

Hoagy B Carmichael presents

Desiree Burch joins the cast of **This Joint is Jumpin'** a red-hot celebration of jazz icon Fats Waller's life and music



also featuring

Broadway star Lillias White making her London stage debut
(Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle winner, *Dreamgirls*, *The Life*)
Internationally celebrated tap dance artist **Michela Marino Lerman**
Princess Grace Award winner tap dancer **Joseph Wiggan**
("Shuffle Along", Cirque du Soliel's "Michael Jackson: The Immortal Tour")
Critically acclaimed vocalist **Michael Mwenso and The Shakes**

Comedian, actor, writer and storyteller **Desiree Burch** is joining New York's hottest jazz musicians and tap dancers for the world premiere of **This Joint is Jumpin'**, a red-hot 1920's Harlem rent party celebration of jazz icon Fats Waller's life and music, at The Other Palace Studio from 4 – 15 April. **Press night is Thursday 6 April at 7.00pm**

This Joint is Jumpin' is a fusion of live jazz, thrilling tap dancing and storytelling celebrating and radically interpreting jazz icon Fats Waller's music, breathing new life into classics such as *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Black and Blue* and *Honeysuckle Rose*.

This Joint is Jumpin' is produced by Hoagy B. Carmichael, son of the legendary American composer Hoagy Carmichael.

Desiree replaces the previously announced British actor **Samuel Anderson** as the host of the rent party. He is now not available due to work commitments in the USA.

Desiree Burch was raised in L.A., developed artistically in NY and currently resides in London. Her brash and energetic comedy style has been seen on NBC and E4, and made her the winner of the 2015 Funny Women Stage Award for stand-up. As a writer and performer, she makes raw and gutsy work. Her critically-acclaimed solo show *52 Man Pickup* has toured internationally and her solo piece *Tar Baby* won a 2015 Fringe First for new writing at the Edinburgh Fringe. Inspired by a performance aesthetic developed with the New York Neo-Futurists, Desiree performed for several years in the show *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* and has toured in Young Jean Lee's *Untitled Feminist Show*. You can catch her as the hilarious roommate Jill on the hit webseries *Jack in a Box* or as the former Mayor of Night Vale, Pamela Winchell on the top-rated podcast *Welcome to Night Vale*.

Also in the cast is **Lillias White** the Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award-winning Broadway star of *Dreamgirls*, *The Life* and Netflix's *The Get Down*, making her London debut. She made her Broadway debut in *Barnum* in 1981. She understudied the role of Effie in the original 1981 production of *Dreamgirls* and played the part in the 1987 revival, for which she won the Drama League Award for Best Actress in a Musical. She also appeared on Broadway in *Cats*, *Carrie*, *Once on This Island*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Chicago*, and *Fela!*. For her role in Cy Coleman's *The Life*, she won the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her portrayal of a world-weary, no-nonsense, streetwise hooker named Sonja. The red-hot cast also features internationally celebrated tap dance artist Michela Marino Lerman, Princess Grace Award winner tap dancer Joseph Wiggan (*Shuffle Along*, Cirque du Soliel's *Michael Jackson: The Immortal Tour*), critically acclaimed vocalist Michael Mwenso and The Shakes: a unique troupe of global artists who present music that merges the highest form of entertainment and artistry. The Shakes are Dion Keith Kerr IV on bass, Mathis Picard on piano, Mark Kavuma on trumpet, Kyle Poole on drums, Ruben Fox on tenor saxophone, and the remarkable South African Jazz vocalist Vuyo Sotashe.

The Director is Patrice Miller. Choreographer Michela Marino Lerman. Musical Director Michael Mwenso.

A video teaser can be seen here <https://youtu.be/QfHZaJ0jWl4>



Listings

THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN'

Tuesday 4 – Saturday 15 April

Press night: Thursday 6 April at 7.00pm

Performance Times:

Tuesday - Saturday evenings at 8.00pm

Fridays 6.30pm & 9.00pm

Saturday matinees at 3.00pm

Ticket prices:

£20/£25

Fridays and Saturdays:

£25/£30

The Other Palace Studio

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The Other Palace is the newest addition to Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Theatres Group and takes its name from its situation less than 100 yards from Buckingham Palace and close to the Victoria Palace.

Formerly the St. James Theatre, the theatre will officially open its doors in February 2017, and will be a home and breeding ground for musicals at various stages of development. The Other Palace will focus on four key areas: programming, creative use of spaces, musical theatre development and audience engagement. Producer Paul Taylor Mills will be artistic director.

The main theatre will be the heart of The Other Palace, where the programme will consist of full productions, work in progress productions and festivals of new work. By day the studio will be available for composers, librettists, lyricists, directors and choreographers to discover and create new material. By night the space will build on the current St. James Studio model to offer a diverse programme including cabaret, music, musical theatre and crossover acts. A series of unique platforming opportunities for musical theatre in development will also be introduced in the studio; further details will be announced in due course. The theatre will feature an open mic bar in the hope that it becomes a genuine hub for anyone interested in the musical.

Andrew Lloyd Webber has united with Joe and Margaux Sharratt, the husband and wife team who shot to fame in the restaurant world in 2015 with their Brixton hotspot, Naughty Piglets. The Other Palace will house The Other Naughty Piglet, a fun modern restaurant serving fresh, seasonal and creative small plates, combined with an extensive choice of natural wines.

OTHER PALACE