

NEW VICTORY THEATER

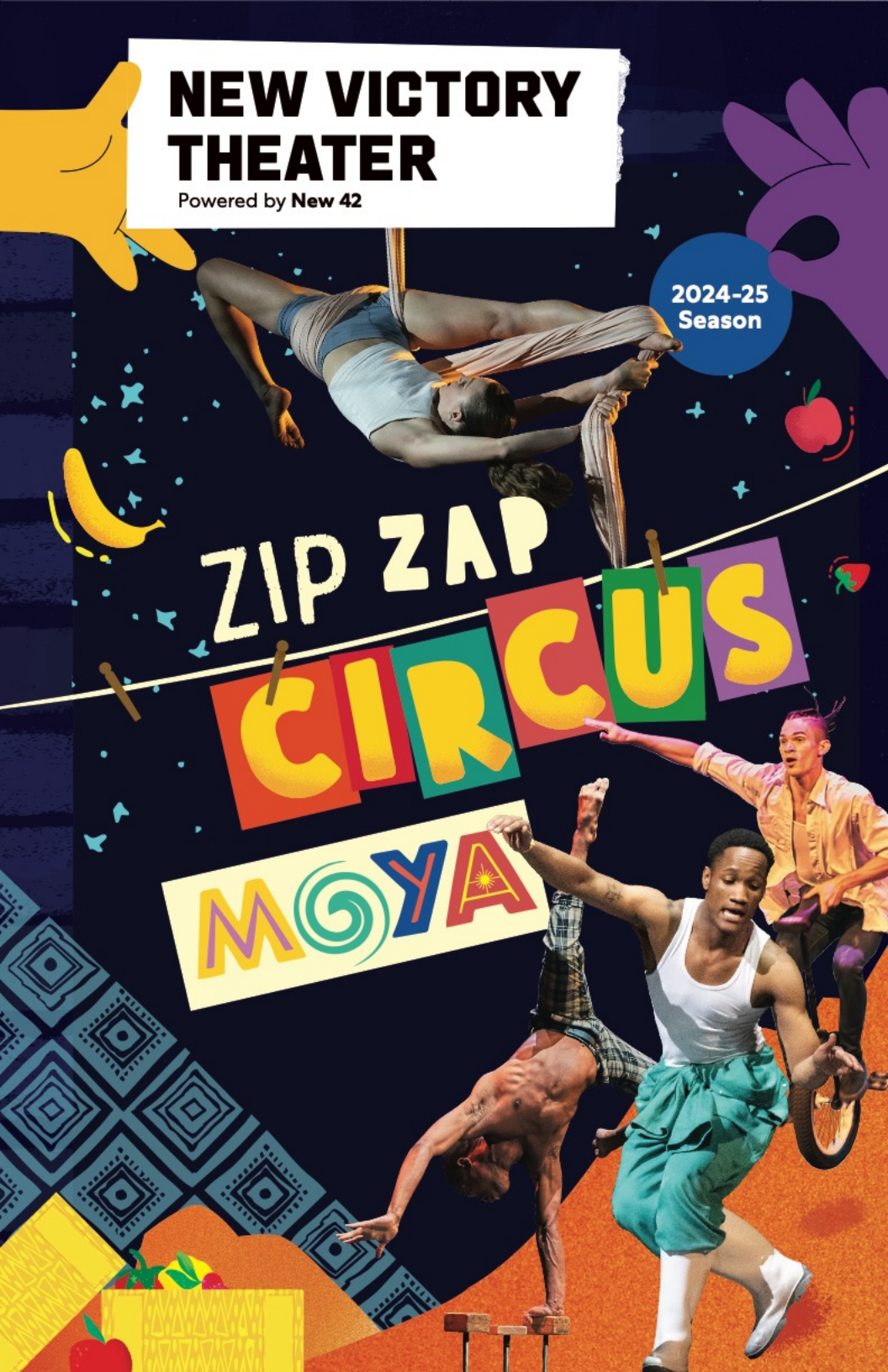
Powered by New 42

2024-25
Season

ZIP ZAP

CIRCUS

MOYAY



A Message from the President & CEO

As we enjoy the final weeks of a stellar NEW VICTORY Season, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many dedicated artists, staff and technicians who help make it all possible.

