

CHARMED LIFE

from Soul Singing to Opera Star

Written by and starring Lori Brown Mirabal

Directed by Vincent Scott

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
JULY 9 - AUGUST 1, 2021





URBAN STAGES

Frances Hill, Founder/Artistic Director | Antoinette Mullins, Development and Literary Director
Olga Devyatisilnaya, Company Manager/Financial Admin | Ilanna Saltzman, Outreach Program Director

PRESENTS

CHARMED LIFE

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WRITTEN BY AND STARRING **LORI BROWN MIRABAL**

DIRECTED BY **VINCENT SCOTT**

Pianists: **John DiPinto**

& Allison Brewster Franzetti

JAIME TERRAZZINO SET DESIGNER
& ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

MADELEINE BURROW LIGHTING DESIGNER
& Production Stage Manager

KIM T. SHARP TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

"This show is dedicated in loving memory of Aurelia Mirabal, my mother-in-law, and Lilly A. Fletcher, my Godmother. With heartfelt gratitude to all those who made my Charmed Life Possible."
– Lori Brown Mirabal



From The Desk of The Artistic Director, Frances Hill

It is hard to write an artistic statement without addressing the current topic on the minds of all cultural organizations. How can music, art, dance help us through the fears and isolation of Covid? What do we do? Stop producing?

Stop holding events?

We cannot just completely stop the creative process. Artists have been writing, composing, drawing and perfecting their techniques to present new art to audiences. In times of turmoil, it is the creations of these artists that help us find answers, offer clarity and sort our fears. We are uplifted by music and dance. Theater helps us realize the goodness, intelligence and soulfulness of humankind. Urban Stages is fortunate to have the talents of Ms. Lori Brown Mirabal currently on our stage to do just this - uplift our spirits through her music and joyous story.

Looking back on Urban Stages' 2020/2021 seasons, I am proud our creative artists were able to go virtual during the pandemic. Urban

Stages was able to bring plays, music festivals, one-act plays, educational programming and even an entire summer theater camp into many homes.

We worked with public libraries to stream Outreach programming on multiple platforms. We created over 55 online programs watched by over 60,000 viewers!

Now, we welcome you back into our theater! We have worked hard to make our theater Covid safe. We've installed Merv-13 Filters, approved by the CDC, in our AC and Ventilation unit and Ductwork UV Lights to kill airborne allergens and pollutants. Our theater is also sanitized daily and we require everyone in our theater, audience members along with artists and staff, to be vaccinated.

Please sit back and enjoy LIVE theater. Let's celebrate being back together to experience this story and the amazing talents of Ms. Mirabal's in *Charmed Life from Soul Singer to Opera Star*.

If you are not on our e-newsletter mailing list, sign up (online or at the box office)! It's the best way to keep up on what is happening at the theater.

Finally, we are still recovering financially from our theater being closed for 16 months during the pandemic. We depend on individual donors more than ever. If you can, please donate at urbanstages.org.

SONGS LIST

A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes (from *Cinderella*, Hoffman/Livingston)

Quando men Vo (from *La Bohème*, G. Puccini)

It's A Most Unusual Day (from *A Date with Judy*, Adamson/McHugh)

Summertime (from *Porgy and Bess*, G. Gershwin)

Purlie (from Broadway Musical *Purlie*, Udell/Geld)

I Got It Bad (D. Ellington)

Vissi d'arte (from *Tosca*, G Puccini)

Habanera, Sequedilla, Castanette Song, Card Aria (from *Carmen*, G. Bizet)

Deh! Proteggi mi (from *Norma*, V. Bellini)

Friendly Star (from *Summer Stock*, Gordon/Warren)

Vanilla Ice Cream (from *She Loves Me*, Harnick/Bock)

Can't Help Lovin Dat Man (from *Showboat*, Hammerstein II/Kern)

Musetta's Lullaby/Wiegenlied

(from Musetta's Musical Storytime, Mirabal/Brahms)

Over the Rainbow/Believe in Yourself

(from *Wizard of Oz* and *The Wiz*, Harburg/Arlen & Brown/Smalls)

CAST

Lori Lori Brown Mirabal

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright..... Lori Brown Mirabal

