



POWERFUL STORIES. BOLDLY TOLD. 40 YEARS STRONG.

163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release
December 27, 2017
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START THE NEW YEAR WITH AMERICAN STAGE

NEW PLAY FESTIVAL. STORYTELLING. IMPROV. COMEDY. CABARET. SPOTLIGHT SERIES

**In addition to the Mainstage production,
A RAISIN IN THE SUN running through JAN. 24 – FEB. 18,
American Stage presents the following programming:**

St. Petersburg, FL –American Stage brings dynamic programming throughout January and February, beyond the Mainstage production, featuring live music, creative storytelling, improv comedy, and post-show conversation in the lobby café. These programs bring together local performers and guests to celebrate and unite the Tampa Bay community.

ON MAINSTAGE

American Legacy Series

A RAISIN IN THE SUN running through JAN. 24-FEB. 18

Directed by L. Peter Callender (Artistic Director of the African America Shakespeare Company and the director of American Stage's hits *JITNEY* and *JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE*)

*Separate press release forthcoming

FESTIVAL

January 11-14

21ST CENTURY VOICES: NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

In the support of the next generation of American playwrights this American Stage program features new plays in development. Five new works will be featured in staged readings featuring local talent and will provide audiences the opportunity to contribute to the plays' development through audience talk-backs following each play reading.

Pricing: \$10 per reading | \$40 All Access Pass for General Public | \$30 American Stage Subscribers & Act 1 Club Members

Thursday, January 11 @ 8pm

LENI & JOSEPH by Jacob Marx Rice

Friday, January 12 @ 8pm

IF NOW WERE HENCE by Tess Light

Saturday, January 13 @ 3pm

POSTLINGUAL by Brooke Downs

Saturday, January 13 @ 8pm

GROUP by Alex Rubin

Sunday, January 14 @ 3pm

GOOD BAD PEOPLE by Rachel Lynett

Tickets & Information for above events at americanstage.org/new

AND BEYOND

Friday, January 5 @ 8PM

Concert on Mainstage

Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Presents Whitney & Synia's Singin' & Swingin'

The Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association is thrilled to start 2018 with a special evening of jazz at American Stage. For the first time working together, Whitney James & Synia Carroll will sign original duet arrangements of their favorite jazz standards such as 'You Don't Know What Love Is', 'Comes Love', 'Happy Days Are Here Again' and many more. While the concert will have a nice collection of duets, each artist will have solo performances with St. Pete's favorite rhythm section La Lucha featuring the talented James Suggs on trumpet. Their diverse influences and styles are a wonderful compliment to each other and will make for an exciting collaboration.

Pricing: \$25 advance / \$30 door

Sunday, January 7 @ 7PM

HAWK & WAYNE: KARAOKE-PROV (IMPROV/COMEDY)

First Sunday of every month. **No performance in February.**

Now in their 9th season, this hilarious "Best of the Bay" duo takes unscripted comedy to a whole new level! This season join in with KARAOKE-PROV, the ridiculous and totally made-up stories behind the music.

Pricing: \$10 advance / \$12 door

Sunday, January 14 @ 5PM at THE IBERIAN ROOSTER

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Second and third Sundays of every month

Featuring: Early Bird Special, As Per Usual, The Wet Bandits

American Stage Improv House Teams present a night of outrageous improvised comedy. Laugh out loud with four house teams with their Upright Citizens Brigade style improv! Plus rotating guest teams from across Tampa Bay! Plus one indie/community team will open for each House Teams Live! show on a rotating basis.

Pricing: \$10 advance / \$12 door

Friday, January 19 @ 8PM | Saturday, January 20 @ 8pm | Sunday, January 21 @ 7pm

AMERICAN SONGBOOK SERIES: I GET A KICK! – A SINATRA CELEBRATION

Featuring: Paul Wilborn and Blue Roses

A Sinatra Celebration. An Evening filled with Frank Sinatra hits, plus stories about the man and his music.

Pricing: \$20 advance

Sunday, January 21 @ 7PM at THE IBERIAN ROOSTER

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Second and third Sundays of every month

Featuring: Escape Artisans, Possible Side Effects, TBD

American Stage Improv House Teams present a night of outrageous improvised comedy. Laugh out loud with four house teams with their Upright Citizens Brigade style improv! Plus rotating guest teams from across Tampa Bay! Plus one indie/community team will open for each House Teams Live! show on a rotating basis.

Pricing: \$10 advance / \$12 door

Sunday, January 28 @ 7PM

AMERICAN STORIES: BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER

Following in the tradition of radio programs like THE MOTH RADIO HOUR or SNAP JUDGEMENT, artists and storytellers from all over the Tampa Bay area come together to share their personal tales through powerful song, moving poetry, and side-splitting comedy.

