

New Stage Theatre presents

IT AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT THE BLUES



Book, Lyrics, and Music by **Charles Bevel, Lita Gaithers,
Randal Myler, Ron Taylor and Dan Wheetman**
Based on an original idea by **Ron Taylor**

Directed by **Peppy Biddy** Musical Direction by **Sheilah Walker**
Choreographed by **Tiffany Jefferson**

May 26 – June 7, 2015



Sponsored by



Stage Manager
Elise McDonald

Projection Designer
Richard Schug

Lighting Designer
Brent Lefavor

Costume Designer
Lesley Raybon

Scenic Designer
Jimmy "JR" Robertson
and
Marvin "Sonny" White

Technical Director/
Properties Designer
Richard Lawrence

NEW STAGE
Theatre

IT AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT THE BLUES

Originally produced on Broadway by Eric Krebs, Jonathan Reinis, Lawrence Horowitz, Anita Waxman, Elizabeth Williams, CTM Productions and Anne Squandron, in association with Lincoln Center Electric Factory Concerts, Adam & David Friedson, Richard Martini, Marcia Roberts and Murray Schwartz. The original cast album, released by MCA Records, was produced and mixed by Spencer Proffer.

Photographs from the Mississippi Blues Trail taken by David Leonard.

Photographs from the book "Juke Joint" taken by Birney Imes.

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Tomato Packer's Recess
Chopping the Field
Home by Dark
Carrying Ice on Sunday Morning
Mother In White Dress and Child
Girl with Arms Akimbo
Circle of Children
Madonna with Coca – Cola

"It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" is presented by special arrangement
with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

There will be one 10 minute intermission

This production of *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* is dedicated to

Riley "B.B." King
September 16, 1925 – May 14, 2015

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

MISSISSIPPI BLUES TRAIL

The Mississippi Blues Trail is a series of historic markers that explore the music culture of the region, informing visitors and locals alike of state's rich musical legacy. These markers share the stories of blues musicians, venues, communities and experiences. The Mississippi Blues Trail attracts blues fans from around the globe who are seeking a deeper understanding of the musical style that is at the root of so many other forms of music. It offers a way to learn about the blues as an original art form as well as a way to explore the experiences of the men and women behind the music. The sites run the gamut from city streets to cotton fields, train depots to cemeteries, and clubs to churches.

The mission of the Mississippi Blues Trail is three-fold: To recognize and honor the contributions of Mississippi blues artists and the influence of time and place on their music; to encourage community pride through education; to use cultural heritage tourism as an economic engine, especially in underserved areas.

The Mississippi Blues Trail has become a source of civic pride for many Mississippians, particularly those in rural areas where the markers often serve as one of the only cultural landmarks in the community.

The Mississippi Blues Trail was enacted by the Mississippi Legislature in 2004 as a way to celebrate the state's musical culture. The first marker was placed in the ground in December 2006. Continuous expansion of the Mississippi Blues Trail throughout the state, country, and the world is a testament to the local, national, and global influence of blues music and culture. The Mississippi Blues Trail consists of more than 170 markers throughout the state. There also are thirteen out-of-state Blues Trail markers, two of which are located outside of the U.S.: one in Norway, commemorating the Notodden Blues Festival, and the other in France, commemorating the Cahors Blues Festival.

The Mississippi Blues Commission is a body of eighteen appointed Commissioners representing major organizations and geographic/political regions supporting blues initiatives throughout the state. One of the Commission's major projects is ongoing management of The Mississippi Blues Trail, as well as the Blues Musician's Benevolent Fund.

Many of Mississippi's blues musicians are living in extreme poverty, in need of food, shelter, medical care and other assistance. House Bill No. 1160 allows the Mississippi Blues Commission to "raise and expend grant funds to provide assistance to any blues musician in need." The Benevolent Committee of the MBC has been set up to oversee the distribution of these funds.

To learn more about the Trail, request a map, download the app, donate to the Benevolent Fund or purchase a Mississippi Blues Trail license plate, visit www.msbluestrail.org. The Mississippi Blues Trail is administered by the Bureau of Creative Economy & Culture at Visit Mississippi, the state tourism office.

