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Ford's Theatre
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FOR RELEASE
September 8, 2021

Ford's Theatre Society Presents

My Lord, What a Night

By Deborah Brevoort

Directed by Sheldon Epps

**Featuring Felicia Curry as Marian Anderson and
Christopher Bloch as Albert Einstein**

In-Person Performances October 1-24, 2021

**Facemasks and Proof of Full Vaccination
(or Negative COVID-19 Test) Required for all Patrons**

**On-Demand Streaming Version Available
Week of October 11- November 4, 2021**

Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society announced full casting and the design team for **Deborah Brevoort's *My Lord, What a Night*, October 1-24, 2021**. Directed by Ford's Theatre Senior Artistic Advisor **Sheldon Epps**, the remarkable new drama is based on true events and the friendship between contralto Marian Anderson and physicist Albert Einstein.

The production features Ford's Theatre Associate Artist **Felicia Curry** (*Jefferson's Garden, Ragtime, A Christmas Carol*, others) as Anderson and **Christopher Bloch** (*Twelve Angry Men, Jefferson's Garden, 1776*, others) as Einstein, with **Michael Russotto** as the head of the Institute for Advanced Study, Abraham Flexner, and **Franchelle Stewart Dorn** as civil rights activist and suffragist Mary Church Terrell.

Tickets for in-person performances of *My Lord, What a Night* are now on sale and range from **\$18 to \$48**. Discounts are available for groups, senior citizens, military personnel and those younger than age 35. The production is recommended for ages 12 and older.

An **on-demand, streaming version of *My Lord, What a Night*** will be available for sale to the public beginning the week of October 11 through November 4, 2021.

“To have this play performed in the shadow of Lincoln on our historic stage, at this extraordinary time in history is thrilling,” said **Ford’s Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault**. “It may be hard to imagine that one of the most celebrated singers of the 20th century and the German-Jewish genius who developed the theory of relativity would have much in common at all. This story will be a revelation to many—exploring how a mutual love of the arts and parallel experiences with prejudice and persecution began a lasting and important friendship.”

“When I started to write this play five years ago, I kept thinking that Ford’s Theatre was where it belongs; and here we are! I am really touched by the Ford’s artistic team’s commitment to this play and our development of it. The work is being cradled with support and a dream team,” said **playwright Deborah Brevoort**.

About *My Lord, What a Night*

After performing in Princeton, New Jersey, acclaimed contralto Marian Anderson is denied lodging at the Nassau Inn because she is Black. Physicist Albert Einstein invites her to stay at his home, and the two form a profound friendship based on their love for music and their commitment to human rights. Based on true events, *My Lord, What a Night* takes us into Einstein’s home and imagines the conversations and circumstances that led to Anderson’s historic concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The play was initially commissioned by Premiere Stages in partnership with the Liberty Hall Museum which, through the Liberty Live Program, has a commission directive for playwrights’ intent on telling little-known stories about New Jersey.

“In *My Lord, What a Night*, we meet Marian Anderson and Albert Einstein as humans, not icons, dealing with personal and professional issues born out of pivotal moments that evolve under the pressure of racial and religious prejudice over several years,” said **director and Ford’s Theatre Senior Artistic Advisor Sheldon Epps**.

Epps continued, “There are genuine theatrical fireworks to be had from watching one of the most famous African-American entertainers of her day and the great Jewish scientist and philosopher grappling with shared issues of identity, discrimination, and how to balance their personal wishes with the public face society demands of them. It is my hope that this valuable theatrical encounter will be both challenging and uplifting for our audiences.”

The Ford’s Theatre 2021-2022 season is sponsored by **Chevron**. *My Lord, What a Night* is also made possible by Sponsor: **Raytheon Technologies**.

The Designers

Scenic Designer Meghan Raham (Ford's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) brings us into Albert Einstein's Princeton study, filled with books that seem to expand above and below the room—representing how Einstein and Anderson thoughtfully move toward changing the world through the course of the play. **Costume Designer Karen Perry** (Broadway's *Lackawanna Blues*) dresses Marian Anderson and Mary Church Terrell in luxe and classy satins with lace details and furs, and eclectic yet stylish suiting for the men of the play. The Ford's Theatre design team for *My Lord, What a Night* also includes **Lighting Designer Max Doolittle**, **Sound Designer John Gromada** (Ford's *Necessary Sacrifices* Radio Play, *A Christmas Carol* Radio Play, others), **Hair and Make-Up Designer Danna Rosedahl** (Ford's *Fences*) and **Projection Designer Clint Allen** (Ford's *Into the Woods*, *The Wiz*, others).

