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**TWO RIVER THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF AUGUST WILSON'S *TWO TRAINS RUNNING*,
DIRECTED BY RUBEN-SANTIAGO-HUDSON, EXTENDS TO MARCH 3 PRIOR TO THE
START OF PERFORMANCES; THE PRESS OPENING IS FEBRUARY 15, 2013**

**The company includes Harvy Blanks, Anthony Chisholm, Chuck Cooper, John Earl Jelks,
Owiso Odera, Roslyn Ruff and James A. Williams**

**Community events include "A Celebration of August Wilson" with members of the cast, free
to the public at the Middletown Township Public Library, on Tuesday, February 12 at 7pm;
and an event co-sponsored with Black NJ at Two River on Thursday, January 24 at 6pm**

**Performances: Saturday, February 2 - Sunday, March 3, 2013 in the Rechnitz Theater
Press Opening: Friday, February 15, 2013 at 8pm**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its 2012-2013 Season with August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, directed by **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**. A one-week extension has been added to the run prior to the start of performances, which will begin in Two River's Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Saturday, February 2** and continue through **Sunday, March 3**. **The new press opening is Friday, February 15 at 8pm**. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org. This production is sponsored by a grant from the Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation. The lead production sponsor is Wells Fargo and the co-sponsors are Brookdale Community College and NJ Transit.

Expert August Wilson interpreter Ruben Santiago-Hudson most recently directed a critically acclaimed production of *The Piano Lesson* for Signature Theatre. He made his Two River debut last season with Wilson's *Jitney*, which played an extended run. *Two Trains Running* is the powerful, often funny, always compassionate story of ordinary people who find community and hope in a Pittsburgh diner amid the turbulent political upheaval and social change of the 1960s. It is the seventh in Wilson's 10-play Pittsburgh Cycle chronicling the lives of African-Americans in each decade of the 20th century.

Set in Memphis Lee's restaurant in the Hill District of Pittsburgh in 1969, *Two Trains Running* will star **Harvy Blanks** (West), **Anthony Chisholm** (Hambone), **Chuck Cooper** (Memphis), **John Earl Jelks** (Wolf), **Owiso Odera** (Sterling), **Roslyn Ruff** (Risa), and **James A. Williams** (Holloway).

Says Artistic Director John Dias, “Ruben Santiago-Hudson won a Tony Award as an actor in one of August Wilson’s plays. Now, he is the foremost director of these masterpieces of dramatic storytelling and poetic language. In recent years, he has assembled a true family of extraordinary ‘Wilsonians’—performers and designers—including many of the great actors who worked with Wilson during his lifetime and a new generation of artists. As a theater company, we are honored to be a home for August Wilson, Ruben, and his collaborators. Our Red Bank audiences have embraced them too—we’ve extended this production of *Two Trains Running* before we begin performances to accommodate demand at the Box Office.”

The creative team includes scenic designer **Michael Carnahan**; costume designer **Karen Perry**; lighting designer **Xavier Pierce**; sound designer **Robert Kaplowitz**; and composer **Bill Sims Jr.** The casting is by **Heidi Griffiths** and the stage manager is **Amanda Michaels**.

August Wilson grew up in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, the setting for all but one of his plays. His work has been seen across the United States, as well as on Broadway and all over the world. *Two Trains Running*—for which Wilson was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and a Tony Award nominee—had its debut at Yale Repertory Theatre in 1990 and opened on Broadway in 1992. The other plays in the Pittsburgh Cycle (also known as the Century Cycle) are *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars*, *Fences*, *Jitney*, *King Hedley II*, and *Radio Golf*. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including two Pulitzer Prizes (for *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*), a Tony Award for *Fences*, and Great Britain’s Olivier Award for *Jitney*.