CAST

Chris “Red” Blisset*

James Martin

Randall Holloway

Tony Perry*

Kimberly Morgan Myles

Mandy Kate Myers

Sharon Miles

THE MUSICIANS

Musical Director/Piano Sheilah Walker

Bass/Violin..... Andrew Dillon

Tenor SaxophoneMike Hampton

Drums/Percussion Keenan Renfroe

Drums/Percussion Swing.....Javotney McCune

GuitarJimmy Turner

On Stage Guitar/Harmonica/BanjoChris “Red” Blisset*

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

ACT I

Odun De.	Company
Niwah Wechi.	Sharon and Company
Blood Done Signed My Name.	Tony and Kimberly
Raise Them Up Higher.	James
I'm Gonna Do What the Spirit Says Do.	Kimberly
I've Been Living with the Blues.	Company
Blues Man.	Tony
My Home's Across The Blue Ridge Mountains.	Mandy Kate
"T" for Texas.	Red
Who Broke The Lock?	Randall and James
My Man Rocks Me.	Sharon
St. Louis Blues.	Kimberly
Now I'm Gonna Be Bad.	Mandy Kate
Walkin' Blues.	James
Come On In My Kitchen.	Randall
Cross Road Blues.	James
I Know I've Been Changed.	Kimberly
Child of the Most High King.	MEN
Children, Your Line Is Draggin'.	Randall
Catch On Fire.	Company

ACT II

Let the Good Times Roll.	Tony
Sweet Home Chicago.	Randall and James
Wang Dang Doodle.	WOMEN
Someone Else Is Steppin' In.	Sharon
I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man.	Tony
Mind Your Own Business.	Red
Walking After Midnight.	Mandy Kate
I Can't Stop Lovin You.	James
The Thrill Is Gone.	Tony
I Put A Spell On You.	Sharon
Fever.	Mandy Kate
Good Night, Irene.	James and Red
Strange Fruit.	Kimberly
Members Only.	Company
Let The Good Times Roll (Reprise).	Company

THE CAST



CHRIS BLISSET* is pleased to make his New Stage Theatre debut. He was musical director and actor in both national tours of *Stand by Your Man*. Other favorites include: *The Full Monty*, *Ring of Fire*, *Twelfth Night*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Civil War*, *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Rock Show* - off-Broadway - and *Bloodsong of Love* - off-Broadway – (actor, musician, director, musical director in various.) He can be seen doing stand-up comedy and is the musical director of *The Grand Tour*, a George Jones tribute act. Blisset is also the composer of the new musical *Basquiat*, currently in development. www.chrisblisset.com, @chrisblisset.



RANDALL HOLLOWAY is thrilled to be making his debut at New Stage Theatre. Holloway was recently seen in Skyline's Theatre production of *Dreamgirls* as Curtis. He is a graduate of the prestigious Howard University, where he received his Bachelor in Fine Arts. He has been on Off-Broadway productions of *Rentboy* (Don K. Dick) and *The Mutilated* (Sailor). Prior to New York he has been in *The Wiz* (Tinman), *A Chorus Line* (Richie), and *Company* (Peter). He has also made television debuts on hit shows like MTV's "Girls Code" and "Investigation

Discovery: Deadly Affairs". In the fall he will be filming a new web series call "Atomic Annie" playing the character Gentleman Stan. He would like to thank his family and close friends for continuing to show love, and being a positive influence while he continues to pursue a career in entertainment. Take a look at www.randall-holloway.com. Follow Randall on Instagram @rholloway87.



JAMES MARTIN is pleased to be making his New Stage debut with this production. An internationally acclaimed performer, he has been recognized for his performances in opera, concert, musical theatre, on recordings, and as a teaching artist. He is a frequent guest artist with the New York Festival of Song, Copland House, the Moab Music Festival and Continuum. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Jazz @ Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Regionally he has appeared with MS Opera, the MS Symphony, multiple concert and theatrical venues around the southeast, including Tulane Summer Lyric in

New Orleans where he received high praise for his portrayals of Joe in *Show Boat*, the Leading Player in *Pippin*, and a Big Easy nomination for his performance as Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. Martin holds degrees and honors from Illinois Wesleyan University and the Juilliard School. He currently serves as Minister of Music and Creative Arts for Wells UMC here in Jackson, and is adjunct instructor of voice at Millsaps College.



