

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

***PLEASE NOTE: This release has been updated as of 6/26/13 to reflect that *A Night with Janis Joplin* will run on Broadway in fall 2013.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 22, 2013

FULL COMPANY ANNOUNCED FOR BROADWAY-BOUND
ONE NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
JUNE 21-AUGUST 11, 2013

*** 2013 Helen Hayes Award nominee Mary Bridget Davies reprises her role as Janis Joplin alongside Sabrina Elayne Carten as the Blues Singer ***

(Washington, D.C.) Following a critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater this past fall, *One Night with Janis Joplin*, hailed by *The LA Times* as “a seismically sensational triumph,” returns for a summer run. Leading the production is **Mary Bridget Davies**, with a voice described by *The Milwaukee Sentinel* as “an assaultive and explosive wall-of-sound wail, bent on filling an inner void that seems to stretch forever.” Davies is joined by the “breathtaking” **Sabrina Elayne Carten** as the Blues Singer, who “inhabits Joplin’s various idols with extraordinary range” (*LA Times*), including Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone and Bessie Smith. Created, written and directed by **Randy Johnson**, the production is produced in partnership with The Pasadena Playhouse and Milwaukee Repertory Theater, in association with Todd Gershwin and Daniel Chlewich of One Night Productions, The Estate of Janis Joplin and Jeff Jampol of JAM, Inc. *One Night with Janis Joplin* runs June 21-August 11, 2013 in the Kreeger Theater.

Joining Davies and Carten on stage and providing backup vocals as the Joplinaires are **Alison Cusano** (Cohoes Music Hall’s *Hair*), **Shay Saint-Victor** (Billie Holiday Theatre’s *Freda Peoples*) and **Kim Yarbrough** (season two finalist on NBC’s *The Voice*). Cusano and Yarbrough are also alternates for Joplin and the Blues Singer, respectively.

“*One Night with Janis Joplin* has been barnstorming across America and it’s time to come back to Arena,” shares **Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith**. “This powerful portrait of a seminal American artist brings many back to their youth while introducing others to this wildly original artist for the first time. There is nothing quite like hearing her voice blasting through the Mead Center for American Theater.”

About *One Night with Janis Joplin*: With a voice like whiskey and a laugh like pure joy, Janis Joplin took the music scene by storm. Simultaneously rough and vulnerable, Joplin was dubbed the Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll, proving music wasn’t just a man’s world anymore. Packed with classic songs (“Piece of My Heart,” “Summertime,” “Mercedes Benz”), the show also shines the spotlight on trailblazers who influenced Janis—like Bessie Smith, Etta James and Aretha Franklin. Now, in a musical event featuring more than a dozen singers and band members, playwright-director Randy Johnson creates “a compelling portrait of an artist” (*Culturemob*) through the words, inspiration and music of one of America’s greatest rock ‘n’ roll originals.

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One Night with Janis Joplin features a live, on-stage band, featuring returning musicians **Tyler Evans** (keyboard), **Stephen Flakus** (guitar), **Patrick Harry** (bass), **Ross Seligman** (musical supervisor, guitar) and **Mitch Wilson** (drums), who performed with the show at Arena Stage this past fall. They are joined by D.C.-area based **Dennis Ferry** (trumpet), **Scott Silbert** (tenor sax) and **S. Craig Taylor** (trumpet), making their debuts with the company.

“Arena Stage has become one of my theatrical homes away from home, and I’m thrilled to be working with Molly, Edgar and the entire staff at Arena Stage again,” adds **Johnson**. “After the incredible critical response we received this past fall, I am confident that audiences are ready to embrace Janis and her legacy again. I feel as if the D.C. audiences are my old friends, and I can’t wait to see them all again and return home with *One Night with Janis Joplin*.”

“Every performance of *One Night with Janis Joplin* is like a family homecoming for me,” says **Laura Joplin**, sister to Janis Joplin. “I’m blessed with the opportunity to see, feel and re-create the intense pleasure of engaging with my sister again. Janis may have died in 1970, but she comes alive again when she shares a funny story onstage, belts out her songs with her unique emotional wrapping and pushes me to share my emotional bonding in foot-stomping, hand-clapping and sing-along magic. I would attend the show every night of the run for the thrill of feeling the power of those times and this woman.”

