

Sports & Entertainment

Acclaimed film, TV, and broadway actor Harry Lennix to star in “Speak, Salvation, Speak” at Hattiloo Theatre

Acclaimed film, television, and Broadway actor brings world premiere production to Memphis

MEMPHIS, TN – August 3, 2026 – Hattiloo Theatre, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Black performing arts theatre, announced that acclaimed actor Harry Lennix will star in the world premiere of *Speak, Salvation, Speak*, an original drama written and directed by Hattiloo Founder and CEO Ekundayo Bandle. The production runs August 14 through September 26, 2026. Known to millions as Harold Cooper on NBC's *The Blacklist*, Lennix has also appeared in *The Matrix Reloaded*, *The Matrix Revolutions*, *Man of Steel*, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Justice League*, *Ray*, and *The Five Heartbeats*, and numerous stage productions. A Tony Award nominee and one of America's most respected actors, Lennix now brings his talent to Memphis for a rare, intimate theatrical experience. "Speak, Salvation, Speak asks what happens when a father's deeply held Christian faith collides with his son's embrace of African ancestral beliefs," said Bandle. "Having an actor of Harry's caliber tell this story is an extraordinary opportunity for our audiences." The play follows Paul, a devoted husband and father whose family



is tested by questions of faith, identity, tradition, and love. While Lennix's appearance is a major draw, Hattiloo says the production is ultimately about the power of a compelling new story.



Harry Lennix

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Harry Lennix is an acclaimed stage and screen actor known for *The Blacklist*, *The Matrix* films, *Man of Steel*, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Justice League*, *Ray*, and *The Five Heartbeats*. A Tony Award nominee, he is recognized as one of America's most accomplished actors. About Hattiloo Theatre Founded in 2006 by Ekundayo Bandle and named in honor of his two daughters – Hatshepsut (Hatti) Bandle and Oluremi (Loo) Bandle. Hattiloo Theatre is the only free-standing Black repertory theatre in the Mid-South and one of only a handful in the United States. Its mission is to produce plays and programs that support the advancement of Black culture through authentic storytelling, artistic excellence, and community engagement. To learn more about Hattiloo Theatre, visit www.hattiloo.org.

"This is about bringing world-class artistry to Memphis," Bandle said. "Harry could perform anywhere, yet he chose to help us tell this story. It's an incredible moment for Hattiloo and for our city." With just over 100 seats, audiences will experience Lennix's

performance from only a few feet away – an opportunity rarely available with an actor of his stature. As Hattiloo celebrates its 20th Anniversary Season, *Speak, Salvation, Speak* continues the theatre's commitment to producing bold new works that spark con-

versation and celebrate Black storytelling. Performances begin Friday, August 14, and continue through Saturday, September 26, 2026. Tickets range from \$35 to \$60 and are available now at Hattiloo.org. About Harry Lennix

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Kurt Stevens releases debut album ‘Better with a Breeze’ on September 4; New single ‘Cast Away’ available now!



NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 31, 2026 – Vibe-driven and melodic independent musician Kurt Stevens announced his debut album *Better with a Breeze* will be making waves on September 4. Inspired by his love of the coastal life, Stevens' new project is a breath of fresh air in a chaotic world.

To Pre-Save “Better with a Breeze,” visit kurtstevensmusic.com

Today, the tropical troubadour releases “Cast Away,” about a therapeutic day on a sandbar where he’s in no rush to be found. In contrast to being “castaway” and in need of an SOS, Stevens describes the calmness he feels on and around the water. He is rejuvenated by the fishing rod in his hand, the cold beer in his cooler, sunny skies, and sand on his feet. "To me, life is all about the journey. Better with a Breeze is just that; a journey that winds from the coast I grew up on to the places and people I've come to

"To me, life is all about the journey. Better with a Breeze is just that; a journey that winds from the coast I grew up on to the places and people I've come to love along the way. Every song on this record is a song that I've lived," says Stevens.

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He continues, "I've always loved music that can take you somewhere, music where you close your eyes and you're instantly transported to another place, another time, somewhere the breeze off the ocean cools you down in just the right way. Somewhere the craziness of the world was left behind at the dock, even just for a little while. Music that can take you away or maybe even help you find love somewhere in the stars."

Please see sports-Ent. 6

After more than 20 years, professional women's tennis returned to Memphis with the WTA Memphis.
See sports page 1