SHARON MILES received her theatre training from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS. She currently serves as Community and Creative Arts Director for Ekklesia Hattiesburg. As a writer, director, and all around supporter of the arts, she is extremely thankful for co-workers and students that inspire creativity and spark laughter daily. Some favorite theatrical roles include: Fannie Lou Hamer in *All the Way*, Miss Nelson in the children's musical *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Mildred in *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, Nella in *Gee's Bend* and Clemma in Neil Simon's *Proposals*. Miles also appeared in the original cast of Francis X. Fuhn's *Voices of Freedom Summer* portraying the Mississippi Civil Rights legend, Fannie Lou Hamer. Other New Stage credits include: *The Ponder Heart*, *Shrek*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Annie*, and *Hairspray*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support and encouragement!



MANDY KATE MYERS, a Forest native, is excited to be back with New Stage Theatre and honored to be a part of this talented cast. Mandy Kate was last seen on the New Stage main stage as Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*. Most recently, she appeared as CB's Sister in the New Stage Unframed Series production of *Dog Sees God*. Other memorable roles include Mama Bear in *Shrek The Musical*, Amy in *Company*, Old Lady in *Goodnight Moon*, Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Star-To-Be in *Annie* and Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Show*. A graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi, Myers serves on the Board of Directors for both Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet and Fondren Theatre Workshop.



KIMBERLY MORGAN-MYLES is ecstatic to join this incredible cast in her New Stage Theatre debut. Myles is the former Miss Mississippi 2007 and a semi-finalist in 2008 Miss America Pageant. She's worked professionally in film and regional theatres across the US and has performed in London, Scotland, and France. She has performed in numerous shows such as *Oliver*, *Ragtime*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Learned Ladies*, *Fences*, *Hairspray*, and more. She also loves directing plays and musical, as well. Myles has an MFA in acting from University of Southern Mississippi and a B.S. in vocal music from Alcorn State University. She currently is an assistant professor in theatre and creative writing at Tougaloo College. She is the proud wife of theatre and film actor and JSU professor, Yohance Myles. They are excited to announce welcoming a "bundle of joy" to the family this November!



TONY PERRY* has been seen on the New York stage in the US premiere of Murray Schisgal's *"74 Georgia Ave.,"* which was performed in English and Yiddish; *Martin: A New Musical*; *A Shelter In Our Car*; *Allegro*; *Repo: The Genetic Opera*; *The Groove Factory*; *Cross That River*; and *The Bonus Army*. Regional: *Parade*; *Five Guys Named Moe*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *The Rocky Horror Show*; *Me and My Girl*; *Big River*. As a singer-songwriter he has performed all across the northeast, has three CDs available at www.tonyperry.com, and iTunes. He is a proud member of Actors Equity Association.

THE MUSICIANS

SHEILAH V. WALKER (Music Director/Piano) is blessed to return to New Stage, after having been music director for a production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* here over 11 years ago. Her extensive credits as both music director/conductor and associate conductor, include Broadway, national and international tours of: *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Ragtime*; *Porgy and Bess*; *The Color Purple*; *Hello, Dolly*; *South Pacific*; *Singin' in the Rain*; *The Mystery of the Edwin Droid*; and *Phantom of the Opera*, with such Broadway Tony winners and nominees as Audra MacDonald, Norm Lewis, David Alan Grier, Fantasia, Brian Stokes Mitchell, LaChanze, Robert Goulet, Joel Grey, Carol Channing, Christine Ebersole, Theodore Bikel, Jean Stapleton, and Topol. She has been musical director of numerous regional productions, and has been represented as Music Supervisor in London's West End and only recently conducted at New York City's Lincoln Center with Tony winners Tyne Daly, Patina Miller, and Lea Salonga. She was a voice coach in NYC, an award-winning teacher at Dallas' performing arts high school, and she has been an actress in several regional productions around the country.

ANDREW DILLON (Bass/Violin) is a Jackson, Miss. native. He is the son of local blues legend, Sherman Lee Dillon. Dillon has a Bachelor's Degree in music education from Jackson State University. He served as Concert Master in the JSU Chamber Orchestra for four years before graduating in 2013. He has since been performing Blues and R&B in central Mississippi as "Mr. Dillon and the Jukebox" as well as playing fiddle in the "Angel Bandits". Dillon has played for several New Stage productions including: *Shrek The Musical*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Hairspray*, and *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*. Dillon teaches music at North Jackson Elementary School.
MIKE HAMPTON (Tenor Saxophone) is a native of Baltimore, Md. He attended Montgomery College and Catholic University in Washington D.C. before receiving a bachelor's and master's degrees in instrumental music education from Mississippi State University. He played professionally for three years in the Washington D.C. area before moving to Mississippi. Hampton currently lives in Clinton and has been teaching at Terry High School for the past 18 years. He has played professionally in the Jackson area since 1987.

