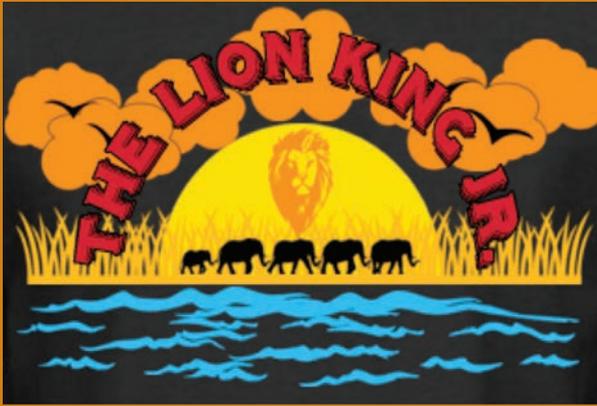


Bernard Zell
On Broadway
Presents:
The 2017 Morton Reisman
Eighth Grade Operetta



Saturday, April 1, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 2, 2:00 p.m.

Music & Lyrics by
Elton John & Tim Rice

Additional Music & Lyrics by
Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer

Book by
Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by
Julie Taymor



BERNARD ZELL
ANSHE EMET DAY SCHOOL
בית ספר אנשי אמת ע"ש ברנרד זל

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70 YEARS

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About the Director



Brian Zane is thrilled to direct his second Morton Reisman Eighth-grade Operetta, *The Lion King Jr.* This is Brian's second

year teaching Middle School Performing Arts at Bernard Zell and his fifth year as a theatre educator. This past fall, Brian co-wrote the 7th grade play *Hamlet Jr.* with his wife Mary.

Brian received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and English from the College of William and Mary. After several years as a professional actor, Brian enrolled at NYU where he studied and received his Master's degree in Educational Theatre. In addition to teaching, Brian has made a dent in the Chicago theatre scene since moving here in 2012. Chicago theatre credits include: "Stan" in the Chicago premiere of *Far from Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theatre), "Buddy" in *Porchlight Revisits...*

City of Angels, "Luther Billis" in *South Pacific*, "Mendel" in *Fiddler on the Roof*, "Vernon" in *Damn Yankees* (Light Opera Works) and "Mitch" in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (JPAC). Regional credits include: "Riff" in *West Side Story*, "Picasso" in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, "Franz" in *The Producers* (Charleston Stage Company), "El Gallo" in *The Fantasticks* (Crossroads Rep) and "Sam Wainwright" in *A Wonderful Life* (Armory Theatre).

Brian would like to thank the wonderfully supportive faculty, administration and staff at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School without whom this production would not have been possible. Brian would like to dedicate this production to his parents for exposing him to a lot of theatre at a young age.

Director's Note

Welcome to the 2017 Morton Reisman Operetta, *The Lion King Jr.* The musical is adapted from the full-length 1997 Broadway production, directed by Julie Taymor, which is based on the 1994 Disney animated film, with music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice. The junior version is a 70 minute production which was specifically adapted by Music Theatre International (MTI) to be more supportive of middle school aged performers.

The story of *The Lion King* is inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the age-old tragedy that was most recently adapted into *Hamlet Jr.* and performed by the 7th grade in December. The character of Simba, like that of Hamlet, heir to a vast kingdom, is challenged by a jealous uncle who usurps the throne upon the death of the king. The story also draws inspiration from the Torah. It borrows elements from the story of Moses and the story of Joseph. Mufasa tells Simba, like God tells Moses, to go back to his land and save his people. And Simba, like Joseph, saves his people from famine.

Putting together this Disney tale of Shakespearean proportion has been no easy feat and the 8th grade class has impressed me with their enthusiasm and work ethic (even singing and dancing songs from the show in the hallways between classes). The 8th graders made the most of a great opportunity this year with a musical that is such an ensemble piece. Almost every musical number is backed up by the ensemble and their presence brings the show to life. It has been a delight to work with this spirited class bringing this production to life. I hope you enjoy the show!

Show Synopsis

Rafiki gathers the animals of the Pridelands to welcome the newborn cub of King Mufasa and Queen Sarabi (“Circle of Life with Nants’ Ingonyama”). The king’s jealous brother, Scar, no longer heir to the throne, skips the ceremony, upsetting Mufasa. Time passes (“Grasslands Chant”) and Young Simba grows into a curious young lion. Mufasa explains the circle of life and that Young Simba will one day be king of the Pridelands. Young Simba shares this news with Scar, who encourages his nephew to visit the forbidden Elephant Graveyard. Young Simba finds his best friend, Young Nala, hunting with Sarafina and the Lionesses (“The Lioness Hunt”) and invites her on his adventure. Once they ditch their overbearing babysitter, Zazu (“I Just Can’t Wait to Be King”), the cubs encounter the ravenous Shenzi, Banzai and Ed in the graveyard. Mufasa arrives and pummels the hyenas then takes the cubs home. Scar emerges from the

darkness to recruit the Hyenas in his murderous plan to become king (“Be Prepared”). Back in the Pridelands, Mufasa reprimands Young Simba and then shares the guidance of their ancestors, up among the stars (“They Live in You”).

