



For Immediate Release
September 19, 2018
Contact: The American Stage
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American Stage presents the 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner, BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY.

**A dark urban comedy about a retired police officer fighting to keep his rent-controlled apartment.
October 3 thru November 4.**

GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

1. One of the most celebrated new American plays.

Stephen Adly Guirgis' play won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the 2015 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, the 2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, the 2015 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play and the 2015 Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Play.

2. L. Peter Callender makes his American Stage debut as an actor.

As an actor, he has performed coast to coast over the years in over 15 regional theaters and has appeared on Broadway in PRELUDE TO A KISS (Helen Hayes Theater). Mr. Callender has also directed three critically acclaimed and award-winning American Stage productions (JITNEY, JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE and A RAISIN IN THE SUN) and will be returning in January to direct Dominique Morisseau's PIPELINE.

3. Powerfully relevant Tampa Bay premiere by one of America's top playwrights.

BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY at its core asks us to examine what makes us who we are. Is it our jobs, our families, or our actions? Stephen Adly Guirgis, winner of the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award, tackles these complex questions in this play with nuance humor and heart. His critically-acclaimed plays have been produced both Off-Broadway and on Broadway (MOTHERF#\$%! WITH THE HAT) and in the UK.

"I've always believed that great theatre not only entertains, it makes you feel A-WAKE. Whether a play wakes you emotionally, intellectually, spiritually or viscerally, the most meaningful work stirs us. Stephen Adly Guirgis' Pulitzer-Winning work, BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY, with its compelling characters and its visceral voice, is teeming with life. Indeed, it is one of those rare works that has the power to wake us on each of those levels." - *Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director*

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage opens its 2018-19 Season 'LIFE. OUT LOUD' with BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY written by Stephen Adly Guirgis and directed by Benjamin T. Ismail (Much Ado About Nothing). This Tampa Bay Area premiere features 4 cast members making their American Stage debut; L. Peter Callender*, Sara Oliva*, Vanesa Rendon and Donovan Whitney plus the return of Vickie Daignault* (GOOD PEOPLE), Enoch King* (A RAISIN IN THE SUN), and Ricky Wayne* (TARTUFFE, HAWK & WAYNE).

“Guirgis is one of my favorite playwrights. I have the pleasure of acting, directing, and/or producing several of his titles. I'm always surprised and moved by how heart-forward and empathetic his characters are regardless of their needs, goals or background. Guirgis' 'street poetry' consistently provides an electric and unforgettable theatrical experience.” – *Benjamin T. Ismail, Director*

ABOUT THE PLAY

HUSTLE. OUT LOUD. City Hall is demanding more than his signature: the landlord wants him out, the dog is a nuisance and the liquor store is closed. Ex-cop & widower Walter “Pops” Washington and his recently paroled son Junior, have spent a lifetime living between Riverside and crazy. When the struggle to hold on to one of the last great rent-stabilized apartments on Riverside Drive collides with old wounds and sketchy new houseguests, Pops decides to take matters into his own hands with a final ultimatum, while everyone else hustles to get what they think they deserve.

Audience Advisory: Contains mature content and strong language. Age Recommendation: 16+

The following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events associated with the production.

CAST

L. Peter Callender* (Pops)

Vickie Daignault* (O'Connor)

Enoch King* (Junior)

Sara Oliva* (Church Lady)

Vanesa Rendon (Lulu)

Ricky Wayne* (Caro)

Donovan Whitney (Oswaldo)

CREATIVE

Benjamin T. Ismail (Director and Sound Designer)

Rachel Harrison* (Production Stage Manager)

Ryan Finzelber (Lighting Designer)

Jerid Fox (Production Designer and Properties Master)

Sze Shun Wong (Assistant Stage Manager)

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

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/RIVERSIDE

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](https://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/)

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

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Stephen Adly Guirgis has been a LAByrinth Company Member since 1994. His plays have been produced on five continents and throughout the United States. His play, *The Little Flower Of East Orange*, starring Ellen Burstyn, had an extended run at The Public in 2008. Other plays include, *Our Lady Of 121st Street* (10 best

