

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
AND THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC
TO FILM ACCLAIMED
THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS:
SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE COUNTRY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICHARD NELSON**

**Four-Play Apple Family Cycle:
*That Hopey Changey Thing, Sweet and Sad,
Sorry and Regular Singing*
Concludes Epic Run on Sunday, December 15**

Fans Invited To Be Part Of Historic WNET Taping

December 11, 2013 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) is proud to announce that the acclaimed ***THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS: SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE COUNTRY***, written and directed by **Richard Nelson**, will be recorded for television by THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET the week of December 16, following the end of the epic run at The Public Theater on Sunday, December 15. All four plays will be captured for posterity and broadcast at a future date. Fans of ***THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS*** can attend a taping of one or all four of the plays by visiting www.publictheater.org.

“The Apple Family Plays are an amazing writing achievement, but they have also been blessed with one of the greatest ensembles New York has seen in recent years,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. *“We are delighted that these exquisite performances will be captured, and honored to be partnering with our great New York sister organization WNET.”*

Each year since 2010, Tony Award winner Richard Nelson has premiered a new play at The Public Theater about the fictional, liberal Apple family of Rhinebeck, New York. The compelling plays are about family, politics, change, and the way we live today. They resonate with remarkable immediacy and relevance. Each of these plays originally premiered on the night on which it is set. In ***THAT HOPEY CHANGEY THING***, the Apples reflect on the state of their family and discuss memory, manners and politics as polls close on mid-term election night 2010 and a groundswell of conservative sentiment flips Congress on its head. In ***SWEET AND SAD***, a family brunch stirs up discussions of loss, remembrance and a decade of change. ***SORRY*** finds the Apples sorting through family anxieties and confusion on the day of electing the President. And the fourth and final play, ***REGULAR SINGING***, opened on the day it was set, November 22, 2013 – the 50th Anniversary of JFK’s assassination that shocked the world.

The cast features **Maryann Plunkett** (*Barbara*), **Jay O. Sanders** (*Richard*), **Laila Robins** (*Marian*), **Jon DeVries** (*Benjamin*), **Stephen Kunken** (*Tim*), and **Sally Murphy** (*Jane*).

THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS feature scenic and costume design by **Susan Hilferty**, lighting design by **Jennifer Tipton**, and sound design by **Scott Lehrer** and **Will Pickens**.

Past Public Theater collaborations with WNET's "Great Performances" include *King Lear* in 1974 featuring James Earl Jones and Raúl Julia; Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* in 1980; and the 1990 production of *Hamlet* featuring Kevin Kline.

RICHARD NELSON (*Playwright, Director*) just opened *Regular Singing*, the fourth and final play in the tetralogy for *The Apple Family Plays: Scenes from Life in the Country* at The Public Theater. His additional credits for The Public include *Conversations in Tusculum*. His other plays include *Nikolai and the Others*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere*, *Two Shakespearean Actors*, *Some American Abroad*, *Madame Melville*, *New England*, *Frank's Home*, *Rodney's Wife*, *Franny's Way*, *The General from America*, *The Vienna Notes*, and others. His musicals include *James Joyce's The Dead*, for which he won a Tony Award; and *My Life with Albertine*. His films include *Hyde Park on Hudson*, *Ethan Frome*, and *Sensibility and Sense*. He is a recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is an honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which has produced ten of his plays.

THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS are directed for television by **David Horn** and produced by **Mitch Owang**.

Special funding for the filming of **THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS** was made possible by Algin Management Corp., Judy Ferber, Michael First, Barbara G. Fleischman, Martha J. Fleischman, Sharon Karmazin, Debby Landesman, Diane Merklinger, The Shubert Organization, and the Wilf Family Foundation.

ABOUT WNET

As New York's flagship public media provider and the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to over 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as "Nature," "Great Performances," "American Masters," "PBS NewsHour Weekend," "Charlie Rose" and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as "Get the Math," "Oh Noah!" and "Cyberchase" and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through "NYC-ARTS," "Reel 13," "NJTV News with Mike Schneider," and *MetroFocus*, the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the THIRTEEN Explore iPad App where users can stream PBS content for free.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public Theater is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, and contemporary and experimental works in equal measure. The Public continues the work of its visionary founder, Joe Papp, by acting as an advocate for the theater as an essential cultural force, and leading and framing dialogue on some of the most important issues of our day. Creating theater for one of the largest and most diverse audience bases in New York City for nearly 60 years, today the Company engages audiences in a variety of venues—including its landmark downtown home at Astor Place, which houses five theaters and Joe's Pub; the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, home to its beloved, free Shakespeare in the Park; and the Mobile Unit, which tours Shakespearean and other classic productions for underserved audiences throughout New York City's five boroughs. The Public's wide range of programming includes free Shakespeare in the Park, the bedrock of the Company's dedication to making theater accessible to all, new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, and a range of artist and audience development initiatives including its Public Forum series, which brings together theater artists and professionals from a variety of disciplines for discussions that shed light on social issues explored in Public productions. The Public Theater is located on property owned by the City of New York and receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and in October 2012 the landmark building downtown at Astor Place was revitalized to physically manifest the

Company's core mission of sparking new dialogues and increasing accessibility for artists and audiences, by dramatically opening up the building to the street and community, and transforming the lobby into a public piazza for artists, students, and audiences. Key elements of the revitalization included infrastructure updates to the 158-year old building, including changes to the main entry, expanded lobby, additional restrooms, and the addition of a new lounge, The Library at The Public, designed by the Rockwell Group. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities. www.publictheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

The Apple Family Plays: Scenes from Life in the Country will conclude an epic run on Sunday, December 15 at The Public Theater. For remaining show schedule and ticket information, please call **(212) 967-7555**, check out www.publictheater.org or visit the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street.

Fans of ***The Apple Family Plays*** who are interested in being part of the live audience for the WNET taping the week of December 16 should visit www.publictheater.org for more information.

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