Director.....Vincent Scott

Pianists..... John DiPinto & Allison Brewster Franzetti

Set Designer.....Jaime Terrazzino

Lighting Designer.....Madeleine Burrow

Technical Director.....Kim T. Sharp

Production Stage Manager.....Madeleine Burrow

Assistant Stage Manager.....Jaime Terrazzino

URBAN STAGES STAFF

Founder/Artistic Director.....Frances Hill
Development and Literary Director.....Antoinette Mullins
Company Manager/Financial Admin.....Olga Devyatisilnaya
Outreach Program Director.....Ilanna Saltzman
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WHO'S WHO

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



LORI BROWN MIRABAL (playwright & performer): a Tennessee native, has worked with legendary opera and music theatre luminaries in international opera houses and on Broadway. Her performance highlights include; Carmen in Carmen (New York City Opera National Tour), Bess in Porgy and Bess (William Barkhimer European Tour), Queenie in Show Boat (Hal Prince/Susan Stroman revival), Ella in Bubblin' Brown Sugar (National Broadway Tour with Cab Calloway), Lalume in Kismet (Utah Festival Opera),

Lucretia in The Rape of Lucretia (Dicapo Opera Theatre), Lola in Cavalleria Rusticana (L'Opera de Monte Carlo, Monaco production with Placido Domingo, Leo Nucci and Rita Gorr), Clara Brown in the world premiere of Gabriel's Daughter (Central City Opera, CO) and Adelaide Bobo in the world premiere of Les Negres (Opera De Lyon, France, and Grande Theatre De Geneve, Switzerland). As a concert artist, Mirabal has appeared as a guest soloist with the American Composers Symphony performing the West Side Story Suite at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, she has embarked on an international tour throughout China under the auspices of the United States and China Foundation. In addition to her stage career, she was featured in the PBS television documentary Aida's Brothers and Sisters, and she appeared as an Opera Singer in the major motion picture The Secret Lives of Dentists (Sundance Film Festival). Along with her performing career, Mirabal has created an opera production company, Opera Soup Productions, L.L.C., that introduces young audiences to opera in engaging and impactful ways. Her first children's book, From Soul Singing to Opera Soup (2018), launched her career as a published author. More recently, Mirabal released her first children's recording "Musetta's Musical Story Time" (2019), which is currently available for distribution. Mirabal has attended the University of

Memphis (B.F.A Theatre '81), Manhattan School of Music (MM, Voice '94), the Juilliard Opera Center Program ('92), and Columbia University Teachers' College (Ed.D. 2008). *Charmed Life From Soul Singing to Opera Star* marks the performer's debut with Urban Stages. loribrownmirabal.com

VINCENT SCOTT (Director): New York-based, Scott has directed in Los Angeles, Chicago, London, and Dublin as well as on Off-Broadway. His passion is to develop new plays through staged readings or full productions. His most recent premieres are *What Happen to The Dollar* and *Good Corporate Citizen* both by Sam Garber, and *Accentuate the Positive* (The Johnny Mercer Story) by Calvin Ramsey. He has had numerous readings at Urban Stages, the most recent being *Gumbo House* by Keion Jackson and *#NWORD* by Christian Elder. Scott also assisted Timothy Douglas in Chicago with *Changes of Heart* and Austin Pendleton and Jan Buttram at the Abingdon Theatre Company with *The Last Will* and *Hellman v. McCarthy*. At Urban Stages, he has assistant directed *Death Of A Driver* by Will Snider (directed by Kim T. Sharp) and *Bars and Measures* by Idris Goodman (directed by Kristian Seemel). He is pleased to direct the world premiere of Lori Brown Mirabal's *Charmed Life from Soul Singing to Opera Star*.

