



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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Experience the electrifying musical journey of Rock 'N' Roll's legendary queen in @ANightWithJanis on 9/24 at the @KimmelCenter's Merriam Theater. More info @ kimmelcenter.org

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**KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS PRESENTS
A MUSICAL JOURNEY CELEBRATING FEMALE ROCK ICONS IN
A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN
AT THE MERRIAM THEATER
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

**"Lusty, powerful, and undeniably crowd-pleasing.
The audience rose to their feet."
– *The Huffington Post***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, August 15, 2019) – Janis Joplin exploded onto the music scene in 1967 and, almost overnight, became the queen of Rock 'N' Roll. In ***A Night with Janis Joplin***, presented at the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus' Merriam Theater on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 7:30 p.m., Tony Award® nominee Mary Bridget Davies and a remarkable cast take the audience on a musical journey celebrating Janis Joplin and her biggest musical influences – trailblazers like Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone, and Bessie Smith. Fresh off Broadway, this sensational musical has the feel of a rock concert and features such unforgettable songs as "Piece of My Heart," "Cry Baby," "Me and Bobby McGee," and many others.

The show's star, Mary Bridget Davies, is an American singer and actress who is also an interpreter of Janis Joplin's music. She received a Tony® Award nomination for Best Lead Actress in a Musical for her performance as Joplin in the Broadway production of *A Night With Janis Joplin*. She has toured in Europe

with Joplin's original band, Big Brother and the Holding Company, and has formed her own band, The Mary Bridget Davies Group, that tours in festivals and clubs worldwide.

“In *A Night with Janis Joplin*, Mary Bridget Davies conveys the electrifying spirit and explosive soul of Janis Joplin with sheer authenticity,” said Ed Cambron, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “This sensational rock musical not only celebrates the queen of Rock and Roll, but honors the artists and women who inspired Janis throughout her life. Backed by an exceptionally skilled creative team and filled with a musical cornucopia of blues, soul, rock and even show tunes, we are thrilled to bring this show to Philadelphia audiences for the first time ever!”

Known for her unmistakable voice, filled with raw emotion and tinged with Southern Comfort, Janis Joplin became a must-see headliner from Monterey to Woodstock. Her volcanic performances left audiences speechless, while her sexual magnetism, world-wise demeanor, and flamboyant style shattered every stereotype about female artists. Today, Joplin’s voice remains among the most distinctive and galvanizing in pop history.

In 1966, Joplin joined the Haight-based psychedelic-rock band Big Brother and the Holding Company. The band’s increasingly high-profile shows earned them a devoted fan base, and soon after signed with Columbia Records, releasing their major-label debut in 1967. Joplin’s seismic presence in Big Brother and the Holding Company caused much commotion and the band experienced quick success, including their album *Cheap Thrills LP* selling over a million copies in one month. In 1969, Joplin left Big Brother and the Holding Company and put together the Kozmic Blues Band, whose release of *I Got Dem Ol’ Kozmix Blues Again Mama!* immediately went gold. The same year, Joplin gave a historic performance at Woodstock.

In 1970, Joplin assembled a new back-up group, The Full Tilt Boogie Band, and joined the Grateful Dead, The Band, and other artists for the “Festival Express” railroad tour through Canada. Her musical evolution followed the earthier, roots-ier direction of the new decade, as reflected in her final studio album *The Landmark Pearl*, released posthumously following Joplin’s death in October 1970. *The Landmark Pearl* went quadruple-platinum, becoming the top-selling release of Joplin’s career and ranked #122 on Rolling Stone’s “500 Greatest Albums of All Time.” Joplin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995 and posthumously given a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.

Other featured upcoming performances at the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: **Eric Andre: *Legalize Everything Tour*** (September 17, 2019, Merriam Theater); **Adam Ant: *Friend or Foe*** (September 20, 2019, Merriam Theater); ***The Office! A Musical Parody*** (September 28-29, 2019, Merriam Theater); and **Black Violin: *Impossible Tour*** (November 8, 2019, Academy of Music).

A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN

Kimmel Center Cultural Campus’ Merriam Theater

September 24, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now starting at \$29.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See www.kimmelcenter.org for more information.

The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Opera Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania Ballet**, **The Philly POPS**, **PHILADANCO**, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**, **The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially-responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2019-2020 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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