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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATRE TO PRESENT OUTDOOR PRODUCTION OF “LADY DAY AT EMERSON’S BAR AND GRILL”**

*Fayetteville, NC*—Cape Fear Regional Theatre is pleased to announce its production of “Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill” after a nearly 6-month hiatus. “Lady Day” is the story of famed singer Billie Holiday’s final performance before her untimely death in 1959. Through songs and stories, Lady Day reveals her loneliness, inner fire, and a spirit that refuses to break. The show is interwoven with more than a dozen musical numbers including “When a Woman Loves a Man,” “God Bless the Child,” and “Strange Fruit.”

“Lady Day” will be performed outside at the old Haymount Auto Repair (100 Broadfoot Avenue), a few doors down from CFRT, from October 8-25. “We are thrilled to return to telling great stories and are so grateful to Mr. Wiggs - the owner of Haymount Auto - for allowing us to use this outdoor space and to the City of Fayetteville for their support in bringing Lady Day to our community. We have worked very hard to provide a live theatre experience that is as safe and enjoyable as possible. The audience will sit in “pods” of 2 or 4 and be spaced apart, paper tickets and programs have been eliminated to create a contact free environment, and masks will be required of all staff and audience. This show is a beautiful exploration of Billie Holiday’s life, the challenges she endured, and her haunting voice. At a time of such isolation we are over-the-moon to be bringing small gatherings of folks together to celebrate endurance and remember that as we have overcome challenging times before, we will prevail again.”

“Lady Day” will be directed by Greensboro-based artist Gregory Horton with Janeta Jackson taking on the role of the iconic songbird herself. Audiences will remember Jackson from CFRT’s “Crowns,” the gospel musical that delighted sold-out houses in May of 2019. She also brought Lady Day to life at Actors Theatre of Charlotte last year. Audiences will also recognize Brian Whitted, who is music directing and playing Jimmy Powers, Lady Day’s pianist. Whitted, a Fayetteville native, has worked on multiple CFRT shows, most recently 2015’s “Ain’t Misbehavin’.” His start at CFRT led him to NYC where he worked on the Broadway productions of “Chicago” and “Violet” and worked as an pianist for Bette Midler and Jennifer Hudson.

CFRT has implemented new COVID procedures including socially distanced seating, digital programs and tickets, mask wearing, frequent sanitization, and of course, performing outdoors. Seating will be very limited so audiences are encouraged to book early.

**“Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill” has previews on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> where tickets are only \$19, and opens Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The performance schedule is Wednesday though Friday at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 7:30pm and 2:00pm**

**on Sundays. Tickets are \$32. As a Blue Star Theater, CFRT offers Military Discounts for all performances and hosts Military Appreciation Nights (Oct. 14). CFRT will host a Teacher Appreciation Night where all educators receive a 25% discount on tickets (Oct. 16.) The show runs through October 25. For tickets and information visit: [cfrt.org](http://cfrt.org) or call the box office at 910.323.4233.**

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**Cape Fear Regional Theatre** believes in the power of storytelling and the visceral impact of live theatre. We strive for the highest standards of excellence in our artistic work, educational offerings, and outreach efforts. We provide the region a place to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share our experiences and grow as a community.