



## THE POWER OF PLACE

Dear Theatre Lover,

A house in suburban Atlanta; an attic in Amsterdam; a river levee in Mississippi; a bar in Pennsylvania; and the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains. These are the remarkable locations represented in our 53rd season of plays selected to entertain, impact, and inspire as they illustrate "The Power of Place."

The season opens with a new comedy written by Mississippi's own award-winning playwright Topher Payne. *Morningside* will take the audience to an upscale house in Atlanta one bright, sunny afternoon. Shrewd, witty and razor sharp, this hilarious spin on modern motherhood asks if one's family house is a place to call home.

As vital today as when it was first written, the classic *Diary of Anne Frank* is the second play in our season. Anne's chronicle of courage and terror created an enduring place in history for the Frank family. Based on the original play, this new adaption by Wendy Kesselman brings us into the secret annex where 13-year-old Anne and seven other Jews evade Nazi deportation.

Set in Mississippi, our third play of the season has characters stranded on a levee in search of a new landing place. Written by Marcus Gardley and based on actual events, *Hell in High Water* is a new play with blues music that revisits the Greenville, Mississippi flood of 1927. New Stage Theatre has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce *Hell in High Water* and will partner with area organizations to present special community events during its January and February performances.

It will be followed by the regional premiere of *Sweat*, the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winning and Broadway hit play. The author, Lynn Nottage, was searching for a place that exemplified what she calls the "deindustrialized revolution" and she found it in Reading, Pennsylvania. Told with both humor and tremendous heart, the action is in a fictional bar and takes us to the heart of working-class America.

Closing out the season will be *Bright Star*, a beautiful musical written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Amid the workings of a literary magazine in the mid-1940s, this sweet Bluegrass musical, takes place in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. A young man's yearning for a place results in long held secrets being revealed. Romantic, pure and called "an antidote for cynical times," *Bright Star* is perfect for our Jackson area audiences and closes our "Power of Place" season delightfully.

We will also be offering additional productions including a traditional holiday favorite *A Christmas Carol*, and a special production of the new, Mississippi-bred, musical comedy *Sweet Potato Queens*.

The characters in this season's plays yearn and search for home, redefine place and struggle for identity in the changing worlds around them. A strong impression of place can evoke anger, joy, tears, and laughter. At New Stage Theatre we know there is a place for everyone, and I invite you to join us for our 53rd season and experience "The Power of Place" portrayed by some of the finest theatre artists available. I look forward to seeing you in the audience.

Sincerely,  
Francine Thomas Reynolds  
Artistic Director

New Stage's Programming is made possible with the support of:



## SEASON EXTRAS

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 1 – 21, 2018

New Stage Theatre returns to a holiday tradition with a brand new production!  
*Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show!*  
*Appropriate for all ages*

### SWEET POTATO QUEENS

March 13 – 24, 2019

**Do what makes your heart sing!**  
Based on the wildly-successful books by Jill Conner Browne, *The Sweet Potato Queens* is a high-powered musical that tells the story of Jill and her closest friends and how they learn to grab life by the horns and live it on their terms.  
*Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show!*  
*Appropriate for ages 16+*

### Blue Star Theatre

New Stage Theatre offers approximately 20% off ticket prices to military personnel and their immediate families. Blue Star Theatres is a program of Blue Star Families and the Theatre Communications Group.

### Actor Chat

Stay and meet the cast after both Wednesday evening performances of each main stage production (does not include season extras). Audience members may ask questions of the actors, directors, and designers in an informal setting.

### Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted listening devices are available for every production. Call the Box Office at 601-948-3533 to reserve a device.

### Group Rates

Groups of 15 or more are eligible for a discount. Call the Box Office at 601-948-3533 for rates and availability.

### How To Find Us

Box Office • 601-948-3533  
Business Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 246  
Education Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 232  
Artistic Office • 601-948-3533, ext. 224  
Marketing/Advertising • 601-948-3533, ext. 226

### Single Ticket Prices

Tickets for dramas and comedies are \$28 regular price; \$22 for seniors and students. Ticket prices for musicals are \$35 regular price; \$28 for seniors and students. Ticket prices vary for season extras and where otherwise noted.

### Student Rush Tickets

\$10 tickets are available to students with a valid student ID one hour prior to any performance. Tickets are subject to availability.

### Get in the Act

Your support and generosity allows us to continue making professional theatre accessible to our state. Please see the contribution section on the attached subscription form, or send us a voided check with instructions for an automatic bank draft, or call the theatre at 601-948-3533, ext. 246 and make your donation. All gifts are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Security provided at all performances.



## MORNINGSIDE

By Topher Payne  
September 11 – 23, 2018

Worst. Baby Shower. EVER.

Nine women with secrets. A case of champagne. One unforgettable baby shower. Mississippian Topher Payne's new razor-sharp comedy introduces us to the idyllic neighborhood of Morningside in Atlanta, Georgia. Brought to our stage thanks to our Mississippi Plays Series readings, this hilarious spin on modern motherhood will have you laughing, crying, and glad you paid a visit to *Morningside*.

Recommended for ages 16+

## DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett  
Newly Adapted by Wendy Kesselman  
October 23 – November 4, 2018

A single voice can pierce the darkness.

In this transcendently powerful new adaptation, Anne Frank emerges from history as a living, bright young girl whose words strike at the very heart of human hope, "When I write, I shake off all my cares. But I want to achieve more than that. I want to be useful and bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!"

Recommended for ages 12+

New Southern  
Comedy

Classic  
Drama

## HELL IN HIGH WATER

By Marcus Gardley  
January 29-February 10, 2019

Heed the River's song.

