

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

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**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**

**Deidrie Henry returns to The Armory to star as**

**Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill***

***"Henry as Billie Holiday is, in a word, sublime." -BroadwayWorld***

**Previews Begin May 26 | Opening Night is June 1 | Closes July 1**

**Tickets start at \$25**



**April 19, 2018 — PORTLAND, OR.** Deidrie Henry returns to The Armory to star as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, Lanie Robertson's riveting portrait of Holiday's life told through an imagined final performance in a small bar in South Philadelphia in 1959. *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* begins preview performances on May 26, opens on June 1, and runs through July 1 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. Bill Fennelly returns to The Armory to direct after previously directing *Gypsy*, *Black Pearl Sings* and, most recently, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Deidrie Henry, who most recently played Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at The Armory, will be joined on stage by Abdul

Hamid Royal, the production's music director who also plays the role of Jimmy Powers, along with local musicians Charles Neal (drums) and Andre St. James (bass).

**TICKET INFO**

**Regular tickets start at \$25 and are on sale now.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush

tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$35 premium tickets. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. Discounts for groups of 10+. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families get 50% off the price of regular tickets. Performance times are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; Thursday matinees at noon; date exclusions apply, see below for more information. Recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains adult situations and explicit language. The actor in this production will be using tobacco-free herbal cigarettes. Children under 6 are not permitted at any production at The Armory. For more information visit [www.pcs.org/ladyday](http://www.pcs.org/ladyday).

### **ABOUT THE PLAY**

Featuring iconic songs like “God Bless the Child,” “Ain’t Nobody’s Business,” “When a Woman Loves a Man,” “What a Little Moonlight Can Do” and “Strange Fruit,” *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill* is an all-access pass to Billie Holiday’s final concert. With humor and hopefulness, the legendary singer takes us on a journey through the highs and lows of her tumultuous life, interspersed with exuberant renditions of her beloved repertoire. Deidrie Henry performed the role of Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill* at Actors Theatre of Louisville in 2017 to great acclaim. *Broadway World* raved: “Deidrie Henry as Billie Holiday is, in a word, sublime. She takes this incredibly juicy character and effectively makes the audience feel joy, grief, and everything in between.” The Armory reunites the creative team from the Actors Theatre run to design an all-new production for Portland audiences.

### **PLAYWRIGHT LANIE ROBERTSON**

Lanie Robertson has written about iconic artists and the societal issues they faced in a number of plays, including *Nasty Little Secrets*, *Alfred Stiegletz Loves O’Keeffe* and *Woman Before a Glass*. His plays have been produced internationally and at Alley Theatre, Arena Stage, Delaware Theatre, Edinburgh Festival, Festival d’Avignon, George Street Playhouse, Kennedy Center, Old Globe, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, Primary Stages, Theatre de la Huchette, Theatre Petite Montparnasse, Theatre Silvia Montforte, Vineyard Theatre, Virginia Stage, Walnut Street Theatre, Westside Arts and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Recent works include the plays *Nobody Lonesome for Me* and *The Gardener*, and his first novel, *Monkey to the Solution*. Robertson

is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Writers Guild, East and the Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques.

## THE CAST

**Deidrie Henry** returns to The Armory to take on the role of iconic artist Billie Holiday after previously appearing in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2016) and *Closer* (2001). Henry has also performed with companies such as Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Goodman Theatre, Yale Repertory Theater, Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage, and many others. The role of Jimmy Powers will be performed by **Abdul Hamid Royal**, who is also the music director for the production. His music direction has been acknowledged by an Ovation Award, two NAACP Image Awards and the SAGE Award, for various musicals both on Broadway and off. The band is rounded out by drummer **Charles Neal** and bassist **Andre St. James**, who are both heavily involved with the Pacific Northwest jazz scene.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

Members of the creative team from the Actors Theatre of Louisville production reunite in Portland, led by director Bill Fennelly (most recently at The Armory for *Little Shop of Horrors*) whose work has been seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway and regionally; with scenic designs by **Michael Schweikardt** (The Armory's *Little Shop of Horror*; Ford's Theatre, The Old Globe); costume designs by **Raquel Barreto** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts); original lighting designs by **Paul Toben** (Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Magic Theatre); associate lighting designs by **Isabella Byrd** (New York Theatre Workshop, Signature Theatre); sound designs by **David Budries** (Alliance Theatre, Arena Stage); with Stage Manager **Janine Vanderhoff**.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** May 26 – July 1, 2018\*

\*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: May 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at [The Armory](#)

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$87. Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium tickets for \$35. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. Discounts for groups of 10+. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families get 50% off the price of regular tickets. *Prices vary by date and time, and are subject to change.*

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

**By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

**In Person:** The box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue  
12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance days  
12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

**Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

**More Info:** [www.pcs.org/ladyday](http://www.pcs.org/ladyday)

**Showtimes:** Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding June 10, 24, 26 and July 1); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding May 26, 27 and June 2 and 16); and Thursday matinees at noon (excluding May 31 and June 28).

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains adult situations and explicit language.

**Accessibility:** Learn about our accessibility options at [www.pcs.org/access](http://www.pcs.org/access).

## **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY**

[Portland Center Stage at The Armory](http://www.pcs.org) is the largest theater company in Portland and among the top 20 regional theaters in the country. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the company became independent in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since 2000. Around 150,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classical, contemporary and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality

education and community programs. Eleven productions are offered each season, in addition to roughly 400 community events created — in partnership with 170+ local organizations and individuals — to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 26 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

### **THE 2017-2018 SEASON**

The [2017-2018 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* comes from Sarah J. Crooks; Doris G. and Richard K. Martin Trust; Chrys Martin and Jack Pessia; Ralph and Ellie Shaw; Helen Stern and Family; Susan and Jim Winkler; Davis Wright Tremaine; Tanner Creek Tavern and Willamette Week. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the company. Portland Center Stage at The Armory was selected as a participant of the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations.

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