



AMERICAN STAGE

For Immediate Release
February 2, 2015
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American Stage extends **JITNEY**

The 9th Installment of Theatre Company's August Wilson Century Cycle
will now run through February 28, 2016

St. Petersburg, FL – **UPDATE:** Due to popular demand, American Stage will extend the run of **JITNEY**, the 9th installment of their August Wilson Century Cycle, through February 28th. The production is directed by L. Peter Callender and features a cast of nine actors, both familiar and new to American Stage.

“JITNEY is perhaps one of Wilson’s most vibrant and most satisfying plays. We are thrilled to offer more opportunities for patrons to experience this powerful piece of theatre,” said Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte.

ADDED DATES: *please note that there are only select dates added. New performances are listed below.*

Thursday, February 25 at 8pm

Friday, February 26 at 8pm

Saturday, February 27 at 3pm

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Sunday, February 28 at 3pm

EXTENSION WEEK ON SALE DATES:

Act 1 Club & Subscriber Presale begins Tuesday, February 2 at 10am

General Public sales begin Wednesday, February 3 at 10am

NEW EVENT ADDED: Chronicles of August Wilson with Special Guest Christopher Rawson

Join the cast of **JITNEY** on a journey through August Wilson’s life, and the development of his first play. Friend of August Wilson, and former theatre editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Christopher Rawson, offers personal insight into Wilson’s life, how the city of Pittsburgh influenced Wilson and his plays, and how works like **JITNEY** speak to people and communities around the country. The evening will include a special presentation, a reading of an excerpt from the original version of **JITNEY** in 1979, and a conversation with the cast about their own connections to August Wilson and his work.

Spotlight on...JITNEY | Chronicles of August Wilson with Special Guest Christopher Rawson
Tuesday, February 16, 7:00pm – 8:30pm at American Stage
\$12 for General Public | \$10 for Subscribers | FREE for Act 1 Club Members

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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."

"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.

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

-MORE-

For Cast Bios please visit www.AmericanStage.org/jitney/

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: 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 28, 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 28, 2016.

TIMES & PRICES:

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8pm \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm \$39 tickets

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

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

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

Chronicle of August Wilson with Special Guest Christopher Rawson: February 16, 2016 at 7pm

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.

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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