

**MARCH  
6-23**

**RIFFE CENTER  
STUDIO ONE**



# Fat Ham

**BY  
JAMES IJAMES**

**DIRECTED BY  
DAVID GLOVER**

**The  
Contemporary  
Theatre of Ohio**

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We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.

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## A NOTE FROM THE CONTEMPORARY

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, written over 400 years ago, is widely considered one of his most famous tragedies. James I James's *Fat Ham*, a fiercely contemporary reimagination of that story, is a celebration. A vibrant celebration of survival, love, and the power of joy. The moment we read *Fat Ham*, we knew we had to include it in our 40th anniversary season. It's a play that's true to our name—a play for our time.

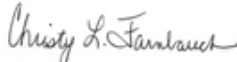
*Fat Ham* had its first production at the height of the pandemic in a virtual production at the Wilma Theatre. From there, it made its off-Broadway debut in a co-production between The Public Theater and the National Black Theater, won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, transferred to Broadway, and was nominated for five Tony Awards. We are thrilled to be sharing this production at this time, with this community.

In early January, we were notified that our production of *Fat Ham* was a recipient of a \$10,000 Challenge America grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). It is a great honor to have our work recognized at the national level. With recent changes to federal grants and the NEA, the state of this funding is currently unknown. What we do know is that as a company, we will continue to remain true to our values, vision, and mission. We will continue to create theatre that sparks joy, inspires empathy, and speaks to the current moment.

Thank you for being here and celebrating with us. We hope you leave the theatre feeling as moved and inspired as we have been throughout the journey of bringing *Fat Ham* to life.



Leda Hoffmann  
Artistic Director



Christy Farnbauch  
Executive Director

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**The  
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Theatre** of Ohio

Leda Hoffmann  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Christy Farnbauch  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# **FAT HAM**

**BY JAMES IJAMES**

**DIRECTED BY DAVID GLOVER**

**David Glover  
DIRECTOR**

**Nicholas Wilson  
CHOREOGRAPHER**

**Katherine Simon  
SET DESIGNER**

**Tabitha Abney  
COSTUME DESIGNER**

**Kelsey Gallagher  
LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**Jesse Charles  
SOUND DESIGNER**

**Lonelle Yoder  
PROPS DESIGNER**

**Jeanine Thompson  
INTIMACY AND  
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**Brooke Stiles\*  
STAGE MANAGER**

**Skylar Kyser  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

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Tony Koehler  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

KC Hopkins  
**WARDROBE**

Mark Coldiron  
**MASTER ELECTRICIAN**

Set Built by CCT Scenic

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New York Premiere Co-Production by The Public Theater  
Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director. Patrick Willingham, Executive Director  
and National Black Theatre Sade Lythcott, Chief Executive Officer Jonathan  
McCrary, Executive Artistic Director

*FAT HAM* was commissioned by and received its World Premiere as a filmed production at  
The Wilma Theater, Philadelphia: Blanka Zizka, Yury Urnov, James Ijames, and Morgan Green, Co-Artistic Directors.  
Leigh Goldenberg, Managing Director

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

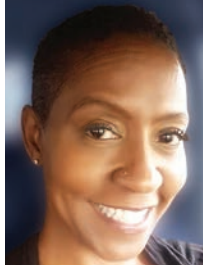
# CAST

**JUICY**



**WILLIAM HARRINGTON** he/him

**TEDRA**



**ANITA DAVIS** she/her

**REV / PAP**



**BRANDON ANDERSON** he/him

**RABBY**



**PATRICIA WALLACE-WINBUSH\*** she/her

**OPAL**



**TYLA DANIEL** she/her

**LARRY**



**JABARI JOHNSON** he/him

**TIO**



**REESE ANTHONY** he/him



\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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## CAST BIOS

**WILLIAM HARRINGTON** [HE/HIM] (**Juicy**) is an actor based in Columbus, Ohio. This is his second regional show at The Contemporary and he couldn't be more excited for the opportunity. Some previous roles include Zacky in *Big Fish*, Grover in *The Lightning Thief*, Man 2 in *Songs for a New World*, Stosh/Understudy in *Island Song*, and The Baker in *Into the Woods*. He would like to thank his family for their continual love and support!

