



POWERFUL STORIES. BOLDLY TOLD. 40 YEARS STRONG.

163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2018

Contact: The American Stage

Marketing Team

(727) 823-1600 x 209

marketing@americanstage.org

New Announcement:
American Stage adds extra performance week to
A RAISIN IN THE SUN due to popular demand.

Now thru February 25. #asRAISIN

ADDED PERFORMANCES:

Wednesday, February 21 at 7 PM

Thursday, February 22 at 8 PM

Friday, February 23 at 8 PM

Saturday, February 24 at 3 PM

Saturday, February 24 at 8 PM

Sunday, February 25 at 3 PM

American Stage also announces a new guest speaker for their next Community Conversations.

Sunday, February 11 | 6PM

Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Guest Speakers: Kanika Tomalin (Deputy Mayor of St. Petersburg) and **Ms. Ronnell Montgomery** (Vice-Chair, Diversity & Inclusion St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, Community Outreach at The James B. Sanderlin Family Center)

NEW: Kenny Irby, Community Intervention Director at St. Petersburg Police Department, Pastor at African Methodist Episcopal Church

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 a panel of local experts as they guide us through a lively discussion, and answer questions about the relevancy of the subject matter explored in the play.

Pricing: FREE for this Community Conversations event. Performances for A RAISIN IN THE SUN are separate and have a ticket price.

St. Petersburg, FL – As American Stage continues to celebrate 40 years strong with their “WE THE PEOPLE” season, American Stage is excited to extend A RAISIN IN THE SUN with an added week of performances. In addition, they announce a new guest speaker for their next Community Conversations.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Lorraine Hansberry's groundbreaking family drama is the first play in our American Legacy series. Dedicated to modern classics that lend historical perspective to stories from our past, this series seeks to draw a connection between our culture's history and the events of today.

In pursuit of the American Dream, the dynamic Younger family wrestles with the push to assimilate into a white Chicago neighborhood, and the pull of their cultural roots. These opposing forces both unite and divide the family, as each grapple with the social issues that challenge their identity – and the personal choices that will determine their future. This story of hope and inspiration remains universally relevant more than 60 years after it first hit Broadway.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

LORRAINE HANSBERRY was born on May 19, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois. In 1938, Hansberry's family moved to a white neighborhood and was violently attacked by neighbors. They refused to move until a court ordered them to do so, and the case made it to the Supreme Court as *Hansberry v. Lee*, ruling restrictive covenants illegal. She wrote *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* based on those events, which opened on Broadway to great success. Hansberry was the first black playwright and the youngest American to win a New York Critics' Circle award. Throughout her life she was heavily involved in civil rights. She died at 34 of pancreatic cancer.

CAST

Enoch King* (Walter Lee Younger)

Sheryl Carbonell* (Ruth Younger)

Fanni Green* (Lena Younger)

Kiara Hines (Beneatha Younger)

Elijah Jordan (Travis Younger)

Jaiden B. Gray (Travis Younger)

Patrick A. Jackson* (Joseph Asagai)

Troy D. Wallace (George Murchison)

Cranstan Cumberbatch (Bobo)

Dee Selmore (Mrs. Johnson)

Gavin Hawk* (Carl Lindner)

CREATIVE

L. Peter Callender (Director)

Catherine Cann (Costume Designer)

Joseph P. Oshry# (Lighting Designer)

Steven Mitchell# (Scenic Designer)

Jerid Fox (Properties Master)

Rachel Harrison* (Production Stage Manager/Sound Designer)

Ellyse Helms (Scenic Artist)

Allison Davis (Scenic Artist)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists Union

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/RAISIN

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](#)

**Photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact marketing@americanstage.org for immediate needs.*

FEATURED EVENTS

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK: Thurs, February 1, and Sun, February 4 (Post-Performance)

WE THE PEOPLE - Artist Meet & Greet Reception & Young Professionals Night:

Fri, February 2 | Happy Hour 6-8PM | Performance at 8PM

LADIES Night: Fri, February 9 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: Sun, February 11 | 6PM

PRIDE PLUS Night: Fri, February 16 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

FEATURED VISUAL ARTIST

Zulu Painter, featured artist for A RAISIN IN THE SUN, will unveil his Signature Original Artwork on Opening Night which will kick-off a gallery show that will be up through the close of the production. This 2017-18 Season, 'WE THE PEOPLE', celebrates a partnership with local talents of seven visual artists and one photographer to create elements of the 2017-18 season selections. For A RAISIN IN THE SUN, American Stage is collaborating with Zulu Painter.

