

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Kelly Blithe
Director of Communications
732-247-7200, ext. 542
kblithe@StateTheatreNJ.org



15 Livingston Ave | New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-246-SHOW (7469) | StateTheatreNJ.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Theatre New Jersey presents

Eric Johnson Solo

An Evening of Acoustic Guitar and Piano

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 8pm / \$25-\$35

Ticket Office: 732-246-SHOW (7469)

New Brunswick, NJ (September 29, 2016)—State Theatre New Jersey presents **Eric Johnson Solo – An Evening of Acoustic Guitar and Piano** on **Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 8pm**. *Tickets range from \$25-\$35.*

Thirty years after his breakthrough solo release *Tones* brought him national recognition, Texas guitar legend Eric Johnson is releasing his first all-acoustic album. Showcasing nine original compositions and four covers, *EJ* is easily Johnson’s most intimate album to date. “Ever since I was young, I’ve played piano and acoustic guitar in my private life,” Johnson says. “This type of music has always been a part of me, but I never showcased it on any kind of bigger level, like a full acoustic record. With *EJ*, I just decided to be more honest with myself and everybody, and show more of my personal side.” *EJ* brings listeners as close as possible to hearing Johnson in his own living room, performing songs on piano and steel-string and nylon-string acoustic guitars.

Johnson, long known for his painstaking approach to making records, used a much more immediate approach for the self-produced *EJ*. “Almost all of that material was cut live,” Johnson explains. “Some of the songs I actually sang and played at the same time—just live in the studio. Recording this way gave it more of an honest realism and organic emotion. Especially on the acoustic, you just have to get in there and play.”

On the original compositions “Wonder,” “Fatherly Downs,” and “All Things You Are,” Johnson frames his voice with his prized 1980 Martin D-45, a gift from his late father. He plays the steel-string on his superlative instrumentals “Once Upon a Time in Texas,” “All Things You Are,” and “Song for Irene.” He conjures the beautiful, pensive tones of “Serinidad,” another original instrumental, on a Ramirez nylon-string guitar. A spirited steel-string arrangement of Simon and Garfunkel’s “Mrs. Robinson” rounds out the solo guitar tracks.

Johnson recasts another Simon and Garfunkel favorite, “Scarborough Fair,” for voice and piano, and plays piano on the originals “Water Under the Bridge,” “November,” and “Wrapped in a Cloud,” an ensemble track with acoustic bass, cello, drums, and percussion. In a move that’s sure to surprise his fans, Johnson rearranged Jimi Hendrix’ “One Rainy Wish” for guitar and piano, capping the performance with a jazz-inflected piano solo. Rounding out the record is Johnson and guest guitarist Doyle Dykes’ superlative cover of Les Paul and Mary Ford’s 1951 classic, “The World Is Waiting for the Sunshine.”

Throughout his career, Johnson has approached music as a healing force, a way to enhance a listener’s consciousness and conjure joy and inspiration. “That’s what I’ve always appreciated most about other artists,” he says. “Some artists inspire us to wake up and get back to the clarity of consciousness. With this record, I’m trying to do that too, because I appreciate it so much in other people.”

For tickets or more information, call the State Theatre New Jersey Ticket Office at 732-246-SHOW (7469), or visit us online at StateTheatreNJ.org. The State Theatre New Jersey Ticket Office, 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. For information on group outings and discounts, call 732-247-7200, ext. 517. *Some additional ticket and transaction fees may apply.*

State Theatre New Jersey—creating extraordinary experiences through the power of live performance. 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 education. The State Theatre’s programs are made possible, in part, by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. The Heldrich is the official hotel of State Theatre New Jersey. Magic 98.3 is the official radio station of State Theatre New Jersey. The Star-Ledger is the official newspaper of State Theatre New Jersey. United is the official airline of State Theatre New Jersey.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

15 Livingston Ave
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ticket Office - 732-246-SHOW (7469)

Online - StateTheatreNJ.org

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at
732-247-7200, ext. 542 or by email at kblithe@StateTheatreNJ.org.

Information in this release is current as of September 29, 2016.
Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at StateTheatreNJ.org.

###