

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mia J McElroy

Office (601) 948-3533 ext. 225

mmcelroy@newstagetheatre.com

1100 Carlisle Street

 Jackson, Miss. 39202

 Phone (601) 948-3533

**Uncover the Man Behind the Legend in *The Mountaintop*, Opening February 4th at New Stage Theatre!**

**JACKSON**— New Stage Theatre is proud to present Katori Hall’s ***The Mountaintop***, a powerful and thought-provoking drama that reimagines the final night of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before his assassination. Opening February 4 and running through February 16, ***The Mountaintop*** takes audiences behind the public figure to reveal a deeply human and vulnerable side of one of history’s most iconic leaders. Curtain times and dates for performances are February 4 – 8, 11, and 13 – 15 at 7:00 p.m., February 12 at 1:00 p.m., and February 9 & 16 at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are $35.00 with discounts available for students, senior citizens, military, and groups. A special Schoolfest Matinee performance is at 10:00 a.m. on February 6. Tickets can be purchased at the box office, charged by phone by calling the theatre at (601) 948-3533 Ext 223, or ordered online at www.newstagetheatre.com. For Schoolfest Matinee booking information, contact Melissa Tillman at 601-948-3533 ext. 226 or mtillman@newstagetheatre.com. Security provided and patrols during performances. *Recommended for ages 14+.*

Set in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, Dr. King, portrayed by Shabazz Green\*, grapples with his legacy and the weight of his leadership during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. When a mysterious hotel maid, Camae, played by Anquanizia Hall\*, arrives with his coffee, their conversation sparks a journey of reflection, revelation, and connection. Blending historical fiction with elements of magical realism, ***The Mountaintop*** challenges the way we view not just Dr. King, but the complexities of leadership, sacrifice, and mortality.

Jumping back into the director’s seat for ***The Mountaintop*** is Xerron X Mingo. Having previously directed last season’s ***Chicken & Biscuits*** and ***Sister Act Jr.***, Mingo also serves as the Education Director for New Stage Theatre and could not be more blessed to continue teaching, coaching, and mentoring. When it comes to ***The Mountaintop,*** “This show humanizes a lot of what ifs about a civil rights icon. It allows the audiences a chance to take what they know about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and appreciate him even more for just being human. With such a phenomenal cast and production team audiences are sure to laugh, cry, get offended, cry and laugh again all in one sitting! It is a roller coaster ride. Show up, Hang on and see what happens!”

Artistic Director, Francine Thomas Reynolds says, “***The Mountaintop*** is an extraordinary contemporary play by Memphian Katori Hall. Through a gripping re-imagination of events the night before the assassination of the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the play serves to properly honor his contributions and courage. Infused with theatricality and spirituality, ***The Mountaintop*** merges confrontation and humor to inspire a deeper look at Dr. King, his message and ourselves.”

There will be a special preview and salon on January 30, where Director Xerron X Mingo and the cast of ***The Mountaintop***, Shabazz Green\* (New Jersey) as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anquanizia Hall\* (Meridian) as Camae, will discuss the making of the production and the highlighted themes of race, identity, leadership, and mortality. Refreshments will be served and RSVP is required. If interested, please contact Mia J. McElroy at 601-948-3533 ext. 225 or mmcelroy@newstagetheatre.com *\*appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association*

**Event Details**

*Location:* New Stage Theatre 1100 Carlisle St. Jackson, MS 39202

*Dates:* February 4 – 8, 11, 13 – 15 at 7:00 p.m.; February 9 & 16 at 2:00 p.m.; February 12 at 1:00 p.m.

*Tickets*: $35; $30 Seniors/Students/Military Available at 601-948-3533 Ext. 223 & [www.newstagetheatre.com](http://www.newstagetheatre.com)

Now in its 59th season, New Stage is committed to exploring new worlds of theatre, including challenging new works in development, important contemporary plays, and classics selected for their artistic merit, their power to illuminate the human condition, and their impact on the community.

For press inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact Mia J. McElroy at 601-948-3533 ext. 225 or at Mmcelroy@newstagetheatre.com.

**Discount Nights**

**PAY WHAT YOU WANT NIGHT**: Patrons can come to the box office beginning at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 4 and name their price at the door. Valid for the February 4 performance only. Subject to availability ($5 minimum on all credit card purchases).

**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.

**MISSISSIPPI THEATRE NIGHT:** To celebrate Mississippi’s thriving theatre community, anyone who mentions ‘Mississippi Theatre” can reserve $20 tickets for the performance on Friday, February 7. This discount is only available by calling the box office and mentioning “Mississippi Theatre” for the discount.

**MS EDUCATOR NIGHT:** To highlight and honor Mississippi’s teachers, counselors, historians, and librarians, we’re offering a special ticket price of $20 to all educators for the performance on Tuesday, February 11. Discount not available online.

**COUPLES NIGHT:** Its date night at New Stage Theatre on Friday, February 14! Buy one ticket for that night’s performance and get the second one half off. Valid for the February 14 performance only.

**Production Staff**

**Director** Xerron X Mingo

**Assistant Director** Keith Allen Davis, Jr.

**Production Stage Manager** Mattea Pierce

**Production Manager** Casey Nelms

**Technical Director** Richard Lawrence

**Scenic Designer**  Braden Graves

**Costume Designer** Deonica Davis

**Sound + Projection Designer** Alberto Meza

**Light Designer** Matt Webb

**Properties Designer** Joey Ford

**Lead Electrician**  Matthew McMurtry

**Costume Shop Supervisor** Nina Frost

**Production Assistant** Darby Frost

**Carpenters** Dave Ellis, Antonio Juarez