Have you ever wondered, "How many people does it take to mount a production at the New Victory Theater?" Today's performance of *MOYA* requires the work of 70 incredible individuals. *MOYA*'s talented company members thrill us on the stage. The NEW VICTORY production staff and stagehands manage lighting, wardrobe and logistics, while our front-of-house staff, ticketing team, Teaching Artists, and Youth Corps ushers greet us and provide an engaging experience for all. And let's not forget the facilities team and security guards who ensure that the theater is safe and clean.

Today's performance is also made possible by you! Our audience members and generous donors play a crucial role in making the magic of theater possible for kids of all ages. As we take our final bows of the season, we salute and thank you.



Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Granet". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Russell Granet
President & CEO, New 42



We believe access to the performing arts is a child's right from birth—the right for even the youngest among us to wonder *what if?* and to challenge *why not?*

the arts change everything



Be a part of the change at
NewVictory.org/Donate.

**NEW
42**





iHola!

My name is **Dulce**, and I'm an usher with the **NEW 42 Youth Corps**.

During our time together, let's take care of each other by following these shared agreements:

We **celebrate** each other's **differences**.
We **engage** each other with **curiosity**.
We **respect** each other's **access needs**.
We **welcome** each other with **kindness**.

We all belong to one **NEW VICTORY** community!

▶ **Enjoy the show!**



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that New Victory resides on the seized homeland of the Lenape people and the intertribal territory of many First Nations. We celebrate and pay deep respect to all Indigenous peoples, past, present and future, and we encourage you to learn more about these vibrant communities.



Learn more!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

There's so much more to your New Victory experience!



FREE Lobby Activities

Come early and stay late for creative activities in our kid-friendly lobby spaces! From moments of family play led by New Victory Teaching Artists and New 42 Youth Corps members to self-guided activities and crafts, we design all our lobby engagement to tee up what's on stage and enrich your family's theatergoing experience.



FREE Talk-Backs

Have a burning question? Stay after the show at select performances for enlightening discussions with the cast and creative team!



FREE Online Activities

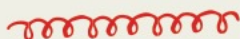
Visit [NewVictory.org/ArtsBreak](https://www.newvictory.org/ArtsBreak) for videos and activities related to past and upcoming shows. Try out a skill and talk about the show you're going to see, or enjoy some creative playtime on your own time.



THEATER BELONGS TO EVERYONE.

Your family deserves inclusive and accessible theatrical experiences with meaningful accommodations and supportive staff.

For more information, visit [NewVictory.org/Accessibility](https://www.newvictory.org/Accessibility).





Fiona Howe Rudin, *Chairman*

Russell Granet, *President & CEO*

NEW 42 PRESENTS NEW VICTORY

ZIP ZAP CIRCUS MOYA



New York Premiere

April 12 – 27, 2025

70 minutes with no intermission

Performers

Jason Barnard
Luqmaan Benjamin
Bridgette Berning
Jacobus Claassen
Masizakhe Kovi
Vuyani Lottering
Akho Narwele
Phelelani Ndakrokra
Matthew Risk

Musicians

Lumunyano Mzi, Drums
Josh Hawks, Bass, Guitars, Keyboards,
Vocals, Keyboard Programmer
Blake Hellaby, Keyboards
Chris Bakalanga, Guitar, Vocals
Lee Thompson, Trumpet
Buddy Wells, Saxophone
Sabu Jiyana, Traditional Drums,
Talking Drum, Vocals
Nceba Gongxeca, Percussion,
Khoisan Bow, Vocals
Luvo Tamba, Vocals
Zolani Mahola, Vocals
Jason Barnard, Vocals

Creative and Production Team

Brent van Rensburg,
Co-founder and Artistic Director
Brin Schoellkopf, Artistic Coach and
Creative Director
Sabine van Rensburg, Virtual Director and
Artistic Consultant
Nikolas Pulka, Artistic Coach and
Creative Director
Josh Hawks, Musical Director
Adele Blank, Choreographer
Kieran McGregor, Lighting Designer
Beaura Jacobs, Costume Designer
Sbonakaliso Ndaba, Gumboots Act
Choreographer



Powered by the nonprofit New 42, New Victory is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Board of Directors, and our dedicated foundation, corporate and individual donors.