The logo consists of two overlapping speech bubbles. The top bubble is larger and contains the text "actor chat" in a stylized, lowercase font. The bottom bubble is smaller and empty.

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* following the show on Wednesday, May 27 and Wednesday, June 3. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.

JAVOTNEY MCCUNE (Drums/Percussion Swing) was born in Newton, Miss. Since birth he has always had a love for music. As a child, McCune's mother would often notice him playing drums in his sleep or mouthing out rhythms. It was then that his family knew that he would be a musician. McCune is a graduate of Newton High School where he was a part of many bands and also the school choir. He attends Jackson State University where he is studying music. During his tenure at JSU he has played for many ensembles and artist such as The Jackson State University Jazz Ensemble II, Hinds Community College Utica Gospel Choir, Internationally known Ezra Brown, Lenelle Smith & M.I.M.E., and other local groups and ensembles. After college, McCune will continue to pursue a career in music and has hopes of playing on big stages with many mainstream artists.

KEENAN RENFROE (Drums/Percussion) is a 2015 graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management. Originally from Memphis, TN, he began playing drums at the age of 2, and has been embellishing his musical craft in various genres and percussive instruments since the age of 11. He was a member of Jackson State University's "Sonic Boom of the South" marching band, Jackson State University's Jazz Ensemble, the 2014 National HBCU All Star jazz ensemble, and acquired a role as James Brown's drummer Clayton Fillyau in the 2014 biopic "Get On Up". Renfroe is a proud member of Mu Phi Sigma National Percussion Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. To conclude, he is currently the drummer for International Blues artist Grady Champion, Recording Gospel Artist Jason Gibson & Destiny Project, and international songstress Akami Graham and the Key of G.

JIMMY TURNER (Guitar) earned his Bachelor's of Music and Masters in Music in guitar performance degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. Turner maintains an active private studio, performance schedule, and serves as an adjunct faculty member at Millsaps College. His students have won top honors and prizes in local and state competitions. He also teaches the courses "World Music: Traditions And Transformations" and "American Popular Music Genres" at Tulane University in Madison. Turner has played in New Stage Theatre's productions of *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; *The Marvelous Wonderettes*; *Hairspray*; *Shrek The Musical*; and *One Man, Two Guvnors*.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

PEPPY BIDDY (Director) is the 2015 recipient of Mississippi Theatre Association's Cowboy Maloney award for outstanding contributions to theatre in the state. He returns to New Stage Theatre after directing last year's *Shrek The Musical*. Biddy earned his MFA at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and has served as actor, director, and stage manager for such theatres as Dallas Theatre Center, Casa Manana (Ft. Worth), Dallas Repertory Theatre, Dallas Children's Theatre, Theatre Three, Dallas Summer Musicals and Mill Mountain Theatre (Roanoke, VA). He has also served as production manager for Sundance Theatre Lab in Utah for eleven summers. As a professor at Mississippi University for Women, Biddy has been awarded the Kossen Faculty Excellence Award and Columbus Educator of the Year. Other New Stage credits include *Gutenberg! The Musical! Idols of the King, Ain't Misbehavin' A Grand Night for Singing, Crowns, Hank Williams: Lost Highway, The Fantasticks, Smokey Joe's Café, The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *The 39 Steps*.

TIFFANY JEFFERSON (Choreographer) is the director of the Hinds Community College Dance Department in Raymond where she was the 2013 Humanities Teacher of Year Recipient and the Life Star Award Recipient. Jefferson is the artistic director of Montage Theatre of Dance and one of the lead instructors of Dance Works Studio in Byram. She obtained her Master's Degree in dance education from Wichita State University, and received her undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University where she was the 1996 Miss Black Oklahoma and an All-American collegiate cheerleader. She has choreographed for numerous New Stage productions including *Peter Pan; Shrek The Musical; I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Willy Wonka, Jr.; Pirates of Penzance, Jr.; Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr.; Beauty and the Beast, Jr.;* and *Music Man, Jr.* Jefferson has performed at Carnegie Hall, Bridgewater College, The Shanghai Acrobats, The Historic Little Rock Central High School, the Kennedy Center, the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the Scottish Fringe Festival, the Grand Ole Opry, and the Lincoln Center. Jefferson is happily married to her husband Joe and is also the proud mother of 3, Jordan, Jones, and Kennedy.