Pricing: \$15

Sunday, February 11 @ 8PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY) at AMERICAN STAGE

Second and third Sundays of every month

*Featuring: **Previously On, As Per Usual, The Wet Bandits***

American Stage Improv House Teams present a night of outrageous improvised comedy. Laugh out loud with four house teams with their Upright Citizens Brigade style improv! Plus rotating guest teams from across Tampa Bay! Plus one indie/community team will open for each House Teams Live! show on a rotating basis.

Pricing: \$10 advance / \$12 door

Sunday, February 18 @ 7PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY) at AMERICAN STAGE

Second and third Sundays of every month

*Featuring: **Improvaholics, Possible Side Effects, TBD***

American Stage Improv House Teams present a night of outrageous improvised comedy. Laugh out loud with four house teams with their Upright Citizens Brigade style improv! Plus rotating guest teams from across Tampa Bay! Plus one indie/community team will open for each House Teams Live! show on a rotating basis.

Pricing: \$10 advance / \$12 door

Tickets & Information for above events at americanstage.org/beyond

TALKS & EVENTS

Visit americanstage.org/RAISIN and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

SPOTLIGHT SERIES in JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Our SPOTLIGHT series creates opportunities to take a deeper dive into the themes, artists and production elements of our mainstage plays. These events are held throughout the run of each production and encourage audience members to learn, connect, and engage with our powerful stories.

Sunday, January 14 at 1pm

Spotlight Series: BEHIND - THE - SCENES - A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Featuring Director L. Peter Callender and Actor Patrick A. Jackson

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of A RAISIN IN THE SUN with this informative and entertaining presentation about the play, the playwright, and the American Stage artists who bring it all to life. Professor Emerita Dedee Aleccia will provide relevant details about the history and central themes of the play, while members of the artistic team will give an insider's perspective on their process.

Pricing: \$10 for General Public

Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

Thursday, February 1 | Sunday February 4 & 11 (Post-Performance)

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK – A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Stick around immediately following select performances to talk with the cast and other audience members while the experience of the play is fresh! Ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas aroused by the production. Free for ticket holders to the performance.

Sunday, February 11 at 6pm

Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS – A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Great theatre inspires contemplation and challenges our assumptions while inviting us to come together for conversation and a deeper connection. From social and political hot-button issues to ethical dilemmas, American Stage's COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS dig deeper into the intriguing and sometimes provocative topics explored by our mainstage productions. Join us for a lively discussion with questions about the relevancy of the subject matter explored in the play.

Pricing: \$10 for General Public

Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

Sunday February 25 at 1pm

Spotlight Series: BEHIND - THE - SCENES - MARJORIE PRIME

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of MARJORIE PRIME with this informative and entertaining presentation about the play, the playwright, and the American Stage artists who bring it all to life. Professor Emerita Dedee Aleccia will provide relevant details about the history and central themes of the play, while members of the artistic team will give an insider's perspective on their process.

Pricing: \$10 for General Public

Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

COMING IN MARCH & APRIL

MAINSTAGE

March 7 through April 1

MARJORIE PRIME

American Stage/Capital Stage Co-Production

It's the age of artificial intelligence and 86-year-old Marjorie is worried that her memory is fading. But when a mysterious and charming young visitor appears to help, questions emerge about the limits of technology and the possibility that memory might be a purely human invention. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance?

AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK PRESENTED BY: BANK OF AMERICA

April 18 through May 13 (Gala Under the Stars: Friday, April 20, 2018 at 6pm)

THE PRODUCERS

American Stage in the Park brings Mel Brooks' classic cult comedy to Demens Landing! Winner of a record twelve Tony Awards including 'Best Musical', The Producers sets the standard for modern, outrageous, in-your-face humor.

Sunday, March 4 @ 7PM

HAWK & WAYNE: KARAOKE-PROV (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Sunday, March 11 @ 7PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Featuring: Early Bird Special, As Per Usual, and The Wet Bandits

Sunday, March 18 @ 7PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Featuring: Third Thought, Possible Side Effects, TBD

Sunday, April 8 @ 7PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Featuring: Troupe X, As Per Usual, The Wet Bandits

Sunday, April 15 @ 7PM

HOUSE TEAMS LIVE! (IMPROV/COMEDY)

Featuring: Mixed Emojis, Possible Side Effects, TBD



EAT/DRINK/ENGAGE

This season come together for a drink, a bite, and good conversation in our lobby cafe.

PRE-SHOW

Arrive 45 minutes before any mainstage production and enjoy some refreshments from American Stage's lobby cafe and listen to a live PROLOGUE presentation providing insight into the show you are about to see.

POST-SHOW

Hang out in American Stage's lobby cafe & bar after mainstage performances, grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and chat about the show. Often, actors or members of the creative team will join in to take part in these non-structured 'cafe conversations.' *Enjoy Happy Hour drink specials after the show every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.*

AMERICAN STAGE | AS/40

American Stage celebrates **40 Years Strong** this season. Since 1977, American Stage, has contributed to the vitality of Tampa Bay as a regional professional theatre. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to under-served populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

Powerful Stories. Boldly Told.

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