



For Immediate Release, Please Contact

**Frances White**, Director of Media Relations, [fwhite@milwaukeeep.com](mailto:fwhite@milwaukeeep.com)  
[www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) | @MilwRep | [#WeRepMilwaukee](https://www.instagram.com/WeRepMilwaukee)

**Milwaukee Repertory Theater**  
Presents Live and In-Person  
*First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald*  
April 27 – May 23, 2021  
In the Quadracci Powerhouse

Milwaukee, Wis – March 25, 2021 – [Milwaukee Rep](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) to reopen with the live in-person concert *First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald* in the Quadracci Powerhouse April 27 - May 23, 2021, presented by Artists Lounge Live. Award-winner Roston offers approximately 85 minutes of stories and songs celebrating the sultry swing and playful joy that made Ella an American treasure. Featuring an exceptional jazz ensemble, classic tunes include “Summertime,” “The Lady Is a Tramp,” and “It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing.” Live music is back on stage at Milwaukee Rep.

**Alexis J Roston** returns to Milwaukee Rep where she reprised her mesmerizing star turn as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill* (Chicago’s Jeff Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, Black Excellence Award) and appeared in *The Color Purple*. Other credits nationwide include starring in *Don’t Make Me Over— A Tribute to Dionne Warwick* (Jeff Award Nomination, Black Theater Alliance Award Nomination), *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Banks), *Porgy and Bess* (Bess), *Ragtime* (Sarah), *Sister Act* (Deloris), *For Colored Girls...* (Lady in Orange), *Ain’t Misbehavin’* (Charlaine), *Shrek: The Musical* (Dragon), *The Wiz* (Addaperle), *The Piano Lesson* (Grace), *Crowns* (Jeanette), *Company* (Sarah), *Godspell* (Joanne), *Smokey Joe’s Café* (Brenda), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hair*, *Hairspray*, *She The People* with Second City Chicago and the world premiere of *The Secret of My Success*. An ensemble member of Congo Square Theatre, Roston served as director and playwright of *A Nativity Story: More Than A Miracle*. Television: “Chicago PD,” “Chicago Code” and “The Chi.” She holds a BFA in musical theatre from Howard University.

**Milwaukee Rep** has instituted its approved safety plan from the City of Milwaukee which requires all patrons to wear masks, socially distanced seating, and limiting capacity at each performance in the Quadracci Powerhouse to just 180 people (25% of capacity). If for some reason COVID-19 causes cancellations, patrons will receive an automatic refund. Please visit this link for a detailed list of [Safety protocols](#).

Tickets for *First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald* are now on sale and start as low as \$20. Purchase tickets at [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) or by calling the Ticket Office at 414-224-9490.

*First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald* is presented by Artists Lounge Live and sponsored by PNC Bank with media sponsor Jammin' 98.3. Executive Producers are Bob Balderson, Karen and Mark Bitzan, Robert Burrell and Chris and Judi Collins with Associate Producers Judy and Gary Jorgensen, Jim and Mary LaValle and David and Cheryl Walker. Milwaukee Rep is supported in part by the United Performing Arts Fund.

Watch a clip of *First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald* and hear from Roston herself on Milwaukee Rep's YouTube page at [YouTube.com/MilwRep](https://www.youtube.com/MilwRep).

For more information, please visit [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com).

QUADRACCI POWERHOUSE  
**APRIL – MAY 2021**

***First Lady of Song:***  
*Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald*

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27 • 7:30	28 • 7:30	29 • 7:30	30 △ 7:30	MAY 1 3:00 8:00	2 2:00 7:00
4 EB 6:30	5 CINCO DE MAYO 1:30 7:30	6 7:30	7 7:30	8 3:00 8:30	9 MOTHER'S DAY 2:00
11 7:30	12 7:30	13 7:30	14 7:30	15 3:00 8:00	16 2:00 7:00
18 7:30	19 7:30	20 7:30	21 7:30	22 3:00 8:00	23 2:00 ◇ 7:00
• Preview      △ Opening      ◇ Closing      EB Early Performance					

All performances are subject to change.

\*Artists, dates and ticket prices are subject to change

::Fact Sheet::

*First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald*

April 27 – May 23, 2021 (Opening Night, Friday, April 30, 7:30pm) in the Quadracci Powerhouse

**Running Time:** 85 minutes no intermission

**Ticket Information**

**Tickets:** [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) or by phone at 414-224-9490.

**Hours:** 12noon – 6pm; on performance days the Ticket Office remains open until 15 minutes past curtain.

**Student Discounts:** Students 18 and under can purchase \$20 tickets.

**35 & Under:** Select \$20 tickets available for patrons 35 & Under. (Select 35 & Under price at checkout online)

### **COVID-19 Safety Protocols**

To ensure the safety of all patrons, and based on guidance from the CDC and other government agencies, Milwaukee Rep will operate with enhanced safety measures including:

- Reduced capacity and socially distanced seating
- Timed entry to reduce crowds at entrances
- Temperature checks for staff and guests on arrival
- Masks required for all staff and guests
- Paperless tickets
- Touchless sanitation stations placed throughout the venue
- Enhanced regular cleaning

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### **About Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin with three unique performance venues in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex— the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over six decades, Milwaukee Rep has been a centerpiece of Milwaukee's vibrant arts and cultural scene with productions ranging from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to American Classics and New Works that are entertaining, inclusive and impactful. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mark Clements and Executive Director Chad Bauman, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.

### **About Artists Lounge Live**

Chicago-based concert company Artists Lounge Live presents popular music of yesterday performed by singular talents of today. "Superb musicianship and powerful storytelling set us apart. Our company of headliners honor their musical icons with mastery, intimacy, and empathy. With the music as our guide we explore the cultural landscape of America both then and now. Through popular music, our shared heritage, we offer audiences an authentic emotional connection. We believe in the restorative power of live entertainment for both the individual and the community." Artists Lounge Live is created, produced, and curated by husband and wife team Michael and Angela Ingersoll. All-around entertainer and producer Michael Ingersoll starred as Nick Massi of the Four Seasons in *Jersey Boys*, originating the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago casts. He also created, recorded, and toured internationally with PBS retro-rock group Under the Streetlamp. Emmy Award-nominated actress Angela Ingersoll tours her PBS special *Get Happy: Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland*. She also won acclaim starring as Garland in *End of the Rainbow*, earning Chicago's Jeff Award and *LA Times* Woman of the Year in Theatre. Learn more at [artistslounge.com](http://artistslounge.com).