Enacting his plan, Scar leaves Young Simba alone in the gorge and signals the hyenas to scare a herd of wildebeest (“The Stampede”). Scar alerts Mufasa, who leaps into the stampede to save his son. Mufasa rescues Young Simba, but Scar pushes his brother back into the gorge, where he is trampled. Scar blames Young Simba for the king’s death and tells him to run away and never return. As Sarabi, Young Nala, Rafiki and the lionesses mourn the loss of Mufasa and Young Simba (“The Mourning”), Scar assumes the throne, uniting lions and hyenas under his dark reign. Lost in the desert, Young Simba meets Timon and Pumbaa, who take

him to their “worry-free” jungle home (“Hakuna Matata”).

Under Scar’s reign, the Pridelands are nearly destroyed. Now grown, Mala decides to leave and seek help (“Shadowland”). To her delight, she finds Simba alive in the jungle (“Can You Feel the Love Tonight”). Nala urges him to take his rightful place as king but, still ashamed, Simba refuses. Rafiki appears and helps Simba remember his father (“He Lives in You”). With newfound courage, Simba agrees to return to the Pridelands. Timon and Pumbaa distract the hyenas (“Luau Hawaiian Treat”) while Nala rallies the lionesses. Simba confronts his uncle, the truth of Mufasa’s murder is revealed and Scar runs away, pursued by angry hyenas. With peace restored in the Pridelands, Simba takes his place as king and the circle of life continues (“Finale”). (MTI Broadway Junior Collection)

List of Musical Numbers

Overture Pit Band

Act 1

“Circle of Life with Nants’ Ingonyama”

Rafiki, Mufasa, Sarabi, & Ensemble

“Grasslands Chant”

Young Simba & Ensemble

“Lioness Hunt”

Young Nala, Sarabi, Sarafina,
& Lionesses

“I Just Can’t Wait to Be King”

Young Simba, Young Nala,
Zazu, & Ensemble

“Be Prepared”

Scar, Shenzi, Banzai, Ed, & Hyenas

“They Live in You”

Mufasa, Young Simba, & Ensemble

“The Stampede”

Ensemble

“The Mourning”

Sarabi, Young Nala, Rafiki,
Lionesses, Hyenas

Intermission

“Entre’acte”

Pit Band

Act 2

“Hakuna Matata”

Timon, Pumbaa, Young Simba,
Simba, Ensemble

“Shadowland”

Nala, Rafiki, Lionesses

“Can You Feel the Love Tonight”

Timon, Pumbaa, Simba,
Nala, Ensemble

“He Lives in You”

Rafiki, Ensemble

“Luau Hawaiian Treat”

Timon, Pumbaa, Siblings

“Finale”

Ensemble

“Bows”

Pit Band

Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and
“Luau Hawaiian Treat” written by Will Van Dyke

Disney’s The Lion King Jr. is presented through special arrangement
with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

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Scene Locations

Scene 1:
Pride Rock

Scene 2:
Scar's Cave

Scene 3:
The Pridelands

Scene 4:
Scar's Cave

Scene 5:
The Pridelands

Scene 6:
The Elephant Graveyard

Scene 7:
The Pridelands

Scene 8:
The Gorge

Scene 9:
The Desert & The Jungle

Scene 10:
Scar's Cave

Scene 11:
The Pridelands

Scene 12:
The Jungle

Scene 13:
Pride Rock

Rosencrantz Cast (Saturday)

Simba	Isaac Akers
Nala.....	Lily Katz
Young Simba	Elise Azulay
Young Nala	Kayla Chandler
Scar.....	Claire Silverstein
Rafiki	Ivy Schenk
Mufasa	Andrew Meyer
Timon	Eli Orkin
Pumbaa	Stefan Presman
Zazu.....	Jake Herman
Banzai.....	Jake Jasmer
Shenzi.....	Alex Gassel
Ed	Daniel Goldblatt
Sarabi	Lilah Ephraim

Guildenstern Cast (Sunday)

Simba	Jaden Beltzman
Nala.....	Natalie Rosenbaum
Young Simba	Carter Wagner
Young Nala	Nicole Lucas
Scar	Mark Miller
Rafiki	Rachel Nasatir
Mufasa	Seth Berger
Timon	Leo Fisher
Pumbaa	Lexi Goldman
Zazu.....	Abby LoSasso
Banzai.....	Aidan Weinberg
Shenzi.....	Carrie Lampert
Ed	Daniel Bishop
Sarabi	Olivia Frankel