ELISE MCDONALD (Stage Manager) is in her fourth season at New Stage. She is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre. She began stage management while at Southern and was able to work on shows such as *Light Up the Sky, A Lesson From Aloes, Fallen Angels, The Good Doctor, Big Love, Little Shop of Horrors,* and *Electra*. She was also able to stage manage *Carmen* with the Mississippi Opera. She worked as a Production Assistant in Stage Management at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre and had the chance to work backstage on shows such as *Les Miserable, The Foreigner, The Elephant Man* and *The Who's Tommy*. McDonald has previously stage managed several shows at New Stage Theatre including: *Twelfth Night, Driving Miss Daisy, Dracula, Annie, Lombardi, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, All My Sons, The Marvelous Wonderettes, The Foreigner, The Great Gatsby, A Christmas Memory, Cat in the Hat, Mahalia, Other Desert Cities, Hairspray, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club, The Grapes of Wrath, A Christmas Carol, Goodnight Moon, The Whipping Man, The Miss Firecracker Contest* and

Shrek the Musical. She is excited to be working with New Stage and would like to thank her family and friends for their unending support!

BRENT LEFAVOR (Lighting Designer) M.A., MFA, has been a professional director and set/lighting designer since 1976. He designed lights at Robert Redford's Sundance Summer Theatre; was a founding member, director and designer for Walk-On's Inc. in Salt Lake City; worked as a director and designer Grand Teton Mainstage theatre in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Lefavor moved to Mississippi in 1983 where he taught for 25 years at a local liberal arts college. During that time he directed numerous productions, designed sets and lights for more than 100 shows, and taught in all areas of theater education. Lefavor begins his fifth season at New Stage Theatre where he has designed lights for numerous productions; his set designs for New Stage include: ***All My Sons, The Miracle Worker, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Smokey Joe's Café, Noises Off*** and ***You're a Good Man Charlie Brown***. He has been seen as an actor in Jackson, appearing as Tevye in ***Fiddler on the Roof***, Cromwell in ***A Man for All Seasons*** and C.S. Lewis in ***Shadowlands***.

LESLEY RAYBON (Costume Designer) joined New Stage in 2004 as an acting intern and since then has worked both onstage and off. She has found her place as the resident costume designer and she has enjoyed designing shows and working with guest designers and costume shop assistants. Some of her favorite shows include: ***The Grapes of Wrath, The Great Gatsby, Goodnight Moon***, and ***The Cat in The Hat***. When not at New Stage, she is a barista at Starbucks, a puppeteer with Puppet Arts Theatre, and wife to her wonderful husband Lawrence.

JIMMY "JR" ROBERTSON (Scenic Designer) has been involved in set design work since high school and at New Stage since college. He also has designed sets for Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Mississippi Opera, Actor's Theatre, Black Rose Theatre and for the Galloway UMC Players. Among his favorite designs were those for ***LuAnn Hampton Lavyerty Oberlander, Talley's Folley, Some Rain*** and ***Arsenic and Old Lace***. His "real" job was in the field of education where he has served, until retirement, as a teacher, curriculum assistant, principal and personnel director.

MARVIN "SONNY" WHITE (Scenic Designer) is a former resident set designer at New Stage, and has been involved with the theatre since 1978. Among his favorite sets were those for ***The Trip to Bountiful, Talley's Folly, A Streetcar Named Desire*** and ***The Hasty Heart***. Other design experience includes sets for Mississippi College, Millsaps and the Mississippi Opera. An assistant attorney general for the State of Mississippi, he also was adjunct professor of set design at Mississippi College from 1990-2003.

