



**For Immediate Release**  
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Contact: Zachary Hines  
Audience Development Associate  
(727) 823-1600 x 209  
[zhines@americanstage.org](mailto:zhines@americanstage.org)

## **American Stage Kicks-Off the New Year with JITNEY**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Installment of Theatre Company's August Wilson Century Cycle opens January 22**

**St. Petersburg, FL** – American Stage Theatre Company continues its 2015-16 “Season of Awakenings” and kicks off the New Year with **JITNEY**, the 9<sup>th</sup> installment of their August Wilson Century Cycle. The production will be directed by L. Peter Callender and will feature a cast of nine actors, both familiar and new to American Stage.

**JITNEY's Director, L. Peter 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](#))**

**“American Stage is proud to welcome such a visionary talent and to continue our commitment to present each of the ten plays in August Wilson’s Century Cycle,” said Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte. “JITNEY is perhaps one of Wilson’s most vibrant and most satisfying plays.”**

JITNEY runs from January 20 through February 21, 2016. **Opening night is Friday, January 22, 2016.**

Performances for JITNEY will begin with two preview performances on Wednesday, January 20 at 8pm and Thursday, January 21 at 8pm. The production will open on Friday, January 22 at 8pm. Performances continue for four weeks through February 21, 2016. 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](http://www.americanstage.org).

### **THE PLAY**

Set in the 1970s in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, and depicting gypsy cabdrivers who serve black neighborhoods, JITNEY is included in Wilson’s projected 10-play cycle (one for each decade) on the black experience in twentieth century America. He writes not about historical events or the pathologies of the black community, but, as he says, about the unique particulars of black culture “. . . I wanted to place this culture onstage in all its richness and fullness and to demonstrate its ability to sustain us . . . through profound moments in our history in which the larger society has thought less of us than we have thought of ourselves.”

**-MORE-**

“Comic, soulful and immensely moving.” – *Time Out*

WINNER! 2001 OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play

WINNER! 2002 LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD for Best New Play

### **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 and 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 and 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.

### **CAST**

**Mujahid Abdul-Rashid\*** (Becker)

**Kim Sullivan\*** (Turnbo)

**Satchel Andre** (Youngblood)

**Ron Bobb-Semple\*** (Fielding)

**ranney\*** (Doub)

**Aaron Washington** (Shealy)

**Adrian Roberts\*** (Booster)

**Jazmine Pierce** (Rena)

**Josh Goff** (Philmore)

### **CREATIVE**

**L. Peter Callender** (Director)

**Scott Cooper** (Scenic Design)

**Joseph P. Oshry** (Lighting Design)

**Frank Chavez** (Costume Design)

**Jerid Fox** (Properties/Set Dressing)

**Rachel Harrison\*** (Production Stage Manager)

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

For Cast Bios please visit [www.AmericanStage.org/jitney/](http://www.AmericanStage.org/jitney/)

**-MORE-**

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: [www.AmericanStage.org/in-the-media/](http://www.AmericanStage.org/in-the-media/)

*\*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.*

**WHAT:** American Stage presents JITNEY by August Wilson

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

**WHEN:** January 20 – February 21, 2016

Preview Wednesday, January 20, 8pm, “Pay What You Can”

Preview Thursday, January 21, 8pm, \$29 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, January 22, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through February 21, 2016.

**TIMES & PRICES:**

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm \$39 tickets

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:**

LEARN Lecture: Sunday January 10, 2016 at 1:00pm

Opening Night Reception: January 22, 2016 before and after performance

ENGAGE: Talkback with Cast: Sundays, January 31 and February 7 after the 3pm matinees

**TICKET PURCHASES:**

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

**Online:** [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org)

**Walk-up:** 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Group Ticket Pricing Packages** are also available.

**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 1978 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.

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