

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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## **CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF JORIAH KWAMÉ'S *LITTLE MISS PERFECT* AT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

**Director Zhailon Levingston's cast led by Leanne Antonio and introducing Madelynn Elizabeth Ayen**

**Olney, MD — December 3, 2025 — Olney Theatre Center produces the world premiere of *Little Miss Perfect*, a new musical, on the Roberts Mainstage February 8 - March 8, 2026, in association with **Straighten Your Crown Productions**. **Leanne Antonio** (*Lion King* Broadway/National Tour and *A Wrinkle In Time* at Arena Stage) stars as Noelle Sanders, the titular character in the musical penned by **Joriah Kwamé**, directed by **Zhailon Levingston** (*Cats: The Jellicle Ball* - coming to Broadway), and choreographed by **Chloe O. Davis** (*Paradise Square*). **Following four previews, the invited press performance is on Thursday, February 12, at 8:00 pm.** Interested critics may reserve two tickets by emailing [sstraub@olneytheatre.org](mailto:sstraub@olneytheatre.org). Tickets are available to the public from \$42 - \$102 and can be purchased at [olneytheatre.org/lmp](http://olneytheatre.org/lmp) or by calling the box office at 301-924-3400. The show is currently **scheduled to run through March 8, 2026.****

### **About the Show**

**Joriah Kwamé** became a viral TikTok star with his song "Little Miss Perfect," which garnered millions of views after winning the **Write Out Loud Contest**, and launched this new musical with Broadway aspirations. High school kids are under a lot of pressure. Just ask Noelle (Antonio), who has lived up to expectations of perfection her whole life, even as she's attempted to blend in as one of the few Black students at a predominantly white school. But now it's senior year, and a scholarship to Howard University is within her reach —if she can demonstrate leadership skills. With an irresistible mix of hip-hop, showtunes, and pop sounds, *Little Miss Perfect* distills Noelle's journey as she seeks to escape her small Midwestern town. Joriah's hit songs "Little Miss Perfect" and "Ordinary" feature prominently, and you'll be humming the new numbers - like "Black Girl Magic," "Malaya's Words," and "Legendary" by the time the curtain falls. A series of social media drops have teased music from the upcoming show on Instagram [@olneytheatre](https://www.instagram.com/olneytheatre) and on [@lmpthemusical](https://www.instagram.com/lmpthemusical) and on TikTok: [@realolneytheatre](https://www.tiktok.com/@realolneytheatre) and [@lmpmusical](https://www.tiktok.com/@lmpmusical)

Newcomer **Madelynn Ayen** plays Malaya, an exchange student from the Philippines who lands in Noelle's home and opens her world. **Kara-Tameika Watkins** plays Noelle's adopted mother, Sylvia, a respected local pastor; **Mia Goodman** plays Gia Douglass, the high school's incumbent queen bee; **Jonah Gavi Schwartz** plays Vaughn Douglass, Gia's brother, a jock with a brain and a soul; **Donovan Fowler** plays Eli, Noelle's loyal friend and campaign manager. Also featured are **Graciela Rey** as Leanne, Gia's deputy; **Russell Rinker** (Principal Harry/Mr.

Douglas), and **Brynn Williams** (Howard Admissions Counselor). The ensemble includes **Caroline Graham, Matthew Millin, Nikki Mirza, Nico Nazal, Tyrell Stanley, Bryan Stopak,** and **Montria Walker.** **Karter, Anna Maria C. Ferrari,** and **Olivia Clavel-Davis** are swings.

The powerhouse creative team backing Kwamé, Levingston, and Davis includes **Patrick B. Phillips** (Music Supervisor/Music Director), **Conor Keelan** (Orchestrator/Electronic Music Programmer), **Lawrence Moten III** (Scenic Designer), **Abigail Hoke-Brady** (Lighting Designer), **Danielle Preston** (Costume Designer), **Kevin Alexander** (Sound Designer), **Zavier Taylor** (Projections Designer), and **Michael Korie** (Dramaturg). Also working on the production are **Peri Ellis** (Associate Choreographer), **Aria Velz** (Assistant Director), **Sage Green** (Assistant Lighting Designer), **Cameron Miya** (Music Assistant), and **Danielle DeLaFuente** (Assistant Scenic Designer). **Ben Walsh** is the Stage Manager.

*Little Miss Perfect* was originally commissioned and developed by **Goodspeed Musicals**, East Haddam, CT, Donna Lynn Hilton, Artistic Director; and is produced at Olney Theatre Center with the support of **Straighten Your Crown Productions, Inc., Nicole LaFontaine**, President and Founder.

## **PRODUCTION DETAILS**

### ***Little Miss Perfect***

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Joriah Kwamé  
Music Supervisor & Music Director Patrick B. Phillips  
Choreography by Chloe O. Davis  
Directed by Zhailon Levingston

### **Dates, Location, Tickets**

**Runs February 8 - March 8, 2026**

**Invited Press: Thursday, February 12 at 8:00 pm**

**Roberts Mainstage**

**Olney Theatre Center**

2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

Olney, MD 20832

**Tickets: \$42 - \$102 available at [olneytheatre.org/lmp](http://olneytheatre.org/lmp) and 301-924-3400**

Discounts for teachers, active military, and first responders are available at:  
[olneytheatre.org/discounts](http://olneytheatre.org/discounts)

### **Performance Schedule**

Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30

Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1:30 pm.

Friday Matinee on March 6 at 1:30 pm

Sunday Evenings: February 8, March 1, evenings at 7:00 pm.

See the full schedule at: <https://tickets.olneytheatre.org/littlemissperfect>

### **Accessible Performances**

Audio-Described Performance – Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 pm

ASL Interpreted Performance – Thursday, March 5, at 7:30 pm

### **ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

#### **Mission**

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

#### **Vision**

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

#### **History**

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center (OTC) now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, OTC has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia d'Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, Bernadette Peters, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non profit organizations, and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

Olney Theatre Center employs 45 full time staff, 20+ part-time positions, 13 early career apprentices, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre is currently in the final phase of a \$36M capital campaign to build new infrastructure that better meets the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit [olneytheatre.org/history](https://olneytheatre.org/history)

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads @olneytheatre and on TikTok @realolneytheatre.

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