



**For Immediate Release**

February 10, 2015

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**UPDATE:** American Stage is excited to announce that due to popular demand, they will be **EXTENDING AUGUST WILSON'S RADIO GOLF** through **March 1, 2015**. *Please note that there only select days added. New performances are listed below.*

**ADDED DATES:**

Friday, February 27 @ 8pm  
Saturday, February 28 @ 3pm  
Saturday, February 28 @ 8pm  
Sunday, March 1 @ 3pm

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**New CONNECT Community Forum Event Added:**

**CONNECT** - For select plays in our season we will be offering CONNECT Community Forums, exciting theatre and conversation events that will take the themes addressed in the plays on our stage and apply them to our own community. Unlike post-show talk-backs which revolve primarily around the production itself, CONNECT Community Forums will concentrate on specific issues raised in our shows and explore how they resonate with us locally. See below for our current list of CONNECT Community Forum dates. New dates may be added throughout the season so check back often.

**Radio Golf CONNECT Community Forum**

**The High Cost of Identity: Heritage vs. Assimilation**

**Monday, February 23rd - 7:00-8:30 at American Stage Theatre**

**Admission: FREE**

Your Real Stories teams up with American Stage to present an evening of theater, storytelling, and conversation inspired by August Wilson's **Radio Golf**. Identity is arguably the most important theme in the play where Wilson raises questions about whether Black culture and heritage can survive integration.

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**ST. PETERSBURG, FL** – American Stage Theatre Company kicks off the new year with August Wilson's **RADIO GOLF**. They are excited to present their eighth installment of their August Wilson Century Cycle. **Previews** are **January 21 and 22**. **Opening Night** is **January 23** and the production runs through **March 1, 2015**.

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**Opening Night Performance:**

The opening will include a reception beginning at 6:30pm on January 23 catered by Marchand's Bar & Grille (The Vinoy Renaissance) with delicious delights, an open bar, and live music. Then the Opening Night performance will begin at 8pm.

**Special Performances:**

"Pay What You Can" Night – Wednesday, January 21 @ 8pm

The American Stage Spotlight Series includes pre-opening lectures (*LEARN*), post-performance talk-backs (*ENGAGE*), and community forum events (*CONNECT*). We want our audiences to **LEARN** about, **ENGAGE** with and **CONNECT** to the plays in our season in order to take their experience of the art on our stage to a new, deeper level.

**Spotlight Series: LEARN for RADIO GOLF:**

Sunday, January 11 @ 1pm - 2:30pm with special guest speakers: Guest Speaker: Anthony Chisholm (Elder Joseph Barlow), Tony Award Nominated actor featured in *RADIO GOLF*.

**LEARN** - Take your theatre going experience to the next level through a series of informative and entertaining lectures. Professor Emerita, Dedee Aleccia, will speak on the history, context, and characters of select plays within our season. Following her presentation, a member of the artistic staff will talk about their approach to the production being discussed. **LEARN events are \$7 for subscribers and \$10 for the general public. Subscribers please contact our box office directly at 727.823.7529 to purchase your lecture series ticket at the subscriber price.**

**Spotlight Series: ENGAGE for RADIO GOLF:**

Sunday, January 25, 2015

**Talk-back with the cast of RADIO GOLF**

**ENGAGE** - Join us after select performances for an exciting and illuminating conversation with the actors about the play you just watched! For select ENGAGE talk-backs we will also have special guest speakers who can offer unique insights on the context of specific plays within our season. **All ENGAGE talk-back events are free and open to the public. They will begin 5-10 minutes after curtain at select performances.**

**RADIO GOLF** is set to the year of 1997 in the Hill District (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) and centers around the office of Bedford Hills Redevelopment, Inc. in a storefront on Centre Avenue. Harmond Wilks is a real estate developer poised to become Pittsburgh's first African-American Mayor. He is also on the verge of clinching a lucrative land deal: if the government declares the Hill District as "blighted" – including Aunt Esther's house on 1839 Wylie – a lot of federal money will be made available to Harmond and his partners. But as he steps into political prominence, his plans collide with his past, and August Wilson's 10th and final play shows how, in the rush to progress, the past is never too far behind. **Contains adult language.**

**Setting:** The Hill District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1997. The office of Bedford Hills Redevelopment, Inc., in a storefront on Centre Avenue.