A Note from the Director

During the Covid pandemic we had to resort to creating circus on film, as we could not perform live. The idea for *MOYA* (“Spirit”) was born during those tumultuous times—an acrobatic art film which tells the real-life story of a young boy growing up on the streets of Cape Town who finds his way to the Zip Zap Circus School where a new beginning is about to unfold. Not only does he discover his passion for performing, but also, and maybe more surprisingly, he is accepted into the Zip Zap family without prejudice.

Sabine van Rensburg, Brin Schoellkopf and Sam Renaud filmed, choreographed and edited the entire process. Mixing acrobatics with African dance and contemporary circus, *MOYA* was viewed in 42 countries, was screened at TED and won three awards at the first International Circus Awards. It was then that the idea to adapt it for the stage came to life.

Inspired by Nelson Mandela’s dream of a Rainbow Nation, we follow a young man’s journey from unbelievably rough beginnings to 15 years later, touring the world playing the lead role of his own life story. Most of the cast have also been on this journey from the beginning. Sit back and get ready for a show that embraces the unbreakable spirit of our youth—a uniquely South African production that tells a universal story.

—Brent van Rensburg

About the Company

Zip Zap Circus is a vibrant, uniquely South African social and professional circus that was founded in Cape Town in 1992. Through circus arts, young people from all walks of life are inspired and empowered to pursue their destinies and dare to dream!

Zip Zap, a nonprofit organization, offers its outreach and youth programs free of charge to over 3,000 participants annually. Financial and material support comes from individuals, corporations, foundations and from its own shows.

Globally, Zip Zap Circus is recognized across governments, ministries of education, tourism, arts and culture, and private societies as a major contributor to development within the iconic “Mother City” of Cape Town and the sustainability of the circus arts in South Africa.

Zip Zap USA supports the magic of Zip Zap South Africa, by creating awareness and managing fundraising to support the organization.

Visit ZipZapCircusUSA.org or Zip-Zap.org, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube @ZipZapCircus.



DULCE

If I could make a show for the New Victory stage, it would be a musical about saving the environment and animal ecosystems. I believe there should be more advocacy around climate change and sustainability that targets younger audiences. **If you could make a show for the New Victory, what would it be?**

Act List



Opening

Handstand

Hand to Hand

Single Trapeze



Gumboots

Ball Juggling

Cyr Wheel

“BeU”

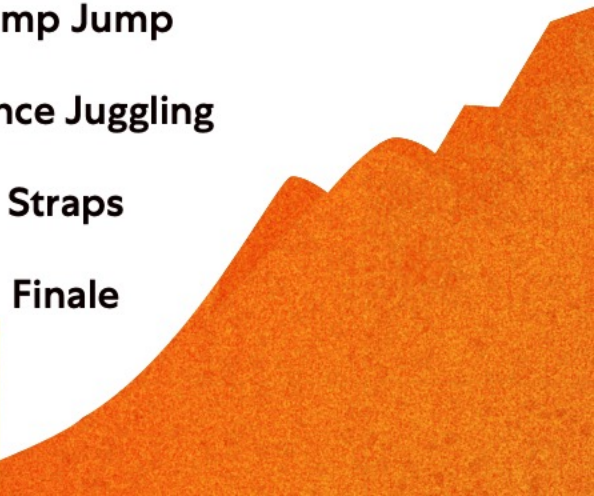
Scarf (Silks)

Jump Jump

Bounce Juggling

Straps

Finale



Meet the Performers



JASON BARNARD (Acrobat and Juggler)

What do you hope audiences learn about South Africa from MOYA?

I hope audiences learn about the coming together of different cultures, different colors and just different people.

How did you begin performing with Zip Zap Circus?

My grandfather was a flying trapeze artist, and I think the seed was planted in me to follow in his footsteps. I joined Zip Zap at the age of 8, left at the age of 13 and rejoined at the age of 19. Now I'm 30 years old and still performing for Zip Zap!



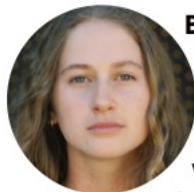
LUQMAAN BENJAMIN (Acrobat)

What do you hope audiences learn about South Africa from MOYA?

I know that they'll learn the power of togetherness but also how the impact of their individuality can have a great effect on others—how it can inspire and give hope.

What is your favorite aspect of MOYA?

My favorite aspect of MOYA is being able to experience and be part of the different cultures we represent.



BRIDGETTE BERNING (Aerialist and Acrobat)

What do you hope audiences learn about South Africa from MOYA?

I hope that from the story of the show they can get a feel for the resilience of all South African youth!

What are you most excited for audiences to experience?

I'm most excited for them to see our group pieces, which really display everyone's different skills as well as our ability to all work together as a team!



JACOBUS CLAASSEN (Lead Character)

Do you remember the first time you attended a circus?

I was mesmerized! A lot of kids were running around, some riding on a unicycle, some doing flips on the big trampoline and some flipping on the floor. It was lots of fun.

What are you most excited for audiences to experience?

I'm most excited for everyone watching MOYA to have fun, just like we have on stage. To feel our energy and the love we have for each other, and our bond. I want them to feel everything and be one with us.



MASIZAKHE KOVI (Handstand)

What are you most excited for audiences to experience?

I can't wait for the audience to experience our South African vibe—our culture, dance and music. They're gonna love it!

How did you begin performing with Zip Zap Circus?

My very first performance was on December 1, 2015, when we were celebrating World AIDS Day. Every December 1st, Zip Zap makes a special show to celebrate World AIDS Day. It was a wonderful experience, and I was so happy.



VUYANI LOTTERING (Juggler)

Do you remember the first time you attended a circus?

Seeing what I used to see of circus in movies and on TV, I remember coming in and being surprised—you can't tell from the outside how big it is!

What do you hope audiences learn about South Africa from MOYA?

MOYA represents South African roots and culture, and I want people to understand where we come from.



AKHO NARWELE (Juggler)

Do you remember the first time you attended a circus?

When I first entered the Zip Zap Circus tent, I was so amazed. To experience circus magic in reality was mind-blowing, and to see other humans flying on the trapeze and juggling was incredible.

How did you begin performing with Zip Zap Circus?

I started performing for Zip Zap as part of a group juggling act, and now I'm doing a solo club juggling act!



PHELELANI NDAKROKRA (Aerialist and Acrobat)

Do you remember the first time you attended a circus?

The best memory for me is when I first walked into the Zip Zap dome and saw all the kids jumping around—the mini trampoline, the big trampoline, juggling clubs, riding unicycles, kids standing on top of other kids. It was an amazing view.

How did you begin performing with Zip Zap Circus?

I started performing with Zip Zap in a program called Second Chance in 2011. In 2012, I joined one of the main performing groups, traveling to Cirque Phénix in Paris. I'd never been to a different country—I was so excited! I feel like that is where my journey really started with Zip Zap. Since then, I've been to six if not more countries, and I hope to continue performing and sharing my story around the world.



MATTHEW RISK (Unicyclist)

What are you most excited for audiences to experience?

I am excited for audiences to experience the joy and jaw-dropping acts we perform while telling a heartwarming story.

What is your favorite aspect of MOYA?

Being able to present and perform a powerful and unifying story is my favorite aspect of MOYA.

