

Hello,

First and foremost I'd like to introduce myself and my assistant director Elyssa. We both just moved to the Chicago area from Austin, Texas. I recently graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Directing. I've spent the last four years directing and producing theatre across Central Texas. I recently directed a musical for my theatre company, Off Key Anthem, and last December I directed a Christmas show, *A Monster Carol*. Elyssa graduated with a BFA in Performance and Production; her previous works include *Mr. Marmalade* (Director) and *The Normal Heart* (Assistant Director).

Our goal for this show is to really focus on what it means to be a "company". Company, as a director, has always been of the utmost importance to me in all of my shows. There's a camaraderie that needs to be formed between actors in order to foster a good working environment. We'll be working on how to "trust" another actor when they're on stage with you, and how to feel comfortable working in an ensemble.

For our audition process, we focused on seeing everyone work in improv situations. We were looking for the ability to think on their feet and really go after what they needed from the other person on stage. After auditioning for two days we were able to cast the show to the best of our ability. Being that the show has a multitude of characters, and we have seven talented girls to work with, we worked our hardest to distribute parts fairly.

The cast is as follows:

Ela - Young Simba/ Simba

Bridget - Scar

Paige - Mufasa

Mia - Nala

Lily - Pumbaa/ Zazu

Molly - Timon/ Raifiki / Banzai

Birdie - Sarabi/ Shenzi

We could not be more excited to work with such a talented group!

Sincerely,
Taylor Pasche

