

# AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW

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2013 29 > 20  
SEP OCT



### PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Montreal, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – The Segal Centre will swing into its 2013-2014 Theatre Season with the Tony Award-winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin', The Fats Waller Musical Show*, conceived by Richard Maltby Jr. and Murray Horwitz. Presented in Montreal for the first time in over twenty years, this classic jazz-age musical revue is revived at the Segal Centre under the direction of Roger Peace and featuring a stellar cast led by Kim Richardson and Toya Alexis. In co-production with Copa de Oro Productions and sponsored by KPMG, *Ain't Misbehavin'* runs from **September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013** in the Segal Theatre.

**The inimitable Thomas “Fats” Waller rose to international fame during the golden age of the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom, when the nightclubs of New York were filled with stride piano players banging out that *jumpin’* new beat, swing.**

Three-time Tony Award-winner *Ain't Misbehavin'* is a musical tribute to the great jazz pianist Fats Waller and his iconic tunes that defined an era. From “Honeysuckle Rose” to “The Joint is Jumpin'” and “I Can't Give You Anything but Love”, a quintet of irresistible talents invites us to experience the delightful humour and infectious energy of the legendary jazzman and 1930s Harlem at the height of its social and cultural renaissance. Sassy, sizzling, and irresistibly feel-good, *Ain't Misbehavin'* is simply unforgettable.

After the success of *The Mahalia Jackson Musical*, written and directed by **Roger Peace**, last Spring, the Segal Centre once again collaborates with Copa de Oro Productions, and Mr. Peace, to bring this 1978 Broadway classic to life.

*“I want to present to our audiences the joy, wit and the exuberance, together with the occasional touch of raunch – of Fats Waller’s wonderful music. With the great cast we have, I hope to bring something a little different to some of the musical numbers, while still keeping the fun and energy of the songs,”* says the veteran director of over 100 stage productions, including the award-winning *Piaf: Love Conquers All*.

After wowing critics in the French-language adaptation of *Hairspray* at Théâtre St-Denis, **Kim Richardson** leads the dynamite cast in the role originated by Broadway diva Nell Carter. The three-time Juno Award-winning singer has performed alongside the country's top artists and most recently appeared in the feature film *Funkytown*, also recording and co-writing the song “Waiting For Your Touch” for the movie's soundtrack.

This new production will give Montreal audiences the chance to discover rising powerhouse singer and actor **Toya Alexis**, featured in the role originated by Armelia McQueen. Runner-up in CTV's *Canadian Idol* in 2003, Alexis gave a critically-acclaimed performance as Effie in the Canadian/London production of *Dreamgirls*.

Richardson and Alexis are joined by **Michael-Lamont Lytle**, **Jonathan Emile** and **Aiza Ntibarikure**. Ntibarikure turned heads in Paul Van Dyck's acclaimed adaptation of *Oroonoko* and also appeared alongside Kim Richardson in this summer's hit musical *Hairspray*.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR



### AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW

CONCEIVED BY RICHARD MALTBY  
JR. & MURRAY HORWITZ  
MUSIC BY THOMAS “FATS” WALLER  
LYRICS BY VARIOUS

STARRING

**KIM RICHARDSON**

ALSO FEATURING

**TOYA ALEXIS WITH**

**JONATHAN EMILE,**

**MICHAEL-LAMONT LYTLE**

**& AIZA NTIBARIKURE**

PRODUCER

**ALLAN SANDLER**

DIRECTOR

**ROGER PEACE**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**CHRIS BARILLARO**

SET DESIGN

**JEAN-CLAUDE OLIVIER**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**PETER SPIKE LYNE**

HEAD OF WARDROBE

**KAREN PEARCE**

STAGE MANAGER

**MERISSA TORDJMAN**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**DANIELLE SKENE**

APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

**SARA RODRIGUEZ**

Fats Waller's infectious tunes will have the joint jumping with a five-piece band live on stage, under the musical direction of **Chris Barillaro** (*Schwartz's: The Musical*). The original cabaret-style luster of the iconic New York nightclubs will shine on the Segal stage with a set design by **Jean-Claude Olivier**, lighting by **Peter Spike Lyne** and costumes by **Karen Pearce**.

