



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

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**MADE IN AMERICA PERFORMANCE SERIES DEBUTS IN CONNECTICUT
THE AUTORINO CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES PRESENTS
THE AMERICAN ROOTS FESTIVAL**

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Jan. 6, 2017) – It will be another sensational season of music, dance, and theater at the University of Saint Joseph’s Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities. The American Roots Festival will entertain audiences of all ages with a series of uniquely American performances and workshops.

“At a time when Identity Politics has surged, we are thrilled to partner with artists of high caliber from across the country, who are working in aesthetics and content that are uniquely American,” says Autorino Center director Steven Raider-Ginsburg. “Each of these artists goes deep into what being American is as they display masterful crafts of dance, theater, and music.”

Hartbeat Ensemble’s: Jimmy & Lorraine

Jan. 27-29, Fri./Sat. 7:30 p.m. and Sun 2 p.m.

This new work explores the lives of *Jimmy & Lorraine*, two significant artists and social activists (James Baldwin and Lorraine Hansberry) in the late ’50s and ’60s. Through their lens, audience members will experience America’s history, shedding light on the issues of race, art, and politics. Nominated for “Best Play Outside of NYC 2015” by the American Theater Critics Association and “One of the Year’s Best Plays” by Frank Rizzo, Hartford Courant Theater Critic.

Ralph Xavier: Point of Interest

Feb. 24-25, 7:30 p.m.

Are you ready to follow traditional Breaking aesthetics while pushing the boundaries of this culture and form? Join us and be mesmerized by the possibilities of hip-hop dance. Recent recipient of two prestigious awards, 2016 Guggenheim Fellow and 2016 United States Artist.

Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait

March 7, 7:30 p.m.

In this new live music and film piece, acclaimed musician Jenny Scheinman invites you into the captivating visual world of H. Lee Waters, who documented more than 118 towns from 1936-42. Commissioned by Duke University’s Duke Performances.

RUNA

March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Quickly gaining recognition as one of Irish music's new "super-groups," RUNA has been enchanting audiences by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music into the Americana and roots music formats since their formation in 2008.

Martha Redbone's Bone Hill: The Concert

March 17-18, 7:30 p.m.

This dramatic musical work is a devised, interdisciplinary theater work inspired by renowned blues and soul singer Martha Redbone's family lineage in the Appalachian Mountains, with her all-star band that spans generations and a breadth of music genres, revealing a great American story.

Jayme Stone's: Lomax Project

March 31 - April 1, 7:30 p.m.

You will be foot-tapping to this repertoire that includes Bahamian sea chanties, African-American a cappella singing from the Georgia Sea Islands, ancient Appalachian ballads, fiddle tunes, and work songs collected from both well-known musicians and everyday folk.

Healing Blues Band

April 21, 7:30 p.m.

This collection of musicians, who play Gritty Blues to Acoustic Introspection, teamed up with homeless citizens to produce a series of new songs, which will remind you where the Blues really comes from.

The American Roots Festival will include workshops and post show discussions. Forthcoming workshop information will be released on the University website.

All tickets are \$25 for General Admission, \$20 for Seniors/USJ Alumni/Let's Go Arts, \$15 for students. Parking is free of charge and ample on the campus.

For more information or to reach the box office, call 860.231.5555 or visit usj.edu/arts.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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