

**THEATER
OF, BY
& FOR
ALL PEOPLE**

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

THE INAUGURAL YEAR

of Public Works culminated with a three-night production of THE TEMPEST at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park in 2013. 200 New Yorkers from all five boroughs came together to create an **unforgettable civic experience** that set the standard for Public Works productions to come.



Pictured: the company of THE TEMPEST. Photo by Joan Marcus.

PUBLIC WORKS | MISSION

The Public has always been devoted to making theater that matters, that helps bind our community together by connecting us to the great issues and challenges of our time.

Public Works, a major program of The Public Theater, seeks to engage the people of New York by making them **creators and not just spectators**. **Public Works deliberately blurs the line between professional artists and community members, creating theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well.**

WORKING WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN ALL 5 BOROUGHS, PUBLIC WORKS INVITES COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO TAKE CLASSES, ATTEND PERFORMANCES, AND JOIN IN THE CREATION OF
AMBITIOUS WORKS OF PARTICIPATORY THEATER.

STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORM THE BEDROCK OF PUBLIC WORKS.

1. BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER

is a branch of the New York City Parks Department. With extensive resources for youth and seniors, the center offers a vibrant space to pursue both artistic and athletic activities.

2. CASITA MARIA CENTER FOR ARTS & EDUCATION

is the oldest Latino charity in New York City, founded in 1934. The South Bronx-based community arts and educational organization presents diverse, contemporary visual and performing arts and education programming for all ages.

3. CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE IN SUNSET PARK

is a neighborhood-based social service organization in Brooklyn. CFL's comprehensive services in counseling, employment, education, the arts, and recreation engage more than 16,000 children and adults each year at 8 community locations.

4. CHILDREN'S AID

provides comprehensive support to children in targeted New York City neighborhoods. The organization aims to connect young people and their families with the tools they need to learn, grow, and become leaders of their own lives.

5. DOMESTIC WORKERS UNITED

is a city-wide, workers-led movement of Caribbean, Latina and African nannies, housekeepers, and elderly caregivers in New York, organizing for power, respect, and fair labor standards in the domestic industry.

6. DREAMYARD

provides transformative arts education for Bronx youth through school-based and out-of-school programs and supports young people as they work toward higher learning, meaningful careers, and social action.

7. THE FORTUNE SOCIETY

is a nonprofit social service and advocacy organization founded in 1967. Its mission is to support successful reentry and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities.

8. MILITARY RESILIENCE FOUNDATION

works to create opportunities for men and women who have served in the military to engage in community-based events that honor their unique experiences, while also allowing them to become part of a shared narrative.



THEATER
HAS THE

POWER TO CHANGE LIVES.



Pictured: Darius de Haas and the company of AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.

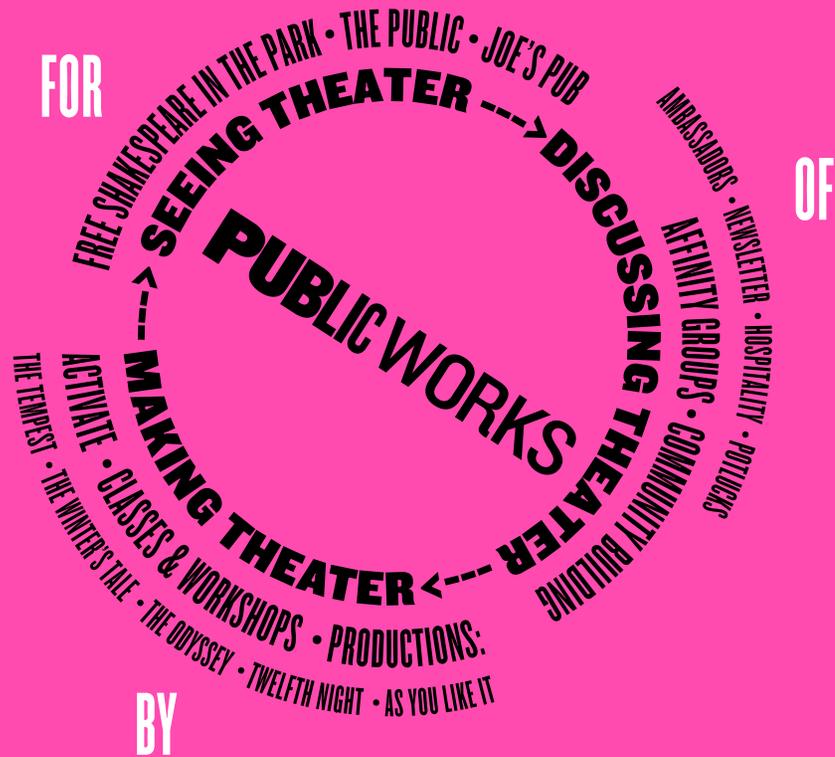
WE'RE INVITING THE
WHOLE CITY IN TO

CELEBRATE THEMSELVES.

