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“PRETTY CLOSE TO PERFECTION!” — The New York Times, Critics’ Pick

For immediate release

**“AIN’T TOO PROUD – THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS”
MAKES A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO CENTER THEATRE GROUP / AHMANSON
THEATRE AFTER BREAKING RECORDS DURING PRE-BROADWAY RUN
DECEMBER 13, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2023**

Tickets Now on Sale and Casting Announced

“Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations,” one of the most popular and record-breaking shows in Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre history returns December 13, 2022 through January 1, 2023. Opening is set for December 15. This joyful story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal is set to the beat of the group’s treasured hits, including “My Girl,” “Just My Imagination,” “Get Ready,” “Papa Was a Rolling Stone,” and so many more. Center Theatre Group welcomes this musical celebration back to the Ahmanson Theatre for the holiday season.

Leading the cast of “Ain’t Too Proud” as The Temptations are **Jalen Harris** as ‘Eddie Kendricks,’ **Harrell Holmes Jr.** as ‘Melvin Franklin,’ **James T. Lane** as ‘Paul Williams,’ and joining directly from the Broadway company are **Marcus Paul James** as ‘Otis Williams,’ and **Elijah Ahmad Lewis** as ‘David Ruffin.’ The touring company also features **Michael Andreaus, Gregory Carl Banks Jr, Brian C. Binion, Reed Campbell, Lawrence Dandridge, Shayla Brielle G., Treston J. Henderson, Najah Hetsberger, Devin Holloway, Antwaun Holley, Kyshawn Lane, Traci Elaine Lee, Brett Michael Lockley, Harris Matthew, Amber Mariah Talley, Andrew Volzer, and Nazaria Workman.**

Featuring the Grammy® winning songs and Tony® winning moves, “Ain’t Too Proud” is the electrifying new musical that follows The Temptations’ extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and unmistakable harmonies, they rose to the top of the charts creating an amazing 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one and being voted the greatest R&B group of all time by Billboard Magazine in 2017. The rest is history — how they met, the groundbreaking heights they hit, and how personal and political conflicts threatened to tear the group apart as the United States fell into civil unrest.

“When we had ‘Ain’t Too Proud’ here back in 2018 for its pre-Broadway run, it was received with raucous standing ovations and broke our sales records at the time,” said Center Theatre Group Associate Artistic Director Tyrone Davis. “CTG has always loved the opportunity to

present exciting new work before it goes to Broadway, and we just as equally cherish welcoming back beloved shows after their success on the Broadway stage. We see this national tour as a welcoming home. It’s the perfect show to have at the end of the year and during the holidays because it’s a true celebration of life, and those iconic tunes are sure to have you dancing inside and out of the theatre.”

After breaking house records at Berkeley Rep, The Kennedy Center, Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre, and Toronto’s Princess of Wales Theatre, “Ain’t Too Proud” opened on Broadway in March 2019, where it continued to play sold-out audiences and broke the Imperial Theatre’s box office record. The first national tour launched in December 2021 at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Written by Kennedy Prize-winning playwright **Dominique Morisseau**, directed by two-time Tony Award winner **Des McAnuff**, and featuring the Tony Award winning choreography of **Sergio Trujillo**, this dazzling production now brings the untold story of the legendary quintet to audiences across the country.

The creative team also includes Tony Award nominee **Robert Brill** (scenic design), Tony Award winner **Paul Tazewell** (costume design), Tony Award winner **Howell Binkley** (lighting design), Tony Award winner **Steve Canyon Kennedy** (sound design), Drama Desk Award winner **Peter Nigrini** (projection design), Drama Desk Award winner **Charles G. LaPointe** (hair and wig design), **Steve Rankin** (fight direction), **Brian Harlan Brooks** (tour resident director), **Edgar Godineaux** (associate choreographer), **John Miller** (music coordinator), **Molly Meg Legal** (production supervisor), and **Nicole Olson** (production stage manager). Orchestrations are by Tony Award recipient **Harold Wheeler**, with music supervision and arrangements by **Kenny Seymour**. Casting is by **Tara Rubin Casting, Merri Sugarman, C.S.A.**

The national tour of “Ain’t Too Proud” is produced by **Ira Pittelman** and **Tom Hulce**, in association with **Stephen Gabriel**, executive producer. General management and production management by **Work Light Productions**. The Grammy Award-nominated “Ain’t Too Proud” Original Broadway Cast Recording is available from Universal Records on CD, vinyl, and streaming. For more information, please visit: <https://ume.lnk.to/AintTooProudBroadwayCastPR>