*Ain't Misbehavin'* inaugurates the Segal Centre's 2013-2014 theatre season, which continues in November with a new production of Shakespeare's *Othello*, in association with Scapegoat Carnivale Theatre.

### Sunday @ the Segal

#### Go beyond the Stage with *Ain't Misbehavin'* creator Murray Horwitz!

A rare opportunity for theatre lovers, *Ain't Misbehavin'* creator and veteran radio broadcaster Murray Horwitz will join director of Opera at McGill University, Patrick Hansen, for an intimate pre-show lecture on **Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** Hailing from Washington, DC, Murray Horwitz's accomplishments in the performing arts include authoring the hit Broadway musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*, originating the hit NPR comedy quiz, *Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me*, and writing the song lyrics for John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby* at the Metropolitan Opera. Entrance is free.

### About Fats Waller

Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) was an African American jazz pianist, organist, composer and comedic entertainer. Born in New York City, he studied classical piano before apprenticing with the legendary jazz pianist James P. Johnson, who introduced Waller to the world of New York rent parties and the Harlem Stride style. Waller became known as one of the very best who ever played in the stride style, a jazz piano style that came to characterize music during the rise of the Harlem Renaissance, an era of burgeoning creativity, cultural awareness and ethnic pride. Waller soon gained recognition for his songwriting and lovable, roguish stage personality, recording a number of hit songs with his own five or six-piece combo Fats Waller and His Rhythm, including "Squeeze Me" (1919), "Ain't Misbehavin'" (1929), "Blue Turning Grey Over You" (1930), "Honeysuckle Rose" (1929), "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling" (1929) and "Jitterbug Waltz" (1942). He often collaborated with Tin Pan Alley lyricist Andy Razaf, played with many performers, from Erskine Tate to Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong, and appeared in a number of feature films, most notably *Stormy Weather* in 1943. Weighing close to 300 pounds, Waller's weight and drinking were widely believed to have contributed to his death; he died at the age of 39 aboard an eastbound train near Kansas City, Missouri.

### About the Segal Centre for Performing Arts

The Segal Centre is a meeting place for all of the performing arts, showcasing the best professional artists from here and abroad and playing a leading role in the artistic development of Montreal's youth and the creation of its cultural legacy. Through theatre, music, dance, cinema and the Academy, the Segal Centre is setting a broad vision by recognizing the importance of building bridges through the arts and supporting multicultural projects in Montreal. The Centre's commitment is to ensure that creativity resonates within our community and that it remains accessible and inspiring each and every day. [segalcentre.org](http://segalcentre.org)

### About Copa de Oro Productions

Copa de Oro was officially established in January 2010 by producer Allan Sandler and Roger Peace. The company was formed with the express vision of signing and presenting original musical and theatrical works for the legitimate theatre. Although the company is relatively new, these faces have been around a long time and represent a wealth of experiences in both the theatrical and musical arenas, both here in Canada and throughout the world.

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For interviews and media inquiries,  
please contact:

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[www.segalcentre.org/media](http://www.segalcentre.org/media)

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NEXT



### MEDIA CALL

Opportunity for interviews, video and photo ops with cast, design team and directors  
**Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

### OPENING NIGHT

**Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 p.m.**  
Please RSVP before Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### PERFORMANCES

September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### PREVIEWS

September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

### RUN

Monday – Thursday – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday – 7:00 p.m.

### MATINÉES

Wednesday – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday – 2:00 p.m.

### TICKETS

514.739.7944

[www.segalcentre.org](http://www.segalcentre.org)

### GO BEYOND THE STAGE!

*SUNDAY @ THE SEGAL:*

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m.

GUESTS: Murray Horwitz, creator of *Ain't Misbehavin'* and veteran NPR broadcaster & Patrick Hansen, Director of Opera at McGill University.

Entrance is free

*MONDAY NIGHT TALKBACKS:*

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>.

A post-play opportunity to interact with the artists bringing *Ain't Misbehavin'* to life.

Free Event

### WHERE

Segal Centre for Performing Arts  
5170, ch. de la Côte-Ste-Catherine  
Montréal

Metro: Côte-Ste-Catherine/Snowdon  
Bus: 129 / 51

## OTHELLO

2013 17 > 01  
NOV DEC



BY William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY Alison Darcy

A Segal Centre production in association  
with Scapegoat Carnivale Theatre