The production team also includes **Production Stage Manager Brandon Prendergast** and **Assistant Stage Manager Julia Singer**.

Accessibility and Special Performances

Audio-described performances of *My Lord, What a Night* are October 12 at 7:30 p.m. and October 23 at 2:00 p.m. A **sign-interpreted** performance is October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Accessible seating is available in both the rear orchestra and balcony sections.

Beginning October 1, 2021, all performances of *My Lord, What a Night* will be **captioned via the GalaPro App**. GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro Wifi network before the performance begins. More information at <https://www.fords.org/visit/accessibility/galapro-captioning>.

Student matinees for *My Lord, What a Night* are October 14 and 21 at 11 a.m. Learn more on the [Ford's Theatre website](#).

Free First Preview: October 1, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning 10:00 a.m. ET on September 24 for the October 1, 7:30 p.m. performance of *My Lord, What a Night*. Visit www.fords.org/free for lottery entry details.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Facemask Requirements

Patrons with tickets to in-person performances are required to show a government-issued photo ID and proof of full vaccination status (physical copy or digital photograph of

vaccination card) or verification of a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival to their performance for admittance. Negative PCR tests must be dated within 48 hours of the performance; negative antigen tests must be dated within 24 hours of the performance. Face coverings are also required for all patrons, ushers, staff, volunteers and vendors, regardless of vaccination status. Acceptable forms of government-issued photo IDs include driver's licenses and passports. Patrons younger than 18 may present a school photo ID. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult who meets the above requirements. *My Lord, What a Night* ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted.

Ford's Theatre COVID-19 guidance is developed in collaboration with the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA). As one of the largest physician groups in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, GW MFA is recognized for excellence in clinical care, research and training of future care providers. The advice and expertise of the medical staff at the GW MFA, which is based on data and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has helped Ford's Theatre Society strengthen its safety procedures to better serve and protect patrons, artists and staff as productions and daytime visits resume. For more information about Ford's Theatre health and safety protocols, visit our [Welcome Back](#) page.

Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer Frankie Hewitt, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of Paul R. Tetreault as Director, critics and the theatre-going public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman Phebe N. Novakovic and through the lens of

Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

#FordsWhatANight

Ford's Theatre on Twitter and Instagram: @fordstheatre

Ford's Theatre on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fordstheatre

FACT SHEET: *My Lord, What a Night*
By Deborah Brevoort; Directed by Sheldon Epps

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In-Person Dates: October 1-24, 2021

On-Demand Streaming Production: Available week of October 11 through November 4, 2021

In-Person Media Performance: October 6, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$18-\$48

Location: Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, between E and F streets.

Times: Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (except Oct. 6); Saturday-Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (except October 2 and 3).

COVID-19 Safety: Patrons with tickets to in-person performances are required to show a government-issued photo ID and proof of full vaccination status (physical copy or digital photograph of vaccination card) or verification of a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival to their performance for admittance. Negative PCR tests must be dated within 48 hours of the performance; negative antigen tests must be dated within 24 hours of the performance. Face coverings are also required for all patrons, ushers, staff, volunteers and vendors, regardless of vaccination status. Acceptable forms of government-issued photo IDs include, but are not limited to, driver's licenses and passports. Patrons younger than 18 may present a school photo ID. Those under 12 must also be accompanied by an adult who meets the above requirements. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted.

Accessibility: Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, assisted listening devices and Braille and large print playbills. Audio-described performances of *My Lord, What a Night* are October 12, at 7:30 p.m. and October 23 at 2:00 p.m. A sign-interpreted performance is October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Accessible seating is available in both the rear orchestra and balcony sections. GalaPro captioning services will be available to view on personal devices for all public performances.

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Parking:

Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the One Parking garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW). Please note that the entrance from the garage directly into the theatre lobby will be closed; all patrons must exit the garage via an alternative elevator and enter Ford's Theatre through the main lobby doors.

Metro:

Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

Tickets at www.fords.org
Information: (202) 347-4833 -- Toll Free: (888) 616-0270 -- Groups: (202) 638-2367
Ford's Theatre on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: [@fordstheatre](https://twitter.com/fordstheatre) #FordsWhatANight