Director **Ruben Santiago-Hudson** won the Tony Award for his performance in Wilson’s *Seven Guitars* and made his directorial debut with a production of Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean* for McCarter Theatre and American Conservatory Theater. In addition to *The Piano Lesson* and *Jitney*, his other recent directing credits include Athol Fugard’s *My Children! My Africa!* for Signature Theatre. He won an Obie Award and critical acclaim for his solo show *Lackawanna Blues*, and his screenplay for the HBO adaptation received the Humanitas Prize, Christopher Award, National Board of Review Honors, and NAACP Image Award. He is currently writing a new play as a commission for Two River Theater.

Ticket Information

Regular ticket prices range from \$37 to \$65, with discounts available for groups, seniors, students, and patrons aged 30 and under. New this season, Two River has introduced a limited number of \$20 tickets for every performance, with no restrictions on when or by whom the tickets can be purchased. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org.

Community Events

**A Celebration of August Wilson with Cast Members from *Two Trains Running*
Tuesday, February 12 at 7pm at the Middletown Township Public Library, 55 New Monmouth Road**

Two River Theater will present its second annual tribute to the great writer August Wilson, as cast members from *Two Trains Running* share stories and memories of working with him, and talk about the enduring legacy of his plays. This event is free to the public at the Middletown Township Public Library; call 732.671.3700 ext. 320 or visit <http://hip.mtpl.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp> for reservations or more information.

**Twilight at the River, in partnership with BLACKNJ
Thursday, January 24 from 6pm-8pm at Two River Theater**

This special networking event will include an opportunity to meet artists from *Two Trains Running*, live music, light appetizers, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available from www.blacknj.org, or \$20 at the door.

AUDIENCE EXTRAS

Before Play

Awoye Timpo, the Assistant Director of *Two Trains Running*, will discuss the culture and politics of the 1960s as the host of Two River's Before Play series. This free lecture will take place in the lobby 45 minutes before the start of every performance.

Lobby Display

Words and images will illuminate the work of August Wilson and the world of this production.

Post-Play Discussions

Audiences are invited to share their questions and responses to the play with members of the cast after the following performances: Wednesday, February 13 at 7pm; Sunday, February 17 at 3pm; and Wednesday, February 20 at 1pm.

Accessibility

Two River Theater is fully wheelchair accessible and offers assisted-listening devices and large-print programs at every performance. **Audio-described performances** are scheduled for **Wednesday, February 20 at 1pm** and **Saturday, February 23 at 8pm**. Tickets to this performance are offered at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing audio description. An **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 23 at 3pm**. Tickets to this performance are offered at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing open captions. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets for a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400.

Calendar

Saturday, February 2 at 8pm
Sunday, February 3 at 3pm
Tuesday, February 5 at 8pm

Wednesday, February 6 at 7pm
Thursday, February 7 at 8pm
Friday, February 8 at 8pm
Saturday, February 9 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 10 at 3pm
Wednesday, February 13 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, February 14 at 8pm
Friday, February 15 at 10am (student matinee) and 8pm (**Press Opening**)
Saturday, February 16 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 17 at 3pm
Wednesday, February 20 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, February 21 at 10am (student matinee) and at 8pm
Friday, February 22 at 8pm
Saturday, February 23 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 24 at 3pm
Thursday, February 28 at 10am (student matinee) and at 8pm
Friday, March 1 at 8pm
Saturday, March 2 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, March 3 at 3pm

Sponsorship

August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* is sponsored by a grant from the Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation. The lead production sponsor is Wells Fargo and the co-sponsors are Brookdale Community College and NJ Transit. Opening nights for the 2012-2013 Season are sponsored by et al fine foods & events and Flowers on Front.

Two River Theater Company is additionally supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Investors Bank, OceanFirst Foundation, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation, and many other generous foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is dedicated to producing great classics from the American and world stage, creating new plays and musicals for the American theater, and serving its diverse and multigenerational community through unique partnerships and education programs. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, the theater supports the most exceptional and adventurous artists in the American theater and provides opportunities for its audiences to be part of the creative process. Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Visit TRTC.org.