Tickets for “Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations” are currently on sale and start at \$40. They will be available through CenterTheatreGroup.org, Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012. Performances run Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. See the smash-hit production where it all began.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, and in collaboration with the five Associate Artistic Directors, Lindsay Allbaugh, Tyrone Davis, Neel Keller, and Kelley Kirkpatrick, programs seasons at the 729-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jalen Harris (*Eddie Kendricks*) is an accomplished singer, actor, and model, first being discovered on season ten of Fox’s “American Idol.” Jalen has been cast and seen for various television programs, national publications, and films like “Fist Fight” (Warner Bros), and most recently Jordan Peele’s “LoveCraft Country” (HBO). He is a former Simba standby actor for the Tony Award winning and critically acclaimed Disney’s “The Lion King” North American Broadway Tour. Jalen is also a Latin/RnB crossover recording artist with records produced by Grammy Award winning producer/engineer Mack Woodward (Beyonce). Jalen is thankful and considers himself blessed to portray the Icon Eddie Kendricks. @jalenuiversal

Harrell Holmes Jr. (*Melvin Franklin*). A native of Saginaw, MI. This triple threat is a graduate of AMDA. Making his tour debut, Harrell is a true throwback to the days of charismatic live bands and legendary soul artistry. His credits include “Star Search,” “American Idol,” and “The Watching” (film). He is a Motown Scholarship & Stevie Wonder Scholarship Winner.

Marcus Paul James (*Otis Williams*) has been seen in Broadway’s “Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations,” “MOTOWN: The Musical,” Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony Award-winning “In The Heights,” Jonathan Larson's Tony award-winning “RENT.” TV/Film credits include: “Collateral Beauty,” “RENT: Filmed Live,” “The WIZ LIVE,” Oscar-nominated and Grammy-winning “The Greatest Showman,” “tick tick... Boom” (Netflix), “Dear Evan Hansen,” “In The Heights.” As a recording artist, his albums are available on iTunes, CDBaby, and all streaming platforms. For more info visit marcuspauljames.com.

James T. Lane (*Paul Williams*). West End: “The Scottsboro Boys,” “A Chorus Line” (Palladium, revival). Broadway: “Kiss Me, Kate” (Paul); “King Kong,” “The Scottsboro Boys” (Ozie Powell/Ruby Bates), “Chicago,” and “A Chorus Line” (Richie). National tours: “Jersey Boys,” “Cinderella,” “Fame.” Regional: “Mary Poppins” (Bert) Drury Lane Chicago, “The Wiz” (Tin Man), “Chicago” (Billy Flynn) Muny, “James Conceived.” Wrote and performed his one man show “Triple Threat: A Play That Moves and Sings.” Streaming information, booking, as well as performance dates available at jamestlane.com. Mr. Lane teaches music, theatre, and dance when and wherever anyone will let him! IG: @jamestlane.

Elijah Ahmad Lewis (*David Ruffin*). Multi-award-winning singer, actor, songwriter and arranger. Broadway: “Motown,” Tony Award-winning “Ain’t Too Proud.” Tours: “Motown” (First and Second National), “Mama,” “I Want to Sing” (Japan). TV/Film: “Power Book III: Raising Kanan,” “B-Boy Blues,” “Mama,” “I Want to Sing!,” “America” (starring Rosie O'Donnell), The Grammys. Music: SZA, Chance the Rapper, Ariana Grande, James “JT” Taylor, Cissy Houston, Madonna. Thanks to family & my team. IG: @elijah.ahmad.lewis. elijahahmadlewis.com.

Michael Andreus (*Berry Gordy*). Broadway: “A Soldier’s Play” (Roundabout). Off-Broadway: “Love and Yogurt” (NY Theatre Barn). NY: “Savage” (NYMF). Regional: “Ragtime” (Theatre Aspen), “Rock of Ages” (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma). Film/TV: “Finding Carlos,” “When They See Us” (Netflix). BM: University of Central Oklahoma. IG: @michael_andreus.

Gregory Carl Banks Jr (*Lamont*) is elated to be making his national tour debut! Previous credits include “After Midnight” (singer/dancer), “In The Heights” (Benny Laredo-Theater Guild),

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“Dreamgirls” (Wayne), “Toby’s Dinner Theater.” Education: Howard University BFA musical theater 2017.

Brian C. Binion (*Swing*) is overjoyed to be a part of the ATP family telling the story of such an iconic group. His show credits include Broadway: Disney’s “The Lion King.” Regional: “Kinky Boots,” “West Side Story,” “After Midnight,” “A Soldiers Tale,” “Man of La Mancha” (UNCSA 2013). IG: @Bbinion13.