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director/Properties Designer) serves as the Vice President of Fondren Theatre Workshop and most recently appeared in ***A Christmas Memory*** at New Stage, FTW's ***The Rocky Horror Show, Buck Nekkid for Jesus***, and directed FTW's Christmas show, ***Every Christmas Story Ever Told***. He also was the director of the widely successful productions of ***Cabaret***, and ***Company***, which were joint productions of FTW, and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence, has been seen in New Stage productions of ***Trip to Bountiful*** and UnFramed's ***The Eight: Reindeer Monologues, How I Learned to Drive, The Weir, Circle Mirror Transformation, and Dublin Carol***. Lawrence has won two "Best Set" awards at Mississippi Theater Association conferences.

RICHART SCHUG (Projection Designer/Design Assistant/Production Assistant) has worked as a scenic painter and designer in New York at Purchase College SUNY, as well as at Timberlake Playhouse in Illinois, and Attic Theatre in Wisconsin. He has been at New Stage since September 2012.

CLARA SEITZ (Assistant Stage Manager/Scenic Charge Artist/Production Assistant) is a graduate of the Mississippi University for Women and has been with New Stage for the last three seasons. *The Miss Firecracker Contest* is her twelfth show at New Stage. Previous credits include scenic design for *High School Musical, Jr.*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and *Dublin Carol*. Seitz was also the scenic designer for the Unframed series production *Stick Fly*.

Costume AssistantKristin Johnson
Sound Board Engineer..... Chuck Reynolds
Projection Operator Cory Drake
Light Board Operator..... Amanda Dear
Running Crew Kristin Johnson, Clara Seitz

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has worked as a professional actress and director for more than 24 years. She has been the artistic director at New Stage Theatre since 2006 and most recently directed *One Man, Two Guvnors* and *All The Way*. Last season she directed *The Miss Firecracker Contest*; *The Whipping Man* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. She appeared in New Stage productions as Dr. Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*; Polly in *Other Desert Cities*; Lucille in *Dividing the Estate* and as Edna Earle in Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*. She has directed a variety of shows including *Hairspray*; *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*; *The Great Gatsby*; *Lombardi*; *Boeing, Boeing*; *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*; *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Gee's Bend*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Annie*; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; *A Soldier's Play* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Reynolds has recently been invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre and she was a member of the Leadership Mississippi Class of 2014. Panels and other associations include the National Endowment for the Arts 2013 grants panel, Poetry Outloud, Mississippi Arts Commission grants panel, The Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education Board of Directors and The Mississippi Theatre Association Board of Directors. Reynolds has enjoyed adjudicating and serving as commentator for the Mississippi High School Drama Festival, Southeastern Theatre Conference auditions and Mississippi's English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Her door, she says, is always open to comments and concerns about the theatre.

Buck's other professional credits include The International Ballet Competition, Thalia Mara Arts International presenting the **World Performance Series** and Imageworks *films for business*. She is a graduate of Leadership Jackson and lives in Jackson with her husband David.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager) is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle stores. McCarty has volunteered with New Stage for more than 38 years in all areas including production, running crews, lighting and sound design and New Stage fundraising events. He is involved in the day-to-day management, maintenance and production for the theatre and serves on the Board of Directors. His favorite design credits are **Greater Tuna** 1986 production, **A Streetcar Named Desire**, **The Gin Game** and **A Christmas Carol** 1984 production.

MELISSA TILLMAN (Marketing Director) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. Most recently at New Stage, she served as the audience services director. She has worked as a box office associate at Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada and assisted with many box office activities at Belhaven University. Tillman has stage managed many shows in several parts of the country, including Las Vegas and Tennessee. Her stage managing credits include **Oklahoma!**, **Meet Me in St. Louis**, **The Wizard of Oz**, **Taming of the Shrew** and **Love's Labours Lost**. Her most recent work includes **Noye's Fludd** and **La Boheme** with the Mississippi Opera. This is Tillman's ninth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Ridgeland with her husband, Kyle, son, River, and their dog, Charlie Brown.

CHRIS ROEBUCK (Education Director) graduated from Mississippi College with a B.A. in history. He taught for two years at Madison Central High School, where among other responsibilities he assisted with the Drama Club. Roebuck was an acting intern at New Stage Theatre, working with four other interns to take three touring shows across the state. Among his numerous professional acting credits, Roebuck has appeared in **All The Way**, **Shrek**, **Hairspray**, **The Foreigner**, **Annie**, **The 39 Steps**, **A Soldier's Play**, **A Year with Frog and Toad**, **The Ponder Heart**, **A Christmas Carol**, **Idols of the King**, **Forever Plaid**, and **A Raisin in the Sun**. In addition to the education touring shows, his directing credits include **Goodnight, Moon**, **The Cat in the Hat**, **The Lion**, **The Witch**, and **The Wardrobe**, **The Weir**, **Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse**, **A Christmas Carol** and **Dead Man's Cell Phone** at New Stage and **American Buffalo** and **Dinner with Friends** with Fondren Theatre Workshop.

