



WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE
BUD, NOT BUDDY
PRESS RELEASE

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Weekend: Saturday, April 15th, 2023 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 16th, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Email or call Jenna Corcoran for press tickets, images, pre-production interviews, and more information.

WHAT:

Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University (WFT@BU) proudly announces their spring production, [*Bud, Not Buddy*](#)!

ABOUT:

WFT@BU will close out a roaring season with *Bud, Not Buddy*, a story of triumphant love and perseverance. Originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, WFT@BU is thrilled to return to this piece in 2023 with new perspective and passion.

WFT@BU is delighted to announce originally slated director, Dawn M. Simmons, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the Front Porch Arts Collective, will direct *Bud, Not Buddy*. Also joining WFT@BU this spring is an ensemble of eight incredibly talented adult artists, including WFT@BU fan-favorites, David Jiles, Jr. (last seen as the Tinman in *The Wizard of Oz*), Alexandria Danielle King (Margalo in *Stuart Little*), Bill Mootos (last seen as Mr. Stuart in *Stuart Little*) and Malik Mitchell (Man in the Yellow Hat, *Curious George*).

Based on the Coretta Scott King award-winning novel by Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*, follows the tale of a 10-year-old Bud Caldwell, an orphan on the quest to find his father. Bud's journey sets him on the trail of a jazz band, known as "Herman E. Calloway and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression." Believing his father is part of the band, Bud goes on an adventure to attend a performance and meet his family. "*Bud, Not Buddy* is a charming, imaginative, and sophisticated adventure. It's a bittersweet journey of resilience and perspective that shows us how to find joy when there shouldn't be any to be found. And who couldn't use a little help in shifting perspective and finding joy?" says Director, Dawn M. Simmons.

The audience will resonate with Bud, the hopeful youth protagonist. Anderson Stinson III who plays Bud says, "This young perspective reminds us of the power of knowledge, growth, and maturing at any age."

The audience will follow Bud through his journey through multiple locations, lending itself to an exciting scenic design urging audience members to stretch their imaginations. Scenic Designer Baron Pugh says, "the scenic design needed to be flexible, but not full of never-ending scene changes. To help with this, we are using one of my favorite theatrical elements – the periaktoi (a three sided theatrical piece), to allow us to quickly and efficiently transition from scene to scene." Pugh draws inspiration from a "trunk show with a backdrop of slatted walls and

props and elements coming from a menagerie of trunks, suitcases, etc.”, which brings the story to life in an invigorating way while staying true to the origin of Christopher Paul Curtis’ novel.

WFT@BU continues to engage both young and older audience members alike and is thrilled to continue with *Bud, Not Buddy* – a story that will touch every age. Stinson says, “This show allows several adults to once again be at play. Watching the oldest of the cast be kids and the youngest of us be elders just brings out a rawness of the human experience that we begin to lose touch with as we get older.”

SYNOPSIS:

Set in Michigan during the 1930s, *Bud, Not Buddy* tells the story of 10-year-old Bud Caldwell, an orphan on the run from foster homes, and his quest to find his father. Bud’s journey sets him on the trail of a jazz band known as Herman E. Calloway and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. A flier for one of Calloway’s shows leads Bud to Grand Rapids and Calloway, the man he believes is his father. Bud gets into all sorts of trouble along the way in this story, filled with uncanny wisdom, which offers a set of hilarious “Rules and Things” designed to help our resilient young hero navigate a world of confusing expectations. Rich with adventure and humor, *Bud, Not Buddy* is a coming-of-age tale for young and old alike. The novel also won the Coretta Scott King Award.

Provided by Dramatic Publishing.

WHERE:

Wheelock Family Theatre. <https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/>
180 Riverway, Boston MA 02215

TICKETS:

Single ticket prices range from \$24-48

- By phone at (617) 353-3001
- Online at [wheelockfamilytheatre.org](https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org)
- At the WFT@BU box office at 180 Riverway, Boston, MA 02215

Discounts are available for groups and students. For a full list of discounts, please visit:

<https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/discounts-promotions/>

CAST:

WFT @ BU’s production of *Bud, Not Buddy* Alexandria Danielle King* (Ensemble), Inés de la Cruz* (Ensemble), David Jiles, Jr* (Ensemble), Malik Mitchell* (Ensemble), Bill Mootos* (Ensemble), Victoria Omoregie*(Ensemble), Anderson Stinson, III* (Bud), and Joshua Wolf Coleman* (Ensemble).

*indicates a member of Actors Equity Association

CREATIVE TEAM:

WFT @ BU's creative and production team for *Bud, Not Buddy* includes Jenn Butler (Props Designer), Brendan F Doyle (Sound Designer), Samantha Galvao (Paint Charge), Jesse Hinson (Intimacy/Fight Choreographer), Lindsay Hoisington (Costume Coordinator), Evonne Johnson (Assistant Scenic Designer), Gg Martel (Production Manager), Baron Pugh (Scenic Designer), Dawn M. Simmons (Director), Zoë Sundra (Costume Designer) and Lawrence Ware (Lighting Designer & Lead Electrician).

ACCESSIBILITY:

Open Captioning provided at all events.

Accessibility Performance Dates: May 7th, 2023 at 2:00 PM and May 13th, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Questions regarding access? Please contact Audience Services Manager Jamie Aznive at jaznive@bu.edu.

Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, Illinois.

Wheelock Family Theater will continue to follow Covid-19 guidelines set by the City of Boston and Boston University surrounding the health and safety of our staff, artists and audiences.

Performers will be vaccine compliant, un-masked, and will abide by regulations set by the City of Boston, Boston University, and Actor's Equity Association. Any participant with symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 should not engage in group activities and should seek medical advice. For more updated information, please visit:

<https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/covid-19-update/>

Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University is the greater Boston area's leading professional theatre offering a shared experience for the entire family. Founded in 1981, WFT@BU's long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion has garnered recognition and awards at the local and national level. WFT@BU's productions have served more than a half-million audience members and WFT@BU's education programs have provided hands-on training to tens of thousands of students across the state of Massachusetts. On June 1, 2018, Wheelock Family Theatre became a program of Boston University.

Founded in 1839, **Boston University** is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With more than 33,000 students, it is the fourth-largest independent university in the United States. BU consists of 17 schools and colleges, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching mission. In 2012, BU joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada.