



Our Mission: Empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration.

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STEPVA CAST SPOTLIGHT: NOAH FINCH & CARSON BAIZ

April 19, 2022 by Noah King



FREDERICKSBURG, VA—With Disney’s “The Lion King KIDS” coming up in less than two weeks, STEPVA, a 501c(3) nonprofit whose mission is to “empower people with special needs through artistic expression and sensory exploration,” has two royal majordomos of its own: one literal and one figurative. As Zazu, Carson Baiz will be helping keep Simba and Mufasa, the king and prince of the African savanna, on the right path, while as assistant director, Noah Finch (affectionately known by STEPVA as Mr. Noah) will be doing much of the same thing, keeping the play, Disney’s “The Lion King KIDS,” on the right path as well.



Noah Finch

Following a great success with his show, “A Special COVID-19 Musical” last year, which he wrote, produced, directed and starred in as “The Narrator,” Mr. Noah is now serving as the assistant director for STEPVA’s next show, Disney’s “The Lion King KIDS.” And he had a lot to say about the differences between the two.

“Last year, the rehearsals were all virtual, and this year, they’re all in-person. This is a Disney musical this year, and last year was an original musical that I wrote myself,” referring, of course, to his show, “A Special COVID-19 Musical”, which told the story of the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic through the eyes of someone with a disability.

Despite the differences, this show seems like the perfect fit for Mr. Noah, as he was a huge fan of the film when he first saw it.

“The best part of being involved with this musical is that I’ve seen ‘The Lion King’, and I like it,” he said when asked what the best part of being involved with this show was.

His favorite song from the show is “Hakuna Matata,” a song he’s heard several times during the rehearsal process.

“I’ve been hearing [‘Hakuna Matata’] over and over again, and it’s very catchy.”



Carson Baiz

Carson Baiz, like Noah Finch, will also be steering the play down the right path, but in a different way. He will be playing Zazu, the African hornbill who serves as the king's majordomo. Thus, he will be seen pointing both Mufasa and his son, Simba, down the right path as they rule the African savanna.

Carson, unlike Mr. Noah, was not involved with "A Special COVID-19", so this is his first musical with STEPVA.

"I feel pretty great, but I'm also a little nervous with my first experience," he said.

However, he does have two favorite parts of the show: singing the songs, including "I Just Can't Wait To Be King," in which he has several solos, and his favorite song, "Circle Of Life."

While he still doesn't feel that comfortable with memorizing his lines, his castmates are sure he'll do well just the same.

Hopefully STEPVA's majordomos, Zazu & Mr. Noah, can help you remember to get your tickets for "The Lion King KIDS" before Saturday, April 30 at 7pm and Sunday May 1 at 3pm. Just don't look in the African savanna for the show; it will be performed at Fredericksburg Christian School: 9400 Thornton Rolling Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22408. Tickets are \$10; children 5 and younger are free.

To purchase tickets click [HERE](#).

For more information or to donate, visit www.stepva.org.

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