



January 18, 2012

Press Contact:

Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director  
[scoen@trtc.org](mailto:scoen@trtc.org) or 732.345.1400 ext. 1829

Box Office: 732.345.1400 or [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org)

**TWO RIVER THEATER PRESENTS AUGUST WILSON'S *JITNEY*,**  
**DIRECTED BY RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON**

**Community events and conversations include 'A Celebration of August Wilson' with actors Anthony Chisholm and James A. Williams, free to the public at the Red Bank Public Library on Monday, February 6 at 7pm**

**Performances: January 29 – February 19, 2012**  
**Opening Night: Saturday, February 4, 2012**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its season with **August Wilson's *Jitney***, directed by Tony Award-winner **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**. Performances will begin in Two River's Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, with a special added preview on Sunday, January 29 and continue through Sunday, February 19. The opening night performance is **Saturday, February 4 at 8pm**.

Single tickets starting at \$37 are available from 732.345.1400 or [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org). Discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and patrons aged 30 and under. *Jitney* is sponsored by Arrow Limousine.

**August Wilson** wrote an early version of *Jitney* (then called *Jitney!*) in 1978. His first full-length play, it was written before he began what would become his monumental Pittsburgh Cycle, 10 plays about the African-American experience in each decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The only one of Wilson's cycle plays to be written in the decade in which it takes place, *Jitney* is set in 1977 Pittsburgh, in a makeshift storefront depot for gypsy cab drivers. The play had its premiere at Pittsburgh's Allegheny Repertory Theatre in 1982. It was revised by Wilson in 1996 and had its New York debut in 2000.

Wilson (April 27, 1945—Oct. 2, 2005) grew up in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, the setting for all but one of his plays. His work has been seen across the United States, as well as on Broadway and all over the world. The other plays in the Pittsburgh Cycle are *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars*, *Fences*, *Two Trains Running*, *King Hedley II*, and *Radio Golf*. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including two Pulitzer Prizes (for *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*), a Tony Award for *Fences*, and Great Britain's Olivier Award for *Jitney*.

Director **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**, who is now starring on Broadway in *Stick Fly*, won a Tony Award for his performance in Wilson's *Seven Guitars* and made his directorial debut with a production of Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* for McCarter Theatre and American Conservatory Theater. His directing credits also include Wilson's *Radio Golf* (Kennedy Center) and *Seven Guitars* (Signature Theatre Company). Santiago-Hudson made his Broadway acting debut in *Jelly's Last Jam*. He won an Obie Award and critical acclaim for his solo show *Lackawanna Blues*, and his screenplay for the HBO adaptation received the Humanitas Prize, Christopher Award, National Board of Review Honors, and NAACP Image Award.

The company of *Jitney* includes **Harvy Blanks** (Shealy), **J. Bernard Calloway** (Booster), **Anthony Chisholm** (Fielding), **Chuck Cooper** (Becker), **Brandon J. Dirden** (Youngblood), **Roslyn Ruff** (Rena), **Ray Anthony Thomas** (Philmore), **James A. Williams** (Doub), and **Allie Woods Jr.** (Turnbo).

The creative team includes scenic designer **Neil Patel**, costume designer **Karen Perry**, lighting designer **Rui Rita**, sound designer **Leon Rothenberg**, composer **Bill Sims Jr.** and fight director **Thomas Schall**. The casting is by **Heidi Griffiths** and the stage manager is **Amanda Michaels**.

For complete biographies of the company, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).

## EVENTS AND CONVERSATIONS

### **A Celebration of August Wilson with Anthony Chisholm and James A. Williams Free, Monday, February 6 at 7pm at the Red Bank Public Library, 84 West Front Street**

In this free event, August Wilson's singular talent will be remembered by two of the actors most associated with his work. **Anthony Chisholm** originated roles in the New York productions of four of Wilson's plays, including his Tony-nominated performance in *Radio Golf*. **James A. Williams** had a long professional relationship with Wilson extending back to the playwright's first professional production in 1981.

### **Before Play**

Actor and director **Darrell Willis**, a professor at Brookdale Community College, will speak about August Wilson and his work in Two River's popular Before Play series, a free lecture that takes place in the Lobby 45 minutes prior to the start of every performance.

### **Post-play Discussions with the Cast**

Audiences are invited to share their questions and responses to the play with members of the cast after the following performances: Wednesday, February 8 at 7pm; Sunday, February 12 at 3pm; and Wednesday, February 15 at 1pm.

### **Video Interviews**

In conjunctions with this production, Two River Theater will be posting exclusive interviews with the cast of *Jitney* about performing Wilson and working on this production.

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 29 at 3 pm (Special Added Preview)  
Tuesday, January 31 at 8pm  
Wednesday, February 1 at 7pm  
Thursday, February 2 at 8pm  
Friday, February 3 at 8pm  
Saturday, February 4 at 8pm (Opening)  
Sunday, February 5 at 3pm  
Wednesday, February 8 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, February 9 at 10am (Student Matinee) and 8pm  
Friday, February 10 at 8pm  
Saturday, February 11 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, February 12 at 3pm

Wednesday, February 15 at 1pm (Audio Described) and 7pm  
Thursday, February 16 at 10am (Student Matinee) and 8pm  
Friday, February 17 at 8pm  
Saturday, February 18 at 3pm (Open Captioned) and 8pm (Audio Described)  
Sunday, February 19 at 3pm

Two River Theater Company is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Molly Pitcher Inn/Oyster Point Hotel, The Shubert Foundation, Flowerful Events, et al fine food & events, and many other foundations, corporations, and sponsors.

###

---

**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY** is under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a “Major Arts Institution” by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).