



6901 Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada, CO 80003

Media contact: Leslie Simon, media@arvadacenter.org

ARVADA CENTER HONORS BILLIE HOLIDAY WITH LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL

September 2, 2025 - Arvada, CO - The Arvada Center for the Arts & Humanities's Black Box Theatre will turn into an immersive cabaret as it celebrates the music of Billie Holiday with *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, the second production in the Arvada Center's 2025-2026 theatre season. The play is an intimate solo performance with a live jazz trio, inviting audiences to choose traditional theatre seating or cabaret tables that immerse them in Billie's show at Emerson's Bar and Grill.

Directed by Christopher Page-Sanders, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* runs from September 26 to November 2, 2025. This production is underwritten by Diana and Mike Kinsey, and Mike and Mary Ellen Litzau. The 2025-2026 Theatre Season Presenting Sponsor is Intermountain Health. The Arvada Center Artistic Director is Lynne Collins.

"I am deeply honored to direct *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* at the Arvada Center," said Director Christopher Page-Sanders. "Billie Holiday's life is a haunting story of beauty and tragedy. While she gifted the world some of its most powerful, soul-stirring music, few truly grasped the emotional toll of the pain and sorrow it took. In this play, Lanie Robertson has brilliantly crafted a window into Billie's inner world, and captures her humanity, defiance, and unwavering resilience in the face of unimaginable hardship. It's a rare and poignant opportunity to see beyond the legend, and witness the raw truth of a woman who gave everything to her art."

The Arvada Center production is directed by Christopher Page-Sanders, with Musical Director Jodel Charles, Scenic Design by Brian Mallgrave, and Costume, Wig & Hair Design by Jocelen Barnett Smith. Billie Holiday is portrayed by Essence Anisa Tyler, who is making her Arvada Center debut with this role.

The Arvada Center firmly believes that everyone should experience the transcendent power of the arts. We are proud to offer accessibility accommodations for people with varying needs including two scheduled performances with American Sign Language interpretation Oct. 2 at 7:30 PM and Oct. 12 at 2:00 PM, and Audio Described Performance on Oct. 8 at 1:00 PM. To learn more about these performances and all of our other accessibility offerings, visit our [Accessibility webpage](#) and reach out to the Box Office at info@arvadacenter.org or 720-898-7200.

Tickets start at \$51. To learn more about the show and to purchase tickets to *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, visit the production webpage: <https://arvadacenter.org/events/lady-day-at-emersons-bar-and-grill>

If You Go:

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill

By Lanie Robertson

Black Box Theatre

September 26 - November 2, 2025

Accessible Performances:

American Sign Language Interpreted - Oct. 2 at 7:30 PM and Oct. 12 at 2:00 PM

Audio Described - Oct. 8 at 1:00 PM

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill Cast

Essence Anisa Tyler

Jodel Charles

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill Creative Team

Director: Christopher Page-Sanders

Musical Director: Jodel Charles

Scenic Design: Brian Mallgrave

Costume, Wig & Hair Design: Jocelen Barnett Smith

Lighting Design: Jon Olson

Sound Design: Jason Ducat

Stage Management: Wessie Simmons, Nick Nyquist

Artistic Director: Lynne Collins

Associate Artistic Director: Kenny Moten

Band

Jodel Charles: Piano (appearing as Jimmy Powers)

Matt Campbell: Drums

Carl Jackson: Bass

About the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities

The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities reflects on the past and celebrates the future with our 50th anniversary! Since its founding in 1976, the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities has produced, curated, and created national-caliber arts, humanities, and education programs, providing a place of enlightenment and entertainment for all people who visit. Our 50th anniversary celebrates community and the connections we have made over the years. The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities is generously supported in part by the City of Arvada, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Colorado Creative Industries, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

