



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Xerron Mingo | (601) 948-3533 ext. 232 | [education@newstagetheatre.com](mailto:education@newstagetheatre.com)

# New Stage Unframed Series presents *Blues for an Alabama Sky* A Play by Pearl Cleage

Jackson, Mississippi - The Unframed Series at Newstage Theatre presents *Blues for an Alabama Sky* by Pearl Cleage on October 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Tickets may be purchased online at [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com) for \$10 until October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 one hour before each show. The performances are staged at New Stage's Warehouse Theatre, which is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. *Blues for an Alabama Sky* contains adult content and language, and is recommended for mature audiences only.

*Blues for an Alabama Sky* is set in Harlem in the 1930s. The play follows a group of struggling artists and community leaders exiting the Harlem Renaissance, and entering the Great Depression. After losing her job at the Cotton Club, Angel, a blues singer, is confronted by economic hardship and a very difficult choice. Angel must decide whether or not to pursue her artistic passions, or settle down and marry for money. The award-winning play touches on financial instability, prejudice within a community, and reproductive rights. Ultimately, *Blues for an Alabama Sky* deals with the cost of living, and the price of happiness.

Pearl Cleage is New York Times bestselling author, whose work has been selected by Oprah Book Club. Cleage is an Atlanta-based artist, whose work deals with feminism, life as an African American, and political activism. A few of her more prominent plays include *Flyin' West*, *Bourbon at the Border*, *Late Bus to Mecca*, *Chain*, and *A Song for Coretta*. Her work has been featured in *Proverbs for the People: Contemporary African American Fiction* as well as *Mending the World: Stories of Family by Contemporary Black writers*.

"The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre series was created to provide an alternative theatre experience for the community", said Reynolds. "The goal of the Series is to attract theatre audiences that are interested in contemporary theatre and its exploration of modern society. Although *Blues for an Alabama Sky* is set in 1930, it plays perfectly for this era of regressive attacks on women's rights and eroding civil liberties. With the importance of telling the truth at the heart of the play, *Blues* is a perfect

choice to open 2023-2024 Unframed at New Stage Theatre, a series of plays that tell the truth without pulling any punches as they examine the complexities of being human in today's world.

The cast of ***Blues for an Alabama Sky*** includes Cecil Hill (Guy Jacobs), Jasmine Rivera (Angel Allen), Marquita Levy (Delia Patterson), Baxter Evans III (Sam Thomas), Timothy Magee (Leland Cunningham).

Xerron Mingo, New Stage's Education Director and Unframed's Producing Director writes that "The Unframed Series is a gem that New Stage offers to local talent on stage and behind the scenes to be able to actually get hands-on. I am elated to be returning as a director for the Unframed Series with what I consider a 'contemporary piece of a time gone by' by Pearl Cleage, ***Blues for an Alabama Sky***. The cast and production team are a dynamic duo and everyone is working very hard to get our delightful series kicked off for our new season."

Created in 2006, The Unframed at New Stage Theatre series provides a distinctive theatre experience to the community. The focus is on producing new works and contemporary drama as an alternative to the traditional New Stage subscription series. Unframed at New Stage provides artistic opportunities to emerging artists, allowing them to get more experience working with a professional theatre company and on fresh, exciting material that is not typically produced on the main stage. Last season, Unframed produced *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Sunset Baby*, *What Every Girl Should Know*, and *Acts of Creation*.

***Blues for an Alabama Sky*** opens Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Additional performances are Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, and Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Tickets go on sale on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and may be purchased online in advance at [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com) for \$10 until Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 within one hour before each show. ***Blues for an Alabama Sky*** contains adult content and language, and is recommended for mature audiences only. The performances are staged at New Stage's Warehouse Theatre. The theatre is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. For more information on The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre, find us on Facebook or Instagram at Unframed at New Stage Theatre or call 601.948.3533 (ex. 222).