Zulu will be invited to attend rehearsals, interact with the development of the set, lighting and costume designers which will further inform his artistic perspective. Inspired by the collaborative creative process of theatre-making, he will create a Signature Original Artwork that will be donated as a fundraiser for the American Stage 40FORWARD fund campaign.

Going one step further in this process, American Stage will donate the use of their gallery space to further highlight the impact of artists of all disciplines within the community. Zulu Painter will present a **Gallery Show & Artist Reception, sponsored by Creative Loafing**, at American Stage on Friday, February 2nd. This exhibit will run concurrently with A RAISIN IN THE SUN, inspired by themes from the play. This season American Stage asks the community to be a part of the WE THE PEOPLE movement and celebrate the arts in the Tampa Bay area!

"I immediately think of uplifting unity with the We The People theme. As if all of this season will be filled with empowering messages."—Zulu Painter, Featured Visual Artist for A RAISIN IN THE SUN

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of A RAISIN IN THE SUN, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by select American Stage apprentice Tarilabo Koripamo 30 minutes prior to each performance.

American Stage is also excited to present **TGIF!** where guests can kick off their weekend in style and join us for fancy, fun, fierce, and fabulous nights out at the theatre with Happy Hour drink specials prior to the performance the first four Fridays of every mainstage production.

Also, enjoy drink specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night post-show. Stick around after the show for lively café conversations. You never know what special guest may arrive.

TALKS & EVENTS – FULL DETAILS

American Stage has also programmed several audience experience opportunities surrounding the production of A RAISIN IN THE SUN. Visit americanstage.org/RAISIN and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

Friday, January 26 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm
Opening Night + Signature Art Unveiling by Zulu Painter

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by Parkshore Grille Catering with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, witness the unveiling of an original piece of art inspired by A RAISIN IN THE SUN, and be among the first to see one of our first-class productions. There will also be a post-show dessert reception with the cast.

Thursday, February 1 | Sunday February 4 (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.

Friday, February 2 | Happy Hour 6-8PM | Performance at 8PM
WE THE PEOPLE - Artist Meet and Greet Reception & Young Professionals Night

On the second Friday, stop by our lobby to celebrate the visual artwork of **Zulu Painter**. American Stage will host a gallery show for four weeks and will also display an original work inspired by the art on stage.

Community Engagement Sponsor: Creative Loafing

PLUS – Young Americans Night: PLUS - Young Professionals Night: Young professional under 40 can enjoy drink specials and conversation with the artists. YOUNG AMERICANS under 30 can access our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month. Call the Box Office at [727-823-7529](tel:727-823-7529) or email youngamericans@americanstage.org.

Friday, February 9 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

LADIES Night: Grab friends, bring a date and turn your ordinary Friday evening into a scintillating, one-of-a-kind night out highlighting some really awesome local women.

Sunday, February 11 | 6PM
Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Guest Speakers: *Kanika Tomalin* (Deputy Mayor of St. Petersburg), *Ms. Ronnell Montgomery* (Vice-Chair, Diversity & Inclusion St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, Community Outreach at The James B. Sanderlin Family Center) and *Kenny Irby*, Community Intervention Director at St. Petersburg Police Department, Pastor at African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Pricing: FREE for this Community Conversations event. Performances for A RAISIN IN THE SUN are separate and have a ticket price.

Friday, February 16 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM
PRIDE PLUS Night

Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Enjoy a night OUT at the theatre, with Happy Hour drink specials, and meet some local LGBT+ trendsetters and change-makers.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry

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

WHEN: January 24–February 25, 2018

Preview Wednesday, January 24, 7pm, “Pay What You Can”

Preview Thursday, January 25, 8pm, \$29 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, January 26, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through February 25, 2018

Arrive 30 minutes early to get the inside scoop on the play.

TIMES & PRICES

Wednesdays 7pm, \$39 tickets

Thursdays 8pm, \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm, \$39 tickets

Under 30 years of age: Our ‘Netflix-style’ subscription, offering ‘unlimited theatre’ for only \$15 per month.

Under 20 years of age (suggested 12-19): FREE tickets to American Stage’s mainstage season. A bold experiment in 2018.

Contact the box office about our Young Americans Initiative. Visit americanstage.org/ya for details.

SERVICE & FACILITIES

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating.

*Displaying a 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).***

Large Print Program: Theatregoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production.

Listening System: Theatregoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat.



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 underserved 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. 40 Years Strong.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@americanstage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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