CONTACT: Denise Schneider and Ata Younan **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

312.443.5151 or Press@GoodmanTheatre.org **February 2, 2023**

**PHOTOS AND VIDEO ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF LYDIA R. DIAMOND’S *TONI STONE*,**

**OPENING ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 6) AND CONTINUING THROUGH FEBRUARY 26 AT THE GOODMAN**

(Chicago, IL) Photos and video of **Lydia R.** **Diamond**’s original play *Toni Stone* are now available in the [digital press kit](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z6754a96y14opx7/AACdjOW_T_o6NnTlmW-3vZQaa?dl=0).

Directed by **Ron OJ Parson**, the Chicago-premiere production highlights the first woman to play professional baseball and overcome racist and sexist barriers to play the sport she loves and features of nine, led by **Tracey N. Bonner** in the title role—joined by **Kai Ealy** (King Tut), **Joseph Aaron Johnson** (Elzie), **Chiké Johnson** (Alberga), **Travis Knight** (Stretch), **Victor Musoni** (Jimmy), **Jon Hudson Odom** (Millie), **Edgar Miguel Sanchez** (Spec) and **Terence Sims** (Woody). *Toni Stone* appears January 28 – February 26, 2023 in the 856-seat Albert Theatre; opening night is Monday, February 6. Tickets ($25 –$80, subject to change) are available at GoodmanTheatre.org/Toni or by phone at 312-443-3800. The Goodman is grateful for the support of Bank of America (Corporate Sponsor Partner), Snap-on (Technical Sponsor) and The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust (Lead Funder of IDEAA Programming).

In *Toni Stone,* it’s the mid-twentieth century and while Toni has a great arm, she still can't play with the boys. Rejected by the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League because of her race, Toni sets out to become the first woman to play in baseball’s Negro Leagues. Challenges on and off the field—from hostile crowds to players who slide spikes-first—only steel her resolve to shatter racist and sexist barriers in the sport she’s loved since childhood. An original play inspired by the book *Curveball, The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone* by Martha Ackmann, this New York Times Critic’s Pick will have you cheering along.

The creative team includes **Henri Watkins** (Associate Director); **Todd Rosenthal** (Set Design); **Sotirios Livaditis** (Associate Set Design); **Mara Blumenfeld** (Costume Design); **Keith Parham** (Lighting Design); **Andre Pluess** (Original Music and Sound Design); **Cristin Carole** (Movement Consultant); **Mike Tutaj** (Projection Design). Casting is by **Lauren Port**, CSA and **Rachael Jimenez**, CSA. **Nikki Blue** is the Production Stage Manager and **Veronica Buztoz** is the Stage Manager.

**THE COMPANY OF *Toni Stone* (in alphabetical order)**

***For images, bios and additional information about the artists, visit the*** [***Play Detail Page***](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/toni)***.***

Toni Stone…………….Tracey N. Bonner
King Tut………………..Kai Ealy
Elzie…………………Joseph Aaron Johnson

Alberga…………………Chiké Johnson

Stretch………………..Travis Knight

Jimmy…………………Victor Musoni

Millie…………………Jon Hudson Odom

Spec…………………..Edgar Miguel Sanchez

Woody………………Terence Sims

Understudies for this production include Jabari Khaliq (Jimmy/Stretch), Krystel McNeil (Toni Stone), Matty Robinson (Spec/Elzie), Reginald Robinson (Woody/King Tut/Millie) and A.C. Smith (Alberga).

Associate Direction by Henri Watkins

Set Design by Todd Rosenthal

Associate Set Design by Sotirios Livaditis

Costume Design by Mara Blumenfeld

Lighting Design by Keith Parham

Original Music and Sound Design by Andre Pluess

Movement by Cristin Carole

Projection Design by Mike Tutaj

Casting is by Lauren Port, CSA and Rachael Jimenez, CSA. Nikki Blue is the Production Stage Manager and Veronica Buztoz is the Stage Manager. Devin Christor is the Assistant to the Director and Playwright.

**ENHANCED AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

*Visit Goodman theatre.org/Access for more information about Goodman Theatre’s accessibility efforts.*

ASL-Interpreted: Friday, February 24 at 8pm – An American Sign Language interpreter signs the action/text as played.

Touch Tour and Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, February 25, 12:30pm Touch Tour; 2pm performance – The action/text is audibly enhanced for patrons via headset. *NOTE: Touch Tours for the 2022/2023 Season will not have access to the stage due to current health and safety protocols, but will feature alternate pre-show sensory introductions.*

Spanish Subtitles: Saturday February 25 at 8pm.

Open-Captioned: Sunday, February 26 at 2pm – An LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

**ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE**

Chicago’s theater since 1925, **Goodman Theatre** is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. The theater’s artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earner two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades. The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Its longtime annual holiday tradition *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of the theatrical profession, the Goodman’s Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand the cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman’s Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered free of charge for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth, an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation on the new Goodman center in 2000.

Today, Goodman Theatre is led by Artistic Director **Susan Booth** and Executive Director/CEO **Roche Schulfer**. Theater leadership also includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: **Rebecca Gilman**, **Dael Orlandersmith**, **Henry Godinez**, **Steve Scott**, **Kimberly Senior**, **Chuck Smith** and **Mary Zimmerman**. **Jeff Hesse** is Chairman of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, **Fran Del Boca** is Women’s Board President and **Craig McCaw** is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

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