Pictured: the company of AS YOU
LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.

OUR APPROACH IS FOUNDED ON A

360° TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THEATER: OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE.



OF



Pictured: Lori Brown-Niang, Lindsay Mendez, Lourdes Guzman-Mercado, and Arienne Reoto in THE WINTER'S TALE. Photo by Joan Marcus.

PUBLIC WORKS IS ANIMATED
BY THE IDEA THAT THEATER IS
A PLACE OF

POSSIBILITY

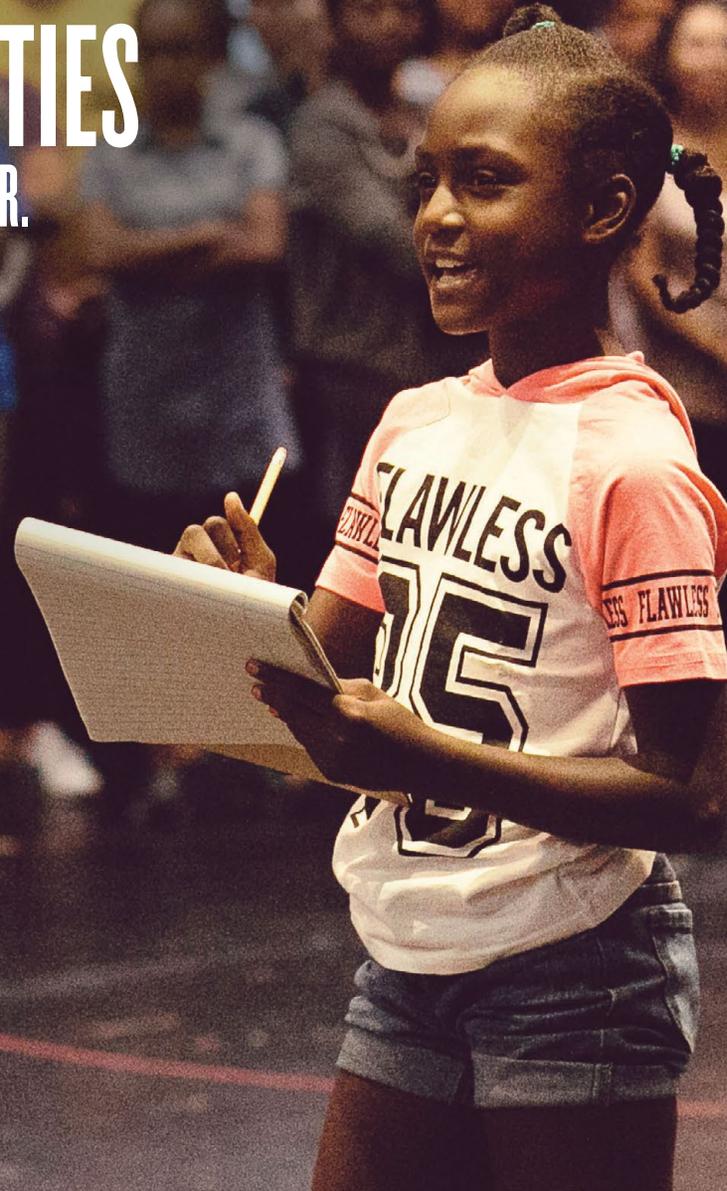
WHERE THE BOUNDARIES
THAT SEPARATE US FROM
EACH OTHER IN THE REST
OF LIFE CAN FALL AWAY.



Pictured: Darius de Haas, Shaina Taub, and company of
AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Joan Marcus.

WE COLLABORATE WITH EACH PARTNER ORGANIZATION TO CREATE ONGOING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MASTER CLASSES
IMPROVISATION
ACTING CLASSES
CHARACTER BUILDING
MUSICAL THEATER
DANCE & MOVEMENT
SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOPS
PLAY READINGS
DISCUSSIONS
PHYSICAL THEATER
AUDITIONS
COMMUNITY CHOIR
PLAYWRITING



Pictured: Naomi Pierre rehearsing AS YOU LIKE IT.
Photo by Caroline Petters.