AMY SMITH (Box Office Manager) is enjoying her fifth season at New Stage. A Mississippi native, Smith studied theatre performance at Belhaven University. She has stage managed shows such as **Almost, Maine** and **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress** for New Stage's Unframed Series, **Rabbit Hole** (2010 SETC Winner) for Actor's Playhouse, and **Die Fledermaus** for Mississippi Opera. Smith also directed the regional premier of **The Light in the Piazza** at Belhaven University, for the music department. When not at the theatre, Smith is playing with her two weimaraners, Dutch and Lily Belle, or planning her next trip to visit family in Alaska.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/ Education Consultant) begins her tenth season at New Stage. She enjoys traveling to schools throughout the state with the Professional Intern Company to provide live theatre experiences for students of all ages. When not on the road, you can find Betty in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Other work experiences include the Mississippi International Cultural Exchange Commission and the Mississippi Department of Education. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. degree in educational psychology from Mississippi State University, and a M.Ed. from Delta State University.

BARBARA MARTIN (Box Office Assistant/Business Assistant) is in her nineteenth season at New Stage. First joining the staff in 1997, she has served as box office assistant for seventeen years and as box office manager for the two years before and during the Intermission Season. She also assists with development and business office functions.

CARLA MARSH (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her ninth season. Marsh has been employed with the Hinds County Sheriff's office for more than thirteen years.

MUSIC CREDITS -"Odu De"- Traditional; "Niwah Wechl"- Traditional; "Blood Done Signed My Name"- Traditional; "Raise Them Up Higher"- Traditional; "Danger Blues"- Traditional; "Black Woman"- Traditional; "I'm Gonna Do What The Spirit Says Do"- Traditional; Living With The Blues" written by Walter ("Brownie") McGhee and Ruth McGhee, all rights reserved, used by permission of Screen Gems - EMI Music, Inc.; "I'm A Blues Man"- written by Walter Godbold, Joe Shammwell, and A.D. Prestage, © 1983 Mala co Music (BMI) and Chatawa music (ASCAP), all rights reserved, used by permission; "My Home's Across The Blue Ridge Mountains"- Traditional; "T For Texas (a/k/a Blue Yodel No. 1)" - written by Jimmy Rodgers, all rights reserved, used by permission of Peer International Corporation; "Who Broke the Lock?" - Traditional; "My Man Rocks Me" -Traditional; "St. Louis Blues" -written by W.C. Handy; "Now I'm Gonna Be Bad" - written by Dan Wheetman; "Walkin' Blues" -written by Robert L. Johnson, © [1978]1990, 1991 King of Spades Music, all rights reserved, used by permission; "Come On In My Kitchen" - written by Robert L. Johnson, © [1978]1990, 1991 King of Spades Music, all rights reserved, used by permission; "Cross Road Blues" -written by Robert L. Johnson, © [1978]1990, 1991 King of Spades Music, all rights reserved, used by permission; "I Know I've Been Changed" -Traditional; "Child of the Most High King" -Traditional; "Children Your Line Is Draggin'" - written by Gregory Porter, arranged by Fisher Thompson Sr., © 1999 Golden Slipper Publishing, all rights reserved, used by permission; "Catch On Fire" Traditional; "Let The Good Times Roll" -written by Fleecie Moore and Sam Theard. © 1946 Rytvoc Corp., all rights reserved, used by permission; "Sweet Home Chicago" - written by Robert L. Johnson, © [1978]1990, 1991 King of Spades Music, all rights reserved, used by permission; "Wang Dang Doodle" -written by Willie Dixon, © 1962 Hoochie Coochie Music (BMI), administered by Bug Music, Inc., all rights reserved, used by permission; "Someone Else Is Step pin' In" - written by Denise Lasalle, all rights reserved, used by permission of Malaco Music and Wolfville Music Corporation (BMI); "I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man" -written by Willie Dixon, © 1957 Hoochie Coochie Music (BMI), administered by Bug Music, Inc., all rights reserved, used by permission; "Mind Your Own Business"- written by Hank Williams, Sr., © 1949, Renewed 1976 Acuff-Rose Music, Inc./Hiram Music (BMI) and Warner Chappell Music, Inc., used by permission, all rights reserved, International rights secured; "Walking After Midnight" - written by Don Hecht and Alan Block, © 1956, Renewed 1985 Acuff- Rose Music, Inc., used by permission, all rights reserved, International rights secured; "I Can't Stop Loving You" written by Don Gibson, © 1958, Renewed 1987 Acuff- Rose Music, Inc., used by permission, all rights reserved, international rights secured; "The Thrill is Gone"- written by Roy Hawkins and Rick Darnell, © 1951 Powerforce Music (BMI), renewed 1979, administered by Flnetii-Brunow Associates, Inc., all rights reserved, used by permission; "I Put A Spell On You" -written by Jay Hawkins, all rights reserved, used by permission of EMI Unart Catalog Inc.,; "Fever" -written by John Davenport and Eddie Cooley, © 1956 (Renewed), Trio Music Company, Inc. (BMI) and Fort Knox Music, Inc., (BMI), all rights reserved, used by permission; "Candy Man Blues" -written by Mississippi John Hurt, all rights reserved, used by permission of Wynwood Music Co., Inc. (BMI); "Goodnight, Irene" - words and music by Huddle Ledbetter and John A. Lomax, all rights reserved, used by permission of Ludlow Music, Inc.; "Strange Fruit" - written by Lewis Allan, © 1939 (Renewed) Music Sales Corporation (ASCAP) In the U.S.; International copyright secured, all rights reserved, used by permission; "Members Only"- written by Larry Addison, all rights reserved, used by permission of Mala co Music (BMI)

