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ACTORS EQUITY
The Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

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PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

SINATRA'S MUSE. A LEGEND IN HER OWN RIGHT.

MABEL MADNESS

The Life of Mabel Mercer

FEB 19TH - MARCH 20TH 2016



Written by and Starring Tony Winner

Trezana Beverley*

Directed by **Frances Hill**
and **Peter Napolitano**

About Urban Stages

For over 30 years Urban Stages has championed new diverse talents that speak to multifaceted issues within our society. When you buy a ticket or become a donor, you are making exciting eye-opening art possible (previous award-winning and critically-acclaimed productions have included *Unseamly*, *Honky*, *Jim Brochu's Character Man*, *Langston in Harlem* and the Pulitzer Prize nominated *Bulrushers*).

You, dear patron, also help to bring art and theater to more than just you! In addition to our Off-Broadway plays and Winter Rhythms music festivals (coming again December 2-13), there is also Urban Stages' Outreach. Outreach tours original educational plays and workshops to libraries, schools and organizations, hold extended artist residencies in places such as the Florence E. Smith Senior Center in Queens and conducts an annual summer theater camp that serves as a safe-haven and creative community for 10-14 year olds. Outreach holds over 250 events/programs every year in all 5 boroughs of NYC. We keep the city vibrant!

Spread the word, donate and continue being a patron. By simply taking a seat at our theater, you are doing so much more.

Urban Stages' Board of Directors

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Theatre: 259 West 30th Street, NYC
Office: 555 8th Avenue, RM 1800, NYC
212.421.1380 | urbanstages.org

PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
MABEL MADNESS

WRITTEN AND STARRING
TREZANA BEVERLEY

DIRECTED BY
FRANCES HILL & PETER NAPOLITANO

MUSICAL DIRECTION
TUFFUS ZIMBABWE**

FEBRUARY 19TH – MARCH 20ST 2016

Crew

Costume Designer.....Gail Cooper-Hecht
Scenic Designer.....Tabitha Pease
Lighting Designer.....Christina Watanabe
Video Designer.....Nicholas Blade Guldner
Technical Director.....Douglas Mills
Production Stage Manager.....Jill Woodward
Assistant Stage Manager.....Sarah M. Brown
Choreographer.....Brenna Hughes
Press Representative.....Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations
Advertising and Marketing.....Amanda Bohan
House Managers.....Astrid Perkins & Myan Disnie Sebastien
Theatre Maintenance.....Ira Jasinovert

Original Songs by
Barry Levitt and Peter Napolitano

Songs by Cole Porter, Bart Howard, George & Ira Gershwin & DuBose
Heyward, Douglas Cross & George Cory, Ian Grant, Jerome Kern
& Oscar Hammerstein II.

Actors, Production Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

**This musician appears courtesy of the Associated Musicians of Greater New York, Local 802 AFM.

Time: Winter 1983

Place: Mabel's Apartment - 110th Street New York City.
Varies places in Mabel's memory.

WHO'S WHO



Trezana Beverley (Playwright, Actress) is the winner of the distinguished Tony Award for her performance on Broadway in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*. She has since created a unique signature in the American Theater as a talented actor, director, singer, acting teacher and writer. Trezana is a graduate of New York University Tisch School for the Arts where she studied under Lloyd Richards, Peter Kass, Omar Shapli and Kristin Linklater, as well as the great Polish director Jerzy Grotowski. Among the highlights of her distinguished acting career are: *Mother Courage, A Raisin In The Sun, Flyin' West, Peer Gynt, Macbeth, Medea, and King Lear* (as a man). In film: *Beloved* (with Oprah Winfrey), *Resurrection, Carolina Skeletons and Sister Margaret and the Saturday Night Ladies*. Her music and writing skills have been displayed in her one-woman shows *The Spirit Moves, Constant Star* and currently *Mabel Madness* the dramatic story with music about the life of the famous cabaret chanteuse Mabel Mercer. Highlights of her directing credits include: *Spell #7, Native Son, For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf, In The Blood, From The Mississippi Delta, Pecong, The Trojan Woman, Salome, Yellowman, The Bluest Eye, Blue Door, Mask in The Mirror* – an Opera, and most recently an all-female production of Shakespeare's *Othello*. Trezana is currently on the guest directing drama faculty of the Juilliard School in New York City and is the founding artistic director of The Trezana Projects – a theater company that uses dance choreography to express dramatic plays. Trezana is a civic minded artist who often speaks before church and youth groups. Her work has been cited in *American Theater Magazine* and *Towards A Poor Theater* (Simon & Shuster). Among other distinguished awards are: Mademoiselle Woman of The Year, The Audelco Recognition Award and The Theater World Award. She has received two Citizen's Citations for her contribution to the American Stage as a distinguished citizen of Baltimore, Md. and has also been recognized by the New York Senate and the New York State Assembly for her artistic contributions to the community. Ms. Beverley is an honorary member of the New York State Assembly. www.trezanabeverley.com.

