



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

press@publictheater.org

NEW PHOTOS: JORDANS COMPANY IN REHEARSAL
CAST AND CREATIVE HEADSHOTS

PREVIEWS BEGIN AT THE PUBLIC THEATER FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF IFE OLUJOBI'S *JORDANS*, NOW EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 12

**Written by Ife Olujobi
Directed by Whitney White**

**Performances Begin with a Joseph Papp Free Preview Performance
On Thursday, April 11; Official Press Opening on Wednesday, April 24**

April 4, 2024 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) begins performances for the world premiere of **JORDANS** written by Emerging Writers Group alumnus and Creatives Rebuild New York artist-in-residence **Ife Olujobi** and directed by Obie Award winner **Whitney White** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*). Performances begin in the LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Preview on Thursday, April 11, with tickets available through a TodayTix Lottery. The run is now extended by one week through Sunday, May 12. The production officially opens on Wednesday, April 24. Tickets to all performances through May 12 are available now.

A biting funny, wildly imaginative new play by **Ife Olujobi**, **JORDANS** is a piercing exploration of assimilation, racial capitalism, success, and survival. At an overwhelmingly white workplace where appearance is everything, a long-suffering receptionist finds herself in personal, professional, and psychic jeopardy when her ruthless boss hires a hip new employee in an effort to improve the company's image and "culture." Suddenly, the two young, Black social climbers are forced together and torn apart by their race, ambition, and otherworldly circumstances. **JORDANS** is a story of identity mistaken, power subverted, and rage unleashed. Don't miss this bold new play directed by Obie Award winner **Whitney White** about the true cost of "diversity" in the workplace.

For each performance, a limited number of rush tickets are available for \$30. Tickets can be purchased several different ways. Those interested in accessing tickets can visit the TodayTix app starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of each public performance until inventory is sold out or until two hours before the performance time. Rush tickets may also be purchased on the day of a performance at the Box Office starting at 2:00 p.m. up until one hour before the show begins. The Call Center is also available at 212.967.7555 to assist with purchasing rush tickets from 12:00 p.m. up until two hours before the performance time or until inventory is sold out.

The cast of **JORDANS** includes **Brontë England-Nelson** (*Emma and others*), **Britt Faulkner** (*Understudy*), **Quinn M. Johnson** (*Understudy*), **Devin Kessler** (*Understudy*), **Naomi Lorrain** (*Jordan*), **Brian Muller** (*Fletcher and others*), **Toby Onwumere** (*1.Jordan*), **Matthew Russell** (*Fletcher and others*), **Ryan Spahn** (*Ryan and others*), **Meg Steedle** (*Maggie and others*), **Kai Thomani Tshikosi** (*Understudy*), and **Kate Walsh** (*Hailey*).

The production includes scenic design by **Matt Saunders**, costume design by **Qween Jean**, lighting design by **Cha See**, sound design and original composition by **Fan Zhang**, hair and wig design by **Nikiya Mathis**, special effects design by **Lillis Meeh**, prop management by **Claire M. Kavanah**, intimacy direction by **Kelsey Rainwater**, and fight direction by **UNKLEDAVE'S FIGHT-HOUSE**. **Nissy Aya** serves as the production dramaturg, with **Rachel Denise April** as production stage manager and **Eloia Peterson** as stage manager.

Running through April 7 is the world premiere of Tony Award winner Itamar Moses' **THE ALLY**, a provocative new play directed by Drama Desk Award winner Lila Neugebauer and featuring Josh Radnor about the vanishing line between the personal and the political. Pulitzer Prize winner and writer-in-residence Suzan-Lori Parks returns with **SALLY & TOM**, an edgy dramedy about art, history, and politics, directed by Steve H. Broadnax III, now in performances and running through May 5. While The Delacorte Theater is closed for a significant revitalization, The Public will bring free Shakespeare to parks and plazas around the city and screens around the country through **GO PUBLIC!** Mobile Unit's bilingual musical adaptation of **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** will return for a free encore tour of the five boroughs. This joyful adaptation in English and Spanish by Rebecca Martinez and Julian Mesri combines the classic Shakespearean comedy's story of mistaken identity to life through Latin American-inspired music. Free Shakespeare in the Park's acclaimed production of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**, directed by Tony Award winner Kenny Leon, will screen at parks around New York City in special evening events. This filmed version by THIRTEEN's *Great Performances*, along with their recordings of 2023's **HAMLET**, 2022's **RICHARD III**, and 2021's **MERRY WIVES**, will also be made available for streaming at home, free of charge, to audiences nationwide.

The Library serves food and drink beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit publictheater.org.

BIOS:

IFEOLUWA (IFE) OLUJOBI (*Playwright*) is a Brooklyn-based Nigerian American playwright, filmmaker, and editor from Columbia, Maryland. **JORDANS** is their Off-Broadway debut. Her work has been presented at Ensemble Studio Theatre, Ars Nova, the Bushwick Starr, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Lark, and more. They received a special commendation from the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, a 2021 Steinberg Playwright Award, and was an inaugural Project Number One artist-in-residence at Soho Rep. Currently, she is a Creatives Rebuild New York artist-in-residence at The Public Theater. Olujobi has a BFA from NYU Tisch.

WHITNEY WHITE she/her (*Director*) was the creator for *Macbeth in Stride* in the Under the Radar festival. Broadway credits include *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. London credits include *The Secret Life of Bees* (The Almeida). Off-Broadway credits include *Soft* (MCC), *On Sugarland* (NYTW), *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (The Public, ART, Woolly Mammoth), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Second Stage, WP Theatre), *For All The Women Who Thought They Were Mad* (Soho Rep), and *A Human Being of a Sort* (Williamsburg). Writing and composition credits include *Macbeth in Stride* (American Repertory Theatre) and *Semblance* (NYTW). Awards include Herb Alpert, Jerome Fellowship, and Rolex Arts Initiative. TV writing credits include Boots Riley's "I'm a Virgo" (Amazon, Media Res).

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of

programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Lab, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Suffs* by Shaina Taub, and *Hell's Kitchen* by Kristoffer Diaz and Alicia Keys. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 65 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first people and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards and we pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

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

TICKET INFORMATION

JORDANS begins performances in the LuEsther Hall on Thursday, April 11 and now runs through Sunday, May 12, with an official press opening on Wednesday, April 24.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and full-price single tickets can be accessed by visiting publictheater.org, calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will offer free tickets to the performance on Thursday, April 11 through TodayTix. The lottery will open for entries on Thursday, April 4 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on the day before the performance. Winners will be notified by email and push notification anytime from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and if selected, winners will have one hour to claim their tickets.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. (*There will be no 1:30 performance on Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14*).

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. The **American Sign Language** interpreted performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. The performance on Sunday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m. will **require patrons to wear masks**.

The **Black Community Performance** is on Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The full performance calendar can be found at publictheater.org.

CONNECT WITH US

[Facebook.com/PublicTheater](https://www.facebook.com/PublicTheater)

Instagram | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.instagram.com/PublicTheaterNY)

Threads | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.threads.net/@PublicTheaterNY)

TikTok | [@PublicTheaterNY](#)

#