

[A wave of nostalgia on stage](#)

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Tulane alumnus Bryan Batt portrays king of Carnival Billy Grace in a musical adaptation of the book *Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Death and Life in New Orleans* by Dan Baum in Dixon Hall on the Tulane uptown campus in 2012. (Photo by Guillermo Cabrera-Rojo)

On the cusp of the ninth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré opens its new season with *Nine Lives: A Musical Witness of New Orleans* on Aug. 27, 28 and 29. The show's credits are a who's who of New Orleans theater and music, including Tulane University alumnus [Bryan Batt](#).

Paul Sanchez's musical adaptation of Dan Baum's book, [*Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Death and Life in New Orleans*](#), has played to critical acclaim locally and in New York.

Featuring a cast of 17, *Nine Lives* musically depicts the personal stories of a diverse selection of New Orleanians across the 40 years between Hurricanes Betsy and Katrina. Jim Fitzmorris directs *Nine Lives*, with a book by Kimberly Kaye.

Broadway, TV actor (“The Good Wife”) and New Orleanian Michael Cerveris coproduces the show along with Rick Duplantier and Roxy Bergeron. Cerveris heads up a cast that includes Sanchez, who along with composing the music partnered with Colman deKay on lyrics. They join trumpeter Shamarr Allen, recently debuted in the James Brown biopic *Get On Up*, who performs and chips in with additional words and music.

Batt, a New Orleans-based theater, TV (“Mad Men”) and film actor who graduated from Tulane in 1985, is featured in the ensemble, along with close to a dozen local musicians including Alex McMurray, a 1991 Tulane grad.

Le Petit has partnered with the [New Orleans Musicians' Clinic](#) to raise funds for the nonprofit, which provides comprehensive health care and mental health/social services to local performers. NOMC representatives will be present at each performance with information on its services and how to donate. *Nine Lives* cast members will pass the hat for donations to the clinic after each show.

A nonprofit performing arts organization led by Cassie Steck Worley, a Tulane graduate (class of 1985), Le Petit Theatre's mission is to provide a wide range of quality theatrical productions and programming to entertain, enrich and educate the diverse population of the region and enhance the economic vitality of New Orleans.

Tickets are available [online](#) or call 504-522-2081 for more information.

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