

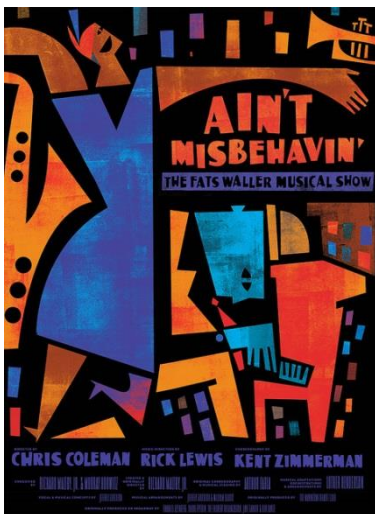


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## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### The Jumpin' and Jivin' Tony Award-winning Musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* Opens at Portland Center Stage with a Dynamite Cast

Previews Begin October 24 | Opening Night is October 30 | Must Close November 29



**September 24, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR.** The Tony Award-winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* – a celebration of the Jazz legend, Thomas “Fats” Waller, by Richard Maltby Jr. and Murray Horwitz – opens at Portland Center Stage on October 30, with previews beginning October 24. PCS received permission from the co-creator and original director, Richard Maltby, Jr., to produce this beloved musical with an expanded cast to more fully recreate the world of Fats Waller and the Harlem Renaissance. The specially expanded cast includes a star-studded group of in-demand Broadway and West End performers, including Charity Angél Dawson, DeMone, Olivia Phillip, David St. Louis, Mia Michelle McClain and Andre Ward; Portland audiences may recognize David Jennings from his recent appearance as James “Thunder” Early in *Dreamgirls* at PCS, as well as Stephanie St. James, who appeared in the First National Tour of *The Color Purple* and now resides in Portland.

“*Ain't Misbehavin'* was the first Broadway show I ever saw, and I probably played the original cast recording 1,000 times,” said Artistic Director Chris Coleman, who will direct the production. “With the original creator’s permission, I’m approaching this production from a different angle than the original,” he continued. “We are really trying to visually create the context for the story that each song wants to tell. It’s an enormous challenge, but ripe with delicious possibilities.”

*Ain't Misbehavin'* will run on the U.S. Bank Main Stage through November 29. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700 or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR.). Regular tickets start at \$42. Preview performance tickets start at \$34. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$30. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding November 8, 10, 22 and 26); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. More information at <http://www.pcs.org/misbehavin/>.

## ABOUT THE CAST

Bringing the jazz, swing and blues music to life in *Ain't Misbehavin'* is a Broadway-caliber cast, including **Charity Angél Dawson** (*Side Show* on Broadway; pre-Broadway production of *Waitress*; National Tour of *Dreamgirls* and *The Color Purple*; Billie Holiday in the tour of *If This Hat Could Talk*); **DeMone** (*Miss Saigon* on Broadway; National Tour of *Once on the Island*; North African tour of *Ain't Misbehavin'*; other international credits include *Miss Saigon* and *RENT*); **David Jennings** (Grammy Award nomination for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary recording of *Ain't Misbehavin'*; recently on Broadway in *After Midnight* and *Hands on a Hardbody*; James "Thunder" Early in *Dreamgirls* at PCS); **Mia Michelle McClain** (Off-Broadway in *Sistas: the Musical*; National Tour of *Cornerstone Chorale*); **Olivia Phillip** (West End credits include *The Book Of Mormon*, *Ghost the Musical* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*); **Stephanie St. James** (NAACP Theater Award nomination for the role of Squeak in the First National Tour of *The Color Purple*; First National Tour of *Footloose*; international tour of *Fame*; San Francisco Broadway World Fan Award for Best Leading Actress in *RENT*); **David St. Louis** (Broadway credits include *Side Show*, *RENT*, *Harlem Song* and *Jesus Christ Super Star*); **Andre Ward** (Broadway credits include *Rock of Ages*, *Xanadu*, *The Producers* and *Saturday Night Fever*). Making up the ensemble are **Ricardy Charles Fabre** (recently *Our Town* and *Othello* at PCS); Emmanuelle Joseph Henreid (*Show Boat*, *Carmen* and *The Pirates of Penzance* at Portland Opera); and Hailey Kilgore (recently *Our Town* at PCS).

## ABOUT AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

This sassy, sultry musical celebrates the remarkable life and talents of a legendary jazz great, Fats Waller. The delightful humor and infectious energy of this exuberant jazz revue takes us from the Harlem Renaissance through World War II; Waller's work shows a determination to grasp life's joys, laughter and passion, even in a community shadowed by the pain of a complex American society. *Ain't Misbehavin'* was conceived by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Murray Horwitz, and includes a variety of famous Fats Waller tunes, such as "Honeysuckle Rose," "Squeeze Me," "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," "The Joint is Jumpin'" and "Black and Blue." It also features a number of hits from other artists of the period, such as "Tain't Nobody's Bizness" (Porter

Grainger and Everett Robbins) and “I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby” (Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields). It originally opened at the Manhattan Theatre Club on February 8, 1978, and transferred to the Longacre Theatre on Broadway on May 9, 1978. *Ain't Misbehavin'* made history in 1978 as the first musical revue to win a Tony Award for Best Musical.