Ensemble (both casts)

Sarafina/Ensemble	Emma Sobel
Lioness/Ensemble	Claudia Ballen
Lioness/Ensemble	Hudson Kamins
Lioness/Ensemble	Julia Leff
Lioness/Ensemble	Dani Lieb
Lioness/Ensemble	Kate Perloff
Lioness/Ensemble	Lily Prostic
Lioness/Ensemble	Alex Sweitzer
Lioness/Ensemble	Lela Zerman
Ensemble	Geoff Feinstein
Ensemble	Hayden Goodhart
Ensemble	Jacob Kendall
Ensemble	Jacob Livni
Ensemble	Ethan Neff
Ensemble	Josh Penn
Ensemble	Spencer Phillips
Ensemble	Ben Prostic
Ensemble	Jonah Rosenthal
Ensemble	Ben Stahl
Field Mouse/Ensemble	Zachary Stahl
Ensemble	Spencer Stone
Ensemble	Alec Turken
Ensemble	Warren Weissbluth

About This Bernard Zell Production

This Bernard Zell production of *The Lion King Jr.* is the finale of the Middle School Performing Arts curriculum. Students build the foundations of theatre in fifth and sixth grades, then work together as a grade to design and perform a one-act play in seventh grade and a full-length musical in eighth grade, *The Morton Reisman Eighth Grade Operetta*. The show changes from year to year, but the focus remains the same.

The experience allows for the development of self-confidence and provides an avenue to further strengthen the group identity. Additionally, the performing arts curriculum helps students strengthen and hone their collaboration skills. Another important goal is developing empathy, as students act as different characters and literally have to step into someone else's shoes to gain new perspectives. At Bernard Zell, we believe that this ongoing exploration of visual, musical, and performing arts is an important part of the curriculum, playing a vital role in developing the intellectual, spiritual and personal potential of every student.

Artistic & Technical Crew

Director/Music Director	Brian Zane
Choreographer.....	Christopher Pazdernik
Conductor/Music Supervisor.....	Josh Mather
Set Design/Set Crew Supervisor	Becky Flory
Costume Design/Supervisor	Carrie Joy Lash
Technical Director/Lighting Design	Mark Bracken
Makeup Supervisor.....	Danielle Steele
Producer	Motoko Maegawa
Costume Construction.....	Rebecca Brown
Eighth Grade Team Leader	Joey Shapiro
Online Ticket Sales/ Box Office Manager	Analyse Winans
Programs	Colleen Quaid, Karen Goodman Minter
Sound Board Supervisor	Josh Mather
Backstage Support.....	Sarah Palmer, Mitch Daar, Jeff Ellison, Leehe Matalon, Beth Sanzenbacher, Joey Shapiro, Danielle Steele, Kyle Sheahan
Ushers/Makeup Support	Eighth Grade Parents
Costume Rentals	The Costumer
Lighting Rentals	Design Lab
Stage Rentals.....	AAA Rentals
Orchestra	
Accompanist (Piano.....	Nick Kabat
Flute	James Brinkmann
Clarinet.....	Richard Zili
Trumpet	Jeff Schweitzer
Trombone.....	Carol Macpherson

Student Artistic & Technical Crew

Instrumental Ensemble:

Flute	Josephine Stahl, Claire Silverstein
Clarinet.....	Eli Orkin, Naomi Altman, Ethan Sterling, Abby LoSasso
Guitar	Jordan Zickmann
Alto Sax	Micah Liss, Jacob Livni, Andrew Condrell, Jason Gordon, Chloe Fadem
Trumpet	Adam Lewis, Zachary Stahl, Geoff Feinstein
Trombone.....	Drew Rosenberg, Mhark Rooz, Alex Kreiner
Tuba.....	Eli Lichstein
Percussion.....	Warren Weissbluth, Gabe Shapps, Jack Goodman
Stage Managers.....	Lily Prostic, Jacob Livni, Josh Penn, Ben Prostic, Jonah Rosenthal, Spencer Stone
Set Design/Crew	Kayla Chandler, Claire Silverstein, Mark Miller, Ivy Schenk, Rachel Nasatir, Daniel Goldblatt, Julia Leff, Kate Perloff, Lily Prostic, Ben Stahl, Zachary Stahl, Spencer Stone
Props.....	Isaac Akers, Natalie Rosenbaum, Elise Azulay, Leo Fisher, Stefan Presman, Seth Berger, Hayden Goodhart, Ethan Neff
Spotlight.....	Alec Turken
Publicity	Jaden Beltzman, Carter Wagner, Abby LoSasso, Carrie Lampert, Daniel Bishop, Dani Lieb, Alec Turken
Pit Band	Eli Orkin, Geoff Feinstein, Warren Weissbluth
Costumes	Kayla Chandler, Nicole Lucas, Rachel Nasatir, Alex Gassel, Emma Sobel, Hudson Kamins, Julia Leff, Alex Sweitzer, Lela Zerman, Spencer Phillips
Assistant Directors	Jake Herman, Jake Jasmer, Olivia Frankel, Jacob Kendall
Assistant Choreographers.....	Lily Katz, Lexi Goldman, Andrew Meyer, Lilah Ephraim, Claudia Ballen, Aidan Weinberg