*Hell in High Water* relives the account of the Great Flood of 1927. Set in Greenville Mississippi, this story follows the social, economic, and political realities of an entire city of people who are subject to the powerful will of the Mississippi River. Fathers and sons are pitted against each other in this stunning true story of courage and cowardice; power and poverty; life and survival. With music that seeps into your bones and flow through your spirit, *Hell in High Water* weaves a visual and auditory masterpiece that must be seen to be believed.

Recommended for ages 12+

Mississippi Play  
with Music

## SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage  
April 23 – May 5, 2019

American made...it's more than just a job.

Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, *Sweat* tells the story of a group of friends who work together on the factory floor and have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in a heart-wrenching fight to stay afloat.

Recommended for ages 16+

2017 Pulitzer Prize  
Winning Drama

## BRIGHT STAR

Music, Book, & Story by Steve Martin  
Music, Lyrics, & Story by Edie Brickell  
May 28-June 9, 2019

Every true story carries a secret untold.

Inspired by a real event and featuring the Grammy-nominated blue-grass score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, *Bright Star* tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. The arrival of a young soldier just home from World War II, sets Alice Murphy on a journey to understand her past; what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives. *Bright Star* is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

Recommended for ages 13+

Bluegrass  
Musical

# SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

SUBSCRIBERS RECEIVE TICKET DISCOUNT & ADVANCED TICKET SALES

## Premium and Flexipass Subscriptions

As a Premium Subscriber enjoy benefits that single ticket holders miss out on: lock in your ticket prices at a 30% or more discount, same seat-same night privileges, discount tickets available for guests, and unlimited ticket exchanges.

Flexipass Subscribers receive many of the benefits listed above except ticket coupons must be redeemed before each show in order to receive a seat—seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Premium Preview** . . . . See the show first—and save the most!
- Premium Evening** . . . . Plan your year—same night, same seats!
- Premium Matinees** . . . See shows on Sundays and get home early!
- Flexipass** . . . . . Five shows—any dates!
- Mini Flexipass** . . . . . Three shows—any dates!!

## Our Celebrated Arts in Education Program

New Stage's education program is designed to introduce young Mississippians to live theatre of substance and imagination. Included are School Fest Matinees of mainstage shows, a touring program, workshops for both teachers and students, acting classes, summer camps and an apprenticeship program.

The 2018-19 schedule of shows and programs offer several opportunities for youth involvement. New Stage Theatre's touring productions and matinee productions played for more than 29,000 people during the last school year. The touring productions travel to schools, libraries, and community centers statewide. The touring shows for the 2018-19 year will be *Fairy Tale Theatre* for elementary age students, and *Freedom Summer: Mississippi*, a play with music featuring pivotal moments in the Civil Rights movement for middle and high school students. For more information on New Stage's education programs or to schedule a tour, contact 601-948-3533, ext. 232 or email education@newstagetheatre.com.

## School Fest Matinees

Performances for school groups are available at reduced ticket prices for select performances of *Morningside* (Sept 19, 2018), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Oct. 24, 26, 31, Nov 2, 2018), *A Christmas Carol* (Dec 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 2018), *Hell in High Water* (Jan 30, Feb 1, 6, 8, 2019), and *Sweat* (Apr 25, May 2, 2019). Call 601.948.3533 ext. 245 for information and reservations.

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ATs:
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SA:

**NEW STAGE** 2018-2019  
*Theatre* SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTORS TO NEW STAGE

We deeply appreciate the support of our contributors. Gifts are entirely tax deductible since you purchase your season tickets separately. Contributing categories are listed below.

- |   |                |   |             |
|---|----------------|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Grand Benefactor:</b> | \$2500 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Angel:</b>  | \$300-\$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Benefactor:</b>       | \$1000-\$2499  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Patron:</b> | \$100-\$299 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Archangel:</b>        | \$500-\$999    |   |             |

Print your name as you would like it to appear in the program: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of contribution:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Package	Early Bird	After Aug. 15	Qty.	Total
Premium Preview (1st Tue-7:30 pm)	\$ 80	\$ 90		
Premium Evening (Tue-Sat 7:30 pm)	\$ 100*	\$ 110*		
Premium Matinees (Sun 2:00 pm)	\$ 100*	\$ 110*		
Flexipass (five plays)	\$ 100*	\$ 110*		
Mini Flexipass (three plays)	\$ 70			
*Seniors (age 60 and over), students and groups (20 or more) deduct \$10.00 per subscription, <b>except Preview Subscription and Mini Flexipass.</b>	Subtotal			
	less discount*			
	donor contribution			
	postage/handling			2.00
	TOTAL			\$

If a **current subscriber**, do you wish to keep same performance date and seat numbers? ☐ Yes  
If not, please indicate changes below under new subscribers section. **Please note: on Aug. 15, all seats not renewed will be released** in order to process subscription change requests and new subscriptions.

New Subscribers (or changes), please indicate a 1st and 2nd choice on performance and seating preference:

Seating preference: Section: ☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right Row: \_\_\_\_\_ Seats: \_\_\_\_\_

Performance preference: Please indicate 1st and 2nd choice on performance date.

☐ Tuesday Preview ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Friday ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday ☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ American Express® ☐ Visa® ☐ Mastercard® ☐ Discover®

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to New Stage and mail to Box 4792, Jackson, MS 39296-4792.  
Tickets will be mailed by the end of August.

If you have received this brochure and have already subscribed for next season, please pass it on to a friend.  
On-site security available at each production. Play titles and dates subject to change.