

The Egg, Wales Millennium Centre and Oxford Playhouse's co-production of Holm Theatre's

# Josephine

by **Leona Allen and Jesse Briton**  
For ages 7+

Written by **Leona Allen & Jesse Briton**  
Directed by **Jesse Briton**  
Designed by **Debbie Duru,**  
Composer & Musical Director **Nadine Lee, Composer Simon Lee**  
Movement Director and Choreographer **Ingrid Mackinnon**

Production Image (illustration) by **Lleucu Williams**  
Photos credit: **Jack Offord**

## [Short copy 124 words]

Josephine Baker. The little girl from Missouri who became an original 20<sup>th</sup> Century icon. Dancer, actor, activist, campaigner, spy and mother to the multicultural *Rainbow Tribe*, Josephine broke the mould and high-kicked the pieces to the kerb.

But, almost 50 years after her death, Café Josephine, a down-at-heel New York diner dedicated to her memory, faces closure. Nobody remembers Josephine, who she was, what she did, what she stood for.

And she just can't allow that.

With a sultry, Harlem Renaissance-inspired score, spring-heeled Charleston dancing and a hatful of historical figures, *Josephine* blurs the real with the imagined as we follow one woman's incredible journey from the slums of St Louis via the bright lights of Paris and into the hearts of the world.

## [Slightly longer copy 149 words]

Josephine Baker. The little girl from Missouri who became an original 20<sup>th</sup> Century icon. Dancer, actor, activist, campaigner, spy and mother to the multicultural *Rainbow Tribe*, Josephine broke the mould and high-kicked the pieces to the kerb.

But, almost 50 years after her death, Café Josephine, a down-at-heel New York diner dedicated to her memory, faces closure. Nobody remembers Josephine, who she was, what she did, what she stood for.

Was it the menu? The décor? Or Jack and Marie, siblings and co-owners of the café, who have run her legacy into the ground?

Either way, Josephine just can't allow that.

## [Additional copy 184 words]

With a sultry, Harlem Renaissance-inspired score, spring-heeled Charleston dancing and a hatful of historical figures, *Josephine* blurs the real with the imagined as we follow one woman's incredible journey from the slums of St Louis via the bright lights of Paris and into the hearts of the world.

Performed by a cast of three, Josephine covers the extraordinary story of Josephine Baker: performer, spy and civil rights activist. Born in St Louis in 1906, Baker was a famous dancer and the first Black woman to star in a major motion picture. She became a French national where she raised her 12 internationally adopted children, dubbed the Rainbow Tribe. She aided the French Resistance during WWII, which earned her the Croix de Guerre and spoke at the renowned March on Washington in 1963 alongside Martin Luther King.

With a sultry, Harlem Renaissance-inspired score, spring-heeled Charleston dancing and a hatful of historical figures, Josephine blurs the real with the imagined as we follow one woman's incredible journey from the slums of St Louis via the bright lights of Paris and into the hearts of the world.