Who's Who in the Cast



Abby LoSasso is very excited to watch and perform in the 8th Grade Operetta. Abby has wanted to do this since Junior Kindergarten, which was 10 years ago. Abby loves playing the role of Zazu and can't wait to see it all come together. Outside of school, Abby loves to play instruments such as piano and clarinet. Abby also loves to sing, which she will be doing a lot of in this production. Abby wants to thank everyone who is helping to put this whole show together.



Aidan Weinberg is excited to play Banzai, one of Scar's three hyena stooges, in the 8th Grade Operetta. Outside of school Aidan is part of a non-profit organization called CircEsteem. CircEsteem's goal is to teach self-esteem through the practice of circus arts. Aidan's only other theater experience was performing in last year's 7th Grade Play, *NYConfusion*. He also performs for his circus and at his piano recitals.



Alec Turken is excited for the Operetta. He is in the ensemble. Alec played the part of "George" in last year's 7th Grade Play, *NYConfusion*. He once did a Second City improv camp, so he has some experience acting outside of school.



Alex Gassel plays Shenzi the hyena in *The Lion King Jr.* She is excited to play this role because of the joking nature of her character that reflects her own. Outside of class, Alex loves to play volleyball, basketball, and softball for Bernard Zell. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family.



Alex Sweitzer has been waiting for the 8th Grade Operetta to come for a very long time. She is very excited to watch and perform *The Lion King Jr.* Alex is playing a Lioness, and she is very happy with her role. The Lioness is a very fierce part, which is not what Alex is like, but she is ready for the challenge. She loves learning the songs and dances because they are very interesting and different. After school, Alex plays softball in the spring and volleyball in the fall. She has not had a lot of experience with acting. Alex has done a few acting camps and she played the part of Daisy in the 7th Grade Play. Alex is looking forward to the weekend of the Operetta!



Andrew Meyer is a 14-year-old who loves to play sports, read, and chill. He is playing Mufasa in *The Lion King Jr.*, and is thrilled to be part of the Saturday night production of the show!



Ben Prostic's crew role is Stage Manager. In his free time he enjoys playing soccer and volleyball. He was born in Chicago, Illinois. Ben's favorite place to go on vacation is Vail, Colorado. He goes to the Camp of Horseshoe. Ben is excited for this production.



Ben Stahl really enjoyed working on the Operetta, especially making the set. He is part of the Ensemble. The Ensemble is a huge part of the Operetta, and without it, the show could not go on. He hopes you will enjoy the show!



Carrie Lampert has been looking forward to the Operetta for a long time! Carrie loves to see musicals and loved *The Lion King*. She is very happy to be playing Shenzi, one of the hyenas. She thinks this is a fitting role because Shenzi likes to laugh at her own jokes, as does Carrie. Carrie has not had that much acting experience, but was Whitney last year in the 7th Grade Play. In Carrie's free time she likes to spend time with her friends. She is super happy the Operetta is here!



Carter Wagner is overjoyed to be playing Young Simba, the lead in this year's Operetta. Carter enjoys playing bass, tennis, learning Mandarin, and performing at Second City. Carter has been working on the Operetta for four months and is excited to see how it turns out.



Claire Silverstein is really excited to be part of the production of the *The Lion King Jr.* Claire is happy to be playing Scar in the Rosencrantz Cast and is also excited to be part of Ensemble in the Guildenstern Cast. Scar is a fun role to play because it is very different than any role Claire has played before. Being in an ensemble and learning how to act through singing and dancing makes Ensemble a great experience. Along with acting, Claire enjoys figure skating, soccer, softball and piano.



Claudia Ballen is very excited for *The Lion King Jr.* She is playing the role of a Lioness. She has enjoyed learning all of the songs and dances for the Operetta. Claudia thinks that it is a great musical and a very exciting one. Claudia loves playing volleyball and softball. Claudia has watched the 8th Grade Operettas for many years, and has always looked forward to watching them. Claudia is very excited for the show and she hopes you all enjoy it!



Dani Lieb has been waiting for the 8th Grade Operetta for 11 years. *The Lion King Jr.* is one of Dani's favorite musicals. Dani is happy to be a Lioness and get to sing and dance with her friends. Dani looks forward to Performing Arts class because she has so much fun learning the songs and dances. Outside of school she plays basketball, bakes, and loves to hang out with friends. Dani doesn't have much experience in acting. She was Jenny in last year's 7th Grade Play. Dani is so excited that the Operetta is finally here.



