

# JAZZABEL

*A Femme Fatale Production*

*A Story of*

**Fast Friends, Hot Music & Harlem Nights**

Jazzabel tells the contrasting stories of two aspiring jazz divas, one who found success and one who did not.

A musical dream come true that takes us from a small town in the deep south to the stage of the legendary Apollo Theater in New York City.

Set in the 1930s and 40s, their personal stories will be shared through the music of this magical era.

*Conceived by and Starring* **Denise Pelley**

*Written by* **Jacque Gauthier**

*Directed by* **Louise Fagan**

*Premiered*

SEPTEMBER 2004  
GRAND THEATRE  
LONDON, ONTARIO

*October 2005*

NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS  
WASHINGTON, DC

*February 2006*

URBAN STAGES  
NEW YORK CITY

## Denise Pelley



**AN ACTRESS**

**A LEADING LADY!**

**"IMPRESSIVE DRAMATIC ACTING TALENT"**

**"SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE"**

**"SILKY SMOOTH VOICE"**

**"DELIGHTING & INSPIRING"**



**A SONGSTRESS**

*www.denisepelley.com*

# Denise Pelley

## O, Yes



London theatre company *Femme Fatale* is being given a worldwide focus by Oprah Winfrey's *O* magazine on the eve of its New York debut.

"I'm just thrilled to be able to share *Jazzabel* with the world," says Pelley, who plays the two aspiring singers. "The show's inspirational to people, particularly women."

It's about reaching for the stars, striving for your dreams and doing the things you love."



### Local trio of plays bound for U.S.

If you can make it there you'll make it anywhere, claims the hit tune *New York, New York*.

London theatre company *Femme Fatale* will test that theory by presenting *Portraits -- A Festival of One-Woman Shows* in New York City, from Feb. 13 to March 6, 2006.

"I'm very excited by this opportunity to show *Jazzabel* to entire new audiences in Washington and New York," says Pelley of the play that premiered at the Grand Theatre's McManus Studio in September 2004.



Hailed for *Jazzabel*, Denise Pelley, Jacquie Gauthier and Louise Fagan take the ladies on the road.

### Jazzabel's Exposure Expanding

First a hit stage show and now a new CD

*Jazzabel* features the talents of London jazz diva Denise Pelley. "The musical allowed me to do two things I love -- sing and act -- and now this recording is an opportunity to share the show with many more people," Pelley says of her fourth solo album.

The CD's release coincides with tomorrow night's launch of *Jazzabel*'s three-day stay at the Grand Theatre's McManus Studio, site of the play's world premiere run this past fall.

It proved popular with audiences and theatre critics and drew a Brickenden Award nomination as one of the best musical productions staged in London during 2004.

Directed by Louise Fagan, this "story of fast friends, hot music and Harlem nights" was written by Jacquie Gauthier and based on an idea conceived by Pelley.

Set in New York during the late 1930s and early '40s, its plot focuses on ethereal Grace and earthy Jane, a.k.a. *Jazzabel*. Pelley portrays both of the young aspiring jazz/blues singers who pursue their dreams of fame and fortune.

Among the titles on the show's song list are *Blues in the Night*, *Sugar*, *Just You, Just Me* and *What a Little Moonlight Can Do* and a pair of original tunes that made their debut in *Jazzabel*: the romantic *Somewhere in New York* and a nostalgic offering *We Had Yesterday*.

In February, the CD version of *Jazzabel* was produced at London's Studio 2 by recording industry legend Jack Richardson.

"He's an icon in the music business and working with him was a career highlight for me," says Pelley about Richardson, the veteran producer who collaborated with rock stars Bob Seger, the Guess Who and Alice Cooper and has done jazz projects with the Brecker Brothers and the Boss Brass.

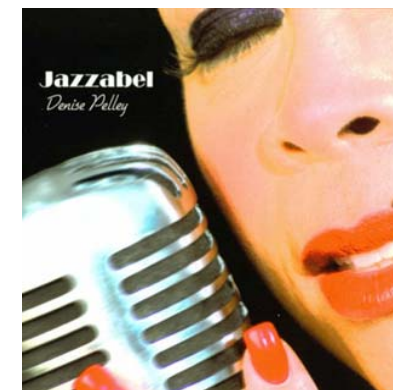
"Jack has an amazing ear and was able to take my performance to a whole new level. He gave me what a singer wants from a producer and that's both direction and freedom."

Pelley's singing gifts are already familiar to anyone who has attended her concerts and starring turns in two Grand Theatre hit musicals, *Wang Dang Doodle* (2003) and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the Fats Waller tribute presented in 2001.

