



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 11, 2017**

## **BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES ITS 2017-2018 THEATRE SEASON**

**Dallas, Texas** – Oak Cliff’s premiere multicultural and multidiscipline theater company, Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), announces its 2017-2018 Theatre Series, *Breaking Boundaries*. Under the visionary leadership of Executive Artistic Director, Teresa Coleman Wash, BATC’s new season is filled with productions which celebrate pioneers in music, social justice, and gender equality. BATC will also present their traditional holiday production, *Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes.

### **The 2017-2018 Bishop Arts Theatre Schedule**

#### ***Unchain My Heart: A Tribute to Ray Charles* featuring Joe McBride**

**October 26-29, 2017**

Jazz great, Joe McBride, takes on the role of blues legend Ray Charles, in this tour de force solo performance and tribute to one of music’s greatest icons. McBride electrifies the stage with musical renditions of the Ray Charles songbook creating a memorable evening. Both Charles and McBride persevered to overcome the challenges of a sensory disability to make their mark in the music industry. Well known in the contemporary jazz community, McBride has worked with jazz greats like Grover Washington Jr., Peter White, Dave Koz, Rick Braun, and Larry Carlton.

**UNCHAIN MY HEART IS SUITABLE FOR AUDIENCES AGES 13 AND ABOVE.**

#### ***Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes, Directed by Jiles King**

**December 1-17, 2017**

Langston Hughes’ holiday classic returns to the BATC stage under the direction of homegrown talent, Jiles King. If you enjoy foot tapping, finger snapping, and seat swaying gospel music this Langston Hughes work is for you. Jiles King is the founder of 7<sup>th</sup> Stage Productions and DFW Black Arts. He was the first Chief Executive Artistic Director of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters and also served as an Associate Producer with the Tony Award winning Negro Ensemble Company, Miller Theatre, Harlem School of the Arts and several other Off-Broadway companies. His gritty and fresh direction of the holiday favorite is sure to bring a new energy to this BATC time-honored production.

**BLACK NATIVITY IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY PRODUCTION.**

#### ***Thurgood* by George Stevens, Jr., In partnership with Jubilee Theatre**

**February 5-7, 2018 - Student Matinee Performances**

**February 8 - 25, 2018 - General Admission Evening & Matinee Performances**

Actor Selmore Haines, III reprises his critically acclaimed role as the civil rights activist and social justice champion Thurgood Marshall. *Thurgood*, written by George Stevens, Jr., is a dramatic reflection of the life and legacy of NAACP legal counsel and the first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Marshall spent his life standing in the vanguard for education and social equality which eventually led to his appointment to the highest court in the nation. Fort Worth’s Jubilee Theatre and BATC partner to re-stage a crowd favorite, bringing this powerful production to Dallas audiences. *Thurgood* is a must see for all in celebration of Black History Month. Returning as director is Dr. Harry Parker, Chair of Texas Christian University’s Department of Theatre, and he also serves as Managing Director of TCU’s Trinity Shakespeare Festival.

**THURGOOD STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES ARE SUITABLE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS. GENERAL ADMISSION EVENING & MATINEE PERFORMANCES ARE SUITABLE FOR AUDIENCES AGES 13 AND ABOVE.**

## ***Down for #TheCount - One Act Play Festival***

**April 5-15, 2018**

Three years and counting, BATC's *Down for #TheCount* is one-act play festival featuring six dynamic female playwrights who are diverse in ethnicity and socioeconomic backgrounds as they are in their writing from around the country. This staged event breathes life into their compelling, hilarious, and heartbreaking stories. True to BATC's mission, *Down for #The Count* is a vital platform for the perpetuation of innovative theatrical productions where a variety of female voices may be heard.

**DOWN FOR #THECOUNT IS SUITABLE FOR AUDIENCES AGES 18 AND ABOVE.**

## ***Banned Together: A Censorship Cabaret, In partnership with the Dramatists Legal Defense Fund***

**September 24-29, 2018**

*Banned Together* is a provocative cabaret-style performance showcasing excerpts from Tony Award winning plays and musicals such as *Rent*, *Cabaret*, *Fun Home*, and *Angels in America* during national Banned Books Week. In partnership with the Dramatists Legal Defense Fund, these productions are widely challenged by those who desire to censor the literary community due to the content and/or language of works. However, they find their voices again on the BATC stage. Working with our TNT (Teenagers And Theatre) Apprenticeship program, Banned Together educates teen and adult audiences of how theatre and the arts can inspire conversations, activism, and challenge our mindsets.

**BANNED TOGETHER IS SUITABLE FOR AUDIENCES AGES 13 AND ABOVE.**

### **Funding Credit**

Bishop Arts Theatre Center's 2017-2018 Theatre Series is made possible by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Texas Commission on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

### **Ticketing Information**

All performances are presented at the Bishop Art Theatre Center located at 215 South Tyler, TX 75208. Show times per vary per production, please [www.bishopartstheatre.org](http://www.bishopartstheatre.org) to verify dates and times. General Admissions fees are \$18 to \$30. Discount tickets are available for groups of 15 or more and may be purchased by calling (214) 948-0716.

### **About Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC)**

Nestled in the heart of Dallas' Oak Cliff community, the Bishop Arts Theatre Center is an award winning, multicultural, multi-discipline theatre company owned and operated by TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. Founded in 1993, the mission of the organization is to cultivate a diverse and vibrant arts community while creating opportunities for local and emerging artists through performances and education. The BATC offers a full season of theatre performances, jazz concerts, a speaker series and year-round arts education programs. Each year, the theatre impacts nearly 30,000 people nationwide.

### **Connect with BATC socially at:**



[WWW.BISHOPARTSTHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.BISHOPARTSTHEATRE.ORG)

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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