

State of Louisiana



Parish of Caddo In the Name and By the Authority of The Caddo Parish Commission

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION for ZHAILON LEVINGSTON

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize and honor those who seek to engaged and elevate the sons and daughters of Caddo Parish by sharing knowledge and perspectives that help to inspire and encourage them to reach manifest the excellence inside of them; and

WHEREAS, ZHAILON LEVINGSTON is such a person who has made a mark on the live theater community nationally and locally with his directorial skills which have graced Broadway and now return to his home town of Shreveport to smash sales records and earn glowing reviews as he directs Stage Center's Season 12 opening production, The Color Purple to sold out audiences for the entirety of its run; and

WHEREAS, Levingston's theatrical talent and skill was encouraged by family and developed through Caddo theater programs both in schools like South Highlands Elementary, Youree Drive Middle and Captain Shreve High School as well as community based theater programs like Shreveport Little Theatre, Stage Center, the Mahogany Ensemble Theatre and the Extensions of Excellence Theater and it provided him a gateway to the performing arts that led him to Los Angeles for college at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in performing arts/musical theater would go on to become the youngest Black Director in Broadway history; and

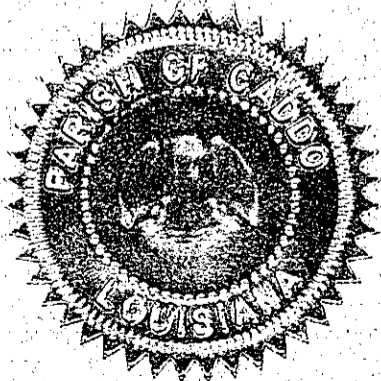
WHEREAS, Levingston directing credits include Chicken & Biscuits (Circle in the Square on Broadway), resident director on Tina: The Tina Turner Musical on Broadway; Associate Director of Hadestown in South Korea, Neptune (Dixon Place, Brooklyn Museum), The Years That Went Wrong (Lark, MCC), The Exonerated (Columbia Law School); Chariot Part 2 (Soho Rep for The Movement Theatre Company), Mother of Pearl (LaGuardia Performing Arts Center), Associate Director of Primer for a Failed Superpower (with Tony Award-winner Rachel Chavkin), and Runaways (The Public Theater with Sam Pinkleton) and has even led the theater community through off stage work as a Board Member and Creative Director for the Broadway Advocacy Coalition, which he co-created, a teacher of the Theatre of Change course at Columbia University, a Music Mentor Fellow and has done work with Idina Menzel's A Broader Way Foundation; and

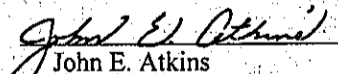
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and recognize and proclaim January 6th, 2023 to be:

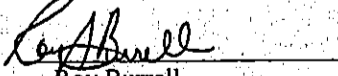
'ZHAILON LEVINGSTON DAY'


in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration of his notable achievements in both his personal pursuit of a career in theatrical arts, his continued connection to his home community and his advocacy for others to be encouraged and supported in their pursuit of careers in the arts.

ATTEST:




John E. Atkins
President


Roy Burrell
Vice President


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk