



For Immediate Release

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AFTER HOURS EVENTS IN APRIL AND MAY

ST. PETERSBURG, FL – American Stage Theatre Company’s “After Hours” Series continues with one events in April called **Sunday Jazz with Johnson & James presented by Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month**. In May, we continue with two events, **Hawk and Wayne’s This is a Comedy Show** and **The Vagina Monologues**.

Please note that there will not be a Hawk & Wayne show in April due to the Easter holiday.

APRIL EVENT

MUSIC SERIES:

Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association presents:

SUNDAY JAZZ with JOHNSON & JAMES

Sunday, April 19 @ 3pm

Enjoy a Sunday filled with Jazz as we listen to the talented vocals of Fred Johnson and Whitney James. This music concert will be presented by Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association. Concession and cash bar will be available. **In celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month**

Musicians:

Michael Ross – Bass
LaRue Nickelson – Guitar
John Jenkins – Drummer

Tickets:

\$20 – General Admission

\$18 for Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association Members (*Must use promo code supplied by Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz*)

\$10 for students (*available only at American Stage box office – must show student I.D.*)

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Performed on our Mainstage, where of course, there will be full cash bar service for all our patrons.

BIOS:

Fred Johnson, an acclaimed vocalist and percussionist, is recognized internationally as one of the world's greatest vocal jazz improvisers. The fact that he has opened for both Aretha Franklin and Dr. Deepak Chopra points to his versatility as an artist. Mr. Johnson has performed on stage with or opened for such musical greats as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Corea, Herbie Mann, Nat Adderley, Joe Zawinul, David Sanborn, Richard Elliot, Ramsey Lewis, Aretha Franklin, Patti La Belle, Patti Austin, George Benson, BB King and many others.

An 11-time featured artist at The Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Mr. Johnson was the first inductee to the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Hall of Fame. He has also been a featured performer with The Florida Orchestra on numerous occasions.

Whitney James pairs incredible vocal skill with intimate, meaningful interpretations. She brings flawless intonation, a broad range of colors and sounds, and an instrumentalist's sensibility to band interaction. Each time she approaches a melody and a lyric, she finds a new way to phrase them, shape them, highlight a word or a few notes that shade the meaning and make the music richer. Her sense of time and pacing make her a consummate musician's singer—she knows how to work with a band, instead of asking it to merely back her.

Her 2010 debut album, *The Nature of Love*, spent four months on the charts and was widely hailed by the US and International jazz press. James trained in opera and musical theater before becoming a protégé of master jazz vocalist Jay Clayton. She maintains homes in New York City and Florida and continues to tour extensively. In 2012, Whitney was chosen as one of the top twelve Rising Stars in the world of jazz and was featured on Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz Rising Stars on NPR hosted by Jon Weber. Whatever the setting, she brings pure jazz and pure joy to her listening audience.

MAY EVENTS

SUNDAY COMEDY SERIES:

Hawk and Wayne's This is a Comedy Show

A hilarious, totally improvised one act play

Sunday, May 3 @ 6pm

Critically acclaimed comedy improv duo, Gavin Hawk and Ricky Wayne weave together a hilarious, totally improvised one act play based on audience suggestions. Back for their 6th straight year in residence at American Stage, they have been well received nationally this past year touring comedy festivals like Philadelphia's DuoFest, Sarasota Improv Festival, Hartford Improv Festival, Detroit Improv Festival and Out of Bounds Comedy Festival in Austin, Texas.

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Here's what the critics say about Hawk & Wayne:

"Just two months in, Gavin Hawk and Ricky Wayne's News of the Weird: Live is already a comedy hit, providing a new entertainment go-to at the acclaimed American Stage — and quite possibly, a reason to believe in live local improv again." -Mina Abgoon, *Creative Loafing*

"At the risk of offending snobbier Hawk and Wayne fans, there seems to be a "catchphrase" energy to their improvised interactions. But this aint "git 'er done", it's more about their ability to find the right sub-topics and the right groove, and then escalate. They utilize repetition, emphasis and verbalized attack-and-retreat to comedic effect like linguistic swordsmen." –Ryan P. Carey, *WitOut.net*

"They find more humor in their unscripted hijinks than most actors ever find in the most celebrated of comic texts. If you love to laugh, you ought to give them a look." - Mark Leib, *Creative Loafing*

"Perhaps the success of Hawk & Wayne is due to their ability to blend two uniquely different improv styles: Wayne spent years performing and studying at The Groundlings in Los Angeles, while Hawk studied at The Second City and The Annoyance Theatre in Chicago. Much could be written on the differences between the two styles, but in essence west-coast improv is rooted in character work, while Chicago improv is relationship-based, seeking the "truth in comedy". Hawk & Wayne bring them together beautifully." –Heidi Lux-Gillon, *Tampa Bay Informer*

Tickets: \$10 ticket purchase. Performed in our lobby cabaret, where of course, there will be full cash bar service for all our patrons.

CABARET DRAMA SERIES:

The Vagina Monologues

by Eve Ensler

A Smash Hit Returns with New Cast Members this Month

Saturday, May 26 @ 8pm

Obie Award-winner Eve Ensler's whirlwind tour of a forbidden zone: The Vagina Monologues introduces a wildly divergent gathering of female voices, including a six-year-old girl, a septuagenarian New Yorker, a vagina workshop participant, a woman who witnesses the birth of her granddaughter, and a feminist happy to have found a man who "liked to look at it."

Tickets: "Pay-What-You-Can" \$15 advance ticket purchase (Suggested donation \$10-\$20 at the door.) Performed in our lobby cabaret, where of course, there will be full cash bar service for all our patrons.

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Visit our MEDIA RESOURCE PAGE
here: <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php>

If you would like specific images or art for these events, please contact
Roman Black at rblack@americanstage.org or 727-823-1600 x202

Please call the **American Stage Box Office** at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or go
to www.americanstage.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

American Stage Theatre Company is located at the Raymond James Theatre,
163 3rd Street North in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.

"After Hours" Event Series sponsor is ABC Bicycles.

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