



“Universal enough to touch a chord in every human heart.”
- The New York Times

JACKSON—New Stage Theatre will present the American classic *Fences* by August Wilson April 18 - 30, 2023. 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 \$35.00 with discounts available for students, senior citizens, military, and groups. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3533, or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. This production is sponsored by Entergy. Security will be provided. *Recommended for ages 14 and up.*

Set against the backdrop of 1950's Pittsburgh, August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning drama tells the story of Troy Maxson, a one-time star of the Negro baseball leagues who now works as a garbage man, holding court and expounding on life from the chair in his backyard. Due to his race, Troy was denied his shot at the big league, so when his son Cory wants his own chance to play ball, will Troy's bitterness and resentment threaten to tear their relationship apart? *Fences* explores the walls we build around ourselves and our loved ones, while also illuminating one family's struggles in a racist society.

From the Tony-award winning production of *A Soldier's Play*, Rob Demery makes his New Stage Theatre directorial debut with *Fences*. A graduate of Jackson State University, Demery is most known for his recent portrayal of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Lifetime's Emmy-nominated, hit movie, *Mahalia!* Demery is excited to be directing his former teacher and mentor Mark Henderson who has been a member of the speech/theatre faculty at Jackson State University for the past 28 years, where he has served as department chair, director of theatre, and theatre arts faculty fellow.

"After my Broadway acting experience, I am elated to make my Regional directorial debut at New Stage Theatre," said Rob Demery. "Although August Wilson highlights the black experience in America, the themes present in his works transcend time and race. *Fences* centers around the multi-dimensional characters who deliver truth to our everyday existence in Wilson's masterpiece. It's a new found education for some and a reminder for others. *Fences* is a story about healing. Come have an amazing theatre experience with us!"

"New Stage is delighted to welcome back Rob Demery to direct *Fences*. His passion for the play, and the artistry within the group of artists assembled for this production, promise to deliver a powerful event in our theatre," said Artistic Director Francine Reynolds. "Wilson's masterpiece is an explosive drama about American life and a family caught between history and promise. We're pleased to bring *Fences* back to New Stage Theatre after almost 30 years because its story is just as relevant now, as it ever was."

The cast includes: Mark Henderson as Troy Maxson (Canton), Olivia Dawson* as Rose Maxson (Atlanta, GA), Lawrence Evans* as Jim Bono (Forrest), Durrell Lyons as Lyons (Atlanta, GA), Timothy Magee as Cory Maxson (Jackson), Xerron Mingo as Gabriel Maxson (Jackson), Amani Palmer as Raynell (Jackson), and Charlton Johnson (Greenville), Sharon Miles (Hattiesburg), Devin Hunter (Jackson), Johntia Jackson (Raymond), Hosea Griffith (Jackson), and Ella Young (Ridgeland) as understudies.

**Olivia Dawson and Lawrence Evans appear through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.*

NEW STAGE Theatre

1100 Carlisle Street
Jackson, Miss. 39202
Phone (601) 948-3533

Discount Nights/Events

PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT: Patrons can come to the box office beginning at 6:30 on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. If tickets are available they can be purchased at any value with cash, check, or credit card (\$5 minimum is required if using a credit card). This offer is only valid for the April 18 performance.

JSU NIGHT: Current Jackson State University students and Alumni are encouraged to attend JSU Night on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 for a discounted rate of \$20 per ticket. This discount will only be available by calling the box office and mentioning "JSU night" for the discount.

HBCU NIGHT: Current historically black colleges and university students and Alumni are encouraged to attend HBCU Night on Thursday, April 20, 2023 for a discounted rate of \$20 per ticket. This discount will only be available by calling the box office and mentioning "HBCU night" for the discount.

YOUTH NIGHTS: Youth 18 and under can reserve \$15 tickets for the performance on Friday, April 21, 2023. This discount is only available by calling the box office and mentioning "youth night" for the discount.

STUDENT RUSH DISCOUNT: 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.

Schedule & Ticket Information

Where:

1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson MS 39202

Dates:

Open: April 18, 2023; Close: April 30, 2023

Performance Times:

Tuesday thru Saturday: 7:30 pm; Sundays: 2:00 pm

SchoolFest Matinees:

April 21 and April 27, 2023 at 10:00 am

For more information: mtillman@newstagetheatre.com

Tickets:

\$35; \$30 seniors/students/military

Box Office:

Telephone: 601-948-3533

Online: www.newstagetheatre.com

Email: tickets@newstagetheatre.com

Hours: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hours During Show:

Tuesday thru Friday: 10 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 4 pm - 7:00 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)

Production Information

Director	Rob Demery
Costume Designer	Myrna Colley-Lee
Lighting Designer	André Allen
Scenic Designer	Kellie Nicole Murphy
Sound Designer	ym myla neaj
Properties Designe	Jenna Kahley
Production Stage Manager	Clara Seitz
Assistant Director	RaKaela Thompson
Assistant Stage Manager	Javion Lyons
Sound Engineer	Alberto Meza
Resident Costume Design	Caleb Blackwell
Lead Electrician	Matthew McMurtry
Scenic Artist	Jane Phillips
Lead Carpenter	Jimmy 'JR' Robertson
Assistant Costumer	Nina Frost
Carpenters	Dave Ellis, Darby Frost
Production Associate	Antonio Juarez