THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL





Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Friday at Noon and our free International Global Film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (<u>www.AtTheMAC.org</u>). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble Play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

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Diana Martinez Director, McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage presents

THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL

The McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, 7 p.m. Belushi Performance Hall

CAST

Lead vocals
Lead vocals
Lead and background vocals
Music Director and keyboards
Guitars and background vocals
Bass guitars and background vocals
Drums

SYNPOSIS

The Life and Music of George Michael chronicles the amazing journey George Michael had with music and his fans. The show captures the performance and sound of George Michael with staging and lighting while telling his story through early music hits from Wham! and his illustrious solo career.

As one of the biggest international stars of our time, the show will have fans on their feet dancing and singing along to blockbuster hits including "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go," "Freedom," "Faith," "Careless Whisper," "Father Figure," and many more. Spanning a four-decade career with over 115 million albums sold, *The Life and Music of George Michael* shows his rise to fame as a member of Wham! in the '80s. He went solo in 1987 with *Faith*, one of the biggest albums of all time which included multiple number one hits.

Throughout Michael's career, he won two Grammy Awards, three Brit Awards, three American Music Awards and four MTV Video Music Awards. The show is produced by Ruckus Entertainment, the creators of *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* and other touring hits.

PROFILES



CRAIG WINBERRY is thrilled to take the stage again in *The Life and Music of George Michael.* Theater credits include *Mamma Mia, The Wild Party, Thank You for Being a Friend: Golden Girls Musical Parody, Shooting Star,* and *The Gunfighter Meets His Match.* TV/Film appearances in *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, Porch, Rockaway,* and

features on *Billions* and *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*. Winberry also wrote and starred in cabarets *Executive Order* and *Christmas Spirits: Neat Edition*. He's one half of the dance music duo *Basesuite* streaming on all platforms globally. When not on a stage or in the studio, Winberry spends his time crafting culinary delights for friends and family, snuggling with his furry friend Bubbles and exploring his hometown, New York City. Connect with @craigwinberry on all social media.



RORY PHELAN trained at the D&B School of Performing Arts. He has appeared in theatre productions such as: Ram Sweeney in *Heathers The Musical* (The Other Palace); George Michael in *The Life & Music Of George Michael* (US Tour); Ram Sweeney in *Heathers The Musical* (UK Tour); Drew in *Club Tropicana* (UK Tour); Ensemble as Sonny,

Kenickie, Doody, Vince Fontaine, Teen Angel in *Grease* (UK & International Tour); Eddie in *Mamma Mia!* (Novello Theatre); Joey/ 1st cover Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* (UK Tour) & Ensemble/1st cover Charlie in *Wag! The Musical* (Charing Cross Theatre). Phelan has also appeared on screen as Ram Sweeney in *Heathers: The Musical* (Village Roadshow/Team Motion & Sound); Snapfish Commercial (Snapfish) Eddie in *Abba Christmas Special* (ITV) and Boy in *Beaver Falls Ident* (E4).



AUTUMN JONES is a soulful R&B singer-songwriter and an alumni of Berklee College of Music in Boston. She's had a busy few years along with her band *The Smoke* releasing her debut EP 4.4.4., winning a Tracks Music Award for her single *Bittersweet* and showcasing her music at venues like Boston City Winery, The Groove and Rockwood Music

Hall in New York City. *Notion Magazine* described her work as having a "neo-soul-style with full and effusive vocals reminiscent of blues veteran Corinne Bailey Ray."

PROFILES



AUBREY SITUMORANG is an Indonesian bass player in Los Angeles, California. Situmorang has played for notable artists such as Bipolar Sunshine and SASAMI; her recent performances include opening for Yeah Yeah Yeahs at the Huntington Bank Pavilion in Chicago, Illinois, and for Soccer Mommy at Outside Lands Festival in San Francisco,

California both in the summer of 2023. Beyond her live performances, Situmorang also released her album *One Point One* which received a nomination for Best Jazz Album at Indonesia's highest music awards Anugerah Musik Indonesia 2022.



COLLIN KELLER is an American guitarist, touring musician, songwriter, and producer from the heartland of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Currently residing in Los Angeles, Keller is a Berklee College of Music graduate specializing in songwriting and performance. He has toured internationally including appearances on major

festival stages and is credited as a songwriter having worked with global major-label artists. Playful yet mesmerizing, his musical style reflects the heart of John Mayer, the energy of Jack Garratt, and the spirit of The Beatles. Notable past performances include Osheaga Festival, Switchyard Music Festival, and *The Life and Music of George Michael*, alongside being nominated as 'Boston Pop Artist of The Year' 2018.



RICCARDO GRESINO is a professional piano and keyboard player & music director based in Los Angeles, CA. Born and raised in Italy, he is well recognized for his outstanding sound-making abilities, competence, and trustworthiness. Known for his consistently utmost quality, Gresino's artistry is proven in performances and

recordings with established musicians such as Latin Grammy-nominated vocalist Rubel, Gianni Coscia (ECM Records), SESSI, Kenny Sharp, Anna Margo, AM Dandy, Tristan Simone, and more. In a significant milestone, Gresino became the music director and keyboard player for *The Life and Music of George Michael* (US Tour 2022-2024), showcasing his versatility and expertise. As a Recording Academy member and GRAMMY U Mentor, Gresino continues to be an active member of the music industry and to inspire a new generation of musicians.

PROFILES



SAM RUFF is a drummer and music producer residing in Los Angeles. He holds two degrees from Berklee College of Music and has shared the stage with artists such as Lee Ritenour, Wayne Brady, and many more.

ABOUT RUCKUS ENTERTAINMENT (Producers): Ruckus Entertainment, based in Los Angeles and formed in 2022, brings together veteran entertainment producers Alison Spiriti, Justin Sudds, Dean Elliott and Ralph Schmidtke who are collectively responsible for producing over 100 touring productions seen by millions around the world. Their burgeoning production company brings audiences world-class concerts and live events and is focused on celebrating the history and music behind iconic, globally recognized musical artists. Current productions include *The Simon & Garfunkel Story, The Life and Music of George Michael* and *The British Invasion.*



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> For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-2462 or foundation@codfound.org.

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