

'If Beale Street Could Talk' Opens December 14 Nationwide

By Naomi Richard | VILLAGER Entertainment writer



Stephan James as Fonny and KiKi Layne as Tish star in Barry Jenkins' IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK, an Annapurna Pictures release. Credit: Tatum Mangus / Annapurna Pictures.



Stephan James as Fonny and Brian Tyree Henry as Daniel star in Barry Jenkins' IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK, an Annapurna Pictures release. Credit: Tatum Mangus / Annapurna Pictures.

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Academy Award-winning writer/director Barry Jenkins' first film since the Best Picture Oscar-winning "Moonlight" is *If Beale Street Could Talk*, his adaptation of James Baldwin's novel - the first English-language feature film based on the work of the author, to whom the movie is dedicated.

Set in early-1970s Harlem, *If Beale Street Could Talk* is a timeless and moving love story of both a couple's unbreakable bond and the African-American family's empowering embrace, as told through the eyes of 19-year old Tish Rivers (screen newcomer

KiKi Layne). A daughter and wife-to-be, Tish vividly recalls the passion, respect and trust that have connected her and her artist fiancé Alonzo Hunt, who goes by the nickname Fonny (Stephan James). Friends since childhood, the devoted couple dream of a future together but their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.

Tish knows that Fonny is innocent, and is mindful that his good friend Daniel Carty (Tony and Emmy Award nominee Brian Tyree Henry) has only recently been freed after an unjust incarceration. While

Fonny's mother (Aunjanue Ellis) clings to piety and his father (Michael Beach) grapples with feelings of powerlessness, Tish's earthy father Joseph (Colman Domingo) and fierce older sister Ernestine (Teyonah Parris) are unwavering in their support. Even more anxious to clear Fonny's name is Tish's deeply compassionate mother Sharon (Emmy Award winner Regina King), readying to put herself on the line for her daughter and future son-in-law's happiness...

...and for the couple's unborn child,

whose arrival will herald new joys and challenges. Facing the unexpected prospect of parenthood and holding down a job without her partner at her side, Tish must adjust her perspective on the realities of her existence. She visits Fonny regularly, trying to shore up his spirit even as prison takes its toll. As the weeks turn to months, Tish reaffirms their hopes and resilience, relying on familial and inner strength.

"If Beale Street Could Talk is one of the lesser-read novels in the James Baldwin library. But, once you read it, you see that it is essential Baldwin. This is a love story layered with social commentary. Like all of Baldwin's work, he is saying something about the black community and essentially using this beautiful love story to comment on the state of race in a specific time and place," commented actress KiKi Layne.

Through the unique intimacy and power of cinema, the movie honors the author's prescient words and imagery, charting the emotional currents navigated in an unforgiving and racially biased world as the filmmaker poetically crosses time frames to show how love and humanity endure.

If Beale Street Could Talk opens December 14 and is rated R.

Reminder: Final Community Meeting on December 4th



We are hosting a final community meeting for Givens District Park Master Plan!

The fourth meeting has been scheduled to introduce the proposed plan for improvements for Givens District Park. The meeting will be an open house format with informational exhibits and maps illustrating the developments.

Please share this information with your friends, neighbors, and other community members who might be interested.



Community Meeting #4 for Givens District Park Master Plan

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
6 to 8 PM

Open House format
Givens District Park
Recreation Center
3811 E 12th St, Austin, TX 78721



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