Following the Arena Stage run, *A Night with Janis Joplin* will run at Broadway’s Lyceum Theatre featuring Mary Bridget Davies as Janis Joplin in fall 2013. For additional information on the Broadway engagement, please contact the production’s press agents at Boneau/Bryan-Brown.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sabrina Elayne Carten (*Blues Singer*) began her career with Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra as the Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess* and has performed this opera at notable opera houses around the world. Her portrayal of Maria in *Porgy and Bess* is considered one of the best. She played Tituba in *The Crucible* at Chautauqua Opera and Mobile Opera. She understudied and performed Queenie in Hal Prince’s *Showboat* on the first national tour across the U.S. and Canada. She recently appeared with Mike Tyson in *Mike Tyson – Undisputed Truth* at MGM Grand in Las Vegas. She is a member of The American Spiritual Ensemble.

Alison Cusano (*Joplinaire, Janis Joplin Alternate*) Regional theater credits include *One Night with Janis Joplin* (Janis Alternate) at Cleveland Play House, The Pasadena Playhouse and Milwaukee Repertory Theater; *Factory Girls* at Goodspeed Musicals; *The Full Monty*; *Hello Dolly* at Ogunquit Playhouse and *Hair* (Sheila) at Cohoes Music Hall. Additional credits: *Tommy* (Mrs. Walker) and *Factory Girls* at Joe’s Pub NYC. BFA Musical Theatre from The Hartt School.

Mary Bridget Davies (*Janis Joplin*) starred as Janis Joplin in the national tour of *Love, Janis*; was awarded Best Actress by the Cleveland Critics Circle for *One Night with Janis Joplin*; and was nominated for Best Actress in a musical by *Broadway World* for *One Night with Janis Joplin*. Other favorites include the Broadway show *It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues*, Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* and being a member of Something Dada Improvisational Comedy Co. Davies has received numerous awards for her voice and band and previously toured with Joplin’s original band, Big Brother & the Holding Company. Most recently her new album was nominated for a 2013 Blues Music Award for Best New Artist Debut and she was a 2013 Helen Hayes Award nominee for Outstanding Lead Actress in a resident musical for her role in *One Night with Janis Joplin* at Arena Stage.

Shay Saint-Victor (*Joplinaire*) recently toured singing gospel with the Change Experience. Theater credits include Freeda in *Freeda Peoples* (Billie Holiday Theatre) and Angel in *A Garfield Christmas* (tour). Television credits include *All My Children*. A singer/songwriter and native Detroiter, she is also a graduate of Purchase College, SUNY with a BFA in Theatre.

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Kim Yarbrough (*Joplinaire, Blues Singer Alternate*) is a veteran actress originally from Memphis, Tennessee. Yarbrough captivated TV audiences around the world during season two of NBC's *The Voice*. She has been a native Angeleno since 2000, enjoying a dream career performing alongside icons such as Dennis Quaid, Danny DeVito, Loretta Devine, Jim Belushi, Katey Sagal, Kenny Loggins, Tyler Perry, Della Reese and Stevie Wonder. TV credits include *Southland*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Vegas*, *Bones* and recurring appearances on *Dexter* and *Conan*. Her vocals are regularly featured on the hit FX show, *Sons of Anarchy*. Stage credits include *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Once on This Island*, the original cast of *Nuncrackers* and *The Women of Brewster Place*, for which she won an L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Award and an NAACP Theater Nomination for Best Lead Actress.

