

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2012/2013
Journal

Derrick Davis

Class of 1996

Derrick grew up in Amityville and attended the Copiague Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. While at Copiague, he tried his hand at many things including art, baking, track and field, football and band; all of which he loved and still uses to varying degrees. However, when his feet hit the stage under the guidance of his musical mentor and now friend, Larry Wurtzel, he found his true love. He went on to graduate *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from C.W. Post.

Derrick is now a proud member of the Actors Equity Association. He played Mufasa in Disney's, *The Lion King* National Tour, and covered the role in the Las Vegas production. Currently he is in the ensemble of *The Lion King* on Broadway, understudying the role of Mufasa.

His other Off Broadway and regional credits include roles in *Show Boat*, Earl Wilson Jr.'s, *You're It!*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Die Fledermaus*, as well as long-standing roles in *The Night the Angel Sang*, *All Rise*, *Who is this Man* and *If I Die*.

He has appeared in television and cinematic works including the film starring Keira Knightly and Adam Levine (2013 release), *Can a Song Save Your Life*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Live with Regis and Kelly*, *A Christmas Tale* (independent film) and Def Jam Records music video, *Love is You* (Chrisette Michele).

Derrick has shared the stage with and opened for Patti Lupone, James Earl Jones, Audra McDonald, Grammy Award winners Chrisette Michele, Shirley Ceasar and Donnie McClurkin. He was also the featured baritone in the Las Vegas Philharmonic's Rogers & Hammerstein concert in Nevada.

Derrick has led the youth choir at his church, The Upper Room Tabernacle, and composed music for many productions there. He also counseled troubled young people for many years. He actively seeks out young people and runs master class presentations at high schools all over the country including here in Copiague.

"Life is choices and choices is life."