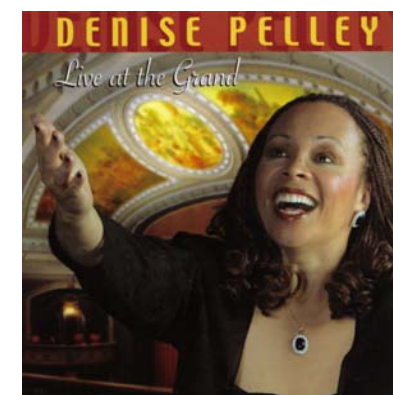
"But with Denise's talent and Jack's influence, I think this CD is going to introduce her to a much wider audience outside London," says *Jazzabel* director Fagan.



## THE CD'S



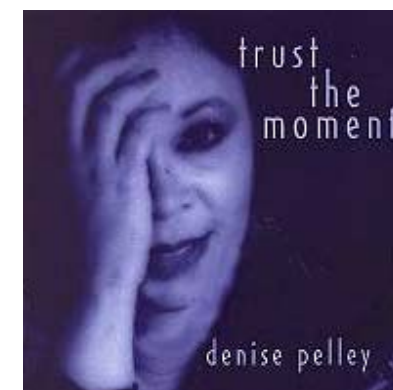
2004



2003



2001



1998

## THEATRE



### Wang Dang Doodle Dandy

There ain't nothing can thaw the ice-cold winter blues like the sizzling hot jazz of *Wang Dang Doodle*.

Heat aplenty is ignited by this high-energy musical that opened its hand-clapping, toe-tapping stay at the Grand Theatre last night.

Returning to the Grand's stage to play that loving couple are Simpson and Denise Pelley, the dynamic duo who powered *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the theatre's 2001 salute to the music of Fats Waller. It's a case of *deja vu* all over again for the engaging chemistry generated by these two performers.

Pelley's honey smooth voice remains the best friend any song could have. London's reigning jazz queen is simply amazing as Grace, particularly when belting out Long John Blues, one of several steamy, suggestive numbers on the show's song list.

### Appearances

#### Jazzabel

2006, Urban Stages, New York City  
2005, National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, DC  
2004-05, Grand Theatre, London, Ontario

#### Streetcar Named Desire

2005, Grand Theatre, London, Ontario

#### Wang Dang Doodle

2003, Grand Theatre, London, Ontario

#### Ain't Misbehavin'

2001, Grand Theatre, London, Ontario



www.denisepelley.com



### Singing the right tune

2003 Women of Distinction Award Recipient

The 2003 recipients of the coveted YMCA-YWCA awards were announced in February.

Arts, Culture And Heritage Category  
Recognized for patronage of, or personal contribution to, the arts (visual, literal or performing), cultural diversity or heritage in the community.



# Denise Pelley

Denise Pelley has performed with orchestras as far afield as Portugal and Germany. But it was her debut Jazz cd "Trust the Moment", recorded in 1998 that brought her to the attention of jazz lovers across Canada after it's launch at an evening hosted by Shelagh Rogers at Toronto's Top 'O The Senator, an appearance on CTV's Canada AM and airplay on CBC's After Hours.

Denise has performed with many great artists including acclaimed trombonist Ray Anderson, Gospel/Blues legend Jackie Richardson, Flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook, and long time collaborator pianist John Noubarian. She opened for Aretha Franklin at the John Labatt Centre in London, Ontario.

Denise enjoys performing with symphony orchestras and is a regular with the London Jeans 'n Classics series. On the festival circuit she has performed at the du Maurier Downtown Jazz Festival (Toronto), Ottawa Jazz Festival, The Royal Canadian Big Band Festival (London), Bluesfest (London), Waterloo Jazz Festival and Sunfest (London), among others.

Denise also enjoys acting and has been part of The Grand Theatre (London) seasons performing in the Fats Waller musical Ain't Misbehavin', Wang Dang Doodle with Denis Simpson and A Streetcar Named Desire. Denise's new one-woman show, Jazzabel premiered in September 2004 at the McManus Theatre (Grand Theatre), London, Ontario to sold out audiences! Jazzabel was showcased in Washington DC in October, 2005 and New York City in February, 2006.

In 2002 Denise was honoured with being the recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

In 2003 she was named a YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction in the Arts and Heritage category.

Denise won best jazz artists in London, Ontario's Music Awards in 2002 and 2003.

Denise's recording credits include five CD's:

Trust the Moment - a jazz recording released in 1998

Missa Gaia Earth Mass released in 2000

I'm Home - gospel recording released in 2001

Live At The Grand -a variety of musical styles with a 12 piece orchestra released in 2003

And her most recent recording of great jazz hits from the 1930's and 40's from her one woman show Jazzabel.



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