

JB3ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Jaymi Horn

Stephen Woosley

Mallory Fischer

ALTHEA & ANGELA



PERSECUTED CHAMPIONS FRIENDS

Written by Todd Olson

Directed by James Blackmon

Aug. 11-27 @ Mad Lab Theatre

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JB3Entertainment Presents

ALTHEA & ANGELA

Written by Todd Olson

Directed by James Blackmon

Jaymi Horn.....*Althea Gibson*

Mallory Fischer.....*Angela Buxton*

Stephen Woosley.....*Man*

Kurt Mueller.....Lighting Designer

Collin O'Brien.....Production Assistant/JB3Entertainment Intern

**Althea & Angela* will be performed with no intermission and runs approximately 90 minutes*

*PLEASE BE ADVISED *Althea & Angela* contains racist language*

JB3Entertainment is proud to produce the world premiere of *Althea & Angela*. Written in 2020 during quarantine, it immediately received a professional reading at the Playhouse on Park in Connecticut. In May of 2022 it received another reading at WordPlayers in Knoxville. Next February WordPlayers will perform *Althea & Angela* as their Black History Month tour of Tennessee.

Althea Gibson Sings

Tonight's performance features songs originally recorded by Althea Gibson in 1959 on the LP, *Althea Gibson Sings*:

Cottage For Sale, I Don't Stand A Ghost Of A Chance, Because Of You, Around The World, So Much To Live For and Once In A While.

Dream A Little Dream and Don't Say No are performed live by Jaymi Horn in the style of Gibson's original recordings from *Althea Gibson Sings*.



In 1955 Althea Gibson and Angela Buxton were world-ranked tennis players...yet no one wanted to partner with them in women's doubles. In fact, few even wanted to talk with them. Post-War America was still very segregated and the tennis world was still very anti-Semitic. Eight years after Jackie Robinson had broken the color line in major league baseball, the tennis world lagged behind, clinging to its country club roots. So, Althea, a black woman from Harlem, and Angela, a Jewish woman from Liverpool, were outcasts in two nations. So they decided to join forces outside their own country - and what happened then made history.

Special Thanks



Sally Paggett, Sara Neikirk, the staff and congregation of First English Lutheran Church for years of continued support making JB3Entertainment possible.



Melanie Dancy, *JB3Entertainment Social Media Coordinator*, for ALL you do that makes JB3Entertainment possible! Love you, Mel!!

From The Director

It's amazing to me how the things we do on any given day in our lives, years later, pay off in ways we never could have imagined. Take me and *Althea & Angela* playwright, Todd Olson, for example. It was 1987 and I was a 19-year-old kid working my first professional summer acting job at The Lone Star Outdoor Historical Drama in Galveston, TX. My roommate was Todd Olson. We lost touch over the years but reconnected last year. And now, 35 years later, I'm producing and directing the world premiere of his beautiful play.

Althea Gibson was the first African American, man or woman, to win a Grand Slam title (French Championships, 1956) and the first African American to become a Wimbledon champion (1957). The same year she also won the US Nationals (precursor of the US Open), then won both again in 1958. She was voted *Female Athlete of the Year* by the Associated Press in both years. In her career she won a total of 11 Grand Slam tournaments: five singles titles, five doubles titles, and one mixed doubles title. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame. "She is one of the greatest players who ever lived," said Bob Ryland, a tennis contemporary and former coach of Venus and Serena Williams. "Martina [Navratilova] couldn't touch her. I think she'd beat the Williams sisters." In the early 1960s she also became the first Black player to compete on the Women's Professional Golf Tour.

And yet, she never truly realized the impact she had on not just the tennis world but the world of sports. I'm sure she could have never dreamed of all the young Black American tennis players she would pave the way for and inspire to be champions. Because before Naomi Osaka, Coco Gauff, Sloane Stephens, Madison Keys, Taylor Townsend, Serena and Venus Williams, Chanda Rubin, Lori McNeil, Zina Garrison and even Arthur Ashe, there was Althea Gibson.

And I'm also sure that upon their meeting in 1956, future best friends Althea and British Jewish tennis star Angela Buxton would never have guessed that they were beginning a near 50 year friendship that would give them championships and a very important shoulder to lean on when it mattered most. In fact, I'm positive that Angela never saw herself being inducted into the Black Tennis Hall Of Fame in 2015, honoring her for her doubles partnership and friendship with Althea as well as her devotion to her ailing friend near the end of her life.

As you experience tonight's performance, take a moment, when it's over, to reflect upon your own life - how someone you've met has been positively impacted by something you said or did. Or how a chance encounter or a friendship you formed in the past has been very beneficial to you later in life.