Meet the Creative and Production Team

BRENT VAN RENSBURG (Co-founder and Artistic Director) works with the artists to make sure that they work together on stage, performing their acts and working with the music. Brent has been in circus for 45 years and co-founded Zip Zap Circus in 1992.

BRIN SCHOELLKOPF (Artistic Coach and Creative Director) is a circus artist from the U.S. who lives in Montreal. He helped make *MOYA*, the acrobatic art film, in 2021. The show *MOYA* is based on this film.

SABINE VAN RENSBURG (Virtual Director and Artistic Consultant) Sabine is the daughter of Zip Zap co-founders, Brent and Laurence, and is a circus artist. She created all the acts in the film, *MOYA*, and you are seeing them on stage.

NIKOLAS PULKA (Artistic Coach and Creative Director) Nikolas, a French acrobat, worked with the artists in the film, *MOYA*, making sure that they worked together to bring the story to life through circus acts.

JOSH HAWKS (Musical Director) creates all the music and sounds you hear. He wrote the songs and helps bring the story to life through sound.

ADELE BLANK (Choreographer) creates all the dances and movements you see on stage.

KIERAN MCGREGOR (Lighting Designer) works with all the lights to make sure that you feel the excitement of the show.

BEAURA JACOBS (Costume Designer) makes all the costumes that you see. She designs, cuts the material and sews the costumes for the performers to wear.

SBONAKALISO NDABA (Gumboots Act Choreographer) created the gumboots dance routine, so look out for the guys dancing in their white boots!



DULCE

In the show of my dreams, I'd take on the role of an actor. Immersing myself in a character while looking at a completely new world through their perspective is very fascinating to me. **If you could be part of the creative team, what would you do?**

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NEW 42 ARTIST COUNCIL

The New 42 Artist Council is a dynamic group of professional artists who are devoted to the performing arts. These brilliant and dedicated individuals know that love of the theater can start at any age, and as such they champion the New Victory Theater and New 42's commitment to making extraordinary performing arts part of everyone's life.

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**GIVE A
KID A
SEAT**

Give NYC kids an invaluable arts experience!

Each season 20,000 kids from 130 NYC schools across all 5 boroughs experience life-changing arts education workshops in their classroom and see performances at the New Victory Theater for just \$2 a ticket (a student ticket price that has not increased in 30 years thanks to the generous support of donors like you).

We do this because we know how important early exposure to the arts is for all of us. We studied the impact of live performances and arts programming on students and found that engagement with the performing arts....



cultivates an enduring love for the performing arts



strengthens collaborative skills



nurtures self-confidence and optimism

Read more about the **NEW VICTORY SPARK (Schools with Performing Arts Reach Kids) Impact Report: NewVictory.org/Research**

One-time or monthly donations make a profound difference.

- \$35 underwrites the seat for one student
- \$105 underwrites the seats for three students
- \$350 underwrites the seats for ten students
- \$1,050 underwrites the seats for one classroom

Become a monthly donor and receive a *Give a Kid a Seat* keychain and name recognition.



DONATE TODAY!

NewVictory.org/GAKAS

Join the Give a Kid a Seat Committee, Co-Chaired by Leigh Bishop and Stefanie Katz Rothman.

Contact Chineme Aniagba at CAniagba@New42.org or 646.223.3085.

Our Supporters

New 42 is deeply grateful to the following donors whose generosity to our Annual Fund, New 42 Gala and Give a Kid a Seat over the past year has helped us reach 40,000+ kids through extraordinary performing arts and innovative arts education programs.