**ANITA DAVIS** [SHE/HER] (**Tedra**) is excited to return to the Contemporary Theatre stage as Tedra in *Fat Ham!* She was most recently with the Contemporary in *Good Grief* (Nene) and also starred in their productions of *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive* (Margaret), *School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Eloise Amponsah), *Sisters* (Olivia) and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Aunt Lily). A classically trained actor and vocalist, Anita has performed with American contemporary and repertory theatres, Off-Broadway and in film and TV. Favorite stage roles include *Stepper's Ball* (Lindy), *Steal Away* (Red) and *The Trip* (Ginny). Her work in indie films includes roles in *The Endangered*, *Compensation*, *Cruel and Unusual*, *Turning the Corner* and *Gross Ratings*, and her work in TV includes the movies *Skin Complex* and *Our Father*, winner of the Regional Emmy Award. Video and voiceover credits include Macy's, Humana Health Care, Value City Furniture and Victoria's Secret, where she starred as the original "Angel Bra" Angel. Anita is a writer, director, producer, podcast host and a former dancer and model. Best of all, she is the proud mama of two amazingly talented, young creative artists - Julian and Isabella.

**BRANDON ANDERSON** [HE/HIM] (**Rev / Pap**) was drawn to comedy after secretly memorizing Eddie Murphy's concert films at an age many experts would deem "inappropriate." A Columbus, OH native, Brandon is a veteran sketch comedian, vocalist, writer, and 24-year resident of Shadowbox Live (SBX), and a featured actor and vocalist in numerous original sketch shows. Additionally he has appeared in SBX's productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *RENT*, *American Idiot*, *Rock of Ages* and the original productions *All Funked Up*, *Underland*, *The Dream*, and *No Return: The Deadly Dance of Bonnie and Clyde*. He is also the founder and executive director of the sketch comedy collective *Shut Up a Second*, and *PHD Improv*, a program that teaches engagement tactics to lecturers and presenters. Brandon's 2023 appearance on *Jeopardy!* received the "Most Adorable 3rd Place Contestant" award by a panel including his mom and his wife.



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**PATRICIA WALLACE-WINBUSH\*** [SHE/HER] (**Rabby**) is a highly respected actress/director on the Columbus theatre scene. A graduate of Wright State University with a BFA in Acting, Patty is co-founder of PAST Productions Columbus. She is a member of Good Medicine Productions as a healthcare clown and previously worked with Ohio History Connection as a Historic Interpreter. Later this spring, Patty will be presenting her one-woman show entitled *THANK GOD I LOOK GOOD IN PINK*, which chronicles her journey as a breast cancer survivor. She thanks her favorite 'productions', sons James and William for their support.

**TYLA DANIEL** [SHE/HER] (**Opal**) is delighted to be making her debut with The Contemporary Theater. Favorite credits include *Bonnets* and *The Country Wife* with The Ohio State University and *It Can't Happen Here* with Theater Columbus State.

**JABARI IKENNA JOHNSON** [HE/HIM] (**Larry**) is a Columbus native who's been performing locally for thirteen years, dating back to this company's production of *Encyclopedia Brown* in 2011. From there he's continued to share the stage with numerous Columbus theatre companies, most recently being Available Light Theatre's *You Will Get Sick* by Noah Diaz. In addition to acting on the stage, Jabari also helps educate theatre for children in school with the likes of Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Jabari would like to thank all of his friends of the arts community as well as his family for their unending support. He is excited for another year working with this company under its new banner!

**REESE ANTHONY** [HE/HIM] (**Tio**) is excited to be playing Tio in *Fat Ham* in his debut performance with the Contemporary Theatre. Reese attended The Ohio State University with a degree in Theatre, and when he is not on stage, he works in pediatric hospitals as a respiratory therapist. He would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him, especially his husband Ryan for allowing him to pursue his passions.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

**DAVID J. GLOVER** [HE/HIM] (**Director**) is a director, actor, and teaching artist from Columbus. He is a graduate of Heidelberg University. David is active in the Columbus theatre scene and is proud to call Available Light Theatre his artistic home. When not making professional theatre, David can be found training the next generation of artists and students as the Upper School Dean of Students and Director of Theatre Arts for The Wellington School. He is grateful to The Contemporary for bringing this beautiful work to Columbus and allowing him to participate.

**NICHOLAS WILSON** [HE/HIM] (**Choreographer**) Born and raised in Ohio, Nicholas has always been fascinated by the intersection of the arts and business administration, and he looks forward to continuing his journey with unwavering dedication. Some of his favorite performance credits include Hud (*Hair*), Ensemble/Buster/Grady (*The Color Purple*), Jeffrey (*Godspell*), Puppeteer/Audrey 2: Voice u/s (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Joey Primo (*Rock of Ages*), Male Swing (*Chicago*), Buck (*No Return: The Deadly Dance of Bonnie and Clyde* – Original Production), Bar Patron #1 (*Musical the Musical* – Original Production), Production Manager for Short North Stage, Production Director for Overnight Brew: The 24-Hour Theatre Festival, Dance Captain/Assistant Choreographer for Shadowbox Live. He was recognized as Columbus's Best Supporting Actor (Professional) through BroadwayWorld's Regional Awards in 2019. In 2023, Nicholas was nominated for Columbus Business First 40 Under 40 Award, and also as a Columbus Makes Art Brand Ambassador. He deeply cherishes his ability to communicate unique artistic expression through live performance and aspires to make a positive impact with his art. Instagram: @nicholas\_dewitt.