Daniel Bishop is excited and happy to play the part of Ed in this year's Operetta, *The Lion King Jr.* Daniel has participated in a lot of theatre productions during his time at Bernard Zell, including playing an Oompa Loompa in the sibling cast of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, being in the sibling cast of *Cinderella*, playing the Store Owner in *Little Shop of Horrors* in sixth grade, and playing Max in the seventh grade production of *NYConfusion: P.S. 44*. In addition to participating in theatre, Daniel likes to play a lot of sports, including soccer, basketball, volleyball, skateboarding, snowboarding, and track and field. Daniel is grateful to Mr. Zane for all his hard work, to his 8th grade teachers for all their help on the Operetta and throughout the year, and to his classmates for a great ten years together.



Daniel Goldblatt is playing Ed, the weird Hyena. Daniel loves swimming, hates potatoes, and likes smoothies. Daniel has experience from Second City improv and sketch comedy camp that he took a couple years ago. Daniel likes to amuse people, and he is very confident on stage. He can't wait for the play and is super excited to perform for his school.



Eli Orkin is very excited to act with his friends and perform as the character Timon in *The Lion King Jr.* Eli plays tennis at Lakeshore Fitness Center and attends a drawing class at the Lill Street Art Center. He also plays clarinet in the school's Advanced Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and Eli is playing in the Operetta Pit Band. Eli thanks all the teachers who helped bring the *The Lion King Jr.* to life and put it together. He especially thanks Mr. Zane for being an awesome Director. Eli would also like to thank his classmates and friends who also made this Operetta happen. Eli hopes you enjoy the show.



Elise Azulay is playing Young Simba in *The Lion King Jr.* She is very excited to see how the props look and add an effect to the musical, especially the grub, the bug Young Simba, Timon, and Pumba eat. Elise had the pleasure of designing the grub along with two of her fellow classmates. Elise plays volleyball and softball on the school team, swims, and does yoga. Acting, singing, and dancing are all things Elise loves to do. Elise used to do Emerald City Theater where she has acted in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Snow White*. Elise is so happy she gets the opportunity to act in the Operetta. From learning all the African words in the music to the choreography, this musical was fun in all aspects. The Operetta is something all kids look up to and can't wait to be a part of and for Elise the experience is definitely worth the wait.



Emma Sobel can't wait to be in the Operetta because she has always loved to watch other school plays. Emma plays Sarafina, Nala's mom, and is also part of the Ensemble and Lionesses. Outside of school, Emma likes to play volleyball, basketball, and softball. She also likes to watch Netflix and hang out with friends during her free time.



Ethan Neff feels good going into the Operetta because he is prepared for it. Ethan plays basketball and baseball outside of school. He was in two 8th Grade Operettas in the Sibling Cast, *Willy Wonka* and *The Music Man*. Ethan hopes you enjoy the show!



Geoffrey Feinstein can't wait to be in the Operetta. Last year Geoff played Bill in the 7th Grade Play. Outside of school, Geoff likes to play video games and plays piano during his free time.



Hayden Goodhart plays a very important role in this Operetta. As a part of the Ensemble, Hayden gets to be many different animals that make this musical special. Without the Ensemble, the music would be dull and the musical would not be exciting. Hayden plays the Zebra and a Hyena specifically as other cast members play other roles as different animals.



Hudson Kamins has been in two Operettas, but this is her favorite one. Hudson is acting as a Lioness in *The Lion King Jr.* which is a very fierce role. Hudson can act fierce, so this is a very good part for her. This is Hudson's ninth year at Bernard Zell and she loves it. Hudson plays basketball, softball, and volleyball. She also likes to watch Netflix and hang out with her friends and family. She loves to bake and listen to music. This is going to be a fun musical!



Isaac Akers is playing Simba. His hobbies include singing, acting, and swimming. He is so excited to be part of *The Lion King Jr.* Cast.



Ivy Schenk is really excited to be playing Rafiki in this year's Operetta. She is thrilled to be doing a musical with her friends. She enjoys acting and singing and she hopes that she can share her love of both with you. She has done many plays in her life and is excited to show her skills.



Jacob Kendall is very excited for the 8th Grade Operetta and to help direct it. In 6th grade, he was part of the Sibling Cast in *Cinderella*. In *The Lion King Jr.*, Jacob is in the Ensemble. Outside of school, Jacob loves to play hockey and plays for the Chicago Jets.



Jaden Beltzman is attending Bernard Zell for his first year and can't wait for his first Operetta. His experience acting is doing Second City classes and camps learning improv and how to write his own script. Jaden is honored to be playing Simba in this year's Operetta *The Lion King Jr.* He can't wait to sing, dance, and act for the Bernard Zell community.



