



AIMÉE HAYES, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARIEKE GABOURY, MANAGING DIRECTOR
THEATRE NEWS *** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTHERN REP & WWNO PRESENT
LOUISIANA BELLES: The next event in the LOUISIANA CYCLE
200 Years of Voices Worth Celebrating

New Orleans — As Louisiana approaches its 200th anniversary of statehood, **LOUISIANA BELLES, December 13th at 7pm at Southern Rep**, is the next installment in the exciting LOUISIANA CYCLE, celebrating the people who have made our region famous for speaking its mind and making great art. Following up on the magical LOUISIANA LADIES evening last June, LOUISIANA BELLES will be co-presented with WWNO, and will feature holiday memories and songs by some of the best loved female voices in our city, including: **Margarita Bergen, Leslie Castay, Diane Mack, Barbara Motley, Nell Nolan, Joyce Pulitzer, Peggy Scott Laborde and Ros Wingerter** – with more to come!

Southern Rep originally planned to honor the 200th Anniversary of our statehood with the creation of a one-time LOUISIANA CYCLE performance but we soon realized with so many stories to share that our one performance would have to become an entire series. LOUISIANA CUISINE and LOUISIANA SIRENS would feature what we love the most about Louisiana like our incredible food and music but there was also more to explore. LOUISIANA LADIES showcased the fabulous women of our history, and since we celebrate holidays just a little bit more intensely than most other places, we had to showcase that aspect too in LOUISIANA BELLES. The BELLES is such an exciting way to celebrate the holidays in New Orleans. This special evening of music and monologues features inspiring women of our city who will be sharing their traditions and their culture—from making the Bouche de Noel and lighting the Kwanzaa candles, to finding the perfect Hanukkah gift and preparing Réveillon for the whole family. Through song and shared memories our Louisiana Belles will make the season bright.

—Aimée Hayes, Artistic Director, Southern Rep

The series will continue in **January with LOUISIANA CUISINE**: From the fields, the shrimp boats and kitchens, the voices of those who have put the food on our plate. This evening is presented in collaboration with **Chef Susan Spicer**. The series finale will take place in **April, as we celebrate LOUISIANA SIRENS**: The lyrical ladies of Louisiana, their stories and songs, performed by New Orleans' favorite songstresses.

Support for broadcast of LOUISIANA BELLES comes from **Symmetry Jewelers and Designers**.

We are delighted to be a part of this event, and are grateful to Symmetry Jewelers and Designers for supporting drama at Southern Rep and quality, locally produced programs on WWNO.

—Ron Biava, Development and Marketing Manager, WWNO

LISTING INFORMATION:

THE LOUISIANA CYCLE: 200 years of Voices Worth Celebrating
LOUISIANA BELLES: December 13 at 7pm, Co-presented with WWNO
LOUISIANA CUISINE: January 23 at 7pm, Co-presented with Chef Susan Spicer
LOUISIANA SIRENS: April 23 at 7pm

Tickets: \$45 for reserved seating, \$25 for general entry. Book the entire series with VIP seats for just \$130.00 For more information, or to reserve your tickets, please call 504-522-6545 or go online to www.SouthernRep.com.

WWNO serves our communities by broadcasting NPR news, information, classical music, jazz, variety programs, and unique local content.

Southern Rep enters its 25th season as the region's premiere professional theatre, continuing to produce bold world and regional premieres under the leadership of Artistic Director, Aimée Hayes and Managing Director, Marieke Gaboury. In addition to Southern Rep's ongoing commitment to new play development with exciting programs like 6X6, PlayLab, and DEBAUCHERY, a host of evocative main stage shows are taking the stage for this important Southern Rep anniversary. The season began with the underlying animalisms of seemingly civilized parents in GOD OF CARNAGE, and continues with the trials of an ambitious artist in RED, while spring brings a fresh production of the American and New Orleanian classic, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE. We are also thrilled to welcome so many of our friends and neighbors to the Southern Rep this season in the return of the popular CITY SERIES, featuring productions from Ricky Graham, Running With Scissors, Theatre13 and the New Orleans Bingo! Show. Southern Rep offers educational programs such as free student matinees, \$10 student rush tickets and Academy SRT; as well as providing an artistic home to new works in development in the annual New Play Bacchanal.

Southern Rep continues to show that it is staging the most important, challenging, and downright mesmerizing pieces of theater New Orleans audiences are graced to experience.

- Theodore P. Mahne, *The Times-Picayune Lagniappe*

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