

# ALLEY THEATRE

FOR RELEASE: January 23, 2018

## **Alley Theatre Announces Playwright Terry Teachout as Director for his play *Satchmo at the Waldorf*** *Casting announced for one-man show*

HOUSTON, TX – The Alley Theatre announces **Terry Teachout** as director for his play *Satchmo at the Waldorf*. The playwright's moving one-man play about famed jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong will star **Jerome Preston Bates**. *Satchmo at the Waldorf* plays the Hubbard Theatre February 24 – March 18, 2018. Tickets are available at [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at 713-220-5700.

Set in 1971, Louis Armstrong sits in his dressing room of the Empire Room trying to pull himself together to do one final show. His mind wanders through the amazing experiences of his life and his complex relationship with his manager Joe Glaser. In a tour de force performance, one actor journeys into the mind and heart of an American musical genius and the man behind the legend.

Terry Teachout, drama critic for *The Wall Street Journal*, made his directorial debut with the 2016 Palm Beach Dramaworks' production of *Satchmo at the Waldorf*. Teachout also wrote a 2009 biography on Louis Armstrong titled *Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong*. He has also written biographies of George Balanchine, Duke Ellington, and H.L. Mencken and the libretti for three opera by Paul Moravec.

Jerome Preston Bates makes his Alley debut as Louis Armstrong. Broadway credits include *Jitney*, *Stick Fly*, and *Seven Guitars*. Regional work includes Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Old Globe, Denver Center, Center Stage Baltimore, Goodman Theatre, Yale Rep, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Alliance Theatre, among others. Television credits include HBO's "OZ," "All My Children," and "Law & Order." He's also the recipient of six Audelco Awards.

*Satchmo at the Waldorf* creative team includes Associate Director Brandon Weinbrenner, Scenic Designer Lee Savage, Costume Designer Ilona Somogyi, Lighting Designer Kevin Adams, Sound Designer John Gromada, Stage Manager Jason Brouillard, and New York Casting by Calleri Casting.

Performances of *Satchmo at the Waldorf* are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Satchmo at the Waldorf* is recommended for mature audiences.

**SPONSORS:** *Satchmo at the Waldorf* is sponsored in part by Baker Botts LLP. The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2017-2018 season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; Four Seasons Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

**TICKETS:** Tickets to *Satchmo at the Waldorf* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for military and senior, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700).

**TALKBACKS:** The Alley Theatre will present Artist TalkBacks following the March 3 (2:30 p.m.) and March 6 (7:30 p.m.) performances of *Satchmo at the Waldorf*. These discussions will feature cast and artistic staff. Artist TalkBacks are free and open to the public.

**PRESS MATERIALS:** [www.alleytheatre.org/press](http://www.alleytheatre.org/press)

**CONNECT WITH US:** #ArmstrongAtTheAlley @alleytheatre

## **ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE**

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading not-for-profit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Interim Artistic Director James Black and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly renovated theatre, ranging from the best current work, to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers. The Alley is home to a Resident Company of actors. In addition, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as Visiting Artists.

The renovation of the Hubbard Theatre at the Alley was completed in October 2015 – and created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the newly renovated 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre, the Alley offers nearly 500 performances each season. The Company reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance and education programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages.

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Whitney Spencer, Public Relations & Communication Manager ([whitneys@alleytheatre.org](mailto:whitneys@alleytheatre.org))  
713.315.5454