We never know how we may inspire someone else to do the thing they need to do to thrive or just to survive. Althea and Angela, the Black woman from Harlem and the Jewish woman from England, two outcasts that no one wanted anything to do with, forged an alliance that made them champions despite the obstacles of extreme racism and antisemitism they encountered along the way. If there is one take-away I hope you leave the theatre with tonight, it's that we don't become winners by overcoming adversity. We become winners by persevering through it. And always let your light shine, especially when it's darkest - someone is behind you following your lead.

A close-up portrait of Jaymi Horn, a young woman with dark, curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark-colored top. The background is a plain, light gray.

Jaymi Horn

Jaymi Horn is incredibly excited to join this company for this wonderful production. She is a resident of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She attended Ohio Northern University where she received her B.F.A in Musical Theatre. After that, she completed her internship at New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi. Some of her notable credits include, Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Jasmine in *Pipeline*. She was also seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Ring of Fire*, *Matilda* and *A Christmas Carol*. She is thankful for the unwavering support of her family and friends.

A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, wavy, light brown hair. She is smiling warmly at the camera, showing her teeth. She is wearing a red top with white polka dots. The background is a solid, muted teal color. The name 'Mallory Fischer' is overlaid in white serif font on the left side of the image.

Mallory Fischer

Mallory Fischer is a Columbus-based teaching and performing artist. Mallory studied Music Education and Theatre at Muskingum University, and then earned a dual masters degree from New York University Steinhardt in Vocal Performance (Musical Theater) and Vocal Pedagogy. She teaches elementary music in Gahanna-Jefferson City Schools. Mallory is also a Private Voice Teacher and a Summer Camp Teaching Artist for Columbus Children's Theatre. Most recently, she was seen as Stepsister Joy in *The Butterfly Guild's* production of *Cinderella*. Some of her favorite roles include Tessi Tura in *Gypsy*, Claire in *Proof*, and Belle in *Ah! Wilderness*. Mallory is thrilled to be making her JB3 Entertainment debut in the incredible story of *Althea & Angela*. May we all be as strong and brave as these women. @mal_fish www.malloryfischer.com



Stephen Woosley

Stephen Woosley is excited and fortunate to be working with JB3 Entertainment once again. He is an ensemble member at MadLab. He is the president of OGP. He has 2 cats. And is a co-host of It's All Been Trekked Before, a Star Trek rewatch podcast, <https://www.iabdpresents.com/trekked-home>



JB3Entertainment Artistic Director, James Blackmon, began his theatre career as an 11-year-old kid playing a "General In The Ozian Army" in a local children's theatre production of *The Wizard Of Oz*. Since then, James has played many roles in numerous productions, including, chorus parts in *Showboat*, *Hello Dolly*, *Oliver*, *Peter Pan*, *Sweet Charity* and *Hairspray*, "Cal" in *The Little Foxes*, "Vladimir" in *Waiting For Godot*, "Jim" in *Huck Finn*, "Crooks" in *Of Mice And Men*, "Asagai" in *A Raisin In The Sun*, "Neal Tilden," and "Johnny Cantone" in *The 1940's Radio Hour* and "Daddy Warbucks" in *Annie*. James has also directed both musicals and plays, including, *Dreamgirls*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *Annie*, *Drag Queens In Outer Space*, *Love Letters*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *12 Angry Women*, and *Cats*, and music directed several musicals, including, *Dreamgirls*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *Annie*, *Cats*, *Seussical*, *Mr. Burns*, *A Post Electric Play* and *Flashdance*. James is also a past president of the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable.



Kurt has been a lighting and sound designer in Columbus for several years and has worked with many companies in the area. His passion for theatre ignited when he returned to college in 2014 and took a theatre class at Columbus State Community College for a gen ed credit. He received his bachelor's degree in Theatre from The Ohio State University in 2018. Some of his most notable shows include *Newsies* (Gallery Players,) *Vincent* (Red Herring Theater Co,) *Into the Woods* (Imagine Productions,) *Sheridan* (MadLab,) *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Red Herring Theater Co,) and *Annie* (State of the Arts). Kurt won Theatre Roundtable awards for light design in 2016 (*The Diviners Theater Columbus State*) and 2020 (*Newsies Gallery Players.*) When he's not designing lights and sound Kurt DJs corporate events and weddings with his company D and M DJ Entertainment. He'd like to thank James and the cast and crew for another fun JB3 show!



Collin O'Brien

Collin O'Brien is a recent high school graduate entering college this fall and is really looking forward to broadening his skills as both an actor and a/director. He is from Whitehall, Ohio and has been seen in various plays and musicals, such as "George" in *Done To Death, Life Is Like A Double Cheeseburger*, and was the lead, "Corey Palmer" in the musical *Back To The 80's!* Collin also worked crew in his first show, *Seussical The Musical*.

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22streetcookies@gmail.com.



Thank you for coming! We hope you enjoyed the show. Stay informed of future JB3Entertainment productions by visiting us on the web, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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