


THEATRE & too
AT THEATRE 2
2015-2016 Season



April 7-May 1, 2016

The Empress, The Lady and The Pearl, Part One;
The Empress and The Pearl
by diannetucker

CAST in Alphabetical Order

Marisa Diotalevi Janis Joplin

Denise Lee* Bessie Smith

Setting

The Landmark Hotel,

October 4, 1970

Special Thanks

Kyle Montgomery, Jo Anne Hull,

Mark Guerra

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Please silence your cell phones and all electronic devices. No photography or videography is allowed without the consent of the theatre.

* indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production.

ARTISTIC STAFF

DIRECTOR

Bruce R. Coleman

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST

Geno Young

STAGE MANAGER

Suzanna Catherine Fox*

Production Assistant

Amelia Awalt

LIGHTING DESIGN

Bryan S. Douglas

PROPERTIES MASTER

Kat Edwards

SCENIC PAINTER

David Walsh

PRODUCTION CREW

John Ruegsegger,

Monika Zimmermann



Pictured: top, Marisa Diotalevi (left)
Denise Lee (right) and bottom, diannetucker

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Denise Lee (Bessie Smith) is happy to return to the basement of Theatre Three where she hung out for almost two years as Gary Coleman in Theatre Too's production of *Avenue Q*. She is also more than honored to work again with Bruce, Dianne, Geno and Marisa! As a Dallas-based actress and vocalist, she works in stage, television and film productions here and abroad. Denise's company, *Denise Lee Onstage*, has created and co-executive produced a new cabaret series with Fair Park Dallas that completed its first season July 2015 in the Dallas Women's Building in Fair Park. This series started again in November 2015 and showcases the best in Texas-based cabaret performers every 2nd & 4th Tuesday night at the Women's Building at Fair Park. The season will closeout in July with Dallas' first Cabaret Festival featuring Jim Caruso & Billy Stritch from New York's Birdland. Denise is the recipient of several awards including the 2013 *Sammons Cabaret Artist of the Year*, the 2015 *Broadway World Award for Best Cabaret Performance* for her show *Too Old, Too Fat, Too Black - Songs I'll Never Sing on Broadway* and the *Dallas Voice 2016 Reader's Voice Award for Best Actress*. She is the proud parent of two beautiful daughters, Janelle and Traci. Denise is represented by The Linda McAlister Talent Agency and a proud member of AEA. Join her mailing list at www.deniseleeonstage.com. Thanks to God & all who made this journey possible!

Geno Young (Musical Director/pianist), a Dallas native, is a musician whose influence touches many facets of today's musical landscape. He is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and a Cum Laude graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. Geno has toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe as a performer, musical director, producer, conductor and lecturer. He has served as musical director and producer for some of soul music's most influential performers including Erykah Badu, Les Nubians, Leela James and many others. Geno served as one of the first African-American Governors for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Texas) and is a voting member of the Grammy awards. Mr. Young has consistently garnered stellar reviews for his work in the theatre. A small list of his music direction credits include *The Color Purple*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Don't Bother Me*, *I Can't Cope*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Spunk*, *The Seven* by Will Power. Geno is honored to be working at Theatre Three and would like to thank Bruce Coleman, diannetucker, Denise Lee, Marisa Diotalevi and Suzanna Fox for this amazing run.

Marisa Diotalevi (Janis Joplin) is tripping over this opportunity to share the stage with Denise Lee and work with such a cool company, man. She has worked at Theatre Too in the past appearing in *Blankity-Blank*, the "Garden" portion of *House and Garden*, and premiered her award-winning one-woman show in this space over mumble-mumble years ago. She has appeared upstairs at Theatre Three in *Assassins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and the "House" portion of *House and Garden*. She has also been seen at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas in *Love Loss and What I Wore*, *Lone Star/Laundry and Bourbon*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Women*, and at Uptown players in *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *Valley of the Dolls*, and hosting their annual fundraising gala *Broadway Our Way*. She would like to thank Bruce, Denise, and diannetucker for the trust.

diannetucker (playwright) is a native Texan who has lived in Dallas more than 40 years. She is a playwright, lyricist, and storyteller. Dianne founded and co-managed a nonprofit theatre company - The Dallas Drama Company - for more than ten years. She has also had extensive human resource management experience, including tenures with Hewlett Packard and Levi Strauss, primarily in training and organizational development. Dianne also co-owned and managed a live entertainment venue in Deep Ellum - Tuckers Blues, which closed in 2012. There, she regularly told stories about blues history and Dallas history. Dianne holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and a master's degree from Southern Methodist University. She holds a Texas teacher certification, and has taught both adults and children. Dianne has been accepted in a doctoral program at SMU beginning fall 2016 and is on the hunt for scholarships. For several years she was a weekly volunteer storyteller at Story Time for preschoolers in Deep Ellum. She has taught creative writing and storytelling at summer and/or spring break arts camps at the Irving Arts Center for more than fifteen years. Dianne has had several plays produced at area theatres.

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The 2010 Tony winner for "Best Musical"

by David Bryan and Joe DiPetro

April 28 – May 22, 2016



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MEMPHIS is made possible by...

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