THE BRONX = THE PUBLIC. = MANHATTAN
= THE PUBLIC. = BROOKLYN = THE PUBLIC. =
STATEN ISLAND = THE PUBLIC. = QUEENS
= THE PUBLIC. =

“The Bronx is The Public, Queens is The Public, Brooklyn is The Public—the idea of The Public is that it’s the people’s theater.”
Jason Duchin, DreamYard

THE BRONX = THE PUBLIC. = MANHATTAN
= THE PUBLIC. = BROOKLYN = THE PUBLIC. =
STATEN ISLAND = THE PUBLIC. = QUEENS
= THE PUBLIC. = New York City.

AFFINITY GROUPS AND POTLUCKS
OFFER SPACE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL
RELATIONSHIP BUILDING &
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

MONTHLY POTLUCKS
COMMUNITY CHOIR
COMMUNITY CLASS SHARINGS
AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



Pictured: Ella Evans and Anthony Michael Parmer rehearsing
AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Caroline Petters.

“ACTIVATE WAS A CATAPULT FOR MY ART-MAKING

AND A MILLION OTHER THINGS IN MY LIFE.

– Aden Munassar,
ACTivate Cast Member



ACTivate

ACTivate is the newest program in Public Works that puts community in the artistic driver's seat.

ACTivate stands for ARTIST, CITIZEN, THEATER MAKER and explores what it means to create theater as a “citizen artist” in New York City and the world. The program began in 2016 with an original piece called TROY, inspired by Euripides’ The Trojan Women, in which a neighborhood is reckoning with the devastating loss of one of their own. Our ensemble interviewed everyday New Yorkers about family, memory, loss, and hard won joy in order to explore the way grief affects an entire community. Though each production is created differently, ACTivate follows the artistic impulse of the community ensemble, who engage in every aspect of the creative process.



TROY
Written by Andrea Thome and the ACTivate Ensemble
Conceived and Directed by Laurie Woolery
Pictured: the company of TROY. Photo by Jonathan Key.

PUBLIC WORKS AIMS TO RESTORE &
BUILD COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING
PEOPLE THROUGH THEATER —
BOTH PERFORMING IT AND EXPERIENCING IT —
TO REMIND US THAT

WE'RE ALL IN THIS

TOGETHER.



Pictured: the company of AS YOU LIKE IT. Photo by Tammy Shell.

THE FIRST FIVE PUBLIC WORKS PAGEANTS FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY CAMEO GROUPS FROM ALL OVER NEW YORK CITY, INCLUDING...

