

# JOSEPHINE

*a barlesque cabaret dream play*

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## **Critically-acclaimed off-Broadway show based on the life of Josephine Baker to tour across the US, Canada, and UK in the summer of 2019**

**Orlando, FL-** Dynamite Lunchbox of Orlando will spend the summer of 2019 presenting the musical **Josephine** across Canada, The United Kingdom and The United States on a tour of 7 cities over 3 months. **Josephine** is a one-woman biographical musical that combines cabaret, theatre and dance to tell the story of the iconic Josephine Baker, the first African-American international superstar and one of the most remarkable figures of the 20th Century.

After debuting at the **2016 San Diego Fringe Festival** and winning the distinctions of "**Outstanding Solo Performance**" and "**Best Show**", *Josephine* played three sold out runs to rave reviews in hometown Orlando Florida before starting a 2017 North American tour. The first stop was the second largest Fringe Festival in North America, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, where it was touted as the "breakout hit" of the Festival, selling out the entire run and receiving 5-star reviews from both major publications. The show then went to Indianapolis Fringe where it won "**Best National Production**", "**Outstanding Female Performance**", "**Audience Choice**" and "**Festival Top Seller**".

From there, the show was selected by The Soho Playhouse in New York City to be part of the 2017 Fringe Encore series in October, 2017. *Josephine* was then awarded the honor of the encore series "**Outstanding Production**" award, and in early 2018 was offered a limited 5-week off-Broadway run at Soho Playhouse, where it sold out performances and received high critical acclaim. For the off-Broadway run, Tymisha Harris was nominated for a **2018 Vivian Robinson AUDELCO Award for Outstanding Solo Performance**.

In the summer of 2018, the show traveled across Canada to five festivals, and was the top selling show at every one. In Ottawa, it was awarded the "**Best of Fest**," "**Outstanding Overall Production**," and "**Volunteer's Choice**" awards. In Toronto *Josephine* sold out 6 performances, and Now Magazine awarded it the honors of "**Outstanding Production**," "**Outstanding Direction**," "**Outstanding Performance**," and "**Outstanding New Play/Musical**." In Winnipeg (where no Festival Awards are given)

it was the top-selling show of over 175 offerings, selling out 9 of 10 performances in the largest venue. Finally, in Edmonton at the largest Fringe Festival in North America, Josephine sold out it's entire run.

In the Summer of 2019, the show went to the Edinburgh Fringe for the first time, where it sold out houses and received multiple 4 and 5 Star reviews and stellar audience feedback.

<https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/josephine>

*"As the last notes of La Vie en Rose hang in the air, we jump to our feet to give our enthralling leading lady the standing ovation she so richly deserves. You've heard of a triple threat? Add another dozen skills and you have Tymisha Harris."*

★★★★★ -Broadway Baby

*"Probably the closest to an evening with Josephine Baker as one will ever experience."*  
-Stagebiz NYC

*"It's is a perfect piece of theatre for the time we are currently in"*

★★★★★ -Plays To See NYC

**About Josephine Baker-** Born in St. Louis in 1906, Josephine Baker achieved only moderate success in the United States, but became an international superstar after moving to France in the early 20's. She starred alongside white romantic leading men in films in the 30's, had multiple interracial marriages and homosexual relationships, and performed in men's clothing before the term "drag" existed in the lexicon. She was also a spy for the French Resistance, a civil rights activist, and the mother of 12 adopted children from 4 continents. Her success in France and Europe often gave her the opportunity to live freely without the racial oppression of her home nation, though she never stopped yearning for acceptance in America.

Producer/Director/co-Creator Michael Marinaccio notes: "In a period of profound division in the world, we are excited to present the story of a woman who broke boundaries of race, gender, and sexuality in a time before America had begun coming to terms with the concept of diversity. You would be hard pressed to find a more remarkable human being than Josephine Baker, and it's about time that extraordinary women of color like her have their stories known."

Performer/co-Creator Tymisha Harris adds: "I am thrilled to bring the story of one of the most impactful yet often overlooked figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to North American audiences. I hope Josephine's story brings people together, but telling it has made me realize not only how far we have come, but also how far we have left to go as a society with regards to racial inequality."

*"Tymisha Harris' performance is a tour de force."*

★★★★★, Staff Pick -CBC

*"a Masters Class in how to interpret a song so they draw the audience in"*

★★★★★ -Nuvo Magazine

**About the company:**

**Based on the life of Josephine Baker**

**Created by Tymisha Harris, Michael Marinaccio, and Tod Kimbro**

**Performed by Tymisha Harris**

**Directed and Produced by Michael Marinaccio**

**Book and Music Direction by Tod Kimbro**

**Stage Managed by Lindsay Taylor**

**Tymisha Harris, Performer/Costume Designer/Choreographer.** Tymisha Harris (aka "Tush") has been performing professionally for over 20 years. Her early credits include assistant choreographer and backup dancing for the 90's pop group N\*SYNC, backup dancer for LFO, multiple roles at Universal Studios Orlando, and a featured role in the hit movie series Bring It On. More recent endeavors include the national tour of Rock of Ages, a European tour with the innovative and world-renowned Pilobulus Dance Theater Company, and founding member and Assistant Director/Choreographer of the successful Orlando based troupe, VarieTease.

**Michael Marinaccio, Director/Producer.** Michael has been a successful Producer, Director, Actor and Teacher in Central Florida and beyond for over 20 years. A BFA Theatre Performance graduate of The University of Central Florida, Michael has participated directly in hundreds of theatrical productions. As a collaborator, he has helped create over 20 original theatre pieces, and has produced and directed dozens of new works. He is currently employed as the Festival Producer of Orlando Fringe.

**Tod Kimbro, Playwright/Musical Director.** Tod Kimbro has written over 25 plays and musicals since 1997, including *My Illustrious Wasteland*, which was presented Off-Broadway at the 2009 New York Musical Theatre Festival. His 2000 musical *LOUD* was nominated for the M Elizabeth Osborn Award, a national prize for emerging playwrights. Tod is also an accomplished pianist and singer, and has released two albums of original music.

*"a star vehicle for Harris, and she delivers."*-**Orlando Sentinel**

*"If there's a truly must-see show...it's Josephine"*

★★★★★ – **Winnipeg Free Press**

For press images, please visit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15V-Fu2Y0OqNbeLbQJ4kZnypcagsOvw8r?usp=sharing>

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For trailer visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8U57Ym1KOnQ>