JOHN DIPINTO (pianist) is a pianist, accordionist, singer, actor, music director, composer and arranger. He has worked extensively in the NY theatre and cabaret scenes, and has appeared at Urban Stages as associate music director for *Langston In Harlem* and as music director for *Water From The Moon*. He is currently music supervisor and orchestrator for *Trav'lin'*, a new musical featuring the songs of 1930's Harlem composer and lyricist J.C. Johnson. Broadway credits include: *Footloose*, [title of show], *Laughing Room Only*, *Victor/Victoria*. Off-Broadway: *Shoes And Baggage*, *A Christmas Memory*, *Disaster! The Musical*, *Summer Of '42*, *Oil City Symphony*, *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road*, *Streakin'!*, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, *A Man Of No Importance*, *London Cries*. Regional: *Pump Boys And Dinettes*, *Smoke On The*

Mountain, A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine, Songs For A New World, The Honky-Tonk Angels. John is an Adjunct Professor at New Jersey City University, where he has music directed productions of *Aint Misbehavin', Next To Normal, In The Heights, Little Shop Of Horrors and Smokey Joe's Cafe.* He is a musical director for NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program, and also serves as associate music director for the annual National High School Musical Theatre Awards show (AKA the "Jimmy Awards", for James Nederlander), at the Minskoff Theatre. He is delighted to be part of Lori Mirabal's charmed life.

ALLISON BREWSTER FRANZETTI (pianist): Multiple Grammy® and Latin Grammy® Nominee, pianist Allison Brewster Franzetti has received international acclaim from critics and audiences alike for her stunning virtuosity and musicality as a soloist and chamber musician. Her performances include the Grammy® Awards Classical Music Tribute to Earl Wild and Lang Lang, the Latin Grammy® Awards live broadcast, the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, the Campeche Festival in Mexico and the VI International Festival of Music at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has been a guest soloist with The Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Janacek Philharmonic, City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, English Sinfonia, European Women's Orchestra, Queens Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Long Island Philharmonic, Denver Symphony, Colonial Symphony, New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, Montclair Orchestra and Adelphi Orchestra. Solo recitals include critically acclaimed debuts at Merkin Hall in New York and the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, her recital debut at the prestigious Wigmore Hall in London, and tours throughout the US, Mexico, Europe, and Argentina.

An accomplished collaborative pianist, she has worked with Sir James Galway, John Corigliano, Stephen Paulus, David Maslanka, Carlos Franzetti, Lowell Liebermann, Robert Aldridge, Julius Baker, Paquito D'Rivera, Wenzel Fuchs, Benny Goodman, Ruben Blades, Nestor Torres, Ransom Wilson, Eugenia Zukerman, and Robert White, amongst others.

Dr. Brewster Franzetti is the recipient of degrees from Manhattan School of Music, the Juilliard School and Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. She is the Director Emeritus of Chamber Music for the Extension Division, Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

JAIME TERRAZZINO (Set Designer and Assistant Stage Manager) is a New York City based stage manager, scenic designer, and props assistant as well as a recent graduate of Fordham University. During her time at Fordham she acted as the Vice President for the Mimes and Mummers theatre troupe where some of her favorite design credits include *Into The Woods*, *Noises Off*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She has also served as Creative Director for an independent LGBTQ+ zine *Side Effects*, and Volunteer Coordinator for the International Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven.

MADELEINE BURROW (Lighting Designer and Production Stage Manager) is a New York City based Lighting designer with experience in stage management and tech direction. She is a recent graduate from Fordham University where she was the president of the Mimes and Mummers Theater Troupe. Some of her favorite design credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Addams Family*, and *Godspell*. Recent projects include *Bars and Measures* at Urban Stages and *The Gospel of John* at The Sheen Center.

KIM T. SHARP (Technical Director) works regularly with Urban Stages in their efforts to champion new works by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds. As a director he brings vitalizing material to the stage. Directing efforts include *Death of a Driver*, the NYC premiere here at Urban Stages, Wolfgang Novogratz in Ronan Noone's *The Atheist*. He directed two productions featuring Francesca Ravera: *The Way We Get By* by Neil LaBute and *Espresso* by Lucia Frangione He directed numerous virtual readings over the last year. Recently he recorded and edited video presentations supporting Urban Stages. Thanks to

Frances for this opportunity as well as to Vincent, Lori, Jaime, Madeleine, Antoinette and Olga for their time and talent to bring *Charmed Life* back to the stage.

PIANISTS' SHOW SCHEDULE

John DiPinto | July 9th - 14, 21-23, 24 @ 7:30pm, 28, 31 @3:00 & Aug 1

Allison Brewster Franzetti | July 15 -18, 22, 24 @ 3pm, 25,
29, 30, 31 @ 7:30pm

ABOUT URBAN STAGES

Urban Stages' mission is to champion new works by artists of diverse cultural backgrounds and to make these works available to all.

