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## THE CAST – CONTINUED

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**Karah Haug** (*Ensemble*) is from Rapid City, South Dakota. She graduated from Carleton College in 2021 with degrees in Dance and Environmental Studies. As a dance and movement artist, Karah has trained in many different styles from ballet, Krump to acrobatics. and explores dance as it is related to different environments. After serving with an AmeriCorps program in a math classroom for a year, Karah is thrilled join Lightwire Theater for her second national tour.

**Tristan Rodney** (*Ensemble*) is a graduate of the University of Technology, Jamaica earning a BA. in Communications Arts & Technology (BaCAT). His dance training includes Jamaica's Quilt Performing Arts Company, Ashe, University Dance Society, the Company Dance Theater as well as Texas Ballet Theatre. His commercial experience spans Mary Kay's 'Friends of Time', Arlington Music Hall, Amway International, Texas State Fair, DIFFA Dallas, Eclipse Entertainment & most recently Universal's Jurassic World. He was a founding member of TMJ Dance Project, Ballet North Texas, soloist with Dallas Neo Classical Ballet & company member with Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Urban Performing Company & Herrera Dance Project. He's currently in his 4th and final season with Beckles Dancing Company. Tristan joins Lightwire Theater in his first official company tour of The Tortoise and Hare.

**Symone Johnson** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making her debut with the Lightwire theater! As a professional circus artist, specializing in aerial silks and rope, she has appeared in many shows ranging from Aloft's production of "Tough Drafts" to Cabinet of Curiosity's immersive experience "Illumination". While training full time in Chicago, she worked under many accomplished circus artists such as Joe Pinzon, Tanya Burke, Duo Rose, and Shayna Swanson. When not performing, she travels the United States in her van with a little black cat named Minew. Now based out of New Orleans, Symone has fallen in love with combining the local music scene with interactive character work and aerial craziness!

**Lightwire Theater has been featured as the winner of Tru TV's Fake Off (Season One), semi-finalists on America's Got Talent (Season 7) and as finalist on My TF1's, The Best Le Meilleur Artiste in Paris, ABC's Game of Talents and Italy's Tu Si Que Vales.**

**Internationally recognized for their signature brand of electroluminescent artistry and poignant storytelling, Lightwire Theater is based in New Orleans and continues to create and deliver innovative theatrical experiences to audiences worldwide including: Hong Kong, Taipei, Estonia, Brazil, Russia, Europe, Belarus, China and Abu Dhabi.**

Mendelson Entertainment Group LLC, proudly manages and represents Lightwire Theater.

[www.MEGARTSMEDIA.com](http://www.MEGARTSMEDIA.com)

For Booking Information, contact BAILIWICK Arts Management

[bailiwick.biz@gmail.com](mailto:bailiwick.biz@gmail.com)

A very special thanks to The Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, who commissioned and premiered *Darwin The Dinosaur* on October 13, 2007, Detroit, Michigan.

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PRESENTS

## Adventures of The Tortoise and the Hare

### The Next Gen

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ian Carney

#### MANAGING DIRECTOR & CO-CREATOR

Eleanor Carney & Corbin Popp

#### ROAD MANAGERS

Kevin Chick

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jay Weigel

#### CAST

Kevin Chick

Jesse Forcha

Symone Johnson

Tristan Rodney

Karah Haug

#### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Barry Mendelson

## THE CAST

**IAN CARNEY** (*Artistic Director, Ensemble*) is best known for his long run in Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp's musical, *Movin' Out* on Broadway. Born in New Hampshire and raised in New Orleans, he started dancing as a child, studying Ballet in New Orleans and in New York City. He danced lead roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and many other Ballets. He has been a guest dancer, teacher and choreographer in companies across the United States. While still performing, Ian earned a degree in English Literature from Tulane University. He is the co-creator of the family shows that continue to delight audiences around the world - *Dino-Light*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Lightwire the Show*, *A Very Electric Christmas* and *The Tortoise and Hare the Next Generation*. Ian has appeared on television with Lightwire Theater on *America's Got Talent*, *Game of Talents*, Italy's *Tu si Que Vales*, TF1's *The Best Show in France* and as the 2014 winner of Tru TV's *Fake Off*.

**ELEANOR B. CARNEY** (*Managing Director, Ensemble*) Originally from New Orleans, Eleanor began her dance training with Harvey Hysell and Joseph Giacobbe. She graduated from Southern Methodist University with a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Anthropology. She has danced professionally with Indianapolis Ballet Theater, the Lexington, Northwest Florida, Delta Festival and Montgomery Ballet. Career highlights include dancing Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Desdemona in *The Moor's Pavane*, the title roles in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *Giselle* and *Coppelia* and, of course, the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. Mrs. Carney is delighted to have appeared with Lightwire Theater on *America's Got Talent*, Italy's hit show *Tu si Que Vales*, *Game of Talents*, *The Best* on TF1 and as the 2014 winner of Tru TV's *Fake Off*. She is eternally grateful to work besides her husband, Ian, and share their art with the world.

**CORBIN POPP** (*Co-Creator, Technical Supervisor*) is from Lincoln, Nebraska. He earned a degree in biochemistry at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, while also studying math, physics and dance. Opting for dance, Corbin performed in *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Billy Joel* and Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* on Broadway. He has toured throughout the United States with many shows and all over Europe with Tharp's dance company. Corbin speaks German, studied in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship and recently graduated from dental school, yet still continues to perform and collaborate with Lightwire Theater.

**KEVIN CHICK** (*Road Manager/Ensemble*) is a puppeteer and clown standup comedian. Most notable credits include: The Jim Henson company, The Kimmel Center of Philadelphia, The Guthrie of Minneapolis, Southern Colorado repertory theater, educational theatre throughout South America Mexico and Argentina, Coca-Cola zero commercials and political activist puppet videos with daily show writer Liz Winstead. Kevin's hails from Iowa and received his BA in theater from the University of Iowa. Most recently he accomplished one of his dreams by blasting across the United States on his motorcycle. He would like to say a big thank you to his family for their continued love and support.

**Jesse Forcha** (*Ensemble*) is in his fifth season with Lightwire Theater. He has performed in *Hoofing for Hero's* at the New Orleans World War II Museum and at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas as a magician's assistant for the world-renowned magician, Rob Lake. Other favorite credits include *42 Street (Andy)*, *A Chorus Line (Mike)*, *Curtains (Billy)*, *Grease (Danny)*, *The Sound of Music (Rolf)*, *The Wizard of Oz (Tin Man)* and many others. Jesse has been a member of the Gulf Coast Theatre on Tap where he does what he loves best, tap dancing. He is also a skilled clarinet, flute and saxophone player. He would like to thank his parents and sisters for always encouraging his dream and a special thanks to his Aunt Kat.