**KATHERINE SIMON** [SHE/THEY] (**Set Designer**) is a designer currently working on her MFA in Scenic Design at OSU. Previous scenic design work includes *You Will Get Sick* (Available Light); *Good Grief* (The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio); *The Moors and She Kills Monsters* (OSU). Katherine has been on staff at theatres such as Milwaukee Rep, Shattered Globe Theatre in Chicago, and Waukesha Civic Theatre. In addition to her design work, Katherine enjoys her time as an educator. Katherine is a proud alumna of Vassar College. Upcoming set designs: *The Last Five Years* (The Contemporary). katherinesimondesign.com

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

**TABITHA "TABI" ABNEY** [SHE/HER] (**Costume Design**) is a local freelance costume and fashion designer. Over the span of 10 years, she has costumed several Columbus based feature films and designed costumes for The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio (A Columbus Christmas Carol, *An Iliad*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *Ride The Cyclone*, *Christmas Carol* and most recently *Fat Ham*), The Actors Theater of Columbus (*Chicken and Biscuits*), Available Light Theatre (*Fairview*), Endeavor Theatre (*Much Ado About Nothing*) and The Newark Granville Symphony (*Ellis Island: A Dream of America*). Periodically she takes her wardrobe skills on the high seas working with theatrical shows aboard Norwegian and (upcoming) Disney Cruise Lines.

**KELSEY GALLAGHER** [SHE/HER] (**Lighting Designer**) is an Ohio local lighting designer based in Dayton. She went to grad school in Columbus and is always excited to be back working in the city. She is currently the exhibit lighting designer for the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

**JESSE CHARLES** [HE/HIM] (**Sound Design**) Born from a love of music, Jesse developed an interest in audio production. In high school, Jesse experimented with and learned how to use the school's audio equipment. Following an internship at WOSU, Jesse earned a certificate from The Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, OH. Since then, he has freelanced all over Columbus, Ohio. Working for Vaud Villities, Imagine Productions, Actor's Theater (Shakespeare In The Park), The Kings Avenue Players, Redd Herring Productions, Columbus Children's Theater, and The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio.

**LONELLE YODER** [SHE/HER] (**Prop Designer**) has been loitering about the Columbus theatre scene, in various capacities, for many years – first at the Phoenix Theatre for Children and BlueForms Theatre Group, and, more recently, at Available Light Theatre Company, The Contemporary, Opera Columbus, and Columbus Children's Theatre. When she's not having fun building props, Lonelle gardens, dabbles in wildlife rehab, and makes jam out of foraged wild fruits.

**JEANINE THOMPSON** [SHE/HER] (**Intimacy and Violence Director**) is honored to be working with The Contemporary on *Fat Ham*. Previous shows include *Good Grief*. Jeanine is an Emeritus Professor of OSU Theatre, who specializes in performing, directing, and movement, who has developed her theatrical intimacy practice over the past two decades. Plays Jeanine has directed the intimacy for include: *In The Next Room* (or *The Vibrator Play*); *Cabaret*; *Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812*; *A Little Night Music*; *Red Velvet*; *Indecent*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Her Naked Skin*; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; and *Bonnets: How Ladies of Good Breeding are Induced to Murder*. Films Jeanine has been the Intimacy Coordinator for include *Harvest* and *Wormtown*.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

**BROOKE STILES** [SHE/HER] (**Stage Manager**) is a Denison University graduate and a native of Norton, Ohio. She is active in the Columbus theatre scene as a Stage Manager, Costume Designer, and Photographer. She has worked professionally with Columbus Children's Theatre (CCT), The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Thurber House, Columbus Metropolitan Libraries, Butterfly Guild of Nationwide Children's Hospital, Available Light Theatre, Westerville Civic Theatre, CAPA, and COSI. Apart from working as CCT's Marketing and Engagement Coordinator, Brooke is also the Costume Steward for Weathervane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio, Stage Management Mentor at Denison University and serves on CAPA's bartending staff. When not at a show or working one, she can be found on a plane to her next adventure. @brookexxrose

**SKYLAR KYSER** [SHE/THEY] (**Assistant Stage Manager**) is thrilled to be making her return to The Contemporary Theater of Ohio! She received her BA in Theatre and African-American & African studies from The Ohio State University. During her time there she focused her studies on stage management and worked multiple seasons of productions with OSU, as well as numerous Columbus community theater productions. Recent credits include *Skeleton Crew* (The Contemporary Theater of Ohio), the *Marquee Awards Showcase* (Columbus Association for the Performing Arts), and *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (The Sound Company).

