

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 19, 2022**

*For press photos, interviews, or tickets:*

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# **Dance Theatre of Harlem ballet celebrates the legacy of Hazel Scott**

**Seattle Theatre Group co-commissions a world-premiere honoring the  
jazz legend and civil rights hero**

**2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 5, 2022**

**Prices start at \$25 | [stgpresents.org](http://stgpresents.org)**

SEATTLE — Can ballet help correct the historic record? Seattle Theatre Group (STG) is co-commissioning a new ballet by Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) that's inspired by the late Hazel Scott, an innovator who radically redefined piano jazz—as well as what it meant to be a Black artist and Black woman in America. Scott was accepted into Juilliard at only 8 years old and would later go on to become a movie star, the first Black American to host a weekly T.V. show, and an outspoken critic of racial discrimination. Sadly, the anti-communist surge of the 1950s robbed Scott of her legacy. After being blacklisted, she lost bookings, advertisers, managers, and opportunities.

Today, Seattle Theatre Group is proud to be co-commissioning Dance Theatre of Harlem's new ballet which will help to ensure that Scott's story lives on.

"Unfortunately, there's not much of a public infrastructure for funding art in the United States. Thus, it's important for presenters like STG to step up and help ensure the pipeline of great new work for the future, and for the arts ecosystem," said Jack McLarnan, Manager of Performing Arts Programs at STG.

The world-premiere Hazel Scott ballet makes its Pacific Northwest premiere at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the Paramount Theatre in a mixed-repertory program that also includes *Higher Ground*, choreographed by Robert Garland with music by Stevie Wonder—plus *Passage*, choreographed by Claudia Schreier with music by Jessie Montgomery.

"Hazel Scott was a diva with a capital 'D,' but she was also super-grounded," said choreographer Tiffany Rea-Fisher. "She was not afraid to be raw and rough while also being glamorous. Her erasure from history was intentional because she was so audacious. People

actively tried to erase her—so to be able to celebrate her for all that she is super-super exciting.”

Joining Rea-Fisher on the creative team is DTH founding member and artistic director Virginia Johnson and composer Erica Lewis-Blunt.

**ABOUT SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP (STG)**

Seattle Theatre Group (STG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization whose mission is to make diverse performing arts and education an integral part of the region's cultural identity while keeping three historic venues, The Paramount, Moore and Neptune, alive and vibrant. STG presents a range of performances from Broadway, off-Broadway, dance and jazz, to comedy, concerts of all genres, speakers and family shows - at these three iconic theatres in Seattle and venues throughout the Puget Sound region and in Portland, Oregon. For more information visit [stgpresent.org](http://stgpresent.org). STG Education and Community Programs extend beyond the Paramount, Moore and Neptune Theatre stages and into the lives of the greater Seattle community. Each season, STG offers over 260 education programs impacting over 55,000 students and community members from diverse ages and backgrounds. These programs deepen significance to performances through opportunities to engage with artists, inspire youth and local artists through training and performance opportunities, and provide exposure to the arts through access initiatives. For more information visit [stgpresents.org/education](http://stgpresents.org/education).

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