

VPAC announces two new events!

José James presents *Yesterday I Had the Blues: The Music of Billie Holiday*

Thursday, November 3 at 8pm

LA Solo Debut of Tony Award winner for *Hamilton* Leslie Odom Jr.

Thursday, November 17 at 8pm



Tickets on sale to the general public on October 6 at 11am

Los Angeles, CA, Sept 30, 2016 – Valley Performing Arts Center continues to bring diverse programming to the Valley with two new additions to their 2016-17 season: jazz and hip-hop vocalist, José James presents *Yesterday I Had the Blues: The Music of Billie Holiday* on November 3 at 8pm and Leslie Odom Jr., Tony and Grammy winner for the role of “Aaron Burr” in *Hamilton* on November 17 at 8pm. This will be Odom Jr.’s first West Coast performance, since winning the Tony for *Hamilton*.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on October 6 at 11am and can be purchased by visiting www.ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org or by calling 818.677.3000.

VPAC’s Executive Director, Thor Steingraber said, "José James has one of the finest young voices in all of jazz, and is a thoughtful and versatile interpreter of standards among other styles. Leslie Odom Jr. completes our fall line-up of Tony winners, which includes Tyne Daly and Kelli, O’Hara. Though a young fresh face, Odom Jr. has already climbed to icon status with two generations of audiences, first with *Rent* and now with *Hamilton*."

Leslie Odom Jr. won a Grammy as a principal soloist on *Hamilton*’s Original Broadway Cast Recording, which won the 2015 award for Best Musical Theater Album. He originated the role of “Aaron Burr” in a sold out run at The Public Theatre in 2015, earning a Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical and a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical. *Hamilton* went on to win eleven Tony Awards including “Best Musical.” It was also the recipient of 2016’s Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Odom, Jr. made his Broadway debut at the age of 17 in *Rent*. His additional theatre credits include *Leap of Faith* on Broadway, for which he won the 2012 Astaire Award for Outstanding Male Dancer on Broadway and was nominated for a Drama League Award; the 2014 musical *Venice*, which also played at The Public Theater; and the Encores! Off- Center production of *Tick, Tick... Boom!* which was his first time working with *Hamilton* creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda. On the small screen, Odom, Jr. is best -known for his portrayal of ‘Sam Strickland’ in the NBC musical series, *Smash*, and his recurring role as ‘Reverend Curtis Scott’ on *Law & Order: SVU*.

José James's forthcoming album, "Love in a Time of Madness," will be James' 4th album with the world-famous Blue Note label. The album, which will be released in early 2017, showcases a broad range of international writers and producers that extend the R&B and hip-hop thread that has run throughout much of his work. A deep and soulful young vocalist whose international profile has exploded in the last few years, José James has transcended his reputation as a jazz singer to embrace influences including R&B, Moroccan Gnawa music, hip-hop and gospel.

James's flexibility and omnivorous musical taste is reflected in his hugely diverse résumé, which includes work with jazz great Chico Hamilton as well as electronica hero Flying Lotus. In his review for *The New York Times*, writer Ben Ratliff described James as "a romantic baritone with a deep-funk band, stretching out songs, evoking both the '70s of Roberta Flack and Gil Scott-Heron and the '90s and oughts of J Dilla."

Named one of Interview magazine's "13 Faces of 2013" and now a veteran of national television appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *The Late Show with David Letterman*, James follows up his pop-focused "While You Were Sleeping" with "Yesterday I Had the Blues," a heartfelt salute to the legacy of Billie Holiday that features pianist Jason Moran, bassist John Patitucci, and drummer Eric Harland.

Calendar Listing for José James presents *Yesterday I Had the Blues: The Music of Billie Holiday*

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Thursday, November 3 at 8:00pm

Tickets: **Price:** Starting at \$28
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

Calendar Listing for Leslie Odom Jr.

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Thursday, November 17 at 8:00pm

Tickets: **Price:** Starting at \$38
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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