

New Stage Theatre Celebrates Mississippi's Rich Musical Heritage with *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*



JACKSON—New Stage Theatre presents the musical *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* May 26 – June 7, 2015. Curtain times and dates for performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Ticket prices are \$28.00 with discounts available for students, senior citizens and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, located inside the Jane Reid Petty Theatre Center, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3531 or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. The production is sponsored by First Commercial Bank, Mississippi Arts Commission, and MDA's Visit Mississippi.

From African chants and Delta spirituals to the urban electricity of a Chicago nightclub, from dusty back roads bluegrass to the twang of a country juke joint, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* is a stirring retrospective of blues classics that summons the soul of American music. Over two dozen musical numbers are included, among them *I'm Your Hoochie-Coochie Man*; *Goodnight, Irene*; *Fever*; *Walkin' After Midnight*; *The Thrill Is Gone* and *Let the Good Times Roll*.

"Mississippi is the Birthplace of America's music and home to the Mississippi Blues Trail and the Mississippi Country Music Trail," said Malcolm White, director of MDA's Visit Mississippi. "We work with partners across the state to tell the Mississippi story in a real, authentic way. We are pleased to partner with New Stage Theatre to share the story of one of our greatest cultural exports—the blues—through the power of the theatre arts."

"I am so excited to close our season with *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*," said artistic director Francine Thomas Reynolds. "Blues music is cherished as an original American art form and since so much of the music originated in Mississippi, it is appropriate that New Stage Theatre produce this show. The audiences are going to be amazed at the talented group of singers, actors and musicians that have been assembled for this high energy and soul infused musical."

The ensemble cast includes Chris Blisset (Jersey City, NJ), James Martin (Camden), Randall Holloway (New York, NY), Tony Perry (Astoria, NY), Kimberly Morgan Myles (Brandon), Mandy Kate Myers (Pearl), and Sharon Miles (Hattiesburg). Musicians include Mike Hampton, Andrew Dillon, Keenan Renfroe, and Jimmy Turner. *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* is directed by Peppy Bidy with Musical Direction by Sheilah Walker. *Blisset and Perry appear through the courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.*

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NEW STAGE *Theatre*

1100 Carlisle Street
Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 948-3533

Immediate Release
Contact Melissa Tillman
601-948-3533, ext. 226
mtillman@newstagetheatre.com

Schedule & Ticket Information

Where:

The Jane Reid Petty Theatre Center,
1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson MS 39202

Dates:

Preview: May 26
Open: May 27
Close: June 7

Performance Times:

Tues. Preview: 7:30 pm
Tues. thru Sat.: 7:30 pm
Sundays: 2:00 pm

Tickets:

\$28.00; seniors/students \$22; group discounts available

Box Office:

Telephone: 601-948-3531
Online: www.newstagetheatre.com
Email: tickets@newstagetheatre.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. from 10 am – 5 pm

Hours During Show:

Tues. Preview: 10 am -7:30
Tues. thru Fri.: 10 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday: 4 pm - 7:30 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 2 pm

Tickets Online:

Tickets may be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.newstagetheatre.com (*a per-ticket service fee of \$3 applies to all online purchases*)

Rush Tickets:

One hour prior to curtain for any performance, students with a current academic ID may purchase an available seat for \$10. *Limit one ticket per ID.*

Information:

Call 601-948-3531 or visit New Stage online at www.newstagetheatre.com

Performance Calendar

May/June

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		26 Preview 7:30 p.m.	27 Post Show Actor Chat 7:30 p.m.	28 7:30 p.m.	29 7:30 p.m.	30 7:30 p.m.
31 2 p.m.	1	2 7:30 p.m.	3 Post Show Actor Chat 7:30 p.m.	4 7:30 p.m.	5 7:30 p.m.	6 7:30 p.m.
7 2 p.m.						

Production Information

Director	Peppy Bidy
Musical Director	Sheilah Walker
Choreographer	Tiffany Jefferson
Stage Manager	Elise McDonald
Scenic Designer	JR Robertson; Sonny White
Lighting Designer	Brent Lefavor
Costume Designer	Lesley Raybon

Company

Chris Blisset
James Martin
Randall Holloway
Tony Perry
Kimberly Morgan Myles
Mandy Kate Myers
Sharon Miles

Musicians

Mike Hampton
Andrew Dillon
Keenan Renfroe
Jimmy Turner