516 COMMUNITY
ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

10 MARTIAL
ARTISTS

11 MOTORCYCLE
BIKERS

141 CHOIR
SINGERS

1 DOG

5 PUPPETEERS

1 BUBBLE
ARTIST

26 HIP HOP
DANCERS

16 BHANGRA
DANCERS

17 BRASS BAND
PLAYERS

17 YOUTH SYMPHONY
PLAYERS

7 SESAME STREET
PERFORMERS

3 PARK
RANGERS

1 POSTAL
CARRIER

17 ASL / DEAF
PERFORMERS

37 BALLET
DANCERS

2 CHINESE
LIONS

3 TAXI
DRIVERS

16 MEXICAN FOLK
DANCERS

6 FLAMENCO
DANCERS

8 AFRICAN
DRUMMERS

12 DRUM LINE
PLAYERS

9 CAN CAN
DANCERS

1 LION
PUPPET

12 TAIKO
DRUMMERS

6 DABKA
DANCERS

3 LUCHA-LIBRE
WRESTLERS

1 BEAR



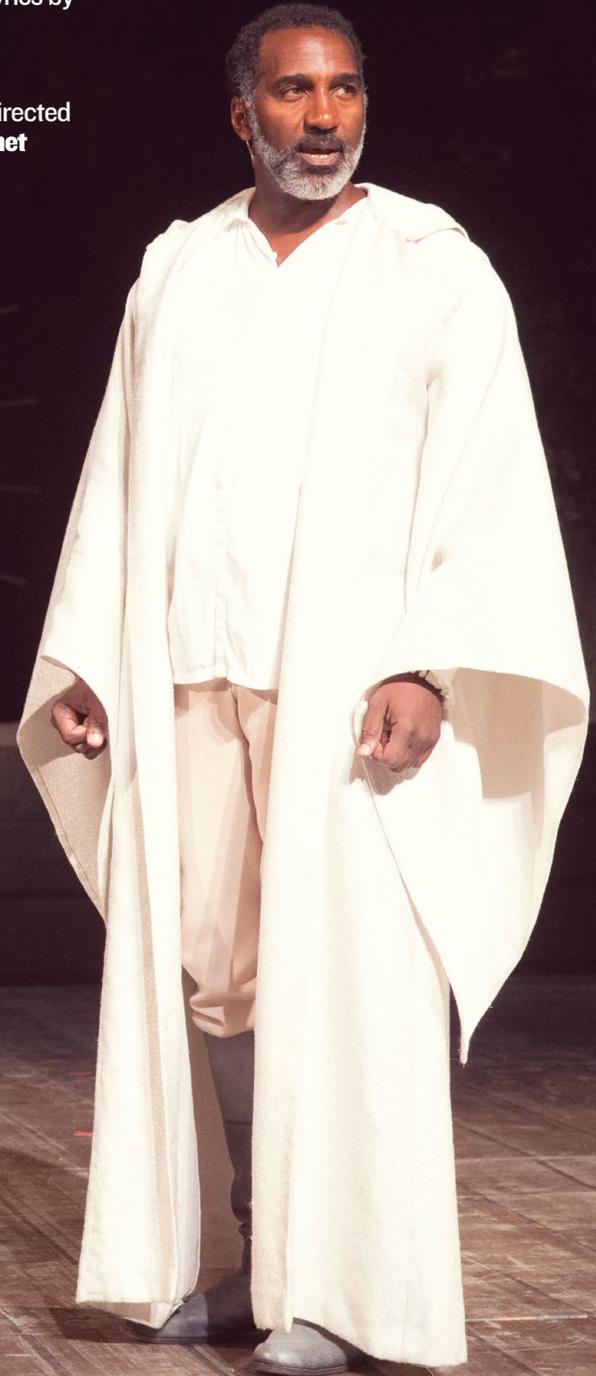
THE TEMPEST 2013
THE WINTER'S TALE 2014
THE ODYSSEY 2015
TWELFTH NIGHT 2016
AS YOU LIKE IT 2017



PUBLIC WORKS | PRODUCTIONS

THE TEMPEST

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Todd Almond
Choreography by
Chase Brock
Conceived and Directed
by **Lear deBessonnet**



Pictured: Aiyra Taylor and Norm Lewis in
THE TEMPEST. Photo by Joan Marcus.

PUBLIC WORKS | PRODUCTIONS

THE WINTER'S TALE

Music and Lyrics by
Todd Almond
Choreography by
Chase Brock
Conceived and Directed
by **Lear deBessonet**

Pictured: Christopher Fitzgerald and the company of
THE WINTER'S TALE. Photo by Joan Marcus.

PUBLIC WORKS | PRODUCTIONS

THE ODYSSEY

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Todd Almond
Choreography by
Lorin Latarro
Conceived and Directed
by **Lear deBessonet**



Pictured: Brandon Victor Dixon and the company of
THE ODYSSEY. Photo by Jean Marcus.