### **THOMAS “FATS” WALLER**

Thomas “Fats” Waller (May 21, 1904 – December 15, 1943) was an African-American jazz pianist, organist, composer and comedic entertainer. He was born Thomas Wright Waller in New York City and apprenticed with legendary Harlem stride pianist James P. Johnson. He is considered to be one of the very best pianists who ever played in the stride style (a jazz piano style developed in New York during the 1920s and 1930s). He collaborated with artists from Erskine Tate to Bessie Smith, but his greatest success came with his own combo, Fats Waller and His Rhythm. In 1929, he wrote “What Did I Do (To Be So Black and Blue)?” (lyrics by Harry Brooks and Andy Razaf), a searing treatment of racism that later became a hit for Louis Armstrong and Ethel Waters, among others. Waller recorded over 100 songs in 1938 alone. His songs have been recorded by countless artists, including Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith, Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson and Paul McCartney. On December 15, 1943, at age 39, Waller died aboard an eastbound train in the vicinity of Kansas City, Missouri, following a West Coast engagement. His weight and drinking are believed to have contributed to his premature death. “Ain't Misbehavin'” is perhaps his best-known song. It was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1984.

### **RICHARD MALTBY, JR.**

Richard Maltby, Jr. conceived, provided additional lyrics, and directed the original production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Drama Critics Circle Award, Drama Desk Award, Obie Award for Best Musical, Tony Awards for Best Direction of a Musical and Best Musical). Other credits: *Starting Here, Starting Now* (1977, lyricist and director); *Baby* (1983, lyricist and director, nominated for seven Tony Awards); *Song and Dance* (1985, co-lyricist and director); *Miss Saigon* (1989, co-lyricist, London Evening Standard Award for Best Musical); *Closer Than Ever* (1989, lyricist and director, Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Score and Best Musical); *Nick & Nora* (1991, lyricist); and *big* (1996, lyricist, nominated for five Tony Awards, including Best Score).

### **MURRAY HORWITZ**

Murray Horwitz is the co-author, lyricist and associate director of *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Other Broadway credits include co-author and co-director of *Harlem Nocturne*. He was the lyricist for *The Great Gatsby* (Metropolitan Opera), author of *Sole Sisters* (La MaMa E.T.C.), and author and director of *Hard Sell* (Shakespeare Festival). For

NPR he was the co-host for *Hanukkah Lights*; a commentator for *All Things Considered* and *Talk of the Nation*; originator of *Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me*; and panelist on *Says You!*. Television credits: *The Annual Mark Twain Prize* (creative consultant, PBS); *Jazz Comes Home to Newport* (writer, PBS); *The Guiding Light* and *As the World Turns* (director). While at NPR, in addition to three Peabody Awards and The National Medal of Arts, Horwitz received a Gold Award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the jazz documentary *Louis Armstrong: The First 90 Years*, which he produced. As a songwriter, he has won 20 ASCAP songwriting awards.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

PCS **Artistic Director Chris Coleman** will direct (most recently *Three Days of Rain* at PCS and the Off-Broadway production of *Threesome* at 59E59 Theaters); **Musical Director Rick Lewis** (recently *Dreamgirls* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at PCS); **Choreographer Kent Zimmerman** (*Dreamgirls* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at PCS); **Scenic Designer Tony Cisek** (recently collaborated with Chris Coleman for the world premiere of *Edward Foote* at Alliance Theatre); **Costume Designer Alison Heryer** (*Our Town*, *Three Days of Rain* and *Threesome* at PCS); **Lighting Designer Diane Ferry Williams** (recently *Our Town*, *Three Days of Rain* and *Threesome* at PCS); **PCS Resident Sound Designer Casi Pacilio** (recently *Our Town*, *Three Days of Rain* and *Cyrano* at PCS); **Dialect Coach Mary McDonald-Lewis** (recently *Three Days of Rain* at PCS); **Stage Manager Mark Tynan**; **Assistant Stage Manager Janine Vanderhoff**; and **Production Assistant Stephen Kriz Gardner**. Orchestra players include **Will Amend**, **Mieke Bruggeman**, **Levis Dragulin** and **Sam Foulger**. **Jeffrey Childs** will act as rehearsal accompanist.

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** October 24\* – November 29, 2015

\*Opening Night is Friday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: October 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m.

**Showtimes:** Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding November 8, 10, 22 and 26); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).  
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**More Info:** <http://www.pcs.org/misbehavin/>

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets start at \$42. Preview performance tickets start at \$34. Rush tickets are \$20. Discounts for students, those 30 or younger, and groups. Prices subject to change.

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

**By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

**In Person:** PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue  
12 p.m.–curtain on performance days  
12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

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

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 12+; contains suggestive language and content.

**Accessibility:** PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places – and the first performing arts venue – to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. Support for *Ain't Misbehavin'* is provided by Show Sponsors Keith and Sharon Barnes, Northwest Natural and The Shubert Foundation. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability](#)

[Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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