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New Stage Theatre Announces Arts-in-Education Touring Productions for 2022-23 Season

JACKSON, MISS.—New Stage Theatre, a professional theatre located in Jackson, Mississippi, announces its productions for its Arts-in-Education statewide touring program available to schools, libraries, and community centers during the 2022-2023 school year.

This season, New Stage will present the musical *Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type* and *Anne and Emmett* as touring productions. The two shows will be performed for Mississippi schools by the professional associate artist company, a racially diverse company of five young actors and directors who have recently graduated from college with degrees in theatre.

Adapted by James E. Grote, the musical comedy *Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type* is based on the children's book by Doreen Cronin. With music by George Howe, it is the story of barnyard animals who feel that their barn is too cold for comfort. They attempt to communicate with Farmer Brown, but he can't understand cow's moos, the cackle of chickens or the quack of the duck. They work all day to provide milk and eggs, but when their request for electric blankets to warm the drafty barn is ignored, action must be taken. Join the Cows, Hen, and Duck — and their trusty typewriter— as they engage in peaceful protest to improve their working conditions. This 50-minute show is best suited for elementary school audiences. It is available for performances beginning October 18, 2022 through April 28, 2023.

Anne & Emmett, by Janet Langhart Cohen, is a history lesson about the importance of tolerance, compassion and justice, to be acted out on stage, acted on in life. The play brings the two slain teenagers together in a meeting beyond the grave, where they recount the cruelty and racial hatred that led to their deaths. Through an imaginary conversation between two iconic figures of civil rights history, *Anne & Emmett* examines the innocence of children thrust into the most horrific of circumstances. The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, “*Anne and Emmett* should be seen in every school in America!” It is best suited for middle and high school audiences. Performances for this 50-minute show are available beginning November 15, 2022 through April 28, 2023.

Directed by Sharon Miles, Education Consultant for New Stage, *Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type* will be performed by New Stage’s Professional Associate Artist Company members Timothy Magee, Austin Russell, and Rakaela Thompson; Acting/Directing Associate Claire Justice Porter; Associate Apprentice Lindsey Neville.

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The show's Music Director is Carol Joy Sparkman and New Stage Education Director Xerron Mingo is the choreographer. ***Anne and Emmett*** is co-directed by Xerron Mingo and Lindsey Neville. The actors are Timothy Magee, Austin Russell, Rakaela Thompson and Claire Porter.

New Stage is offering the tours to schools and communities for \$650 - \$750, depending on travel distance. The price includes the performance and a post-performance question and answer session with the company. A comprehensive study guide for teachers is provided prior to the performance. Various workshops for students and teachers are available with or without a performance. Past workshops have included *Creative Drama*, *Basic Acting*, *Stand Up with Shakespeare*, *Dramatizing Stories*, *Playwriting 101*, and *Stage Combat*. Teacher Workshops are available for schools as professional development as well.

"We are excited for the opportunity to entertain and educate our schools with two fresh and heart tugging shows. Through history, dance, and song ***Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type*** and ***Anne & Emmett*** will provide lessons in hope, independence, self-confidence and FUN! The New Stage Theatre Professional Associate Artists Team is equipped with the tools to provide an all-around educational experience both On Stage and Off with performances, workshops, and classes. We can't wait to add our final element, the students!", said New Stage Theatre Education Director Xerron Mingo.

New Stage has a strong reputation for presenting quality performances and has been touring successfully to high school and middle schools since 1990. In the 2019-2020 season, the professional apprentice company performed 42 shows of ***Who Are You Calling Ugly? A Modern Duck Tale***, ***If Not Us, Then Who? Freedom Rides to Freedom Summer***, and ***Macbeth*** for 26 schools before the pandemic caused school closures. A limited tour of original show ***The Debate for Democracy***, as well as six digital productions, was offered during the 2021-2022 school year. This year marks the theatre's return to a full touring schedule.

"After two years of limited touring, I am pleased to announce New Stage Theatre's return to a full arts-in-education touring roster for the 2022-2023 school year," said New Stage Theatre Artistic Director Francine Reynolds. "As Mississippi's professional theatre, New Stage Theatre is in a unique position to offer excellent, professional educational programming. We are looking forward to resuming our tradition of providing quality performances for elementary, middle and high school students throughout Mississippi with our professional productions of ***Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type*** and ***Anne and Emmett***."

Come to New Stage on Thursday, November 3 at 4:30 p.m. for a preview of this season's touring shows! Teachers will be treated to a scene from ***Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type*** and ***Anne and Emmett*** as well as a brief presentation from Education Director Xerron Mingo on workshop and residency options we can bring to your school. Teachers are also welcome to stay for the performance of ***The Glass Menagerie***, by Tennessee Williams, that evening as 7:30 p.m. A fun and informative evening is guaranteed. For reservations for the free preview performance, call the arts in education department at 601-948-3533, ext. 232.

Winner of the 2019 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, New Stage Theatre was chartered as a not-for-profit organization in 1965, producing its initial season in the winter/spring of 1966. New Stage's education department was founded in 1989 and received the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1995 for its efforts to introduce tens of thousands of young Mississippians to live theatre.

The New Stage Arts-in-Education touring program is sponsored by The National Endowment for the Arts, Entergy Mississippi and The Chisholm Foundation.

For pricing, more information or to schedule a tour or workshop please contact Education Director Xerron Mingo at 601-948-3533 ext. 232 or xmingo@newstagetheatre.com.

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