TWELFTH NIGHT

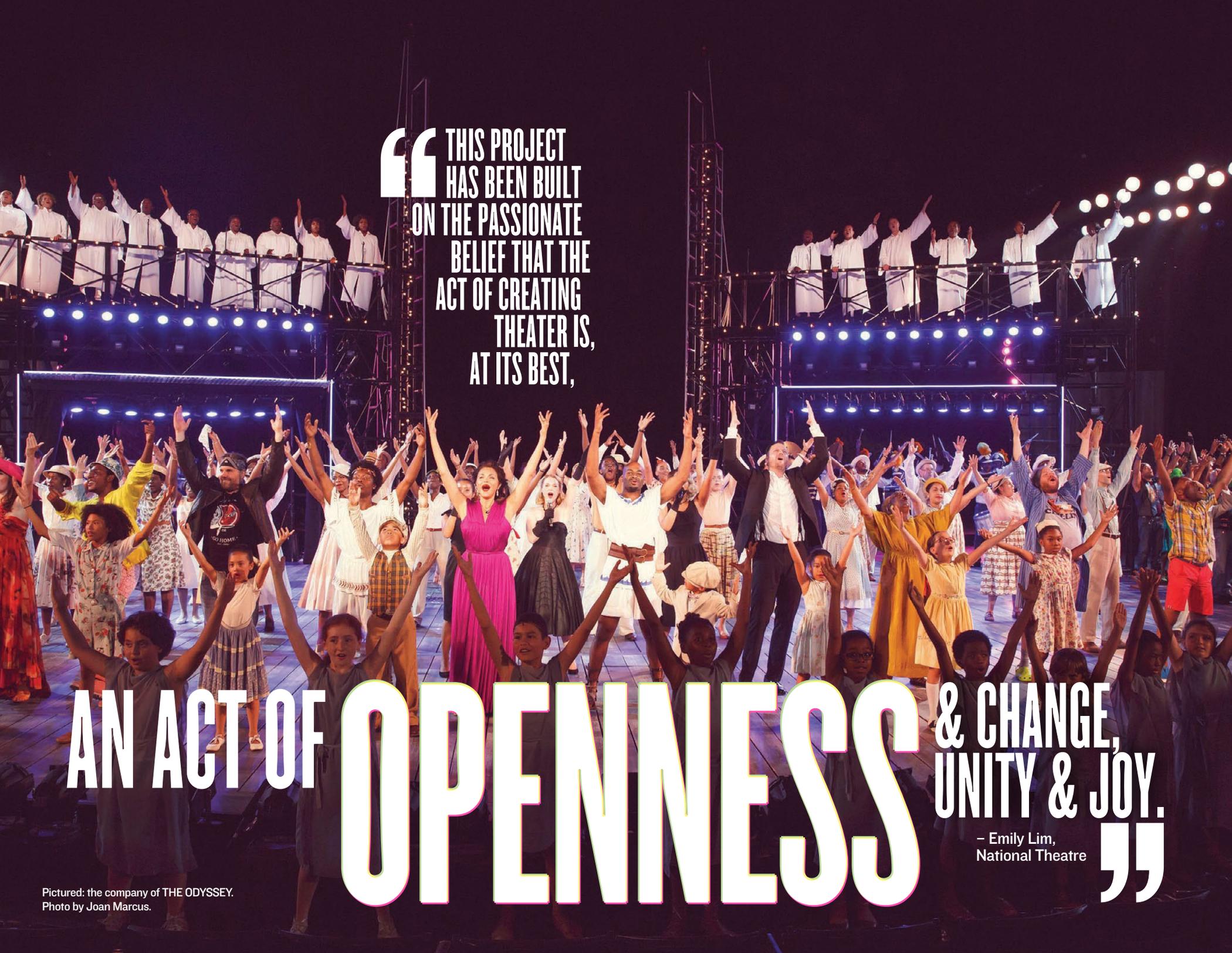
Conceived by
Kwame Kwei-Armah and
Shaina Taub
Music & Lyrics by
Shaina Taub
Choreography by
Lorin Latarro
Directed by
Kwame Kwei-Armah



AS YOU LIKE IT

Adapted by **Shaina Taub**
and **Laurie Woolery**
Music and Lyrics by
Shaina Taub
Choreography by
Sonya Tayeh
Directed by
Laurie Woolery



