



AMERICAN STAGE

For Immediate Release

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New Season Kicks-Off With Several American Stage ‘Firsts’ Tampa Bay Premiere of INTIMATE APPAREL Opens at American Stage

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage Theatre Company opens its 2015-16 “Season of Awakenings” with, the Tampa Bay premiere of Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright, Lynn Nottage’s **INTIMATE APPAREL**. The production will be helmed by the company’s new Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte, making her Tampa Bay area directorial debut, and will feature a cast of six actors all making their first appearance at American Stage.

“I am thrilled to be directing my first American Stage production and bringing this powerful story to Tampa Bay audiences,” said Gularte. “From the first time I read it I was struck by the heart, the sensuality, and the modern resonance of this play.”

INTIMATE APPAREL runs September 16 through October 11, 2015. **Opening Night is Friday, September 18, 2015.**

Performances for INTIMATE APPAREL will begin with two preview performances on Wednesday, September 16 at 8pm and Thursday, September 17 at 8pm. The production will open on Friday, September 18 at 8pm. Performances continue for four-weeks through October 11, 2015. Showtimes will be Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm, and Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm. General tickets range from \$29-\$59. Discount tickets are available as follows: Wednesday preview tickets are “Pay What You Can” and Thursday preview tickets are \$29; Student Tickets are \$20; Seniors and Retired Military Members receive \$2 off; and Group Rates are available for parties of 12 or more. Tickets are currently available at the American Stage Box Office, by phone at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or online at www.americanstage.org.

THE PLAY

New York, 1905: Esther, a proud and shy African-American seamstress creates exquisite lingerie for both Fifth Avenue boudoirs and tenderloin bordellos. Yearning for a different life, Esther embarks on a journey to find love, discovering unexpected friendships that defy race, class, and religion along the way. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Lynn Nottage, weaves a beautiful tale of vulnerability and strength, as Esther struggles between the path society has chosen or staying true to herself.

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"...thoughtful, affecting...The play offers poignant commentary on an era when the cut and color of one's dress—and of course, skin—determined whom one could and could not marry, sleep with, even talk to in public." — *Variety*

WINNER! – *Outer Critics Circle Award* – “*Outstanding Off-Broadway Play*”

INTIMATE APPAREL will be presented in two acts with one 15-minute intermission.

ABOUT LYNN NOTTAGE

Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and a screenwriter. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. They include the upcoming **Sweat** at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, **By The Way, Meet Vera Stark** (Lily Award, Drama Desk Nomination), **Ruined** (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), **Intimate Apparel** (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), **Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine** (OBIE Award), **Crumbs from the Table of Joy**, **Las Meninas**, **Mud, River, Stone**, **Por'knockers** and **POOF!**. She is currently working with composer Ricky Ian Gordon on adapting her play **Intimate Apparel** into an opera (commissioned by The Met/LCT).

THE PRODUCTION

Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director, directs this timely fall drama featuring a cast of American Stage newcomers including **Daniel Capote** as *Mr. Marks*, **Eddie Ray Jackson** as *George*, **ZZ Moor** as *Mayme*, **Katrina Stevenson** as *Mrs. Van Buren*, **Fredena J. Williams** as *Mrs. Dickson* and **Nikole Williams** as *Esther*,

The design team includes **Steve Mitchell (Set Design)**, **Jonathan Williams (Lighting Design)**, **Saidah Ben Judah (Costume Design)**, **Jerid Fox (Properties Design)**.

*= member, Actor's Equity Association

INTIMATE APPAREL **Fact Sheet**

WHAT: American Stage presents INTIMATE APPAREL by Lynn Nottage

WHERE: Raymond James Theatre
163 3rd Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

WHEN: September 16, 2015 – October 11, 2015
Preview Wednesday, September 16, 8pm, “Pay What You Can”
Preview Thursday, September 17, 8pm, \$29 tickets
Opening Night: Friday, September 18, 2015, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm)
Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through October 11, 2015.

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Performance Times & Prices:

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm \$39 tickets

Special Performances:

Opening Night Reception – Friday September 18 (*Before & After Performance*)

ENGAGE: Talkback with Cast – Sunday September 27 and Sunday October 4, 2015 (*After Performance*)

Ticket Purchases:

Box Office: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Online: www.americanstage.org

Walk-up: 163 3rd Street North

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

PLAY Description:

New York, 1905: Esther, a proud and shy African-American seamstress creates exquisite lingerie for both Fifth Avenue boudoirs and tenderloin bordellos. Yearning for a different life, Esther embarks on a journey to find love, discovering unexpected friendships that defy race, class, and religion along the way. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Lynn Nottage weaves a beautiful tale of vulnerability and strength, as Esther struggles between the path society has chosen or staying true to herself.

WHO:

Playwright: **Lynn Nottage**

Director: **Stephanie Gularte**

Cast: **Daniel Capote** (*Mr. Marks*) is thrilled to be making his American Stage debut and working with such an amazing group of artists. A graduate of the Juilliard School Drama Division's Group 42, he appeared in numerous productions, including WILLIAMS IN TRANSIT (Juilliard), THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN (Juilliard), BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT (Juilliard), TRUST (Juilliard), ROMEO AND JULIET (Juilliard), THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Juilliard), MEASURE FOR MEASURE (Juilliard), and PECONG (Juilliard). Other favorite plays include: THE DUMBWAITER (Convergent Theatre Company), BOHEMIAN LIGHTS (LiveSource at HERE Arts Center), EQUUS (Front Row Theatre Company), GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS (Pennsylvania Players), and THE CURE AT TROY (Martin Kamine Theatre Company, performed in Mumbai, India). Additional training includes the Professional Intensive Program (PIP) at the Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory Theater. Daniel has also and continues to be a teaching artist, having taught in programs in Utah, Florida, Louisiana, and Guatemala.

