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APRIL AT ZACH THEATRE BRINGS THE BEST OF BILLIE HOLIDAY AND A CHILD'S IMAGINATION

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill – April 5-30
jj's arcade – April 14 – May 7

Images available: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6IOSn8jHwSyMnRvQWlJazhfb3M>

AUSTIN, TX - **ZACH Theatre** will bring shows for everyone in the family this April. ***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill***, a biographical play-set-to-music, will transform the Topfer Theatre into a nightclub with an on-stage bar including VIP cabaret table seating **April 5 – April 30, 2017**. In partnership with Teatro Vivo, ZACH Theatre brings you the world premiere of the bilingual production for youth audiences, ***jj's arcade*** starring rising young actors Diego Rodriguez and Alessandro Sanchez, at the Mexican American Cultural Center, **April 14 – May 7, 2017**.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill plays on stage in the Topfer Theatre April 5 – April 30, 2017 **directed by Michael Rader** and stars **CHANEL** (*A Christmas Carol* and *Sophisticated Ladies*) as the songstress herself in the role of Billie Holiday.

The time is 1959. The place is a seedy bar in Philadelphia. The audience is about to witness one of Billie Holiday's last performances, given four months before her death. More than a dozen musical numbers are interlaced with salty, often humorous, reminiscences to project a riveting portrait of the lady and her music. Pull up a chair, order a delicious cocktail, and turn back the hands of time in our swanky nightclub for an intimate evening with the jazz legend. "God Bless the Child", "Don't Explain," and "My Man" are among the unforgettable hits you will savor from the lady who sings the blues. She's got a life to sing.

"The richest jazz singing in town just now is at this subtle absorbing dramatic performance ... by the end, one is filled with an unexpected joy. Robertson's play is a shrewdly constructed piece. Mesmerizing." — *The New York Times*

"An experience you will never forget." — *New York Observer*

"Stunning." — *The Huffington Post*



Recommendation: High School and above. Adult language and situations.
Run time: Approximately two hours including one intermission.

Special events in celebration of ***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill***:

Press Night: Saturday, April 8, 2017. RSVP to nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com

- LGBTQ Pride Night: Thursday, April 6, 2017
- Post-Show Discussion with special guest panelists – April 12, 2017
- Sign Interpreted and Open Captioned Performance – April 12, 2017
- Champagne Opening Night – Thursday, April 13, 2017
- Z Lounge: Musical entertainment in the Topfer Theatre's Main Lounge featuring Kenny Williams

Co-produced with Teatro Vivo and simultaneously running at the Mexican American Cultural Center is the world premiere of ***jj's arcade***, playing on stage April 14 – May 7, 2017. The new bi-lingual work is **directed by Nat Miller**, and stars Diego Rodriguez (*A Christmas Carol*) and Alessandro Sanchez as Jose Joaquin (J.J.) Hernandez. Joining them are Mario Ramirez as Mario Hernandez, Martinique Duchene-Phillips as Sandra Hernandez/Linda Garcia and Ben Bazan (*Tomás and the Library Lady*) as Oscar Torres.

Mario is a hard working auto mechanic in east LA who is left to raise his son, JJ, after the passing of his mother. In order to honor her memory and cope with his lack of connection with his father, JJ begins to build an arcade out of leftover cardboard from his dad's garage. It is through JJ's imagination and ingenuity that he is able to connect to himself and his family. Inspired by the YouTube sensation, Caine's Arcade, this bilingual play celebrates culture, imagination, perseverance, and family. ***jj's arcade*** will be co-produced with Teatro Vivo and presented at the Mexican American Cultural Center.

Recommendation: Ages 7 and up.

Run time: Approximately one hour and twenty minutes including one intermission.

Curricular Connections: Science (Engineering), Dual Language (Spanish/English), Social Emotional Learning

Special events in celebration of ***jj's arcade***:

- Press Night: Friday, April 14, 2017 at 7 p.m.. RSVP to nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com
- Sensory Friendly and Sign Interpreted/Open Captioned Performance – April 29, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for ***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*** start at **\$25** and are available online at zachtheatre.org, by phone at 512-476-0541 x1, or in person at the ZACH Theatre Box Office, in



the Topfer Theatre, 202 South Lamar Blvd. (corner of Riverside Drive and South Lamar Blvd.) Monday through Saturday, 12 – 7 p.m. ZACH Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more. Student Rush Tickets are \$18 one hour before show time (with valid ID).

Tickets for ***jj's arcade*** are **\$13 (Youth) and \$15 (Adult)** and are available online at zachtheatre.org, by phone at 512-476-0541 x1, or in person at the ZACH Theatre Box Office, in the Topfer Theatre, 202 South Lamar Blvd. (corner of Riverside Drive and South Lamar Blvd.) Monday through Saturday, 12 – 7 p.m. The Mexican American Cultural Center is wheelchair accessible. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill Cast

CHANEL – Billie Holiday

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill Creative Team

Michael Rader - Director
Allen Robertson – Music Director
Michelle Ney - Scenic & Costume Designer
Stacey Johnson – Costume Design Assistant
Serret Jensen - Hair and Makeup Designer
Rachel Atkinson - Lighting Designer
Craig Brock - Sound Designer
Steve Baglio - Properties Designer
Catherine Anne Tucker - Stage Manager

jj's arcade Cast

Diego Rodriguez – Jose Joaquin (J.J.) Hernandez
Alessandro Sanchez – Jose Joaquin (J.J.) Hernandez
Mario Ramirez – Mario Hernandez
Martinique Duchene-Phillips – Sandra Hernandez/Linda Garcia
Ben Bazan – Oscar Torres

jj's arcade Creative Team

Nat Miller - Director
Michael Krauss - Scenic Designer
Lacey Erb – Projection Designer
Alana Anthony – Costume Design Assistant
Patrick Anthony - Lighting Designer
Pete Martinez - Sound Designer
Megan Smith - Stage Manager

About ZACH Theatre

A non-profit organization, ZACH creates intimate theatre experiences that ignite the imagination, inspire the spirit, and engage the community. As Austin's leading professional producing theatre, ZACH employs more than 300 actors, musicians, and designers annually to create its own diverse array of nationally recognized plays and musicals under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Dave Steakley and Managing Director Elisabeth



Challenger. Each year, ZACH serves nearly 115,000 Central Texans – 55,000 of which are children and youth who participate in our education and outreach programs, as well as inspiring camps and classes. ZACH Theatre is honored to host private and community events across the beautiful rental-ready spaces on our three-stage campus located in the heart of Austin. Founded in 1932 and in its 84nd season, ZACH is the longest continuously running theatre company in the state of Texas, and one of the ten oldest in the country.

Visit www.zachtheatre.org for more information.

ZACH Theatre's 2016-17 Season is sponsored in part, by AT&T, Austin Catering, Baylor Scott & White Health, Dell, H-E-B, Holiday Inn-Lady Bird Lake, Kirk Tuck Photography, Marquee Event Group, OnRamp Access, and Schlotzsky's; and by grants from The Shubert Foundation, the Junior League of Austin, The National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Cultural Arts Division of The City of Austin Economic Development Department.

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