

Sheldon Epps' Tony-Nominated Musical Celebrates Blues and Jazz Music



SHELDON EPPS

- Photo courtesy of Sheldon Epps

Next week International City Theatre's upcoming show *Blues in the Night* will open at the Beverly O'Neill Theater. Sheldon Epps conceived and originally directed *Blues in the Night*, a revue that utilizes 26 glorious songs that tells four characters' stories. He was inspired and in-

fluenced with this quote usually attributed to jazz singer Carmen McRae, "Blues is to jazz what yeast is to bread."

Mr. Epps conceived the highly acclaimed musicals *Blues In the Night* and *Play On!*, which both received Tony Award nomina-

tions. He directed productions of both shows on Broadway, in London (receiving two Laurence Olivier Award nominations for *Blues in the Night*), and at theatres throughout the world. He also co-directed the Broadway production of *Baby It's You!* This show had its world premiere at The Pasadena Playhouse where he was the Artistic Director for twenty years and where he received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for his efforts and accomplishments at the Playhouse.

He also has had a busy career as a television director helming episodes of shows such as *Frasier*, *Friends*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Girlfriends* and many others.

Mr. Epps was recently appointed Senior Artistic Advisor at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC.

Blues in the Night runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm, Oct. 22 through Nov. 7. Sunday, Oct. 31 there includes a post-performance talk-back with the cast. Two preview performances are Oct. 20 and Oct. 21, at 8 pm.

International City Theatre performs at the Beverly O'Neill Theater, 330 East Seaside Way, Long Beach, CA 90802. For reservations and information, call 562-436-4610 or go to InternationalCityTheatre.org.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of International City Theatre's team or want to learn more, contact Jordan Gohara at jordan@ictlonabeach.org