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JUBILEE THEATRE  
SEASON 37

# 506MAIN

Spring  
2018

*Jubilee Theatre, the Fort Worth / Dallas area's only African-American theater producing a full season of shows*

## BLUES-THE HEART OF AMERICAN MUSIC

Lita Gaither celebrates the 20th Anniversary of "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" with Jubilee Theatre

Jubilee Theatre's sizzling, red-hot production of "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues," recently closed a certified hit. The production, a foot-stomping, high-voltage journey in song took the audiences from African chants and Delta spirituals, to the urban electricity of a Chicago nightclub.

"It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" opened on Broadway in 1998 to much acclaim. The New York Times called this Tony Award nominated production "rich, evocative, rousing...more than a musical feast." To celebrate the 20th year anniversary Lita Gaither, co-author of the hit musical, attended the closing performance of Jubilee's production.

Ms. Gaither gave a heartfelt recollection of her journey with the production over the last 20 years. The cast, creative team, board of directors and patrons celebration with a toast to 20 years of excellence and a call for many more years.

"It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" was directed by Robert Michael James, and musical directed by Steven A. Taylor. Robert Michael James last directed "Smokey Joes Café" for Jubilee. This production starred an ensemble of nine versatile actors, singers, dancers, and musicians including Melinda Wood Allen, Wallace Atkins, Jimmy Crump, Nyeshia Hollins, Contessah Irene, Brittany Jackson, Darren McElroy and Gordon Pope.

The remaining creative team includes set by Rodney Dobbs, costume design by Amy Poe, lighting design by Nikki Deshea Smith,

technical direction by Van Williams and stage management by Amir Ali.

"It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues, full of fine voices and backed by a smoking hot quartet, is an especially gutsy, emotion-packed expression of a genre this company does well." -TheatreJones.com



*It Ain't Nothing But the Blues co-author Lita Gaither with the Jubilee cast.*

7 Number of Productions in  
2017-2018 Season

137 Number of Performances  
in 2017-2018 Season

80% Average Attendance in  
2017-2018 Season

## LENA HORNE STAMP UNVEILING

Fort Worth's U.S. Postal Service honored legendary performer and civil rights activist Lena Horne on the 41st stamp in the Black Heritage stamp series.

Area Postmaster, Kevin Farmer, presented the commemorative work to Ellen

Benson, Jubilee's Board President on Saturday, March 31, 2018 in celebration of Women's History Month.



Lena Horne was a trailblazer in Hollywood for women of color and used her fame as an entertainer to become an important civil rights spokesperson. The stamp art features a photograph of Lena Horne taken by Christian Steiner in the 1980s. Kristen Monthei colorized the original black-and-white photo, adding a background reminiscent of Horne's Stormy Weather album, with a few clouds to add texture and subtly make the album reference. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.

# SHOWTIME

## BUSINESS ICON JOINS JUBILEE AS HONORARY CHAIR FOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA



Longtime Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustee member, Norma Roby, will graciously serve as Jubilee Theatre's honorary chair for their Annual Fundraising Gala "Showtime" scheduled for Friday, May 18th, 2018 at Red Oak Ballroom. In spite of her busy business schedule, Roby contributes to her community in numerous ways by serving on boards such as Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce Advisory Council, Medical Center of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth Promotion and Development Fund.

A community leader, Roby has over 30 years of experience as a concessionaire doing business at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. She is one of the industry pioneers of women and minorities business owners at U.S. Airports and is a charter member of the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC). Off airport business ventures have included a six-year contract for multiple food concessions at the Texas Motor Speedway, inmate telephone contracts in both Dallas and Fort Bend Counties and a 10-year joint venture concession contract at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Roby's past professional, civic and community involvement includes the following organizations: the Texas Commission for Women and for the Commission on Travel and Tourism, White House Conferences on Travel and Tourism and The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), The Air War College National Security Forum. She has also been a member on numerous boards of directors including Cook Children's Hospital, Fort Worth Sister Cities, Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and the Fort Worth Ethics Review Commission.



### STICK FLY MAY 25 - JUNE 24, 2018

The affluent, African-American LeVay family gather at their Martha's Vineyard home for the weekend, and brothers Kent and Flip have each brought their respective ladies home to meet the parents for the first time. As the two newcomers butt heads over issues of race and privilege, long-standing family tensions bubble under the surface and reach a boiling point when secrets are revealed.



### BLUES IN THE NIGHT JULY 27 - AUGUST 26, 2018

Set in a rundown Chicago hotel in 1938, this incredible musical revue focuses on three women's relationships with the same "snake-of-a-man" and their interweaving stories told through the torch songs and blues of Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen and Alberta Hunter among others. Last performed on the Jubilee Theatre stage in 2010 and back by popular demand, this Tony-Award nominated musical features over twenty five songs with vocal arrangements designed to "bring down the house"!

## Vision 20/20 Set Its Sights on 2020



The path to dynamic theatrical productions begins long before an actor hits the stage. The opportunity to tell stories which reflect the African American experience is Jubilee's charge. Non-profit cultural performing arts institutions must engage audiences on two fronts: production quality and content value.

As Jubilee Theatre expands in new directions by enhancing our production values, evolving our arts education component, and expanding opportunities for emerging playwrights and actors; it is vital to engage our patrons and stakeholders for your ongoing support. We ask you to consider making a pledge/gift toward the VISION 20/20...ROAD TO 40 YEARS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN in commemoration of the Theatre's ongoing success in Fort Worth.

A commemorative gift to Jubilee Theatre will financially support the evolution of the Theatre's upcoming seasons and

planning for our 40th season celebration. By gifting a minimum of \$20.00 for the next 12 months, you will assist in helping to undergird the vision of one of Fort Worth's cultural arts gems. Your pledge/gift will ultimately fortify daily operating expenses, aid in capacity building, and open opportunities for artists across the North Texas area.

Simply visit [www.jubileetheatre.org](http://www.jubileetheatre.org) to submit your pledge/donation. Thank you for all that you have done to keep the dream of our late and beloved founder, Rudy Eastman, alive. We look forward to your continued involvement as we plan for the future of Jubilee Theatre.