Randy Johnson (*Creator/Writer/Director*) is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Theatre in Los Angeles. For the past 25 years, he has written, directed and produced some of the most original, groundbreaking and landmark events in the business. Selected theater credits include producer of the west coast premiere of *The Normal Heart* starring Richard Dreyfus and Kathy Bates; original producer of *Always Patsy Cline*; and writer and director of *The Wildest—The Music of Louis Prima and Keely Smith*, published by Samuel French Inc. Writer and director of *Conway Twitty—the Man, the Music, the Legend*, Johnson also co-conceived and directed *Elvis the Concert*, which premiered at Radio City Music Hall. *Elvis the Concert* is in the Guinness Book of World Records as "the most successful rock tour performed by a deceased artist." He has directed in regional theaters nationwide and in Canada. Johnson staged and directed Pope Benedict's most recent appearance in New York. Other work includes directing Katharine Hepburn in a PBS documentary on the life of Jimmy Stewart, *Mike Tyson—Undisputed Truth* (director/co-writer) and Carly Simon's concert *A Miracle on 125th Street* at The Apollo Theatre in 2007. For PBS and DVD: *Carly Simon--A Moonlight Serenade Aboard the Queen Mary*. His autobiography *Adventures in Hotel Crazy* will be published in the fall of 2013. He is a member of Dramatists Guild, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and Canadian Actors Equity as a director. For his work with AIDS Project Los Angeles, he is a recipient of the Crystal Apple Award.

The creative team for *One Night with Janis Joplin* includes Musical Arrangements by **Len Rhodes**, Set and Lighting Designer **Justin Townsend**, Costume Designer **Jeff Cone**, Sound Designer **Carl Casella**, Projection Designer **Darrell Maloney**, Associate Lighting Designer **Dan Ozminkowski**, Projection Programmer **Benjamin Keightley**, Stage Manager **Hethyr (Red) Verhoef**, Assistant Stage Manager **Jessica Aguilar** and Musician Contractor **Rita Eggert**.

For full bios and HD video email press@arenastage.org. To download high-res photos visit arenastage.org/news-press/press-room/press-kits-photos/productions/one-night-with-janis-joplin (enter username/arenapress & password/arena1213 when prompted).

One Night with Janis Joplin Special Events & Ticket Information

Celebrate the Fourth of July with *One Night with Janis Joplin*—Thursday, July 4, 2013

Arena Stage will hold a special Fourth of July performance of the critically acclaimed musical event *One Night with Janis Joplin* at 6:00 p.m., giving audience members the chance to celebrate Independence Day with the rock and blues music of Janis Joplin. Following the performance, audience members will be treated to a barbecue buffet and a view of the Washington Monument and fireworks display on the National Mall from the Mead Center's outdoor terrace. Tickets for this event are \$100, plus applicable fees, which includes the cost of the performance, the all-you-can-eat post-show buffet and the exclusive vantage point to watch the fireworks from the Mead Center terrace.

Other special events and partnerships during the run of *One Night with Janis Joplin* include a brunch buffet onboard an Odyssey cruise through Entertainment Cruises followed by a performance of *One Night with Janis Joplin* and partnerships with some of the top D.C.-area hotels offering significant savings on hotel rooms. **For more information on the Fourth of July performance and these additional events and partnerships, including a full list of participating hotels, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/one-night-with-janis-joplin/events.**

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CATWALK CAFÉ: Prix fixe meals are now available at the Catwalk Café and include a choice of soup or salad, main entrée and dessert. Pre-ordered meals are only \$19 (\$21 if purchased that day). To pre-order and see the menu, call 202-488-3300 or visit arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/the-cafe/. The Catwalk Café opens two hours before the show, and reservations are recommended.

TICKETS: Tickets for *One Night with Janis Joplin* are \$40-\$99, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as student discounts, Southwest Nights, Pay-Your-Age tickets, HOTTIX and Hero's Discounts, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs/. Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

Sales Office/Subscriptions	202-488-3300
Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets	202-488-4380
TTY for deaf patrons	202-484-0247
Info for patrons with disabilities	202-488-3300

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Full calendar: tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=15865

Open-captioned performances: 7/25 at 8:00 p.m.

Audio-described performance: 7/27 at 2:00 p.m.

Post-show discussion: 7/18 following the 8:00 p.m. performance

METRO: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

PARKING: Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$16. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$18 or on the day of the performance for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$11. Street parking is also available along Maine Avenue and Water Street.

VALET PARKING: Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to the production, presentation, development and study of American theater. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Director Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage is the largest company in the country dedicated to American plays and playwrights. Arena Stage produces huge plays of all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

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