Frances Hill (Co-Director & Founder/Artistic Director) began her theatrical career in California as an actress. Since 1983, Ms. Hill has overseen more than 600 staged readings/workshops and dozens of productions of new works for the stage, directing over 30 workshops and productions. Her favorite directing credits include: Gino Dilorio's *Apostasy*, Roma Greth's *Our Summer Days*, Jim Lehrer's *Chili Queen* (directed at Urban Stages and Kennedy Center), John Picardi's *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *The Sweepers* (directed at Urban Stages and Capital Rep), *Comfort Women* by Chugmi Kim (Urban Stages 2004) and *27 Rue De Fleurs*. Two of her plays have been produced, *Our Bench and Life Lines*. Under the guidance of Ms. Hill, Playwrights' Preview Productions/URBAN STAGES have moved two plays into commercial Off-Broadway successes. *Minor Demons* opened the new Century Center Theater and *Men on the Verge of His-Panic Breakdown* won an Outer Critics' Circle Award while playing to capacity audiences at the 47th Street Theater. Urban Stages' *African American Poets as Playwrights* won eight Audelco Nominations and *Coyote On a Fence* received two Drama Desk nominations and a Pilgrim's Project Award. Eisa Davis' *Bulrusher* was one of three nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. 2010 production of *Langston in Harlem* won several drama desk nominations, a John Calloway award, several Audelco nominations including a win for best music production of the year (2010), along with several other awards.

Peter Napolitano (Co-Director, Lyricist, Mabel Madness; Director of Musical Theatre & Associate Producer, Urban Stages) is a writer, director and producer active in NY theatre and cabaret. He was lyricist of *Tropicana*, book and direction by the legendary George Abbott (produced Off Broadway by Musical Theatre Works); and lyricist/librettist of *The Lady in Penthouse B*, music by Matthew Ward (produced "Multi Style" by the York Theatre, starring Nancy Dussault); *Pinocchio of Chelsea*, music by Mark Janas (MMTL staged reading at the

Snapple Theatre) and *That Way*, music by Barry Levitt (staged readings at Urban Stages). He is a longtime member of the prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and has had his songs and special material performed by many outstanding cabaret & theatre artists. His directing credits include the early work of Charles Busch at The Performing Garage and Theatre for the New City. He has received the BMI Bistro Award (director) and four MAC Awards (director, lyricist, producer) for his recent work in virtually every major NY cabaret venue. Associated with Urban Stages for five years, he has co-produced *Musical Legends, My Occasion of Sin, Character Man*, five seasons of the MAC and Bistro Award-winning benefit series *Winter Rhythms* and has directed numerous staged readings. A guest lecturer at Manhattan School of Music, he is a graduate of the NYU School of the Arts, Experimental Theatre Wing, where he studied with Spalding Gray, Charles Ludlam and Anne Bogart. Other highlights of his varied career include working with the ground-breaking Off-Broadway Ridiculous Theatrical Co. and The Glines; contributing editor of *The Blockbuster Guide to Movies on Video* (Dell); and author of a Modern Love essay for *The New York Times*.

Tuffus Zimbabwe (Musical Director) is pianist, composer and educator from the Boston area. Tuffus completed his bachelors' degree at Berklee College of Music and continued his studies receiving his masters' of music degree from New York University. Mr. Zimbabwe is a keyboardist in the *Saturday Night Live* house band. He also in pianist and assistant musical director for Trilogy Opera Company.

Barry Levitt (Composer, "The Story Is My Song" and "Mabel Madness") has been an active, forceful, award-winning presence within the New York musical community for over three decades. On Broadway, he was the music director and arranger for *Catskills On Broadway* and *Swinging On A Star*, as well as *Langston in Harlem, Little Shop Of Horrors* and *Taking My Turn* Off-Broadway. He has been Music Director, Pianist and Arranger for numerous night club and cabaret artists such as Ben Vereen, Bernadette Peters, Faith Prince, Eartha Kitt, Nell Carter, Margaret Whiting, Rosemary Clooney, Melba Moore, Julie Budd, Julie Wilson, Connie Francis, Sergio Franchi, Jack Jones, Billy Eckstein, Marilyn Michaels, Carol Woods, BJ Crosby, Chuck Cooper and Pia Zadora. He was Artistic Director of the famed *Lyrics and Lyricists* Series for the 92nd St. Y, orchestra leader for the now legendary Persian Room at The Plaza Hotel, and President of the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs (MAC). Mr. Levitt has composed music for many industrials and special material for theatre, jazz and cabaret artists. He is currently writing a new musical, *That Way*, with frequent collaborator Peter Napolitano.