Eddie Ray Jackson* (*George*) most recently played Muhammad Ali in both the Round House Theatre and Marin Theatre Company productions of FETCH CLAY, MAKE MAN. He appeared in the 2015 world premiere of Christina Anderson's PEN/MAN/SHIP at Magic Theatre. Eddie also appeared at Marin Theatre Company in August Wilson's FENCES and at Berkley Repertory Theatre and Center Stage Theatre he appeared in X'S AND O'S (A FOOTBALL LOVE STORY). Originally from San Francisco, he was a 2013 company member of Oregon Shakespeare Festival and appeared in THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD. His New York credits include MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and LA RONDE at Riverside Theatre; and MISS JULIE, THE PROPOSAL, and ENDGAME at Columbia University.

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His film and television credits include *Couched*, *Subway Candy*, and *Ex-Girlfriends*. Jackson received a MFA in Acting from Columbia University and BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, Sacramento. <http://www.eddierjackson.com>

ZZ Moor* (*Mayme*) is thrilled to make her American Stage debut. Previous roles include Camae in THE MOUNTAINTOP (Capital Stage), Kate in GOOD PEOPLE (Marin Theatre Company), Maggie in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF (African American Shakespeare Company), Susan in RACE (San Jose Stage Company), Calpurnia in TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (Okoboji Summer Theatre), and Electra in GYPSY (Macklanburg Playhouse). Moor received her MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory and performed in several productions at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. Other regional credits include Lady Anne in RICHARD III (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), CLYBOURNE PARK (Curious Theatre), and FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF (Denver Post Ovation Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama). Moor would like to thank the constant love and support of family and friends and those persons who wish to go unnamed. www.zzmoor.com

Katrina Stevenson (*Mrs. Van Buren*) Katrina most recently appeared onstage with The Jobsite Theater in the title role in Sarah Ruhl's ORLANDO and Olivia in TWELFTH NIGHT. Other credits include CLOSETLAND (The Woman), CRIMES OF THE HEART (Meg), THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (Kate), DOG SEES GOD (Tricia), GOREY STORIES (Lady Celia), DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE (Hermione), RABBIT HOLE (Izzy), BOSTON MARRIAGE (Anna), THE MINEOLA TWINS (Myrna/Myra), HURLYBURLY (Bonnie), and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Margaret). Katrina holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Florida and a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Northern Colorado. When not at the theatre, Katrina loves running half marathons and running after her dogs Tink and Sherlock.

Fredena J. Williams* (*Mrs. Dickson*) a native of Columbia, SC and graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music (BM Classical Vocal Performance) is very pleased to be returning to the American Stage Theatre after last appearing here in CROWNS. Fredena is an award winning actress whose theatre credits include DREAMGIRLS, SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE, AIN'T MISBEHAVIN', SHOWBOAT, MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL, KISS ME KATE and EUBIE!. Ms. Williams has appeared with a long list of artists on television and/or in concert which include the Boston POPS, Patti Labelle, Arlo Guthrie, Barry Manilow, Phish, Natalie Cole and James Taylor. She can be heard on the recordings Comin' Up Shoutin', Prozac Nation, A Splash of the POPS, A Taste of Passover with Theodore Bikel, and A Taste of Chanukah with Theodore Bikel. She has toured the US, Latvia, Estonia, Cuba, Spain, Italy, Canada, South Africa, and Singapore. Fredena thanks her Mom and best friend, Maggie for her loving support!

Nikole Williams* (*Esther*) cherishes acting in INTIMATE APPAREL, which marks her debut at the American Stage Theatre Company. She recently received acclaim for her portrayal of Beneatha Younger in Compass Rose Theater's production of A RAISIN IN THE SUN. Nikole has also acted in productions at the Alliance Theatre (BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY) and McCarter Theatre (ARABIAN NIGHTS, THE ADVENTURES OF BEING PERSEUS), with the Atlanta Shakespeare Company (MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, TIMON OF ATHENS) and UP Theater Company (THE MISER, TARTUFFE), and in numerous films. New York credits include THE MISANTHROPE (Célimène), THE TEMPEST (Miranda), SEPTEMBER TWELFTH (Rita Azaria), and LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (Rosaline). Nikole also works as an entrepreneur and Acting, Piano, Public Speaking, and Voice teacher. She completed acting conservatory training in New York at the Maggie Flanigan Studio and graduated from Barnard College and Columbia University. Love and gratitude to family and friends!

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Scenic Design: **Steve Mitchell**
Lighting Design: **Jonathan Williams**
Costume Design: **Saidah Ben Judah**
Production Stage Manager: **Rachel Harrison***
**Members of Actors' Equity Association*

Follow this link <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php> to American Stage's Media Resource Page.

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/sets/>

Photo credit is Chad Jacobs. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact Zachary Hines for immediate needs.

Services and Facilities

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating. *Benefits of a Valid Disabled Parking Permit: Displaying your valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). Please note: this does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).*

Listening System: Theatregoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat.



Group Ticket Pricing Packages are also available. For tickets, please call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Mission

Founded in 1977, American Stage's mission is to create the most compelling professional live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, and to make it accessible to all members of the community. The vision is to preserve the greatest human stories from our past, while creating the most defining stories and storytelling of our time. American Stage presents its Mainstage Series in the 182-seat Raymond James Theatre year round and the annual American Stage in the Park each Spring. The theatre's other programming includes: "After Hours" Series, School Tour, Youth/Adult Classes, Summer Camp, and Teen Summer Institute.

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