



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 27, 2019

PRESS OPENING:
Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 8:00pm

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**GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE FRONT PORCH ARTS COLLECTIVE PROUDLY PRESENTS *MARIE AND ROSETTA***

Greater Boston Stage Company, in collaboration with The Front Porch Arts Collective, proudly presents ***Marie and Rosetta*** – the story of the groundbreaking musician Sister Rosetta Tharpe and her young protegee Marie Knight. Directed by Pascale Florestal, ***Marie and Rosetta*** will feature Lovely Hoffman and Pier Lamia Porter. Performances run **October 17 – November 10, 2019**. The Press Opening is **Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 8:00pm**.

Marie and Rosetta celebrates this icon of rock-n-roll and her protégé with gospel, guitar, and great storytelling. For anyone who enjoyed last season's *Million Dollar Quartet*, ***Marie and Rosetta*** will provide insight into Sister Rosetta Tharpe, one of the strongest musical influences on Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash.

“George Brant does a wonderful job of weaving most of Rosetta's biggest hits into the story. Though it is considered a play with music, for me the music is another character and element of the show,” shares Florestal. She continues, “This production will be church, we will praise one another, we will have uncomfortable and challenging conversations. I am doing this project for Sister Rosetta Tharpe and all the other forgotten women of color who have paved the way for successful white men.”

The Front Porch Arts Collective, in residence at Central Square Theater, is greater Boston's only professional black and brown arts organization dedicated to combating racism through theater. The Front Porch namesake signifies a communal gathering place - a communal spirit which inspires its members to serve communities of color and the greater Boston area by producing art that is welcoming to all audiences and inspires a more tolerant and inclusive Boston. The Front Porch Vision • **Examine** the interactions between race, culture, economics, ability, gender, and sexuality from the black and brown perspective • **Challenge** the biased narratives of black and brown people in America • **Increase** representation on stage, back stage, in the office, audience and in the boardroom • **Endeavor** to retain black and brown talent in Boston • **Train** the next generation of black and brown theater artists to address societal change through theater.

The Music Director for ***Marie and Rosetta*** is Erica Telisnor. The design team is comprised of Scenic Designer Baron E. Pugh, Lighting Designer Kathleen Zhou, Costume Designer Michelle Villada, Sound Designer John Stone, and Props Master Cesara Walters.

Single Tickets for *Marie and Rosetta*: \$52-62 Adults; \$47-57 Seniors; \$20 Students (with valid ID). *Thrifty Thursday* tickets cost \$15 at the door and are available for the Thursday, October 17, 2019 performance at 7:30pm. Group Discounts are available. Contact Bryan Miner, Audience Development Manager, at 781-587-7907 or bryan@greaterbostonstage.org. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at Greater Boston Stage Company at (781) 279-2200, or visit www.greaterbostonstage.org.

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS:











PASCALE FLORESTAL (Director) is a director, educator and collaborator. Her recent directing credits include: *Code Listen* (The Millennium Stage of The John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center), *Shrek The Musical!* (Greater Boston Stage Company Young Company), and *An Education in Prudence* (Open Theatre Project). Pascale has also directed staged readings of new plays by Michael Hisamoto, Marcus Gardley, Obehi Janice, Phaedra Michelle Scott, Lynne Brandon, Erin Lerch and Greg Lam. As an Assistant to the Director she has worked with Liesl Tommy, Billy Porter, Paul Daigneault and M. Bevin O'Gara. Pascale currently works at the Boston Center for the Arts as the Venue Associate. She recently worked at SpeakEasy Stage Company as the Boston Project Coordinator and Co-Directed The True Colors Troupe Program with The Theater Offensive. She is the Education Director for The Front Porch Arts Collective where she created the Young Critics Program, an educational program that strives to foster and incubate the next generation of theater critics.




LOVELY HOFFMAN* (Rosetta) returns to Greater Boston Stage Company after having appeared in *SunFish The Musical*. Lovely is an award-winning musical theatre performer, singer, songwriter and educator. In 2017, Lovely released her single, *My Black Is Beautiful*, a song about self-love, which went viral and reached #45 on the Adult Contemporary Radio Charts. Since releasing her single, Lovely has been featured on CNN, BET, TeenVogue and Essence Magazine. Lovely was also featured in *Lysol's* national "Thank You Teachers" commercial campaign. In 2015, Lovely won the IRNE Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Celie in *The Color Purple* at SpeakEasy Stage Company. Lovely's theatre credits include: Boston Lyric Opera, Reagle Music Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, Ocean State Music Theatre, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Moonbox Productions, and The Umbrella.




PIER LAMIA PORTER* (Marie) is making her Greater Boston Stage debut. Recent credits include: *Little Shop of Horror* (Lyric Stage), *Caroline or Change* (Moonbox), *Die Fledermaus* (Mass Opera), *Ragtime* and *Beauty and the Beast* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *1776* (New Repertory Theater), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Umbrella Stage), *Most Happy Fella* and *The Music Man* (RMT). She was a featured soloist in the concert premiere of the musical *Brother Nat* at the Emerson Paramount Theater and most recently a part of the workshop reading of *Diaspora* through the Boston Theatre Project (SpeakEasy Stage).

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

Performance Schedule:

	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
2019		7:30PM 	8PM 	3PM 8PM	2PM 
	OCT	17	18	19	20
	2PM 	7:30PM 	8PM 	3PM 8PM	2PM
	23	24	25	26	27
	2PM 		8PM 	3PM	2PM
	30	31	NOV 1	2	3
		7:30PM 	8PM 	8PM	2PM
	6	7	8	9	10

 Thrifty Thursday
  Specialty Drink Tastings (21+)
  Talkback

 Senior Matinee
  Girls' Night Out
  Young Professionals

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY:

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 20th Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces six Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200

Box Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays, 11am to 6pm; Saturdays, 1pm to 6pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: www.greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: StonehamBank and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation

Thrifty Thursday Sponsor: Melrose Bank

SEASON 20 PRESS OPENINGS:

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Press Opening: Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 7pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/miracleon34thstreet.html>

THE MOORS

Press Opening: Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/moors.html>

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Press Opening: Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 7pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/matilda.html>

MISS HOLMES RETURNS

Press Opening: June 6, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/missholmesreturns.html>