

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just Announced!

2019-2020 MILK & COOKIES SERIES

Music & Storytelling Program for Children

New Brunswick, NJ (September 30, 2019)—State Theatre New Jersey announces the return of the lively, interactive storytelling series, **Milk & Cookies** for 2019-2020.

The popular series returns with seven delightful programs for children ages 3-8 and their families. The series kicks off on **Saturday, October 5**, with musician and storyteller, **Julie Pasqual**; followed by **The Bilingual Birdies** on **November 2**; and the band, **City Stomp** on **December 7**. **Mr. Pennygaff's Slideshow Spectacle** rings in the New Year on **January 11**, and guitarist **mr. RAY** returns to the State Theatre on **February 8**. Other performances in the Milk & Cookies Series include **Charlotte Blake Alston: "Come Tell With Me"** on **April 18** and **Joanie Leeds** performs on **May 16**. The 12pm performances are Sensory-Friendly; Sensory-Friendly Performances allow families with children on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities to enjoy high quality live entertainment in a safe, welcoming, sensory-friendly environment. *Tickets are \$3, which includes the performance, along with milk and a cookie for each child. Space is limited, so families are encouraged to purchase their tickets as early as possible at 732-246-SHOW or STNJ.org. Please note: Milk & Cookies performances take place on the second floor of State Theatre New Jersey. There is no elevator access to this space.*

"We hope Milk & Cookies will be the spark that kindles a lifelong love affair with live performing arts," said **Lian Farrer, State Theatre New Jersey's Vice President of Education & Community Engagement**. "The series introduces a variety of genres and styles; this season's programs feature everything from African folktales to jazz, tap dance to rock and roll. The shows are interactive, engaging, and fun. But most importantly, live performances are a social, communal experience—something kids can't get from digital media or video games."

Milk and Cookies is also a hit with parents, as one patron stated "Our girls have been attending since they were 3 (five years) and it has been fabulous to expose them to live performances—so important in this age of virtual entertainment—and such a variety of art forms, and to offer it to people (like me) who could not afford to take them into New York to experience live theatre."

2019-2020 Milk & Cookies Lineup:

Julie Pasqual

Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 10am & 12pm

A performance with storyteller Julie Pasqual is a real treat: fun, high-energy, and downright silly, with lots of audience participation. Always a Milk & Cookies favorite, Julie is back with a selection of delightful tales from many lands.

The Bilingual Birdies

Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 10am & 12pm

¡Hola, amigos y amigas! The Bilingual Birdies invite you to dance and sing along to the festive sounds of Latin America. Explore the region's rich cultural heritage and learn a little Spanish as you move to the irresistible rhythms of cumbia, salsa, tango, and samba.

City Stomp

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10am & 12pm

City Stomp performs fun original songs, along with contemporary versions of traditional folk songs that celebrate Latin American, Caribbean, African, Irish, Jewish, and other world cultures. They takes kids' music to a new level with songs that the whole family will love!

Mr. Pennygaff's Sideshow Spectacle

Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10am & 12pm

Mr. Pennygaff takes you on a tour of American popular entertainment, with juggling, feats of daring, comedy, sideshow stunts, and audience interaction. See Mr. Pennygaff balance bottles on wooden spoons and tops on strings, experience a classic plate spinning frenzy, and even learn some of his tricks!

mr. RAY

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 10am & 12pm

mr. RAY is back, bringing along his famous sticker-covered guitar and family-friendly songs with a rock-and-roll beat. He's performed with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Chuck Berry, and Bon Jovi, but kids are his favorite audience. With mr. RAY, songs about friendship, dinosaurs, and rainbows never sounded so cool!

Charlotte Blake Alston: "Come Tell With Me"

Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 10am & 12pm

Charlotte Blake Alston has shared her African and African American tales with audiences from Cape Town to Carnegie Hall, at events ranging from concerts in Japan to the U.S. Presidential Inaugural festivities. Come ready to clap, sing, and play a part in telling the stories!

Joanie Leeds

Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10am & 12pm

For her original kids music, singer-songwriter Joanie Leeds has won first place in the USA Songwriting Competition, the Independent Music Award, Gold Parents' Choice Award, NAPPA

Gold Award, and Family Choice Award. One of the top nationally-touring kindie rock singers, Joanie returns to the State Theatre with her high-energy, interactive kids' rock.

Milk & Cookies is sponsored by Community Access Initiative Sponsor The Provident Bank Foundation.

For tickets or more information call State Theatre Guest Services at 732-246-SHOW (7469), or visit us online at STNJ.org. State Theatre Guest Services, located at 15 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick NJ, is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm; Saturday from 1pm to 5pm; and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified. *Additional ticket and transaction fees may apply.*

About State Theatre New Jersey

The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through arts education. State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance

15 Livingston Ave

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Guest Services - 732-246-SHOW (7469)

Online - STNJ.org

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at

732-247-7200, ext. 542 or by email at kblithe@stnj.org.

Information in this release is current as of September 30, 2019.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at STNJ.org.

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