**RADIO GOLF** will be presented in two acts with one intermission.  
The total run-time is 2 hours and 45 minutes including intermission.

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**Mark Clayton Southers\*** is directing for American Stage Theatre's production of **2 TRAINS RUNNING**. This will be his third August Wilson play that he has directed at American Stage. Mark Clayton Southers is an award winning playwright, photographer, scenic designer, theatrical producer and stage director. He and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is the founder and producing artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced well over 125 full length and one act plays, including August Wilson's complete ten play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. Mr. Southers is a published poet and playwright as well. His play *Ma Noah* was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago. His poem play *Angry Black Man Poetry* had a successful run at Teatr Śląski in Katowice, Poland in 2009.

Some of his favorite directing credits include *Paul Robeson* for the Griot Ensemble Theatre Company; *Pill Hill and Freeman* for New Horizon Theatre; *Almost Maine* for South Park Theatre; the *August in February Series* for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust; *Dutchman* for Bricolage Theater Company; *Angry Black Men Poetry* for Teatr Śląski; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* for American Stage Theatre, St. Petersburg, Florida; *Gem of the Ocean* for Human Race Theatre, Dayton, Ohio; and *Dorothy Six, The Piano Lesson, Two Trains Running, Seven Guitars, VALU-MART* and *Jitney* for The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company. He's received Best Director AACTA Onyx awards each of the past four years. His directed production of *Two Trains Running* was voted one of the top ten plays of the decade by The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. His directed production of *Jitney* broke all house attendance records at The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater and was voted in the top ten of best plays for the 2010 season by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

After Mark attended a master class in playwriting conducted by August Wilson at the Grahamstown Arts Festival in South Africa, he attended the Edward Albee Theatre Festival later that summer in Valdez, Alaska where he did seated readings with Mr. Wilson of all of Wilson's plays. These encounters encouraged Mark to take up playwriting and devote more time to theatre arts. In 2003, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company was born, producing *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson, which received critical acclaim and high praise from the playwright himself. Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company has continued to grow and thrive, moving to the Cultural District in 2005.

From 2010 to 2013, Mr. Southers served as the Artistic Director of Theatre Initiatives for the 486 seat August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. During his tenure, he began a monthly August Wilson Reading Round Table, which featured plays from Pulitzer Prize-winning and Pittsburgh native August Wilson, along with works by new up and coming playwrights. Readers included local actors and celebrities as well as an occasional nationally renowned actor.

The cast includes **Chrystal Bates** (Mame Wilks), **Anthony Chisholm\*** (Elder Joseph Barlow), **Alan Bomar Jones\*** (Harmond Wilks), **ranney\*** (Sterling Johnson), and **Kim Sullivan\*** (Roosevelt Hicks). **Alan Bomar Jones\***, **ranney\***, and **Kim Sullivan\*** will be returning to our stage. **Alan Bomar Jones\*** will be playing the role of Harmond Wilks. He is from the home of aviation, Dayton, Ohio. This professional international actor is a resident artist with the Human Race Theatre Company and a resident artist with American Stage Theatre Company. As a returning artist to this company, Alan continues to bring his brand of acting to the August Wilson cycle plays. He has appeared in over seventy professional Equity productions including *To Kill a Mockingbird, Jitney, Fences, King Hedley II, Gem of the Ocean, Race* and *Permanent Collection*. Alan was a recipient of two Onyx Awards for Best Equity Actor from AACTA in Pittsburgh, PA. for his work in *Piano Lesson* and *Seven Guitars*. His performance in *Driving Miss Daisy* in Sterling, Ontario Canada elevated him to international status. His offstage credits include a made for TV movie entitled *The Movement*, seven independent films including the full length feature film *Criminal Activities* heading to theaters in 2015. He appears alongside John Travolta and Michael Pitt; directed by Jackie Earle Haley. He has an in-home audio studio where he produces Audie Nominated books on CD. He would like to thank his lovely and talented musical theatre actress wife, Becky Barrett-Jones, for her support and love. Catch Alan's one-man show *Nelson Mandela: His Journey* on the American Stage Theatre Company stage Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Visit [alanbomarjones.com](http://alanbomarjones.com) for more details.