plays of 2003; Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Best Play Nominations), *Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award, Laurence Olivier Nomination for London's Best New Play), and *In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings* (2007 LA Drama Critics Best Play, Best Writing Award). All four plays were originally produced by LAByrinth and directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman. *The Last Days Of Judas Iscariot* (10 best, Time Magazine & Entertainment Weekly) was produced by LABYrinth in collaboration with The Public in 2005 under the direction of Philip Seymour Hoffman, and received a critically acclaimed European premiere in London at the Almeida Theater under the direction of the Headlong Theater's Rupert Goold. His plays are published by Dramatists Play Service as well as by Faber and Faber. His one act play, *Dominica The Fat Ugly Ho*, directed by Adam Rapp, was a part of the 2006 E.S.T. Marathon. Television writing credits include, *NYPD Blue*, *The Sopranos*, David Milch's CBS drama *Big Apple*, and Shane Salerno's NBC series *UC: Undercover*. Stephen was awarded a 2006 PEN/Laura Pels Award, a 2006 Whiting Award, and a 2004 TCG fellowship. He attended the 2004 Sundance Screenwriter's Lab, and was named one of 2004's 25 New Faces of Independent Film by Filmmaker Magazine. He is the recipient of new play commissions from Manhattan Theatre Club, Center Theater Group, and South Coast Repertory, and is a member of New Dramatists, MCC's Playwright's Coalition, New River Dramatists, and The Actor's Studio Playwright/Directors Unit. He developed and directed Liza Colón-Zayas' *Sistah Supreme* for Danny Hoch's Hip Hop Theater Festival, and Marco Greco's award-winning *Behind The Counter With Mussolini* in New York and Los Angeles. As an actor, he appeared in *Guinea Pig Solo*, produced by LABYrinth at The Public, and has leading roles in Todd Solondz's *Palindromes*, Brett C. Leonard's *Jailbait* opposite Michael Pitt, and Kenneth Lonergan's *Margaret*. Other film credits include, Charlie Kaufman's *Synecdoche, New York* and Adam Rapp's *Blackbird*. A former Violence Prevention Specialist/H.I.V. educator, he has facilitated numerous workshops in New York City area prisons, schools, shelters, and hospitals.

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY*, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by selected American Stage's apprentice Kaylie Horowitz 30 minutes prior to each performance.

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

Sunday, September 23 @ 1PM

Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES – BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY

Featuring Director – Benjamin T. Ismail and Production Designer – Jerid Fox.

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY* 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

Friday, October 5 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm

Opening Night

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by BAYOU CATERING with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, 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 October 11, Sundays October 14 & 21

Spotlight Series: CHATBACKS – BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY

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, October 12 | 2018-19 LIFE. OUT LOUD. CELEBRATION: 6:30 PM

Join us for the 18.19 LIFE. OUT LOUD. Celebration in support of our new mainstage season. This lively evening is hosted at the Birchwood in the Grand Ballroom, with a seated gourmet dinner, libations and exclusive entertainment. Featuring talented musicians from Tampa Bay's dynamic group, The Florida Björkestra, with live performances inspired by American Stage's 2018-19 Life. Out Loud. season productions. This special night empowers American Stage's Powerful Stories, Boldy Told.

Tickets are \$150 each and include dinner, cocktails and live performance inspired by our new season.

[You may also sponsor a table for 8 persons for \\$1200. Click here to purchase a table](#)

Please note: Individual ticket purchases will be seated a table for 8 persons. Identify any seating preferences in your order notes or you may also email development@americanstage.org

Please call 727.823.1600 x 207 for sponsorship opportunities, to sponsor an artist to attend the event, or to purchase tickets.

Help us honor & invite the artists of American Stage to be a part of our 18.19 Life. Out Loud Celebration. Sponsor an Artist.

\$150 – Sponsor a Ticket for an individual artist to attend.

\$1200 – Purchase a table for 8 persons and donate any number of those seats for artists to join you and your guests.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents BETWEEN RIVERSIDE & CRAZY by Stephen Adly Guirgis

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

WHEN: October 3 through November 4, 2018

Preview Wednesday, October 3, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, October 4, 7pm, \$30 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, October 5, 8pm, \$70 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through November 4, 2018

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

TIMES & PRICES

Wednesdays 7pm, \$44 tickets

Thursdays 7pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

Fridays 8pm, \$50 tickets

Saturdays 8pm, \$54 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 2pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

Under 30 years of age (UNDER 30 PASS): Our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month.

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

Contact the box office about our UNDER 30 PASS & UNDER 20 PASSPORT. Visit americanstage.org/ya for details.

Audience Advisory: Contains mature content and strong language. Age Recommendation: 16+

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: Theatergoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production. Request from House Manager on duty. A digital version will be available at americanstage.org/PROGRAM.

Listening System: Theatergoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat. Request from Concessions.



AMERICAN STAGE

American Stage Theatre operates as a 501-(C)3, and has been providing live theatrical performances as a professional regional equity theatre in the heart of St. Petersburg, Florida, since 1977. 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.

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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