



For Immediate Release
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AMERICAN STAGE MAKES HISTORY IN 2017
American Stage Becomes the 12th Theatre in the World to Complete
August Wilson's American Century Cycle
Joe Turner's Come & Gone opens January 18, 2017

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage Theatre Company continues its 2016-17 Season - “In Search of...America” with **JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE**, our 10th and final installment of August Wilson’s American Century Cycle. The production will be directed by L. Peter Callender and will feature a cast of thirteen actors, the largest cast within the 10 play cycle. The cast includes familiar faces such as Kim Sullivan, the only actor to have appeared in all 10 American Stage productions, as well as new faces such as 11 year old Elijah Dixon, a student in American Stage’s Educational programming. This production’s central theme will be about identity and asking the question, **“How do you discover your identity when your heritage has been stolen from you?”**

JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE’s Director, L. Peter Callender, returns to American Stage after directing Wilson’s JITNEY last season to great critical and commercial success. Mr. Callender is the Artistic Director of the African-American Shakespeare Company in San Francisco, CA and comes with an impressive resume of credits ranging from Broadway to work in England, France, and Japan. ([Click Here for Full Bio](#))

“...In JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE, Wilson reminds us all that there is always a place to go where bridges are built, not walls, and tunnels are carved through mountains, and through hardship and pain and loss, it is those who resist the desire to succumb who triumphs.” – L. Peter Callender

“As American Stage’s producing artistic director for the past two years, I feel incredibly fortunate to have inherited Wilson’s Century Cycle and to have the opportunity to see it to its conclusion with JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE, the title rumored to have been August Wilson’s own favorite in the canon.” – Stephanie Gularte

JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE runs from January 18 through February 19, 2017. **Opening night is Friday, January 20, 2017 with a reception at 7PM and performance at 8PM.** American Stage will be celebrating the completion of the American Century Cycle with a ticketed fundraiser at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum on January 29th, 2017 at 5pm. Enhance your experience with our Spotlight Series of interactive community conversations and networking nights surrounding our production of JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE. Following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events surrounding the production.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

Join us for the epic conclusion of American Stage's journey through the American Century Cycle. In a Pittsburgh boarding house in 1911, owners Seth and Bertha Holly play host to a makeshift family of people who come to stay – some for days, some longer. Each denizen of the boardinghouse has a different relationship to a past of slavery as well as to the urban present. They include proprietors, an eccentric clairvoyant with a penchant for old country voodoo, a young homeboy up from the South, and a mysterious stranger searching for his wife. One of the most spellbinding and emotionally rich plays in the Cycle, JOE TURNER shines a light on America's newly freed men and women determined to take their rightful place in a new world.

"Has the haunting power of a ghost story...Electrifying." -The Washington Post

"August Wilson's American Century Cycle is an achievement unmatched by any of the other great American ... By staging "Joe Turner," Wilson's most mysterious and also favorite play, American Stage joins a small group of national theaters to bring the cycle's turbulent tragicomedy to completion"

— Christopher Rawson, Pittsburgh critic and Wilson scholar

CAST

Fanni Green* (Bertha Holly)
Mansoor Najee-ullah* (Bynum Walker)
Calvin M. Thompson* (Herald Loomis)
Satchel Andre (Jeremy Turner)
Alexandria Crawford (Martha Loomis Pentecost)
Cindy DeLaCruz* (Mattie Campbell)
Jemier Jenkins (Molly Cunningham)
Richard Watson* (Rutherford Selig)
Kim Sullivan* (Seth Holly)
Tyrese Pope (Reuben Mercer)
Elijah Dixon (Reuben Mercer)
Bianca Rivera-Irions (Zonia Loomis)
Shelby Ronae (Zonia Loomis)

CREATIVE

L. Peter Callender (Director)
Scott Cooper# (Scenic Designer)
Joseph P. Oshry# (Lighting Designer)
Frank Chavez (Costume Designer)
Jerid Fox (Properties Master)
Rachel Harrison* (Sound Designer/Production Stage Manager)
Shelby Smotherman (Scenic Artist)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists union

For Cast Bios please visit <http://www.AmericanStage.org/joeturner/>

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DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: www.AmericanStage.org/in-the-media/

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

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT AND THE AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE

August Wilson (April 27, 1945-October 2, 2005) authored GEM OF THE OCEAN, JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE, MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, THE PIANO LESSON, SEVEN GUITARS, FENCES, TWO TRAINS RUNNING, JITNEY, KING HEDLEY II, and RADIO GOLF. These works explore the heritage and experience of the descendants of Africans in North America, decade-by-decade, over the course of the twentieth century, forming the compilation entitled THE AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE. His plays have been produced on Broadway, at regional theaters across the country, and all over the world. Mr. Wilson's works garnered many awards including Pulitzer Prizes for FENCES (1987); and for THE PIANO LESSON (1990); a Tony Award for FENCES; Great Britain's Olivier Award for JITNEY; as well as seven New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM, FENCES, JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE, THE PIANO LESSON, TWO TRAINS RUNNING, SEVEN GUITARS, and JITNEY. Today, his plays continue to be produced, and his place in the American Theatre continues to grow. New York Public Radio recorded all ten plays in the THE AMERICAN CENTURY CYCLE at the Greene Space, casting many of the actors that worked on the original productions. Mr. Wilson was born and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and lived in Seattle, Washington at the time of his death.