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**ranney\*** will be playing the role of Sterling Johnson. He is honored to be back at American Stage performing with such a stellar *Radio Golf* cast. This is "ranney"s ninth time performing in an August Wilson production. The previous six included the role of Hambone in the American Stage production of *Two Trains Running* (2014 Theatre Tampa Bay Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a play), Hedley in Nevada Conservatory Theatre's *Seven Guitars*, and Boy Willie in the Center Theatre Company's production of *The Piano Lesson* (Critic's Choice for "Best Actor", Creative Loafing). Other notable performances are as Adriana/Antipholis/other roles in *The Bomb-itty of Errors* at The Ambassadors Theatre on London's West End, Link in the Jobsite Theater production of *Topdog/Underdog* in Tampa, and Henry in the Jobsite Theater's *Race*. As a director-choreographer, "ranney" has successfully mounted challenging original work including *Maxwell: the Rock Musical*. He was nominated for best international slam poet by London's Farrago Poetry Group and does poetry workshops with Tampa Bay area high school students and incarcerated youth for the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. "ranney" was the premier comedian at Laff Tuesdays – which was the professional comedy club at the Apollo Theater in Harlem and he has featured and headlined on the East Coast. "ranney" has mounted six one man shows in the last decade, including *And the Horse You Rode In On* (Projects Arts Centre, Dublin), *Whatever* (People's Improv Theater, New York), *Incendiary* (The Straz Center, Tampa), and *Cufflinks and Jolly Ranchers for Dummies* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland). "ranney" will debut his long awaited, latest night of rollercoaster hilarity entitled *A Laugh Supreme* in the spring of 2015. Visit [itsranney.com](http://itsranney.com) for full details.

**Kim Sullivan\*** will be playing the role of Roosevelt Hicks. His recent credits include *The Little Foxes* at Cleveland Playhouse; *Two Trains Running* at American Stage; *You Can't Take It With You* at Geva Theatre Center; *Women in the Pit* at the Billie Holiday Theatre in Brooklyn; *The Whipping Man* at Gorilla Theatre in Tampa; *Seven Guitars* at American Stage; *A Raisin in the Sun* at Capital Rep; *The Crucible* at Syracuse Stage; *Much Ado About Nothing* at Long Wharf Theatre; *The Clean House* at Milwaukee Rep; *The Piano Lesson* at Virginia Stage; *The Flea and the Professor* at Arden Theatre; *Hamlet* at New Perspectives Theatre and *Dream on Monkey Mountain* at Classical Theatre of Harlem for which he won the AUDELCO Award for Best Supporting Actor. TV credits include *Girls*, Judge Runyon in *One Life to Live* and *Law & Order: Trial by Jury*.

**Chrystal Bates** and **Anthony Chisholm\*** are both making their American Stage debut. **Chrystal Bates** will be playing the role of Mame Wilks, a role she also performed at the Pittsburgh Playwright's Theater in Pittsburgh, PA in 2013. Some of her other stage credits include Aunt Ester in *Gem of the Ocean*, Mother-Sister in *Every Tongue Confess*, Big Momma in *Livin' Fat*, Marie Laveau in *The Voodoo Parlour of Marie Laveau*, Sophie in *Flyin' West*, Berniece in *A Member of the Wedding*, Susannah in *Tintypes*, Bertha in *One Mo' Time*, Ruby in *King Hedley II*, and Connie in the professional theater debut of *Jitney*. Chrystal has performed at the Southern Repertory Theater in New Orleans, Rites and Reasons Theater in Providence, Rhode Island, and many Pennsylvania theaters, including Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh City Theater, Allegheny Regional Theater and Kuntu Repertory Theater. She is currently an Artist in Residence for Melting Pot Ministries in South Park, PA where she does drama therapy and workshops with their Family Matters program, and a former member of the original theater ensemble for the August Wilson Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Chrystal is always grateful to bring characters created by the great August Wilson to life.