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DULCE

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Contact Lily Lovinger for information on joining NEW VICTORY Circle:
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Monday, June 2, 2025

Honoring Fiona Rudin
New 42 Board Chairman
2025 Marian Heiskell Award

Honoring Julian Crouch
Director, designer, librettist,
illustrator and musician
2025 NEW VICTORY Arts Award

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\$50,000 – \$99,999

BLAVATNIK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation
The Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn
Family Foundation
The Tow Foundation

NYC Cultural
Affairs

The New Victory Theater is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY. | Council on
the Arts

The New Victory Theater's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Laurie M Tisch
ILLUMINATION FUND

\$25,000 – \$49,999

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Foundation
Jody and John Arnhold |
Arnhold Foundation

Deutsche Bank
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Samuels Foundation

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May and Samuel Rudin
Family Foundation

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and the Arts
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Culture Ireland
Goldman Sachs
Harkness Foundation for Dance

New York City Council Member
Erik Bottcher
New York City Council Member
Chris Banks

New York City Council Member
Darlene Mealy
New York City Council Member
Keith Powers

\$1,000 – \$4,999

The Rodgers and Hammerstein Foundation
Anonymous

New 42 Staff

Meet the dedicated staff behind the New 42, New Victory and New 42 Studios.

EXECUTIVE

President & CEO, Russell Granet
Artistic Director, Mary Rose Lloyd
Vice President, Education & School Engagement, Courtney J. Boddie
Vice President, Development, Kristen Barrett
Vice President, Marketing & Communications, Lauren Fitzgerald
Vice President, Administration, Wendy Hutton
Vice President, Real Estate & Facilities, Leroy Li
Vice President, Education & Public Engagement, Lindsey Buller Maliekel
Vice President, Finance, Michele Pagnotta
Chief of Staff, Amber Shavers

ARTISTIC PLANNING & GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Senior Director, Artistic Planning and General Management, Melinda Berk
Assistant Director, Artistic Planning & Artist Services, Laura Hamilton
Company Manager, Emmi Albarano
General Management Associate, Justin Hom

ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

Senior Manager, Artistic Programming, Laura Been
Interim, Senior Manager, Artistic Programming, Renata Townsend
Interim Manager, Artistic Programming, Nina Slowinski

CAPITAL PROJECTS & REAL ESTATE

Assistant Director of Capital Projects & Real Estate, Travis Bell

DEVELOPMENT

Director of Individual Giving, Lily Lovinger
Manager, Institutional Giving, Anthony Massa
Manager, Campaigns and Events, Sabrina Cedeño
Manager, Corporate Engagement, Lauren O'Connell
Manager, Development Operations, Istiqlal Safi
Development Associate, Individual Giving, Chineme Aniagba
Development Associate, Institutional Giving, Gwendolyn Ober

DIGITAL SERVICES

Director of Digital Services, Lilaia Kairis
Associate Director of Digital Services, Jamie O'Brien
Senior Manager of CRM Applications, Joe Yoga
Senior Associates, Digital Services, Cat Monteleone and Natalia Ramirez

EDUCATION

School Engagement

Director of Education & School Engagement, Erica Reinsch Tusciuk
Assistant Director of Education / School Engagement, Christopher Totten
Senior Education Programs Manager, Asha John
Education Programs Managers, Kaylah Dixon and Greg Mytelka
Senior Education Programs Associate, Jake Chen

Public Engagement

Director of Audience & Youth Engagement, Rachel Lee
Assistant Director of Education / Family Engagement, Siobhan Santini Pellot
Education Programs Manager / Family Engagement, Nicole Wong
Education Programs Associate / Youth Engagement, Hanna Ventura

New Victory / The Duke on 42nd Street Front-of-House

House Manager, Olivia Ros
Senior Associate House Manager / Youth Engagement, Adrian Azevedo
Associate House Manager / Youth Engagement, Evangeline Dillard
Associate House Manager / The Duke on 42nd Street, Jhaunay-Amanie Hernandez