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

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## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION BIOS

**TONY KOEHLER** [HE/HIM] (**Production Manager**) is a director and designer, who recently directed *The Day the Music Came Back* here at The Contemporary. Formerly in Washington D.C. Tony served in several roles including production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre, resident props designer at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre and teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts. Tony has designed props for Otterbein University, Opera Columbus, Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., and Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical and Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical for *FAME: The Musical*, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of *In the Heights*.

**KC HOPKINS** [SHE/THEY] (**Wardrobe**) is thrilled to be back this season with The Contemporary after appearing in *Big Fish* as Jenny Hill, *9 to 5 The Musical* as Margaret and *POTUS* as Stephanie. Favorite Regional credits include: *The Taming*, *Heathers*, *As You Like It*, *Dracula*, *Pete the Cat*, *August Osage County*, *Into the Woods*. Receiving her BFA in Acting (Musical Theatre) from Wright State University, backed by the Tom Hanks Scholarship, Kelsey went on to live and work in NYC and traveled nationwide as an actor before returning to her hometown of Columbus where she works as an acting coach and local theatre artist. Lots of love and thanks to her amazing community of friends, Mom & Dad, and her fiancé, Sam, for their unending support! [KCHopkins.com](http://KCHopkins.com)

**MARK GOLDIRON** [HE/HIM] (**Master Electrician**) Most recently from Dayton OH, Mark is excited to bring decades of professional technical experience with him to the Lead Electrician position with The Contemporary Theater of Columbus. Having worked for many years as an IATSE #66 stagehand as well as a shop manager for a theatrical lighting and event management company, Mark has had the opportunity to work with a diversity of arts groups including the Kenley Players, The Human Race Theater Company, STOMP, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and numerous other professional and community organizations. When not making the world a better place to look at, Mark loves to travel with his partner, Jeni.



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## THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS

**LEDA HOFFMANN** [SHE/HER] (**Director and Artistic Director**) is in her fifth season as The Contemporary's Artistic Director. The Contemporary directing credits include *Wife of a Salesman*, *Big Fish*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *POTUS*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago. Before that, Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Provincetown Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, Riverside Theater Iowa City, Case Western, Ohio State, and University of Miami. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. [www.ledahoffmann.com](http://www.ledahoffmann.com)

**CHRISTY FARNBAUCH** [SHE/HER] (**Executive Director**) became The Contemporary's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

**STEVE HILLER** [HE/HIM] (**Education Director**) became The Contemporary's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.

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## THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS *(CON'TD)*

**ALEXA BAKER [SHE/HER] (Marketing Manager)** is a Columbus-based multi-hyphenate artist. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Gettysburg College and a Masters in Classical Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She is currently on faculty at Ohio Dominican University, teaching theatre and acting, and is an active teaching artist. As a performer, she has been seen on stage throughout Columbus with companies such as The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Available Light Theatre, CCT, and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Prior to moving to Columbus, Alexa was the Associate Director of Youth Programs at Steps on Broadway dance studio in New York, NY. In addition to her arts background, she was the Events Coordinator for two-Michelin Starred restaurant Aquavit and managed social media for brands that include Zaftig Brewing Company and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

**JOY HEINO [SHE/HER] (Education Coordinator)** is a highly skilled artist educator, with more than five years' experience facilitating after-school learning, pre-school, and early age childcare programs. Additionally, she works in various elementary and middle schools in central Ohio as the director of their school musicals. Joy has worked in the Columbus theatre scene with companies such as CCT, The Actor's Theatre of Columbus, and Short North Stage. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Prior to joining The Contemporary as Education Coordinator, Joy has worked as a sound designer on recent productions. Joy also serves as the Founder and Producing Director of Free Range Productions, whose mission is to educate and introduce young people living in rural communities to the arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University in Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Music.

**LESLIE WRIGHT [SHE/HER] (House Manager)** joins The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio team with previous experience in customer service and hospitality. She is the Owner and Creative Director for Whimsical Designs, a bakery and custom event decor shop in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Leslie holds a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Southern New Hampshire University and a Culinary Arts Degree specializing in pastry arts. She is a Columbus native, currently residing in Reynoldsburg with her husband, seven children, and two fur babies. Being an active member of various organizations helped shape and develop her passion for working with others.



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