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The Musical™



Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe
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Book by Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

Directed by Chris Roebuck

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Tickets \$15; \$10 children 12 and under

Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage by glittery pink storm in this fun and upbeat musical. ***Legally Blonde Jr.***, follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery, and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Adapted for younger performers and based on the popular movie, this show features an upbeat original score that's sure to leave cast members and audiences alike seeing pink!

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~ FEATURED ARTISTS ~

Phillip Wooley **Habana Blues Cigar Box Guitars**

During the depression, men who had music in their souls but little else used whatever they could find to release that music. Sometimes, it was nothing more than a broom stick, a cigar box and a piece of wire. In this same tradition, I “re-purpose” items such as empty cigar boxes and nuts and bolts from the local hardware store to make my guitars. My guitars are three-string, fret-less and tuned to an open “G”. The forgiving nature of the open tuning makes them easy to tune and easier to play. Fret-less guitars are not fingered in the traditional manner. They must be played with a bottleneck slide which I also make. Habana Blues Cigar Box Guitars were recently displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Art along with the music inspired art of Tony Davenport.

Phillip Wooley was born in Winona, Miss. in 1960 and has lived in Jackson his entire life. He has been an educator for the past 32 years, serving as a teacher, administrator and librarian. He is a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescent Science, writer of short fiction, musician, song-writer and maker of cigar box guitars.

pwooley@jackson.k12.ms.us | [Facebook.com/HabanabluesCBG](https://www.facebook.com/HabanabluesCBG)

Tony Davenport **Tony Davenport Images**

Tony Davenport is a native of Vicksburg, Miss. The 2002 graduate of Jackson State University is a visual artist who creates images that transcend time and place without boundaries. As a full time artist, Davenport has taught people of all ages and backgrounds how to create and appreciate art. He has taught Visual art in Jackson Public Schools, he has also been involved with Parents For Public Schools Ask For More Arts Program, Mississippi Children’s Museum as a Visiting Artist and as an Art Bud /Artist in Residence for VSA (Very Special Artist) program. In addition, Davenport is on the Mississippi Visual Artist Roster for the Mississippi Arts Commission. He utilizes the basic elements and principles of design coupled with musically themed influences to create his style of painting. He is a commissioned portrait painter, in addition Davenport has painted public and private murals as well as illustrated books and magazines. Whether its creating a piece that highlights historic landmarks or painting live at plain air events, Tony Davenport’s images reflect the narrative of the times capturing the essence of life.

tonydavenport1906@gmail.com | Tonydavenportimages.com

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