



## NEWS RELEASE

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**ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS SIZZLING MUSICAL REVUE OF  
PASSION, SOUL AND LOVE CELEBRATING BAWDIER SIDE OF THE BLUES WITH  
*LOW DOWN DIRTY BLUES***

Described by *Chicago Theater Beat* as “an evening of sultry, sexy fun that makes you ‘Shake Your Money Maker,’” Arizona Theatre Company (David Ivers, Artistic Director; Billy Russo, Managing Director) presents the sizzling musical revue ***Low Down Dirty Blues*** March 10-31 at the Temple of Music & Art in Tucson and April 5-22 at the Herberger Theater Center.

Created by Randal Myler and Dan Wheetman and directed by Mylar, whose direction of ATC’s ***It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues*** and ***Love, Janis*** tore the house down, ***Low Down Dirty Blues*** features nearly two-dozen smokin’ songs filled with “passion, soul and a love of life that celebrate the bawdier side of the blues and will keep the theater sultry and steamy from the first note to the last,” said ATC Artistic Director David Ivers.

When a group of veteran blues musicians assemble for an after-hours jam session to swap stories and share their favorite low-down dirty tunes from the greatest hits of Muddy Waters, Mae West, Ma Rainey, Sophie Tucker, Howlin’ Wolf, Pearl Bailey

and more, "**Low Down Dirty Blues** ... showcases its ditties as equal parts escapist entertainment and torch-song protest," Alissa Norby wrote in *ShowBizChicago*.

ATC's production of **Low Down Dirty Blues** features Felicia P. Fields (Big Mama), who earned a Tony Award® nomination for her portrayal of Sofia in the national touring company of **The Color Purple** and multi-instrumentalist Shake Anderson, Calvin Jones (bass), Steven Schmidt (keyboard) and Chic Street Man (guitar and performing as Jelly Roll Morton).

"**Low Down Dirty Blues** is a tribute to titillating, double-entendre blues songs about handy men, back door men and jelly roll men along with tunes about lusty mamas who want those papas to jump their pony, put some sugar in their bowl, fill their jelly roll and turn their damper down," Linda Cain wrote in *Chicago Blues Guide*.

Single ticket prices range from \$25 to \$73 in Tucson and \$25 to \$80 in Phoenix and can be purchased at the box offices at the Temple of Music & Art and the Herberger Theater Center or online at [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org). A very special limited number of cabaret seats will be available in the front proscenium that puts ticket holders right in the action. Visit [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org) for details.

I. Michael and Beth Kasser are the 2017-18 season sponsors. The Margaret E. Mooney Foundation is the production sponsor in Tucson. Zazu Panee is the production sponsor in Phoenix.

**Low Down Dirty Blues** will be followed by **The Diary of Anne Frank**, directed by ATC Artistic Director Emeritus David Ira Goldstein, in Tucson April 21-May 12 and in Phoenix, May 17-June 3.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Randal Myler (Director)** has directed ATC productions of *Ring of Fire*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, *Love, Janis*, *The Immigrant*, *Touch the Names* and *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. His Broadway credits include *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, for which he received two Tony Award® nominations. Off-Broadway: Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Little Shubert, Promenade, Manhattan Ensemble, New Victory Theatre, Village Gate, B.B. King's, New World Stages. Regional Theatre: Bucks County Playhouse, Kennedy Center, Mark Taper Forum, Arena Stage, Denver Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Geffen Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Northlight Theatre, Crossroads Theatre, San Diego's Old Globe, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, Grand Ole Opry, Cleveland Play House, Virginia Stage Company, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, California Theatre Center, TheatreWorks, Portland Center Stage, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Bay Street Theatre, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Zach Scott Theatre, San Diego Repertory

Theatre, Vineyard Playhouse, Tacoma Actors Guild, Houston Stages, Rubicon Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, PCPA Theatrefest, Barter Theatre, Blowing Rock Theatre, The People's Light Theatre, Ivoryton Playhouse, Virginia Stage Company, Florida Studio Theatre, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Marine's Memorial Theatre, and others.

**Dan Wheetman (Musical Director)** is a multi-instrumentalist singer, songwriter, and playwright. Previous ATC credits include *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, and *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*. Mr. Wheetman has received several awards for his musical direction, including LA Critics Drama-Logue Awards, Bay Area Critics Award, and a Tony® nomination for the book of *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*. His plays have been produced in several regional theatres around the country, such as the Denver Center Theatre, Lone Tree Performing Arts Center, Geffin Playhouse, Meadow Brook Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, and Stages Theatre, among others. He was a member of John Denver's band for eight years, wrote a song for Kermit the Frog, and recorded a 78rpm record with the cartoonist R Crumb and the Good Tone Banjo Boys, and plays in the band Marley's Ghost.

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

**Director:** Randal Myler

**Musical Director:** Dan Wheetman

**Scenic Designer:** Vicki Smith

**Costume Designer:** Kish Finnegan

**Lighting Designer:** Don Darnutzer

**Sound Designer:** Brian Jerome Peterson

**Production Stage Manager:** Glenn Bruner

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Bruno Ingram

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Timothy Toothman

### **Ticket Info:**

Tickets for *Low Down Dirty Blues* start at \$25 and are subject to change depending on time, date and section, and are available at [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org) or by calling the box office at (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix. Discounts are available for seniors and active military. A \$10 student ticket pricing is now available for all performances. Half-price rush tickets are available for balcony seating for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the ATC box office (subject to availability). **\$10 Sunday** performance tickets are available for a suggested \$10 donation in Tucson on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. and in Phoenix on Sunday, Sunday, April 8 at 7 p.m. (Tickets must be purchased at the Temple of Music & Art in Tucson and the Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix starting one hour prior to curtain. Tickets are first-come, first served. *Cash only*. Two tickets maximum per person.) For discounts for groups of 10 or more, call (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix.

**Arizona Theatre Company offers accessibility services for patrons with disabilities for select performances. American Sign Language Interpretation** is presented by professional, theatrically trained ASL-interpreters for people who have deafness or hearing impairment. An ASL-interpreted performance is offered on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucson and Saturday, April 21 at 4 p.m. in Phoenix on an LED screen as the play progresses. An open captioned performance is offered on Thursday, March 29 at 2 p.m. in Tucson and Sunday, April 15 at 7 p.m. in Phoenix. For open-captioned or ASL-interpreted performances, patrons should request seats best suited to ASL interpretation or captioning when purchasing tickets. Large print and Braille playbills and infrared listening amplification devices are also available at every

ATC performance with reservation. TTY access for the box office is available in Phoenix at (602) 256-6995 or via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

Tickets are available in-person at the Temple of Music & Art in Tucson and the Herberger Theater Center or by calling (520) 622-2823 in Tucson and at the Herberger Theater Center at (602) 256-6995 or online at [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

## **FACT SHEET**

### ***Low Down Dirty Blues***

- Created by Randal Myler and Dan Wheetman
- Directed by Randal Myler
- Musical Direction by Dan Wheetman

## **VENUES**

- Temple of Music & Art, 330 S. Scott Ave., Tucson
- Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe, Phoenix

• **Previews Begin:** Saturday, March 10 at 8 p.m. in Tucson; Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Phoenix.

• **Opening Nights:** Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucson; Saturday, April 7 at 8 p.m. in Phoenix

**Closing Performances:** Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m. in Tucson; Sunday, April 22 at 1 p.m. in Phoenix.

## **Contact:**

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

## **About Arizona Theatre Company:**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 51<sup>st</sup> season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ivers, Managing Director Billy Russo and a dedicated Board of Trustees.