Jake Herman is very excited because he thinks the Operetta will be a great experience. Performing is something that Jake wants to improve in, and he is looking forward to playing Zazu. Jake enjoys playing basketball outside of school and that is his passion. He hasn't had any theatrical experience beside the 6th and 7th Grade Plays. Jake had fun being one of the four directors. Jake is very excited to see the Operetta come together in these final performances.



Jake Jasmer is very excited to participate in this year's 8th Grade Operetta. Jake loves how the whole musical just comes together. Jake is playing Banzai who is one of the three Hyenas. Jake has not had any experience with theater outside of school. Outside of school, Jake plays tennis, does recreational skiing, and plays video games.



Jonah Rosenthal is very excited to be in the 8th Grade Operetta this year. Jonah has only performed once in front of large crowds at the 7th Grade Play. He is in the Ensemble. Outside of school, Jonah plays travel baseball for Oz Park and plays a lot of video games in his free time. He also plays basketball on the school team.



Josh Penn is very excited to be in the Ensemble and be a Stage Manager in *The Lion King Jr.* Josh enjoys playing piano and playing sports. He plays basketball, soccer, and volleyball at school. Josh hopes that everyone enjoys the show, and would like to thank all of the teachers who made this Operetta possible.



Julia Leff is excited to put on the Operetta. She is excited that she gets to be a part of *The Lion King Jr.* Julia was on the costume and makeup crews. Julia is a Lioness and part of the Ensemble. She has had only one other experience in theatre when she played a part of Young Girl in the 7th Grade Play last year.



Jacob Livni is very excited to be part of the ensemble. Jacob is a stage manager in *The Lion King Jr.* Jacob enjoys playing soccer, water polo, and track. He has had past theatre experience last year during the seventh grade play where he played a part of one of the villains.



Kate Perloff has been waiting for the 8th Grade Operetta for a long time. She is very excited to perform in and watch *The Lion King Jr.* Kate is playing the role of a Lioness. Outside of school, Kate does track and field, cross-country, club volleyball, and hangs out with her friends.



Kayla Chandler will be playing the role of Young Nala. Kayla is very excited to be in the musical and has been looking forward to it ever since she started school in Nursery. In her free time, Kayla loves hanging out with friends and running. Although she has not had much experience in acting, Kayla loves the musical and cannot wait to show others how hard the 8th grade has worked on *The Lion King Jr.*



Lela Zerman is very excited about the Operetta. She remembers in 4th grade when there were so many rumors about the Operetta being the *The Lion King Jr.* and she is very happy that those turned out to be true. Lela is playing the roles of Lioness/Ensemble. Lela has worked very hard on her lines and African chanting for the Operetta and thinks it will be amazing. Lela loves volleyball but sadly couldn't play this year because she sprained both her ankles. Lela loves to be around people and loves to do art. Lela has a very energetic and lively personality.



Leo Fisher is very excited for the 8th grade Operetta. It is Leo's first time with a large role in a musical, as he is playing the role of Timon. Leo enjoys playing sports in his free time and hanging out with his friends. He participates in school basketball and soccer. In addition, Leo has had a great time working in the props crew for the Operetta.



Lexi Goldman plays Pumbaa in *The Lion King Jr.* She loves her role in *The Lion King Jr.* because the humor in Pumbaa's character reflects her own. Outside of school, Lexi enjoys playing sports such as basketball, softball, volleyball, and dance in and out of school. Lexi also enjoys hanging out with her friends and family. The fun and bonding during the process are Lexi's favorite parts of the Operetta.



Lilah Ephraim is a friendly person who loves spending time with people. She is a dedicated figure skater and when she sets her mind to something she will get it done. Lilah is playing Sarabi, Simba's mother. Lilah loved working on the 8th Grade Operetta and bonding with her friends.



Lily Katz is playing Nala in the production of *The Lion King Jr.* She is very excited to sing, dance, and act in this performance! Lily has immensely enjoyed practicing for the show and is excited for everyone to see the hard work her class has been doing. She loves the culture in the *The Lion King Jr.* and is so glad that this is the Operetta her class is performing. Lily loves to sing and dance while acting is still a little new to her. Lily also enjoys playing sports including volleyball, basketball, and softball. Lily has been choreographing the Siblings Cast dance with a few of her classmates. Thanks to the crew and cast on their hard work for this awesome production. Enjoy the show!



Lily Prostic is very excited to be playing the esteemed role of Ensemble/Lioness. She has been in many previous Bernard Zell productions and participates in school soccer, basketball, track, and softball. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Mark Miller is very excited to perform in *The Lion King Jr.* Last year, he played a lead protagonist in the 7th grade play *NYConfusion*. Now Mark is playing the antagonist, Scar. Mark enjoys playing tennis, bike riding, and spending time with friends. He can't wait to show his darker side.



