

THE DEVIL'S MUSIC

THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH

By **ANGELO PARRA**

Musical Direction & Arrangements by **MICHE BRADEN**

Concept, Musical Staging & Direction by **JOE BRANCATO**

December 4-20 | Previews December 2, 3

Tom Hendry Warehouse

“Aching, boozy, tempestuous, raw and moving ... undeniably powerful” - The Miami Herald

WINNIPEG - November 25, 2014 - The blues may be cool, but the music inside the Tom Hendry Warehouse will be hot as the dynamic Miche Braden takes the stage in **THE DEVIL'S MUSIC: THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH**, an entertaining and unforgettable dramatization of the turbulent life of the legendary “Empress of the Blues”.

Bessie Smith was a powerhouse in her day and in **THE DEVIL'S MUSIC**, she's centre stage in all her bawdy, boozy and bewitching glory. The production sizzles with Bessie's famous songs, including “I Ain't Got Nobody,” “St. Louis Blues” and “Baby Doll”. Miche Braden (Mammy from *Gone With the Wind*) returns to Royal MTC as the hot and hungry momma with the bad luck soul.

THE DEVIL'S MUSIC stars **Miche Braden** as Bessie Smith, **Aaron Graves** on piano, **Jim Hankins** on bass and in the role of Pickle, and **Anthony E. Nelson, Jr.** on saxophone.

The creative team behind the production includes Director **Joe Brancato**, Set Designer **James J. Fenton**, Costume Designer **Todd Wren**, Assistant Director **Heidi Malazdrewich**, Stage Manager **Margaret Brook** and Apprentice Stage Manager **Crystal Staryk**. Miche Braden also serves as the show's Musical Director, Arranger and Composer.

Tickets for **THE DEVIL'S MUSIC**, which start at \$20.48 plus GST, are going fast with several performances already sold out. For showtimes and ticket information, contact the Royal MTC Box Office at 204 942 6537, toll-free at 1 877 446 4500 or visit www.royalmtc.ca. Are you 25 or under? A limited number of \$15 rush tickets are available at noon on the day of the performance, unless the performance is sold out. For more information, visit www.royalmtc.ca/rush.

Royal MTC is grateful for the generous support of the Tom Hendry Warehouse season sponsor **BMO Financial Group**.

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For more information, please contact:

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THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH

MEDIA CALL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 at 2 pm

Tom Hendry Warehouse
140 Rupert Ave at Lily

A scene from **THE DEVIL'S MUSIC** will be performed onstage at the Tom Hendry Warehouse with interviews immediately following.

PLEASE RSVP BY NOON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 to:

Hayley Brigg, Publicist
hbrigg@royalmtc.ca
204 934 0302

PRODUCTION PHOTOS:

A selection of photos will be available for download on our website on December 2. To access these photos, visit the Media Centre at www.royalmtc.ca/mediacentre and click on the link to the media gallery.

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