



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Andrew Leshovsky
andrew@latteda.org
612-767-5646 office



Andre Shoals as Chimney Man (left) and Reese Britts (right) as Jelly Roll Morton, Photo by Lucas Wells

THEATER LATTÉ DA ANNOUNCES THE CAST FOR *JELLY'S LAST JAM*, THE STORY OF LEGENDARY JAZZ PERFORMER JELLY ROLL MORTON

Kelli Foster Warder directs the Tony-award-winning musical of legendary self-proclaimed jazz inventor Jelly Roll Morton. The area premiere production opens at the intimate Ritz Theater, April 2. Tickets are on sale now at Latteda.org or by calling the Box Office at 612-339-3003.

JELLY'S LAST JAM stars Reese Britts as Jelly Roll Morton and Andre Shoals as the Chimney Man with Diedre Cochran, Julius Collins, Cynthia Jones-Taylor, Dwight Leslie, Alexcia Thompson, with Time Brickey, Gabrielle Dominique, Jordan Leggett, and Brittany Marie Wilson.

**Performances begin March 30 and run thru May 8, 2022 at the Ritz Theater
Opening Night is April 2, 2022.**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) Theater Latté Da today announced the cast of [JELLY'S LAST JAM](#), the story of self-proclaimed inventor of jazz, Jelly Roll Morton. The area premiere production features an all Twin Cities-based cast including Reese Britts as Jelly Roll Morton and Andre Shoals as The Chimney Man. The Tony Award-winning musical features a book by **George C. Wolfe**, music by **Jelly Roll Morton**, and lyrics by **Susan Birkenhead**. The production is directed and choreographed by Theater Latté Da Associate Artistic Director and Director of Impact **Kelli Foster Warder** with Music Supervision by **Sanford Moore**.

JELLY'S LAST JAM will run March 30 - May 8, 2022 at the Ritz Theater. Preview performances are March 30 - April 1. Single tickets start at \$35. Group, student, and other discounts are available. Tickets are on sale now through the box office at 612.339.3003 or online at Latteda.org. Post-show discussions and access services (ASL/AD performances) are available on select dates and by request.

Born to a Creole family in turn-of-the-century New Orleans, Jelly Roll Morton was a classically trained pianist who was fascinated by the ragtime, blues and jazz sounds happening around him. From the back alleys of New Orleans to the dance halls of Chicago and the clubs of New York, the Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning JELLY'S LAST JAM tells the troubled story of the self-proclaimed inventor of jazz with spectacular dance breaks and a smokin' jazz score.

At an early age, Morton began playing piano in saloons and brothels and went on to tour in Chicago and New York City. Rejected by his family, he was forced to go on the road, becoming a prominent composer and musician, and the self-proclaimed inventor of jazz. His sadness over his family's rejection caused him to identify with his Creole ancestry and claim that there are 'no black notes in my song.' JELLY'S LAST JAM resonates well

today exploring the intersections of race, identity, family and art. As Morton reflects on his life he sees the good and the struggle and learns as we all must that as the Chimney Man says, “We have to take the grit with the gravy. Ya gotta have pain to go with the song.”

Director and choreographer Kelli Foster Warder shares, “I am so honored to guide this fantastic team of collaborators through the telling of Jelly’s story. Jelly, and the musical that bears his name, are both important pieces of American history. The hard work, struggle and the joy of being a black artist is on display in Jelly’s Last Jam. The themes are important and relevant, but this show is also a really great time.”

The cast of JELLY’S LAST JAM features **Reese Britts** (*Next Up 2021*) as Jelly Roll Morton and **Andre Shoals** (*Ragtime, Man of La Mancha, To Let Go and Fall*) as the Chimney Man. The production features **Diedre Cochran, Julius Collins, Cynthia Jones-Taylor, Dwight Leslie, Alexcia Thompson** with **Time Brickey, Gabrielle Dominique, Jordan Leggett, and Brittany Marie Wilson** all making their Theater Latté Da debut.

The creative team for JELLY’S LAST JAM includes **Kelli Foster Warder** (director and choreographer), **Sanford Moore** (music supervisor), **Eli Sherlock** (scenic designer), **Jarrod Barnes** (costume designer), **C. Andrew Mayer** (sound designer), **Craig Gottschalk** (lighting designer), **Abbee Warmboe** (properties designer), and **Shelby Reddig** (stage manager).

Theater Latté Da is an award-winning Twin Cities musical theater company that combines music and story to illuminate the breadth and depth of the human experience. The company seeks to create new and impactful connections between story, music, artist, and audience by exploring and expanding the art of musical theater.

www.latteda.org

FACT SHEET:

JELLY'S LAST JAM

Book by **George C. Wolfe**

Music by **Jelly Roll Morton**

Lyrics by **Susan Birkenhead**

Additional music and musical adaptation by **Luther Henderson**

Directed and Choreographed by **Kelli Foster Warder**

Music Supervision by **Sanford Moore**

Born to a Creole family in turn-of-the-century New Orleans, Jelly Roll Morton was a classically trained pianist who was fascinated by the ragtime, blues and jazz sounds happening around him. From the back alleys of New Orleans to the dance halls of Chicago and the clubs of New York, the Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning JELLY'S LAST JAM tells the story of the self-proclaimed inventor of jazz with spectacular dance breaks and a smokin' jazz score.

Featuring Reese Britts as Jelly Roll Morton and Andre Shoals as the Chimney Man with Diedre Cochran, Julius Collins, Cynthia Jones-Taylor, Dwight Leslie, Alexcia Thompson, with Time Brickey, Gabrielle Dominique, Jordan Leggett, and Brittany Marie Wilson.

Dates: Wednesday, March 30 – Sunday, May 8, 2022

Venue: Ritz Theater, 345 13th Avenue NE, Minneapolis MN 55413

Tickets start at \$35 and are on sale now.

Group, student, and other discounts are available.

Performance Dates:

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 7:30pm - Preview
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 7:30pm - Preview
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:30pm - Preview
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:30pm - Opening Night
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:00pm (Post-show discussion)
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:30pm
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:30pm (Post-show discussion)
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:00pm
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:30pm
Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2:00pm (Post-show discussion)
Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 7:30pm

Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:30pm (ASL/AD performance, PS)
Friday, April 15, 2022 at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 2:00pm
Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:30pm
Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:30pm (Post-show discussion)
Friday, April 22, 2022 at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 2:00pm
Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 7:30pm
Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 2:00pm (Post-show discussion)
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:30pm
Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:30pm (Post-show discussion)
Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 2:00pm
Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7:30pm
Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:00pm (Post-show discussion)
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:30pm
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:30pm (Post-show discussion)
Friday, May 6, 2022 at 7:30pm
Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 2:00pm
Saturday May 7, 2022 at 7:30pm
Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 2:00pm