Natalie Rosenbaum is excited to be taking part as Nala and a part of the ensemble, as well as a member of the props crew in the production of *The Lion King Jr.* She has had fun during rehearsals and has learned throughout the process. This is her 11th year at Bernard Zell and after watching so many 8th Grade Operettas, she can't wait to be in one of her own. Outside of school she enjoys playing soccer, basketball, singing, playing piano and spending time with her family and friends. Natalie has participated in her overnight camp plays including *Cinderella*, *Willy Wonka*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Little Mermaid* as well as a production of *Footloose* at the Emerald City Theater. Natalie would like to thank Mr. Zane and everyone else who has helped put on the show. She hopes you enjoy!



Nicole Lucas is very excited to play young Nala in Bernard Zell's production of *The Lion King Jr.* Nicole has been in one other Bernard Zell production, *NYC Confusion*. She has also been in four Emerald City shows. In her free time, Nicole likes to play basketball, softball, and enjoys to paint. She is very excited to show you what the 8th grade has been working on.



Olivia Frankel is very excited for this production. Ever since watching *Bye Bye Birdie* in Senior Kindergarten, she has awaited this experience. Olivia is playing Sarabi (Simba's mom) and is a director.

As a director, Olivia enjoys going to all of the scene blocking and rehearsals every week. Outside of school, Olivia sings at School of Rock. She has been in two shows so far, and her next one is coming up. Olivia can't wait for *The Lion King Jr.* and to keep singing all of the songs in the hallways.



Rachel Nasatir is very excited to see how the Operetta comes together and how each person works together to make the musical. Rachel is playing the character of Rafiki. Rachel dances competitively, plays piano and many other instruments including voice. Rachel has many theatre experiences including five Emerald City productions and has tried out for commercials and movies.



Seth Berger is an 8th grade student at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School. He believes this production will be a major success because of the amount of effort put into it. He plays the role of Mufasa in the Guildenstern Cast. Away from school, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and playing for his travel baseball, basketball, and hockey teams. Hope you enjoy the show!



Spencer Phillips is playing ensemble. He has enjoyed the entire process of rehearsing and preparing for *Lion King Jr.* and hopes you enjoy the show. Outside of school, he enjoys playing video games, basketball, and football as well as designing custom shoes. His favorite food is jerk chicken. The 8th Grade Operetta is Spencer's first theatrical experience.



Spencer Stone is playing an Antelope in the Ensemble and is excited for the Operetta. He serves as a stage manager for this play. Last year he had a speaking role in the 7th grade play *New York Confusion*. He has enjoyed the process and is excited for the play to begin. He also plays hockey.



Stefan Presman is very happy about performing in the 8th Grade Operetta! In the Operetta he is Pumba, a funny character who is a warthog and an outcast who doesn't seem to get many things that are thrown at him. Stefan is also playing in the Ensemble. Out of school, Stefan loves playing hockey as a goaltender. He also enjoys playing video games and designing/editing. He would like to thank Mr. Zane and everyone who helped put the show together! Stefan personally hopes you enjoy the show, whomever you are!



Warren Weissbluth is very enthusiastic about drumming and music. He has been playing the drums since he was in 1st grade. He has been in classical band at Bernard Zell since the 4th grade and in Jazz Band since the 6th grade. Warren has been in three consecutive Operettas: his sister's Operetta as both a Sibling and in the Pit Band, last year's Operetta in the Pit Band, and this year on stage as Ensemble and the main drummer. Warren is very excited.



Zachary Stahl is happy to be in the 8th Grade Operetta. He is in the set design crew as well as acting in the Ensemble. In addition to that he is playing a very minor character in scene two, the Field Mouse. When he is not in school, Zachary enjoys painting and playing Minecraft. His previous acting experience is having played Pierre D'Argent in the 7th Grade Play last year.

Sibling Cast

1st Grade:

Lauren Azulay

2nd Grade:

Jeremy Azulay, Naomie Herman, Madeline Meyer,
Rachel Meyer, Alexa Nasatir

3rd Grade:

Rachel Feinstein, Danny Leff, Maya Livni

4th Grade:

Matthew Azulay, Leah LoSasso,
Rachel Rosenthal, Asher Schenk

5th Grade:

Jack Ballen, Owen Fisher, Lindsey Gassel,
Trevor Goodhart, Michael Jasmer, Julia Jasmer,
Ari Kendall, Eliza Lampert, Rebecca Silverstein,
Kate Sweitzer, Willow Weissbluth

6th Grade:

