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 350 theater, dance, music, film, cabaret, conversation, and family entertainment programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as "au courant" (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, "If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis." Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. Michael Nemeroff is Chairman of The Wallis' Board of Directors.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

For downloadable photos, please visit: [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press).

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#### **EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

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**Lauren Davis** Chickee Minaj/Mom  
**Caitlin Witty** Miss Dairy Parton/Samantha  
**Vaughn Ryan Midder** Duck Ellington/Elijah  
**Jaysen Wright** Mules Davis/Mr. Woody

**Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Band**

**Mark G. Meadows** Keyboard  
**Zack Pride** Bass  
**Carroll Dashiell III** Drums  
**Joe Herrera** Trumpet

**CREDITS**

**Mark G. Meadows** Music Supervision, Arrangements & Orchestrations  
**Tim Bowers** Illustration  
**Joey Blakely** Production Stage Manager/Dance Captain  
**Breon Arzell** Choreography  
**Montana Kern** Technical Director/Lighting Supervisor  
**Liv Farley** Asst. Technical Director/Sound Supervisor  
**Sarah Slagle** Props/Wardrobe Supervisor

**Creative Team**

Kevin Alexander, Delaney Bray, Priscilla Bruce, Dominic Desalvio, Nadia Guevara, Mark Hamberger, Michelle Kozlak, Marsha Leboeuf, Andrea "Dre" Moore, Mark Reiter, Arnel Sancianco, Alberto Segarra, Mollie Singer, Erik Teague, Channing Tucker

**WHEN:**

Saturday, April 22, 2 pm  
Sunday, April 23, 2023, 11 am (post-show talkback w/Kwame Alexander & book signing)

**RUNNING TIME:**

Approximately one hour, no intermission.

**TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:**

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

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