



New Stage Dialogues:

**“Impact of the Great Flood of 1927 on the Community
Both Then and Now”**

Thursday, January 31, 2019

6:15 p.m. Hewes Room at New Stage Theatre

VASTI JACKSON is a multiple Grammy nominated world renowned guitarist and vocalist, 2017 Arts Ambassador, 2016 Grammy nominee (*The Soul of Jimmie Rogers*), received the 2015 Albert King Lifetime Guitar Award, 2014 Cultural ambassador, 2012 Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame inductee, and the 2011 Mississippi Living Blues Legend Award recipient. From his early beginnings performing in churches, and juke joints in McComb, Miss., to festivals, concerts, and theatres around the world. Jackson moves effortlessly from blues, to soul, to jazz, to gospel, to world music, and beyond. As an actor Jackson plays Ike Turner in the international musical tour *Simply the Best: The Tina Turner Story*. Jackson currently performs as Robert Johnson in the theatrical presentation *Robert Johnson: The Man, The Myth, The Music*, and as Hobo Bill in the stage play *Jimmie Rodgers: America's Blue Yodeler*. He is a guest artist and composer with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra presentation of Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*. With the Playing For Change Foundation *Creating Positive Change Through Music and Arts Education*, Jackson has helped develop fifteen music schools in twelve countries with more than two thousand students. He has been featured in magazines such as *Guitar Player*, *Living Blues*, *Back to the Roots*, *Nothing But the Blues*, *Juke Blues (England)*, *Blues Revue*, *The 'Sip*, *Blues Matters*, and many other publications. He has performed on Dan Akroyd's *House of Blues Radio Hour*, Starz Encore Network, WGN-TV in Chicago, and PBS. He has performed, written, produced, and recorded music for HBO, VH1, Mississippi Educational Television, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), and radio and television programs in Australia, Uruguay, Finland, and Canada. Jackson is the only Mississippian to have two recordings nominated for the Grammy in the same category, with one win in the same year.

DR. ROBERT LUCKETT received his BA in political science from Yale University and his PhD from the University of Georgia with a focus on modern civil rights movement history. A native Mississippian, he returned home, where he is a tenured Associate Professor of History and Director of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African American Experience at Jackson State University. His book, *Joe T. Patterson and the White South's Dilemma: Evolving Resistance to Black Advancement*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi (2015). Along with other academic publications and presentations at numerous conferences, Robby has appeared in several documentaries, including the Independent Lens film *Spies of Mississippi*. He has served as an expert witness in litigation to end the practice of felony disfranchisement in Mississippi and has testified before the state legislature on the matter. Robby is an Advisory Board member for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Mississippi Book Festival, and he serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Common Cause Mississippi and as Secretary of the Board for the Association of African American Museums. In 2017, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba appointed him to the Board of Trustees of Jackson Public Schools. Robby has three children: Silas, Hazel, and Flip.

DR. ROLANDO HERTS is a native of the Arkansas Delta region. As director of The Delta Center, he serves as executive director of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, a Congressionally designated partnership with the National Park Service. As a 2016 Executive Academy Fellow with the Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute, he was awarded an executive education certificate from the 2017 Authentic Leadership for the 21st Century Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Herts serves on the Alliance of National Heritage Areas governing board, the Mississippi Blues Commission, and the Mississippi Historical Society Board of Directors. He also recently received a gubernatorial appointment to the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services. Previously, Dr. Herts served as Associate Director with the Office of University-Community Partnerships at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. As a Leadership Newark Fellow, he received the Berkowitz Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to the Greater Newark community. He also is an alumnus of the Teach For America Mississippi Delta corps and the Engagement Scholarship Consortium's Emerging Engagement Scholar Program. Dr. Herts holds a Ph.D. in planning and public policy from Rutgers Graduate School-New Brunswick. He also holds a M.A. in Social Science from The University of Chicago and a B.A. in English from Morehouse College.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSEUM DISCOUNT

As part of our partnership with the Museum of Mississippi History, New Stage Theatre will offer discounts to ticket holders who tour the museum and attend *Hell in High Water* at New Stage. When patrons purchase tickets to the museum, they will be able to show their ticket stub to the New Stage Theatre

YOUTH NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

We are proud to offer “Youth Night” for *Hell in High Water* performances on Tuesday, February 5th; youth, ages 18 and under can purchase \$10 tickets; hosted by New Stage Theatre’s Youth Acting Troupe, the evening includes a showcase, by the Youth Acting Troupe, as well as admission to the *Hell in High*

ACTOR CHATS

Stay and meet the cast after *Hell in High Water* following the show on Wednesday, February 6. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, directors, and designers in an informal setting.

EXHIBIT

Photos from the 1927 Flood Collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be on display during the run of *Hell in High Water* in the Hewes Room.

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*Do what makes
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MARCH 13-24, 2019

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