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TWO RIVER THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR *YOUR BLUES AIN'T SWEET LIKE MINE*, A WORLD PREMIERE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON, RUNNING APRIL 11-MAY 3, 2015

THE PRODUCTION WILL STAR BRANDON J. DIRDEN, ANDREW HOVELSON, MERRITT JANSON, ROGER ROBINSON, AND ROSLYN RUFF

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces the cast and creative team for its production of *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*, written and directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson. The production will run April 11-May 3, 2015, with the opening night on April 17, 2015. Single tickets starting at \$20 are now available from 732.345.1400 or tworivetheater.org. *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine* is sponsored by lead sponsor WBGO Jazz 88.3FM and WBGO.org.

Brandon J. Dirden and Merritt Janson will star as Zeke and Judith in Two River's commissioned world-premiere drama about America's relationship to race—and the power of hope and possibility in all of our lives. Zeke is a highly educated, once-homeless man who describes himself as a "walking outburst." Judith, a self-described "seeker of knowledge," is a writer who decides that his life would make a great feature for *The New York Times Magazine*. As the story progresses and their worlds collide, Zeke and Judith discover the price of history, sacrifice, and legacy.

Brandon J. Dirden (Zeke) most recently appeared on Broadway as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. opposite Bryan Cranston's LBJ in *All the Way*. His other New York theater credits include *Clybourne Park* and *The Piano Lesson*; at Two River Theater, he starred in *Jitney* and *Topdog/Underdog*. His television credits include *The Americans* and *The Good Wife*.

Merritt Janson (Judith) was most recently seen in Theatre for a New Audience's production of *Tamburlaine the Great* and *The Last Will* with Abingdon Theatre Company. She has appeared in numerous productions with Shakespeare & Company, American Repertory Theatre, and the Moscow Art Theatre.

Also featured in the cast are **Andrew Hovelson** (Broadway's *Lucky Guy* and *An Enemy of the People*) as Randall, Judith's boyfriend; **Roger Robinson** (Tony Award winner for August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Two River's Trouble in Mind*) as Zebedee, a recluse who has chosen to live for the past 40 years in a book-lined room under Grand Central Station; and **Roslyn Ruff** (*Two Trains Running* at Two River Theater, Lortel Award winner for *The Piano Lesson* at Signature Theatre, *All the Way* on Broadway) as Janeece, Judith's best friend.

Ruben Santiago-Hudson's directing credits include August Wilson's *Jitney* and *Two Trains Running* at Two River Theater and *The Piano Lesson* for Signature Theatre. 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 and other honors. As an actor, his credits include August Wilson's *Seven Guitars*, for which he received the Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play; August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned* at Signature Theatre; and the feature film *Selma*.

The creative team for *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine* includes scenic designer **Michael Carnahan**, costume designer **Karen Perry**, lighting designer **Driscoll Otto**, and sound designer **Robert Kaplowitz**. The production will feature original music by **Bill Sims Jr.** The fight director is **Thomas Schall**, the casting is by **Heidi Griffiths** and the production stage manager is **Laura Wilson**.

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Investors Bank, Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, Brookdale Community College, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, William T. Morris Foundation, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, , and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, creates great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit tworivertheater.org or call 732.345.1400.