

PARK SQUARE theatre

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LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL: Thomasina Petrus Brings Legendary Jazz Great Billie Holiday To Life on Park Square Theatre Stage

Saint Paul, MN—The talented **Thomasina Petrus** brings legendary jazz great Billie Holiday's music and life story to the Park Square Theatre stage with *Lady Day At Emerson's Bar & Grill*, opening April 18 (previews begin April 11).

A beautiful, moving tribute, the show is filled with the songs of Holiday, from the romantic classic "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" to the powerful "Strange Fruit" to the iconic "God Bless the Child." The show begins in 1959 with Holiday—her best years behind her—giving one of her final performances from the stage of a seedy bar in South Philadelphia. In a blend of biography and cabaret, she reflects on her life, her tendency to chase no-good men, and her music.

Written by Lanie Robertson, *Lady Day* premiered Off Broadway in 1987, earning an Outer Critics Circle Award that same year.

Austene Van, who just received rave reviews for her direction of the Ordway's *Blues in the Night*, will stage *Lady Day*. Pianist **Thomas West** will accompany Petrus. West and Petrus previously performed *Lady Day* at Old Arizona Theatre in 2004 (directed by Lou Bellamy). Of that performance, the *Star Tribune* said, "Through her singing and acting, Petrus makes the show into something beautiful and heartbreaking...she captures the jazz icon in a high, crinkly voice that crackles with wry humor and cracks with pain."

Petrus has become one of the premier vocalists in the Twin Cities. Known for her unique voice and symbiotic relationship with fellow musicians, she has starred in numerous Penumbra and Mixed Blood Theatre productions and has performed extensively with T. Mychael Rambo, Dennis Spears and Jevetta Steele, as well as with Prince and Walter Chancellor. She has recorded several CDs and increasingly is known as the maker of “Thomasina’s Cashew Brittle,” a handmade gourmet candy now available in theaters and at Kowalski’s.

“After the success of *Constant Star*, I asked that amazing cast if they had other works they’d like Park Square to mount,” says Park Square Artistic Director Richard Cook. “Thomasina immediately replied with *Lady Day*. Within a couple weeks we were planning this all-new production to build on the years of study and preparation she’d already invested in Billie Holiday and *Lady Day*.”

This new production of *Lady Day* is designed by Erik Paulson (sets), Michael Kittel (lighting), Julie Johnson (props), and Kathy Kohl (costumes).

Schedule & Ticket Information

Previews of *Lady Day* begin Friday, April 11, through Thursday, April 17 (tickets for all previews are \$20, with the exception of a 99¢ preview on Tuesday, April 15). The show opens Friday, April 18, at 7:30pm and runs through Sunday, May 4. Performances are Thursdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$33 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sunday; and \$36 on Saturdays. Rush tickets are available for \$15. Tickets are available at 651-291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org.

Park Square Theatre’s 2007–08 Season

Following *Lady Day*, Park Square Theatre’s 2007–08 season ends in May with Steven Dietz’s retelling of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*.

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Park Square Theatre
Entertainment That Matters

LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL

Performance Schedule

April 18–May 4 (previews begin April 11)

Historic Hamm Building, 20 West Seventh Place, downtown St. Paul

Tickets & Information: (651) 291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL					APR 11 (P) 7:30pm \$20	12 (P) 7:30pm \$20
13 (P) 2:00pm \$20		15 (P) 7:30pm 99¢	16 (P) 7:30pm \$20	17 (P) 7:30pm \$20	18 (O) 7:30pm \$33	19 7:30pm \$36
20 2:00pm \$33				24 (D) 7:30pm \$33	25 7:30pm \$33	26 (A) 7:30pm \$36
27 2:00pm \$33			MAY	MAY 1 7:30pm \$33	2 7:30pm \$33	3 7:30pm \$36
4 (C) 2:00pm \$33						

P=Preview O=Opening D=Post-show discussion A=ASL/AD C=Closing