New Victory Teaching Artists

Janice Acevedo, Andrea Ang, Ugo Anyanwu, Chad Beckim, Liz Bolick, P. Tyler Britt, Dwayne Brown, Sofiya Cheyenne Brown, Emily Bruner, Zahra Budhwani, Ana Cantorán Viramontes, Carolyn Charpie Fagan, Neil Dawson, David DelGrosso, Alberto Denis, Olney Edmondson, Christina Eskridge, Patrick Ferreri, Rebecca Gerrard, Nanya-Akuki Goodrich, Pallas Gutierrez, ChelseaDee Harrison, Curt James, Joel Jeske, Ben Johnson, Michael Karas, McKenna Kerrigan, Sun Kim, Arielle Lever, Hassiem Muhammad, Najah Imani Muhammad, Peter Musante, Drew Petersen, Sarah Petersiel, Melle Phillips, Jamie Roach, Marisol Rosa-Shapiro, Therese Schorn, Billy Schultz, Lauren Sharpe, Julia Sirna-Frest, Kristian Sorensen, Heidi Stallings, Marissa Stewart, Adia Tamar Whitaker, Renata Townsend, Ania Upstill, Jason Vance, Jono Waldman, Ellen Winter, Vlada Yaneva

New 42 Staff

Meet the dedicated staff behind the New 42, New Victory and New 42 Studios.

FACILITIES

Director of Facilities, Reynold Raymond
Assistant Director of Facilities, Derek Rawls
Superintendent, New Victory Theater,
Ernest Pelerin
Superintendent, New 42 Studios,
Winston Thompson
Handy Person, Danny Velazquez
Lead Cleaners, Bulbul Ahmed, Herbert Castro,
Nelson Roque
Cleaners, Aniyah Carr, Joseph Felicier, Keith
McKey, Andre Morton, Shawn Ramos,
David Roque, Jean Rosa, Shaquan Turner

FINANCE

Controller, Olga Melnichuk
Senior Accountant, Stephanie O'Connell
Staff Accountant / Accounts Receivable,
Adrienne Johnson
Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Sarang Khele
Staff Accountant / Accounts Payable,
Patrick Foristel

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & HR

Director of Employee Engagement & HR,
Russell Small

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director of IT, Cyber Security & Infrastructure,
Vincent Taylor
IT Systems Administrator, Dez St. Juste
IT Help Desk Technician, Jason Corder

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Director of Marketing, Melissa Pelkey
Assistant Director of Art & Design,
Alexis Buatti-Ramos
Assistant Director of Creative Content,
Zack Ramadan
Assistant Director of Media & Communications,
Niki Cruz
Graphic Design Associate, Brittany Nievinski
Marketing Associate, Amanda Ribnick
Media and Communications Associate,
Leigh Bauer
Video Production Associate,
Michael Velez-Ojeda

OPERATIONS

Senior Director of Operations, Ed Stallsworth
Theater Manager, Nikkia Redd
Theater Operations Coordinator, Kofi Brown

New 42 Studios

Associate Director of Studio Operations,
Thomas Ciganko
Studio Business Manager, Brian Rosenblum
Operations Associate, Jennifer Flores
Business Operations Associate, Dillon Swanson
Lead Front Desk Attendant, Michael Acevedo
Front Desk Attendants, Peter Choi,
Khiana Davies, Andrew Engram,
Geordy Skolnik

New Victory Theater

Stage Door Attendants, Rebecca Knell and
Amanda Nyarko

PRODUCTION

Senior Director of Production, Dave Upton

New Victory Theater

Technical Production Manager, Paul Bradley
Production Coordinator, Colleen Davis
Production Manager, Jomary Peña
Master Technician, Matt Zimmerman
Assistant Master Technicians, Mike Di Marco,
Julien Mellon
Light Board Operator, Carlos Grunewald
Production Finance and Office Assistant,
Yve Carruthers
IATSE Apprentice, Brenn Whiting
Wardrobe Supervisor, Brooke Elsinghorst

The Duke on 42nd Street / New 42 Studios

Production Supervisor, Shani Murfin

TICKET SERVICES

Senior Director of Ticket Operations,
Robin Leeds
Assistant Director of Ticket Operations,
Sam Eckmann
NEW VICTORY Box Office Manager,
Edward Raube-Wilson
Group Sales & Audience Development Manager,
Amanda Zuckman Sellers
NEW VICTORY Assistant Box Office Manager,
Andrew Girmann
Ticket Services Sales Associates, Madison Bailey,
Maggie Beson, Shemar Pelzer,
Nicole Seunarine



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