



TRANSITION

2019-2020 SEASON

MICHAEL J. BOBBITT
artistic director

HARRIET SHEETS
managing director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
321 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-8487 BOX OFFICE
newrep.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
400 Talcott Ave
Building 131
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-7060 BUSINESS
617-923-7625 FACSIMILE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, October 15, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT – Jaclyn Dentino | 617-923-7060 xt. 8205 | jaclyndentino@newrep.org

NEW REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES

Lydia Harrell

As Billie Holiday
in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*
By Lanie Robertson
Directed by Summer L. Williams

March 28 – April 19, 2020

[WATERTOWN, MA] New Repertory Theatre is delighted to announce that Lydia Harrell will star as Billie Holiday in their upcoming production of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*. Directed by Summer L. Williams, the production runs March 28 through April 19, 2020 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets are \$25-\$67 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available, as well as free tickets for WIC/EBT cardholders.

The press performance is Monday, March 30 at 7:30pm.

"I am super excited and honored to portray such an iconic, respected vocalist," says Harrell. "Although [Holiday's] life was in many ways quite tragic, there is such beauty just in the way she was and the music she made. What a great opportunity it is to be a part of sharing her story in this amazing project."

"New Rep is so fortunate to have Lydia on board as our Lady Day," shares New Rep Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt. "She is a fantastic talent and personality, and we could think of no one better to portray the exemplary Billie Holiday. We're looking forward to collaborating with Lydia on this project."

About *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*

It's 1959 in a bar in South Philadelphia for one of Billie Holiday's final performances before her untimely death. At an intimate evening with Billie and her pianist, Holiday's most famous songs are interlaced with reminiscences from her life, told with her unique, salty humor. Featuring



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“What a Little Moonlight Can Do” and “Strange Fruit”, this biographical play with music by Lanie Robertson tells the incredible story of an icon who consistently battled racism, abuse, and addiction for her chance to sing.

About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For 35 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in the 340-seat MainStage Theater. New Rep is also dedicated to the development of new plays by producing regional and world premieres each season. New Rep produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page to Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series. Annually, New Rep serves over 30,000 patrons, including 1,600 season subscribers.

New Rep’s Mission

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

What we do:

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays, and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

Artistic Bios

Lydia Harrell (Billie Holiday) Lydia "The Lovely Singer" Harrell is one of Boston's finest musical treasures. Her sultry, soulful voice and evocative songwriting have garnered her the attention and respect of the nation's finest musicians and venues. Jazz/Soul is where her heart is, however, Lydia has shown an unbreakable ability to mold herself into any musical situation. Be it performing with the Boston Pops, serenading NBA fans with America's National Anthem, or lending her vocal talents to a chart-topping deep house singles by British record label, Reel People Music, Lydia's dedication to extracting the pure essence of song goes virtually unmatched.



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Lydia consistently performs in more than 150 shows a year not only as a solo act, but also in collaborations with other artists such as world renowned jazz musician, Bobby Floyd and as one-half of the duo “The Lady Parts” providing backing vocals for Zap Mama, Ryan Montbleau, Albert Cummings and more. Her most recent musical accolades include singing lead on a Bob Marley Tribute Album distributed by Sony Music Latin, winning the 2015 Duke Ellington Jazz Vocal Competition, performing at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, NYC (2016) and winning the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival Voice Competition.

Lydia is also an actor that has been seen in several regional and national commercials, billboards, short films and theatre productions. She starred in her first Boston 48 Hour Film Project and won Best Original song for the song she wrote "I Am Beautiful".

All creative bios will soon be available at www.newrep.org.

Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill at a Glance

Company:	New Repertory Theatre	
Artistic Director:	Michael J. Bobbitt	
Production:	<i>Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill</i>	
Venue:	MainStage Theater Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal Street Watertown, MA 02472	
Playwright:	Lanie Robertson	
Director:	Summer L. Williams	
Performance Schedule:	Saturday, March 28, 8:00pm	Preview 1
	Sunday, March 29, 4:00pm	Preview 2
	Monday, March 30, 7:30PM	Press Opening
	Thursday, April 2, 7:30PM	
	Friday, April 3, 3:00PM	
	Saturday, April 4, 3:00PM	Spotlight Symposium
	Saturday, April 4, 8:00PM	
	Sunday, April 5, 2:00 PM	Talk-About
	Thursday, April 9, 1:00PM	Talk-About
	Thursday, April 9, 7:00PM	
	Friday, April 10, 8:00PM	Talk-About
	Saturday, April 11, 3:00PM	Open Captions



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Saturday, April 11, 8:00PM	Talk-About
Sunday, April 12, 2:00PM	Talk-About
Wednesday, April 15, 7:30PM	
Thursday, April 16, 7:30PM	
Friday, April 17, 8:00PM	Talk-About
Saturday, April 18, 3:00PM	
Saturday, April 18, 8:00PM	
Sunday, April 19, 2:00PM	Talk-About

Tickets: \$25-\$67. Student, senior, and group discounts available.
 Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: newrep.org
 In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays
 Mosesian Center for the Arts
 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Parking: Free, six-level parking garage next to the
 Mosesian Center for the Arts

Public Transportation: #70 or #70A bus to the School Street stop from
 Central Square Station, Red Line

Accessibility: Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop, Open
 Caption performances, Large-Print and Braille Programs
 Available

Season Sponsors: WGBH
 Massachusetts Cultural Council
 Northlight IT
 The Shubert Foundation
 National Endowment for the Arts
 Branch Line

For Media Inquiries: Jaclyn Dentino | Communications Director, New Repertory
 Theatre | jaclyndentino@newrep.org | 617-923-7060 xt.
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