Talks and Events

Visit americanstage.org/joeturner and click the TALKS & EVENTS tab for ways to enhance your experience.

Spotlight Series: FOREWORD

Sunday, January 8 at 1PM

GUEST SPEAKER: KIM SULLIVAN

Take your theatre-going experience to the next level through an informative and entertaining lecture. Professor Emerita, Dedee Aleccia, will speak on the history, context, and characters of JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE. Kim will reflect on being *the only performer to have appeared in each of American Stage's ten American Century Cycle productions.*

American Century Cycle Celebration

Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 5pm

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER BENEFITING AMERICAN STAGE Join American Stage artists and friends on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum and Legacy Garden as we celebrate the exciting conclusion of our 10-year commitment to producing playwright August Wilson's epic Century Cycle. Enjoy a night to remember that will include live visual and performing arts entertainment along with cocktails, dinner and festivities in support of American Stage as we pay tribute to this momentous accomplishment together.

The event begins at 5PM at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum and Legacy Garden. The Century Cycle Celebration is a special fundraiser benefitting American Stage Theatre. Please call the development team at 727.823.1600 ext. 207 for any additional information or email development@americanstage.org. Proceeds from this extraordinary evening support the artistic & educational programming at American Stage Theatre.

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Spotlight Series: PROLOGUE

Arrive early and enjoy our new interactive prologue series. This discussion will explore fascinating details about the play and the artists prior to each performance. The prologue will take place 30 minutes prior to each JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE performance, presented by American Stage Apprentice Alexandria Crawford who will also be featured in the role of Martha Loomis Pentecost.

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK

Thursday, January 26

Sunday, January 29

Sunday, February 5

Post-Performance conversation with the cast of JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE

PRIDE Night

GUEST SPEAKER: NADINE SMITH from EQUALITY FLORIDA

Wednesday, January 25 | Mixer at 6PM | Performance at 7PM

Spend a night OUT at American Stage! Before the performance, mix and mingle with friends old and new, enjoy a BOGO special on our signature cocktail.

Includes an exclusive post-show conversation with **Nadine Smith**, the co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida, the state's largest organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. ([Click here for a full bio](#))

Young American Night

Thursday, January 26 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Young Americans are invited to enjoy JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE with BOGO Specialty Drinks plus a special chatback following the performance.

YOUNG AMERICANS between the ages of 21-29 can access \$15 tickets with promo code. Code can be only be used for one ticket per order when purchased online. Otherwise you can call the Box Office at 727-823-7529 or email youngamerican@americanstage.org. Tickets can be converted to a Young American Pass before or after the evening's performance.

Spotlight On... JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE

Monday, February 6, 2017 – New beginnings hold opportunities and immense challenges. *JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE* reminds us of the search for identity in a post-slavery world. Is this play a window to the past, or a needed reminder of a very present journey for black people and communities in Tampa Bay and across our nation? Join the conversation with the artistic team of American Stage's production of *JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE*, and a panel of special guests who are deeply involved and knowledgeable on the African American journey in our nation and our city.

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AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE by August Wilson

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

WHEN: January 18 – February 19, 2017
Preview Wednesday, January 18, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"
Preview Thursday, January 19, 8pm, \$29 tickets
Opening Night: Friday, January 20, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm)
Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through February 19, 2017.

TIMES & PRICES:

Wednesdays 7pm \$39 tickets – NEW TIME THIS SEASON
Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets
Fridays & Saturdays 8pm \$49 tickets
Saturdays & Sundays 3pm \$39 tickets

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Spotlight Series: FOREWORD: Sun., January 8 at 1PM
Spotlight Series: PROLOGUE: 30 minutes prior to each JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE performance
PRIDE Night: Wed., January 25 | Mixer at 6PM | Performance at 7PM
Young American Night: Thurs., January 26 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM
Spotlight Series: CHATBACK: Thurs., Jan. 26, Sun., Jan. 29, & Sun., Feb. 5 (Post-Performance)

TICKET PURCHASES:

Box Office: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)
Online: www.americanstage.org
Walk-up: 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Group Ticket Pricing Packages are also available.

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SERVICE & 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).

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.



AMERICAN STAGE

Since 1977 American Stage has been dedicated to telling meaningful, compelling stories with integrity and professionalism. As the Tampa Bay area's longest-running, most critically-acclaimed professional theatre company, we seek to bring the power of quality live theatre to each generation in our community. American Stage invites you to lean forward and experience the most captivating stories of the moment and the most relevant stories of the past. All told with passion and a commitment to excellence.

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/americanstage

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www.flickr.com/americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@AmericanStage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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