

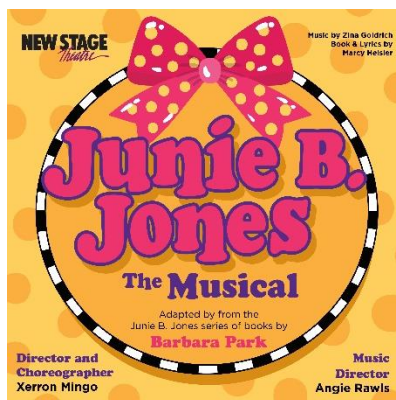
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JeriAnna Shaw
 601-948-3533 ext. 225
jshaw@newstagetheatre.com

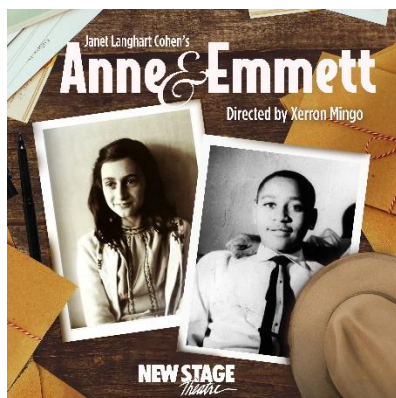
New Stage Theatre Announces Arts-in-Education Touring Productions for 2023-2024 Season

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 2023-2024 school year.

This season, New Stage will present *Junie B. Jones, The Musical* created by Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich and *Anne & Emmett* by Janet Langhart Cohen as touring productions. Both shows will be performed for Mississippi schools by the associate artist company, a racially diverse company of five actors who have recently graduated from college with degrees in theatre.



Junie B. Jones, The Musical -- America's favorite elementary school student, Junie B. Jones, comes to life onstage in this adaptation of three books in Barbara Park's popular book series of the same name. Clad with purple glasses and all, Junie B., along with her classmates, parents, and teachers, sings and dances her way through the first grade, and while chronicling her adventures in her "top secret personal beeswax" journal, she learns the importance of facing obstacles head-on and turning bad situations into good ones. *Junie B. Jones, The Musical*, though written as a piece of theatre for young audiences, is fun for the entire family and highlights the timeless themes of friendship, acceptance, and humility. Available for performances beginning November 7, 2023 through May 9, 2024.



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. Though worlds away from each other, both Anne Frank and Emmett Till were just 14 years old when they fell victim to hate and intolerance. Together both Anne and Emmett speak as teenagers do. Although isolated from the violence of their lives in the place called Memory, both discuss the injustices they faced and the actions that lead

to their horrible ends recognizing the similarities between them. The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "*Anne and Emmett* should be seen in every school in America!" This show is best suited for middle and high school audiences. Performances for this show are available beginning October 10, 2023 through May 9, 2024.

Directed by Xerron X Mingo, Education Director at New Stage, *Junie B Jones*, *The Musical* and *Anne & Emmett* will be performed by New Stage's Associate Artist Company members Vern Allen, Jade K. Dyer, Baxter Evans III, Morgan McKay, and Paul Pelletier, Jr.

New Stage is offering the tours to schools and communities for \$650 - \$900, 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*, *Theatre 101*, *Welcome to the World of Williams Shakespeare*, *Dramatizing Stories*, *Devised Theatre*, *Dramatizing History*, and *Stage Combat*, or customize a workshop to fit the needs of your classroom. Teacher Workshops are available for schools as professional development as well.

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) offers mini-grant programs that can match the cost of your tour or workshop. New Stage can help you with the paperwork and suggest other funding options! Deadline to apply is November 1, 2023. For more information, call the Mississippi Arts Commission at 601-359-6030 or visit them online at arts.state.ms.us.

New Stage Theatre Touring shows have been accepted to the Mississippi Artist Roster by the Mississippi Arts Commission. The Mississippi Arts Commission's Artist Roster is a listing of artists who have been accepted to the Teaching Artist Roster, the Mississippi Artist Roster, or both. Each artist or arts group applied and went through a thorough review by a panel of artists, presenters and educators. Grant funds are available to organizations for presenting Roster Artists.

New Stage has a strong reputation for presenting quality performances and has been touring successfully to high school and middle schools since 1990. The tours travel throughout the state, from Clarksdale to New Albany to Gautier and most of the public school districts New Stage visits are to underserved audiences. In the 2023-2024 season, the associate artist company performed *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* and *Anne & Emmett* to 41 schools.

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. Founded by Jane Reid-Petty with the assistance of the American National Theatre Academy and Actor's Equity Association, dedication to professional excellence in theatre arts was part of the theatre's original mission. 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 Entergy Mississippi, The Chisholm Foundation, the Community Foundation for Mississippi, and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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

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