We do this by discovering and nurturing artists through our DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, investing in artists by producing new works on our MAINSTAGE, and by touring artists, admission-free plays/workshops and more via our OUTREACH PROGRAM!

Urban Stages give talents resources to address the multi-faceted issues facing our contemporary world and develop their gifts. Through uS, plays make noticeable and lasting entries into the theatrical landscape often going on to publication or productions at larger venues.

We have been honored with awards, nominations and recognition from the Drama Desk, Obie Awards, Audelco, Outer Critics Circle and much more. For instance, our world premiere of the musical *Langston In Harlem* by Walter Marks (music and book) and Kent Gash (book and direction) garnered a Drama Desk Nomination, a Joe A. Calloway award and 4 Audelco awards including Best Musical Production of 2010. Our 2014 spring premiere of *Jim Brochu Character Man* was nominated for a Drama Desk and an Outer Critics Circle award for Best Solo performance. *Honky* (2013) by Greg Kalleres saw a regional run at San Diego Rep and was later broadcast on PBS. Bill Bowers has toured the United States and the world with his two Urban Stages premieres blending mime and theatre – *Beyond Words* (2012) and *Under A Montana*

Moon (2002)! *A Deal* (2017) world premiered at Urban Stages and went on to tour throughout China in Mandarin. *Death of a Driver by Will Snider* (2019) transferred to a regional production immediately after its Urban Stages' world premiere. Finally, *Bars and Measures* (2019) was critically acclaimed.

In addition to plays and musicals, annually we hold a music festival - WINTER RHYTHMS - that features famous and up-and-coming musical artists. The festival has received the 2015 Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Series Award, the 2016 Bistro Award for Best Benefit Series, a Time Out Critic's Pick, a feature in Cabaret Scenes and other recognitions of excellence.

Outreach is our 28-year-old program providing high-quality theater and art resources on and off our Off-Broadway stage. Our mission with Outreach is to provide equal access to the arts, engage different demographics and create multicultural educational works.

Every year, we hold over 200 events throughout all 5 boroughs of NYC. We have a repertoire of 20+ multi-cultural programs, ranging from plays that explore science, plays that spotlight historical figures as well as dance and mime workshops. Each show caters to specific age groups, from toddlers to families to Adult Learners. Many of the neighborhoods we reach (and return to multiple times) have little to no theatre and arts programming. We are even the first theatrical experience for some. Our programs travel mainly to libraries and non-profit organizations. They are all admission-free for patrons. For artists, our Outreach Program offers paid opportunities. We commission plays, pay royalties and fees, allowing writers and artists to be working artists.

Under the Outreach Umbrella are our art residencies. We are able to offer extended theater and art related residencies for weeks to months at a time to places like senior citizens centers, community centers and schools. In the past, we offered programming to LGBTQ homeless centers, centers helping women reclaim their lives after incarceration and drug abuse, and various non-profit agencies. Finally, annually we hold a Summer Theater Camp for children 10-15 years old. Professionals teach our

campers about all aspects of theatre and the campers collaborate on an original musical. We offer partial scholarships making our camp more accessible.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Randy Thomas of Eclipse Group & Frank Oliva, Scenic Designer



THE ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS EMPLOYED IN THIS PRODUCTION ARE MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES

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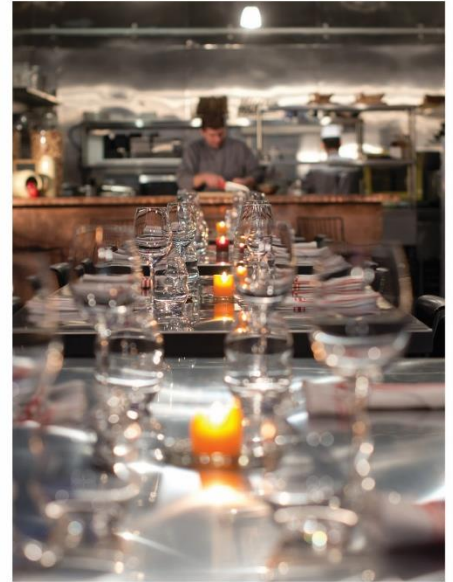
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