Reed Campbell (*Shelly Berger*). Born and raised in San Francisco, CA. Theater: “Comedy of Errors” (Shakespeare In The Park), “Important Hats Of The Twentieth Century” (MTC), “Nice Work If You Can Get It” (National Tour), “Bullets Over Broadway” (Ogunquit). TV/Film: “Orange Is The New Black,” “Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” Co-creator, “BrOdway.” IG: @iamreedcampbell.

Lawrence Dandridge (*Smokey Robinson/Damon Harris*). Lawrence has a long list of performance credits headlined by his role of TJ in the second national “Sister Act” tour. Dandridge writes and directs original works with Aurway Repertory Theatre in NJ which he is the Co-Founder/Creative Artistic Director.

Shayla Brielle G. (*Mama Rose, Florence Ballard, Tammi Terrell*). Shayla Brielle G. is thrilled to be bringing this incredible story around the country. She is a proud native of Cincinnati, Ohio and studied Music Theatre at Baldwin Wallace University.

Treston J. Henderson (*Swing*) is a recent 2020 BFA Musical Theatre graduate from Austin Peay State University and he is so excited to be making his National Tour Debut with “Aint Too Proud”! He would like to thank God, Mom, Step-Dad, family, friends & LG Talent Management for their continued support!! Wear ya mask. IG: @Treston.Henderson.

Najah Hetsberger (*Josephine*). Najah is thrilled to be joining her first national tour! She is a recent graduate of Montclair State University (BFA MT 21). Professional credits include “Godspell,” “All Good Gifts,” “Nina Simone: Four Women,” “Sweet Thing” (Berkshire Theater Group).

Devin Holloway (*Richard Street*) is grateful and honored. A native of New Orleans, Devin Holloway has performed across the United States and Internationally. Tours: Tap Brother 1 in “After Midnight” (Norwegian Escape), Minstrel in “Something Rotten,” Jackie Wilson in “Motown,” Margaret Mead in “Hair” (European tour), “42nd Street,” and “Sesame Street LIVE: MNF.” devinholloway.net. IG: @thedevinholloway.

Antwaun Holley (*Swing*). Cleveland, Ohio native delighted to return to the stage in this production of “Ain’t Too Proud”. Credits include: “Book of Mormon” (International/National tours), Lin-Manuel Miranda’s “21 Chump Street,” Youth’s “Passing Strange,” and Jackie and Andrew Lipa’s “The Wild Party.” Training: Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. #MAKTUB #REDBALLON

Kyshawn Lane (*Swing*) is thrilled to be sharing this iconic story. Past fav credits include “Junie B. Jones” (Tour), “Hairspray” (Papermill Playhouse/Tour/NV), “Memphis” (Tour), “Personality” (Regional premiere), “Dreamgirls,” “All Shook Up,” and “Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.”

Traci Elaine Lee (*Johnnie Mae, Mary Wilson*). National Tour: “Beautiful.” Off-Broadway: “Safeword.” Select Regional: “Dreamgirls,” “In the Heights,” “Fortress of Solitude” (Dallas Theater Center), “A Wonderful World” (Miami New Drama), “Les Misérables” (ZACH Theatre), “Little Shop of Horrors” (Cape Playhouse). Voiceover: “Whataburger,” “Indeed.” FA MT SHSU. IG: @tracelaine.

Brett Michael Lockley (*Al Bryant, Norman Whitfield*). A Baltimore, MD native, is thrilled to be a part of “Ain’t Too Proud!” Credits; National Tour: “CATS,” “Motown the Musical.” Regional: “Beauty and the Beast” (PaperMill), “My Fair Lady” (Fireside Theatre). INTL: “A Chorus Line” (Shanghai). IG: @Brett.Lockley.

Harris Matthew (*Dennis Edwards*) is making his national tour debut and thrilled to take “The Temptations” across America! Broadway: “SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical,” “Frozen.” International: “HAIR” (Sydney Opera House,) “Vegas the Show.”

Amber Mariah Talley (*Diana Ross*) is a proud Atlanta native and a recent alumna of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee (BFA MT 2022). She is so excited to make her National Tour Debut with “Ain’t too Proud.”

Andrew Volzer (*Swing, Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be making his National Tour debut. Recent Credits: “The Secret Garden” (CCM), “Glory Denied” (Kentucky Opera), Junior Theater Festival (iTheatrics). He's a graduate of CCM with a BFA in Stage Management.

Nazarria Workman (*Swing*) is a proud Native New Yorker and couldn't be more ecstatic to be joining “Ain’t Too Proud!” National Tours: “Motown the Musical,” “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.” Regional: “Hairspray.” IG: nazarria_twerkma.

Links:

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November 2, 2022