Gail Cooper-Hecht (Costume Designer), has designed costumes for over 300 productions for Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regional Theaters, National and International Tours, Television (PBS, HBO, Showtime, CBS, and A&E). Recent designs are: *All Female OHELLO, In White America, Most Dangerous Man In America, Queen Esther Marrow World Tours, Three Mo' Tenors* (World Tour), *Shanghai Gesture, Off-Broadway Massinessa* by Lorey Hayes for Take Wing And Soar Productions, *Savior* at the Dwyer Cultural Center in Harlem, *Room Service* Revival at the SoHo Playhouse, *Arrivals* (Bank St. Theater), and the Obie award winning *Yiddish Pirates of Penzance*. It has been her privilege to collaborate with many renowned actors, directors and producers. Stars who have worn her designs include: Helen Hayes, Maurice Evans, Cyril Richard, Eartha Kitt, Lee Grant, Jerry Ohrbach, Melba Moore, Robert Guillaume, Sherman Helmsley, Carol Channing, Tammy Grimes, Tony Randall, Jack Klugman, Estelle Parsons, Renee Taylor, Nanette Fabray, Louis Jourdan, Robert Goulet and Geraldine Page (including the dress she wore when she received her Academy Award, which was actually her 3rd Act costume for *The Circle* in which she was currently performing). Taught Costume Design at Marymount Manhattan College, is a board member of The League of Professional Theatre Women and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Gail Has been nominated for 4 Audelco Awards and won The Innovative Theater Award.

Tabitha Pease (Scenic Designer), New York: *West Side Story, Driving Miss Daisy, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Harbor Lights Theater). Regional: *Slueth and There is No Place Like Home For The Holidays* (Allenberry Playhouse), *Train to 2010* (Crossroads Theatre), *Green Whales and Distracted* (The Unicorn Theatre), *Little House on the Prairie* (The Coterie Theatre), *Children of Eden* (Kansas City Music Hall), *True West, and Marion Bridge* (Kansas City Actors Theatre). Film: *Tower of Silence, and Punkin Pie*. Assistant Design: Broadway- *Stick Fly*. Off Broadway - *Hurt Village, Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays, and Atmosphere of Memory*. She holds an MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, and has a background in interior design, architecture, and dance. www.tabithapease.com

Christina Watanabe (Lighting Designer). With Urban Stages: *Unseamly*. Recent: *Small World and Priceless* (Penguin Rep), *Se Llama Cristina* (Intar), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (FITR), *Big Love and RENT* (LIU), *Les Miserables* (Bristol Valley Theatre), *Vanya... Spike and Tigers Be Still* (Curtain Call Theatre). Academia: *The Tempest, Macbeth, Violet* (NYU's Tisch School of the Arts) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Yale Dramatic Association). Other design work includes cabaret, events, and Ralph Lauren's Madison Avenue windows. Touring: Shen Wei Dance Arts, Jonah Bokaer, and So Percussion. Christina also served as a lighting coordinator at Lincoln Center Festival (2013, 2015). Guest speaker: The League of Professional Theatre Women's panel "A Discussion: Designers and Directors". MFA: NYU Tisch. Member USA 829. www.StarryEyedLighting.com

Nicholas Blade Guldner (Video Designer). Though he spends most of his time as a sound-recordingist and video editor, Nicholas is grateful to Urban Stages for allowing him to design the video projection elements for their hit 2015 production of *Unseamly*. Many of the films he has worked on—either as director, editor, or sound mixer—have gone on to win numerous festival awards around the country, including the feature *Hank and Asha* and the short film *Mother Of The Week*. He continues to highlight the passion of the off-Broadway theatre scene in the *Meet The Theatre* web series hosted by Theatre Development Fund. He has completed an MFA in film production at The City College of New York, which followed a study in experimental cinema and video sculpture at Binghamton University. www.NicholasGuldner.com

Douglas Mills (Technical Director). Douglas is a NYC based stage technician, designer and engineer with a career spanning almost 30 years and is excited to be a part of bringing this work to New York audiences. Recent credits for Technical Direction include: *Monte Cristo* (Urban Stages), *Office Politics* (June Havoc Theatre), *Fringe Encore* (SoHo Playhouse), *No One Loves Us Here* (Urban Stages). Sound Design: *Unseamly* (Urban Stages). Audio mixer: *The 39 Steps* (Union Square), Actors Studio Drama School Rep (Gibney Dance), *Anthem the Musical* (Lynn Redgrave Theater), *Winter Rhythms* (Urban Stages). sound/lights/video: *Brooklynite the Musical* (Vineyard Theater), *Billy & Ray* Directed by Garry Marshall (Vineyard Theater), *Bill W. & Dr Bob*. (SoHo Playhouse), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Classic Stage Co.), Charles Busch's *Judith Of Bethulia* (Theater for the New City)

Jill Woodward (Production Stage Manager). Previous credits include *Sanctuary* (Theatre Row); *The Nomad* (The Flea Theater), *A Doll's House, Dead Man's Cell Phone, The Seagull* (Axial Theatre), *No One Asked Me* (FringeNYC Encore Series), Tchaikovsky: *None but the Lonely Heart, Dracula, and Jekyll & Hyde* (Ensemble for the Romantic Century), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Next in Line Productions) and *Vestige* (3 Sticks). Upcoming productions include *Identity* with Axial Theatre. Proud Member of Actor's Equity Association.

Sarah M. Brown (Assistant Stage Manager). Sarah is very proud to be a part of this production of *Mabel Madness*. Select Theatre credits include: Vineyard Theatre (*Gloria*), Flea Theatre (*The Nomad*), Abingdon Theatre Company (*The Good Boy*). Classic Stage Company (*Orestia*), Undercover Productions (*Ethel Sings*). Proud graduate of Rider University. Many thanks to friends and family especially Mom and Dad.