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## Milwaukee Repertory Theater

## Announces Complete Cast and Creative Teams for *Toni Stone* and *Piano Men*

Milwaukee, Wis – December 6, 2021 – <u>Milwaukee Rep</u> is pleased to announce the complete cast and creative teams for the start of 2022 with *Toni Stone* in the Quadracci Powerhouse January 4 – 30 and *Piano Men* in the Stackner Cabaret January 7 – February 27.

**Toni Stone,** by celebrated playwright **Lydia R. Diamond,** is a sensational theatrical event with a high intensity glimpse into the world of the first woman to go pro in baseball's Negro Leagues. The cast features **Kedren Spencer** (*Little Shop of Horrors*, Trinity Rep) as Toni Stone with **Melvin Abston** (*Animal Farm*, Milwaukee Rep) as Alberga, **Amar Atkins** (*The Color Purple*, Broadway) as Elzie, Milwaukee's own **Dimonte Henning** (*Our Town*, Milwaukee Rep) as Woody, **Enoch King** (*Constellations*, Horizon Theatre Company) as Millie, **Eric J. Little** (*Clybourne Park*, Aurora Theatre) as King Tut, **Lau'rie Roach** (*Slur*, Alliance Theatre) as Jimmy, **dane troy** (*My Children! My Africa!*, Theatrical Outfit) as Stretch and **Geoffrey D. Williams** (*Thurgood*, Theatrical Outfit) as Spec.

**Toni Stone** is directed by **Tinashe Kajese-Bolden** (*Native Gardens*, Virginia Center Stage) with choreography by **Dell Howlett** (*Guys and Dolls*, Guthrie Theater), set design by **Tony Cisek** (*Two Trains Running*, Milwaukee Rep), costume design by **Kara Harmon** (*Eclipsed*, Milwaukee Rep), lighting design by **Thom Weaver** (*Junk*, Milwaukee Rep), original music and composition by **Derek A. Graham** (*Redwood*, Portland Center Stage), sound design by **Sharath Patel** (*Pass Over*, ACT) with casting director **Jody Feldman**, wig designer **Nikiya Mathis**, dialect coach **Shadana Patterson**, intimacy consultant **Sasha Smith** and stage manager **Martinique M. Barthel.** *Toni Stone* is a co-production with <u>Alliance Theatre</u> in Atlanta where it will run February 10-27, 2022.

Declared the Best New Play of 2019 by the *Wall Street Journal* and a *New York Times* Critics Pick! *Toni Stone* captures the trailblazing spirit of the first woman to go pro in baseball's Negro Leagues. Against all odds, Toni Stone blazes a path in the male-dominated sports world, shattering expectations and creating her own set of rules. Follow Toni's journey as she fights for love, equality and a chance to do what she wants to do most – play baseball. Filled with humor and the love of the game, this intimate and profoundly relevant portrait of America will have you cheering along.

**Piano Men** tackles music from Bach to Broadway in the Stackner Cabaret <u>January 7 – February 27, 2022.</u> **Piano Men** features Milwaukee Rep favorites **Steve Watts** (*I Love a Piano*, Milwaukee Rep) and **Nygel D. Robinson** (*The All Night Strut!*, Milwaukee Rep) as two virtuoso piano players that will have audiences clapping, laughing and calling out requests. **Colte Julian** (*Million Dollar Quartet*, Nat'l tour) will replace Nygel D. Robinson February 8 – 27.

*Piano Men* is music directed by performer **Steve Watts** with lighting design by **Aaron Lichamer** (*An Evening with Groucho*, Milwaukee Rep), sound design by **J Jumbelic** (*A Dolls House Part 2*, Huntington Theater Company), costume coordination by Milwaukee Rep's Costume Director **Nicholas Hartman** and stage manager **Josh Hart**.

Equal parts concert and sing-along, *Piano Men* is an exhilarating and entertaining musical revue inspired by the hard working piano players who play everywhere from bars to airports, hotel lobbies to grand concert halls. *Piano Men* will feature a unique set list from rock, pop, classical, Broadway and everything in between. Filled with hilarious stories, this world premiere event will leave you wanting to come back for more.

To purchase tickets to *Toni Stone* and *Piano Men* go to <u>www.MilwaukeeRep.com</u>, call the Ticket Office at 414-224-9490 or visit in person at 108 E Wells Street in Downtown Milwaukee.

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

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## **About Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin with three unique performance venues in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex— the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over six decades, Milwaukee Rep has been a centerpiece of Milwaukee's vibrant arts and cultural scene with productions ranging from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to American Classics and New Works that are entertaining, inclusive and impactful. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.

## **Health & Safety Protocols**

In consultation with public health officials and coalition with many SE Wisconsin cultural venues, **Milwaukee** Repertory Theater will require all patrons and volunteers be either fully vaccinated or provide proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken within 72 hours of performance time upon entry for those 12 and older. In addition, all patrons regardless of vaccination status will be required to wear masks throughout their time in the building.