**Anthony Chisholm\*** will be playing the role of Elder Joseph Barlow. He is a Tony Award Nominee (Best Supporting Actor in a play, in the role of Elder Joseph Barlow in August Wilson's *Radio Golf*). He also performed on Broadway in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* in the role of Solly Two Kings, and *Two Trains Running* in the role of Wolf. He is a winner of both the Drama Desk Award and the Obie Award for August Wilson's *Jitney*, which enjoyed a ten month run in New York City. He is also the recipient of the NAACP Theatre Award, the AUDELCO Award, the Ovation Award, and the I.R.N.E. Award. Mr. Chisholm has also received nominations for the Drama Desk Awards

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(2) Drama League Award (1), Joseph Jefferson Award(4), Ovation Award(4), NAACP Theatre Awards (2), and the AUDELCO Award(2). He has performed internationally in the hit Vietnam play, *Tracers*, at The Seymoure Center, Sydney, Australia; the Universal Theatre, Melbourne, Australia; The Royal Court Theatre, London, England. He also performed *Jitney* at London's Prestigious National Theatre on the South Bank winning the Olivier Award for Best New Play.

In addition to **Mark Clayton Southers'** Directing, the Artistic Staff also includes; **Steve Mitchell#** as Scenic Designer, **Jerid Fox** as Properties Master, **Joseph P. Oshry#** as Lighting Designer, **Saidah Ben Judah** as Costume Designer, **Lynn Locher** as Sound Designer, **Rachel Harrison\*** as Production Stage Manager, **Timon Brown** as Technical Director and **Markisha Hill** as Crew/Acting Intern.

\* = a member of Actors' Equity Association; # = a member of the United Scenic Artists union;  
+ = a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

### **About the Playwright - AUGUST WILSON**

Born on April 27, 1945, August Wilson grew up in the Hill district of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His childhood experiences in this black slum community would later inform his dramatic writings. Then, in 1984, August Wilson was catapulted to the forefront of the American theatre scene with the success of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, produced at Yale and later in New York in 1984. Wilson continued to work in close collaboration with Lloyd Richards of the Yale School of Drama, and by early 1990's, had established himself as the best-known and most popular African-American playwright. Wilson also set for himself a daunting task--to write a ten-play cycle that chronicles each decade of the black experience in the 20th century. Each of Wilson's plays is a chapter in this remarkable cycle of plays and focuses on what Wilson perceives as the largest issue to confront African-Americans in that decade:

### **AUGUST WILSON'S CENTURY CYCLE AT AMERICAN STAGE**

2007-2008	<i>Gem of the Ocean</i>
2008-2009	<i>King Hedley II</i>
2009-2010	<i>Fences</i>
2010-2011	<i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i>
2011-2012	<i>Seven Guitars</i>
2012-2013	<i>The Piano Lesson</i>
2013-2014	<i>Two Trains Running</i>
2014-2015	Radio Golf
2015-2016	<i>Jitney</i>
2016-2017	<i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>

Follow this link <http://www.americanstage.org/mediapage.php> to American Stage Theatre'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 Roman Black for immediate needs.*

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## 2014-2015 Season

### Mainstage Ticket Prices and Performance Times:

**Performances are Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 8pm.  
Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3pm**

#### 2014-2015 Performance Pricing:

\$29 Thursday Previews  
\$39 Wednesday, Thursday Evenings and Saturday and Sunday Matinees  
\$49 Friday and Saturday Evenings  
\$59 Opening Night - includes pre-performance reception

#### Additional Information

Student Advance tickets are \$20.  
Student Rush tickets are \$10, 30 minutes prior to curtain.  
Senior (adults age 65 and up) and Retired Military Discount - Receive \$2 off single tickets.  
Artist Discount - Tickets are \$20  
Active military tickets are FREE with valid I.D. 20% off additional tickets  
for friends and family.

To receive one of the above discounts, you must go through our box office. Valid I.D. must be presented to our box office. Only one discount can be used per ticket.  
Please contact the box office for further details or questions.

#### We want to fill our house!

In the event that you are unable to use your tickets, please call our box office 24 hours in advance of scheduled performance. You can exchange your tickets for another performance of the same production. *Thank you in advance for your communication so that we can allow as many people as possible to enjoy the show.*

American Stage Theatre Company is located at the Raymond James Theatre,  
163 3rd Street North in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.  
For tickets, please call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY (7529) or visit [americanstage.org](http://americanstage.org).

#### 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).*

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***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)

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

**AMERICAN STAGE THEATRE COMPANY** is a not-for-profit professional theatre founded in 1977. The company's mission is to create the most satisfying live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, accessible to all members of the community. Their 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 its, 182-seat Raymond James Theatre each year.

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