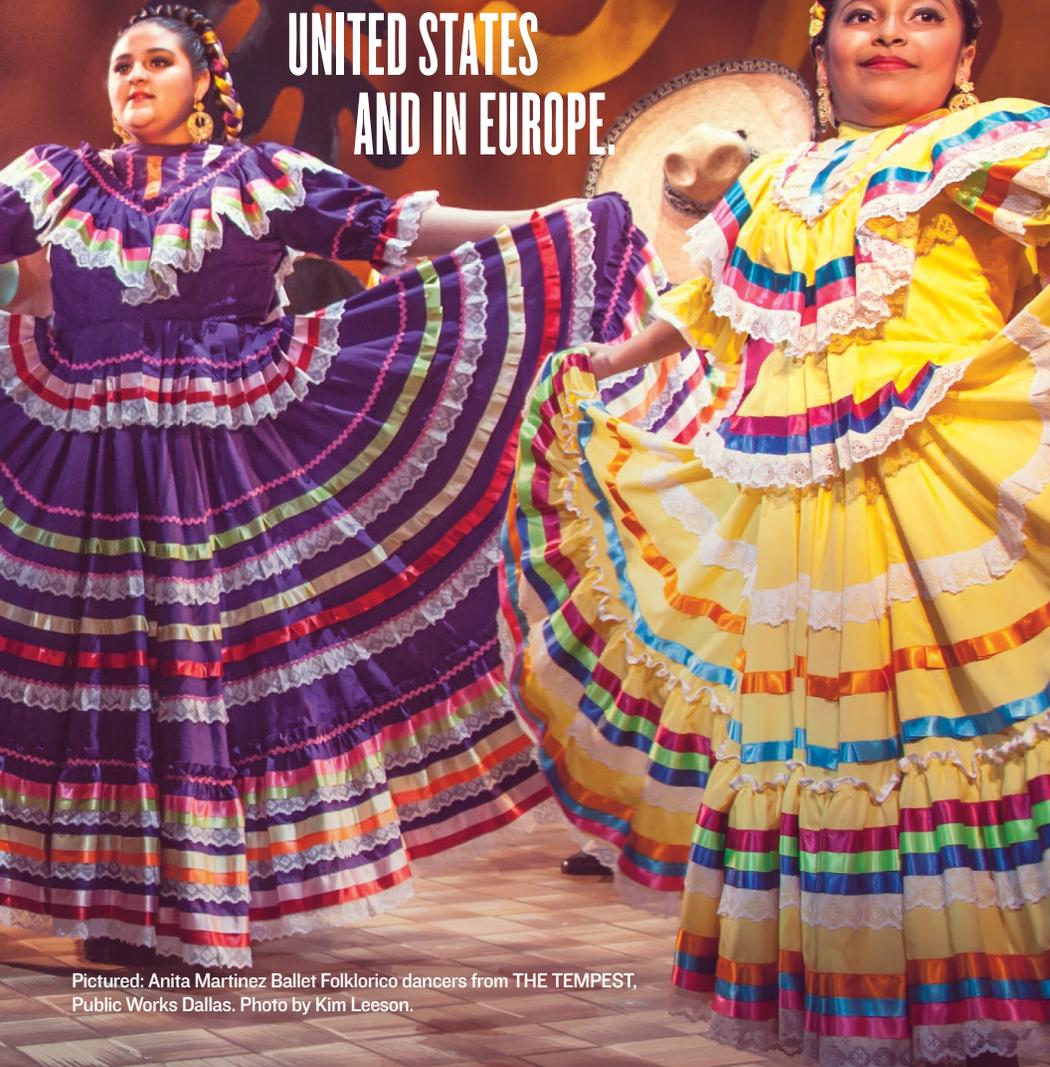


“ THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN BUILT ON THE PASSIONATE BELIEF THAT THE ACT OF CREATING THEATER IS, AT ITS BEST,

AN ACT OF OPENNESS & CHANGE, UNITY & JOY.”

– Emily Lim,
National Theatre

THE PUBLIC WORKS MODEL IS
EXPANDING
TO THEATERS ACROSS THE
UNITED STATES
AND IN EUROPE.



Pictured: Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico dancers from THE TEMPEST, Public Works Dallas. Photo by Kim Leeson.

Current Public Works partners include **Dallas Theater Center** in collaboration with **SMU Meadows School of the Arts**, **Seattle Repertory Theatre**, and **The National Theatre in London**.

TOGETHER, WE ARE WORKING TO BUILD A CULTURE WHERE THEATER BELONGS TO EVERYONE.

“This is an important moment in Dallas’s history. The narrative of Public Works in New York is that of a city that champions diversity and access. So what kind of city does Dallas want to become?”

WE BELIEVE PUBLIC WORKS DALLAS WILL HELP TO IGNITE AND INSPIRE THAT CONVERSATION

across our young city and become an important vehicle for our students to learn about this kind of approach to making art.” – **CLYDE VALENTIN, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC WORKS DALLAS**

“PUBLIC WORKS SEATTLE HAS NOT ONLY OPENED OUR DOORS TO NEW ARTISTS AND NEW AUDIENCES,

it has opened up a new possibility for the kind of work we can create at Seattle Rep – work that recognizes and amplifies the creative power in each one of us and centers the people of our city on our stages.” – **BRADEN ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE**

“AS WE THOUGHT ABOUT BRINGING THE MODEL TO LONDON, SOMETHING THAT REALLY STRUCK US

about Public Works was the concept of sustained partnership and the fact that it’s such a long-term commitment that’s made to the organizations and the individuals. I’m here in New York seeing Public Works in its fifth year and it’s so beautiful to see the journeys that people have been on.” – **EMILY LIM, DIRECTOR OF PERICLES, NATIONAL THEATRE – PUBLIC ACTS**

“

EVERY YEAR I SEE ALL THE
PUBLIC WORKS PERFORMANCES.
THOSE ARE THE ONLY NIGHTS
OF MY YEAR WHERE I AM

GUARANTEED JOY

AND IT'S BECAUSE I AM
WATCHING HUMAN SPIRITS
SOAR IN COLLABORATION
WITH EACH OTHER.

”

– Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director,
The Public Theater

