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For Release
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FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY HOSTS SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE FOR *GRACE*

Saturday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets Now On Sale

Washington, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society will host a **sensory-friendly performance** for the world-premiere musical ***Grace*, on May 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.** This performance is designed for those with sensory sensitivities who might benefit from an adjusted theatrical environment, including those with autism. The production is recommended for ages eight and older.

Theatrical adjustments for this performance of *Grace* may include: lessening of lighting focused on the audience; lower stage sound levels, especially for sudden or loud sounds; designated take-a-break spaces; allowances for audience talking, movement and use of tablets and smartphones for communication; as well as designated quiet areas. Printed materials to prepare attendees for their visit to Ford's Theatre and the performance itself will be made available to patrons.

Tickets to Sensory-Friendly Performance

A limited number of tickets are available in order to allow ample space for patron movement needs. Tickets for the sensory-friendly performance range **\$27-\$32** and are available for purchase by calling the Box Office at (202) 347-4833, option 6. Ford's Theatre staff are trained to assist patrons in finding the best seating options for their needs. Tickets are refundable until the start of the performance on May 7.

In 2018, Ford's Theatre enlisted the support of consultants **Diane Nutting** and **Roger Ideishi** and piloted a sensory-friendly performance. Ford's Theatre staff work closely with Nutting and Ideishi, creating preparatory materials for theatregoers and environment adjustments at Ford's, training the front-of-house team, cast and crew to welcome our audience for the sensory-friendly performance.

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"We are thrilled to offer a sensory-friendly performance of the new musical *Grace*— a world-premiere musical by Nolan Williams, Jr., celebrating African-American food, family and tradition," said **Associate Director of Patron Services Sam Stenecker**. "This performance includes adjusted light and sounds levels as well as the opportunity for movement, all while seeing a show at D.C.'s most historic theatre."

Ford's Theatre added this sensory-friendly performance to other accessibility and outreach programs, including an **audio-described** performance (April 30, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.), **sign-interpreted** performances, **GalaPro captioning services**, the **Free First Preview** program, **Generation Abe** nights for patrons younger than age 40, **Student Matinees** and more.

Ford's Theatre accessibility programs are supported by the **Liberty Mutual Foundation**.

Grace

Music and Lyrics by Nolan Williams, Jr.;

Book by Nolan Williams, Jr., and Nikkole Salter;

Directed and Choreographed by Robert Barry Fleming

Created by celebrated D.C. composer Nolan Williams, Jr., *Grace* examines the little-told history of African-American culinary tradition and the challenges faced by Black-owned businesses. The musical captures a day in the life of the Mintons, a Philadelphia family who gather to mourn the loss of their matriarch and deal with the future of their family restaurant in a changing neighborhood. Heartfelt and hopeful, timely and timeless, *Grace* is the new American musical where, although family comes first, everyone has a seat at the table.

Ford's Theatre Society

Since reopening in 1968, more than a hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, Ford's Theatre has celebrated and explored Lincoln's legacy and the American experience through theatre and education. Now under the leadership of Director Paul R. Tetreault, Ford's Theatre has been recognized 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. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit www.fords.org.

#FordsGrace #GraceTheMusical

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