

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Stage Theatre Announces Arts-in-Education Touring Productions for 2024-2025 Season

JACKSON, MISS.—New Stage Theatre, a professional theatre located in Jackson, Mississippi, announces its productions for the Arts-in-Education statewide touring program available to schools, libraries, and community centers during the 2024-2025 school year.

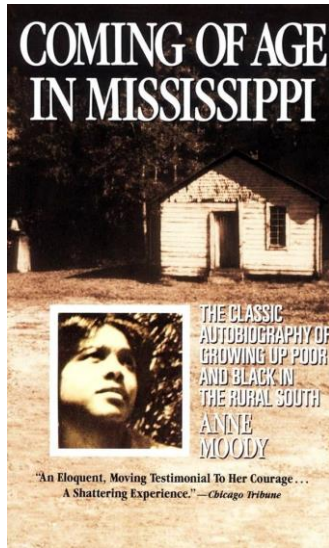
This season, New Stage will tour *A Year with Frog and Toad* written by Willie Reale with music by Robert Reale (available October 15, 2024 through May 6, 2025) and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (available November 15, 2024 through May 6, 2025) as touring productions. Beginning in February of 2025, New Stage Ed will also present *We Shall Not be Moved: Courage in Mississippi* (Title Pending) co-authored by Francine Thomas Reynolds and Sharon Miles inspired by the 1968 memoir *Coming of Age in Mississippi: The Classic Autobiography of Growing Up Poor and Black in the Rural South* by Anne Moody and the 2014 novel *We Shall Not be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit-In and the Movement It Inspired* by M.J. O'Brien. These touring productions 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.



A Year with Frog and Toad - This charming musical follows the story of a friendship that endures throughout the seasons. Waking from hibernation in the Spring, Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, go sledding, and learn life lessons along the way. The two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special. Part vaudeville, part make-believe... all charm! The jazzy, upbeat score of *A Year with Frog and Toad* bubbles with melody and wit, making it an inventive, exuberant, and enchanting musical, perfect for introducing theatre to youngsters while keeping adults entertained, as well. **Available for performances beginning October 15, 2024 through May 6, 2025.**



William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* -- Grief can play tricks on the mind, even conjure ghosts. But when Hamlet's dead father appears to him one night, he signals murder, not madness. Hamlet's mother has married his uncle, and at a less than decent interval too. As he pulls at the threads of his not-so-happy new family, Hamlet unravels a web of deceit and immorality that leads to the ultimate crisis of conscience. **Available performances beginning November 15, 2024 through May 6, 2025.**



We Shall Not Be Moved: Courage in Mississippi (Title Pending) This show is inspired by the 1968 memoir *Coming of Age in Mississippi The Classic Autobiography of Growing Up Poor and Black in the Rural South* by Anne Moody and the 2014 novel *We Shall Not be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit-In and the Movement It Inspired* by M.J. O'Brien. The 60-minute

original play with music features the events and people of the modern civil rights movement in Mississippi, and includes historical information about Emmett Till; Medgar and Myrlie Evers; Ross Barnett; the Citizens' Council and the Sovereignty Commission; the Freedom Rides; James Meredith and the 1962 integration of Ole Miss; the 1963 Woolworth's sit-in; civil rights organizations like the Council of Federal Organizations, and the NAACP; 1964 Freedom Summer; Fannie Lou Hamer; the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; the Meredith March against Fear; and many other topics

in the field. **Available performances beginning February 4, 2025 through May 6, 2025.**

Directed by Xerron X Mingo, Education Director at New Stage, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Hamlet*, and *We Shall Not Be Moved: Courage in Mississippi (Title Pending)* will be performed by New Stage's Associate Artist Company members Keith Allen Davis, Jr., Tatiana Grace, Jacob Heuer, Ashlyn Pinkerton, and Cameron Vipperman.

New Stage is offering 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 before 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 William 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.

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.

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! The deadline to apply is November 1, 2024. For more information, call the Mississippi Arts Commission at 601-359-6030 or visit them online at arts.state.ms.us.

New Stage has a strong reputation for presenting quality performances and has been touring successfully to high schools 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 *Junie B. Jones*, *The Musical* and *Anne & Emmett* to 42 organizations in 18 Mississippi counties. Almost 12,000 students were delighted, entertained, and educated by New Stage Theatre's professional acting company.

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 The Chisholm Foundation and Entergy Mississippi.

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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