Rachel Berger, Natalie Frankel,
Lizzie Lucas, Josephine Stahl

MORTON REISMAN EIGHTH GRADE OPERETTA HISTORY

60 Years of A Musical Theater Tradition

1957-2017

In 1957, the first three-act operetta was presented by the fifth-grade. From 1958 to the present, the eighth-grade classes have starred in the operetta with the seventh-grade in supporting roles during some years.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Director</i>
1957	Hansel & Gretel (Engelbert Humperdinck)	Morton Reisman
1958	The Magic Flute (Mozart)	Morton Reisman
1959	H.M.S. Pinafore (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Morton Reisman
1960	Masquerade in Vienna (adapted Johann Strauss)	Morton Reisman
1961	The Hither and Thither of Danny Dither (Alex North)	Morton Reisman
1962	Robin Hood (De Koven)	Morton Reisman
1963	H.M.S Pinafore (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Morton Reisman
1964	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (R. Gibson)	Morton Reisman
1965	Rip Van Winkle (C. Fiore & N. Flagello)	Morton Reisman
1966	The Mikado (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Morton Reisman
1967	The Magic Flute (Mozart)	Morton Reisman
1968	The Seven Golden Buttons (Ira & Judith Eisenstein)	Brina Rodin
1969	Danny Angel in Mission Incredible (Alex North)	Aviva Crane
1970	To Wake a King (Harry Coopersmith)	Brina Rodin
1971	The King & I (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Dorothy Meyers
1972	South Pacific (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Dorothy Meyers
1973	Fiddler on the Roof (Jerry Bock)	Dorothy Meyers
1974	The Mikado (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Dorothy Meyers
1975	Oliver! (Lionel Bart)	Fred Nathan
1976	To Be Free (Daniel Kahn)	Daniel Kahn
1977	The Sound of Music (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Tom Mula
1978	Annie Get Your Gun (Irving Berlin)	Deborah Martello
1979	Oklahoma! (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Marvin Richardson
1980	Brigadoon (Frederick Loewe)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1981	My Fair Wizard of Oz (Arlen & Stolhart)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1982	Fiorello (Jerry Bock)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1983	Of Thee I Sing (Gershwin)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1984	Guys & Dolls (Frank Loesser)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1985	South Pacific (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1986	The King & I (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Pearl & Sulie Harand
1987	Pippin (Stephen Schwartz)	Dorothy Meyers
1988	The Music Man (Meredith Willson)	Robb Zelonky
1989	The Wiz (Charlie Smalls)	Robb Zelonky
1990	Once Upon a Mattress (Mary Rodgers)	Leeza Watstein

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1957-2017

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Director</i>
1991	West Side Story (Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim)	Jeff Dudek
1992	Grease (Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey)	Jeff Dudek & Andrea Toshir
1993	Oliver! (Lionel Bart)	Manon Gustafeste & Charki Dunn
1994	Bye Bye Birdie (Adams, Stewart, Strouse)	Manon Spadaro
1995	Guys & Dolls (Frank Loesser)	Manon Spadaro
1996	Fiddler on the Roof (Jerry Bock)	David B. Cohen
1997	The Music Man (Meredith Willson)	David B. Cohen
1998	The King & I (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Mary Launder
1999	West Side Story (Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim)	Mary Launder
2000	Into The Woods (James Lapine & Stephen Sondheim)	Reece Livingstone
2001	Pippin (Stephen Schwartz)	Reece Livingstone
2002	Flower Drum Song (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Reece Livingstone
2003	Kiss Me, Kate (Cole Porter, Sam & Bella Spewack)	Reece Livingstone
2004	The Mikado (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Reece Livingstone
2005	Annie Get Your Gun (Irving Berlin, Peter Stone)	Reece Livingstone
2006	Oliver! (Lionel Bart)	Abigail Leigh Huss
2007	The Wizard of Oz (Arlen, Harburg, Stolhart, Kane)	Abigail Leigh Huss
2008	High School Musical (Simpatico, Louiselle, Gerrard) Nevil, Cham, Seeley, Peterson, Quinn, Dodd, Watts, Lawrence, Greenberg, Houston, Barsocchini)	Abigail Leigh Huss
2009	Bye Bye Birdie (Adams, Stewart, Strouse)	Abigail Leigh Huss
2010	Willy Wonka (Bricousse, Newley, McDonald)	Abigail Leigh Huss
2011	Annie (Charnin, Meehan, Strouse)	Abigail Leigh Murphy
2012	The Music Man (Meredith Willson)	Mary Launder
2013	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Tim Rice, Andrew Lloyd Webber)	Mary Launder
2014	The Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert & Sullivan)	Colette Nakielski
2015	Cinderella (Rodgers & Hammerstein)	Colette Nakielski
2016	My Fair Lady (Lerner and Loewe)	Brian Zane
2017	The Lion King Jr. (John and Rice)	Brian Zane

Mazel Tov,
Class of 2017,
on a remarkable
performance
of *The Lion King Jr.!*



BERNARD ZELL
ANSHE EMET DAY SCHOOL
בית ספר אנשי אמת ע"ש ברנרד זל

CELEBRATING
70 YEARS