

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
EXTENDS
THE FOUNDRY THEATRE'S
GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN
TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**Directed by Lear deBessonet
Featuring Original Live Music by
César Alvarez with The Lisps**

New Block of Tickets On Sale Now

November 4, 2013 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) announced a two-week extension for The Foundry Theatre's ***GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN*** by Bertolt Brecht. With a translation by **John Willett** and directed by **Lear deBessonet**, ***GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN*** began performances on Friday, October 18 and was originally scheduled to close on Sunday, November 24. The show officially opened on Tuesday, October 29 and will now run an additional two weeks to Sunday, December 8.

"Sublime and purely entertaining! Delivered with invention and a spirit of inquisitive exuberance. Taylor Mac is sincere, smart, and disarmingly moving."
- **Charles Isherwood, The New York Times**

"A garden of down-to-earth delights! I have never seen a production of Brecht so flat-out pleasurable as this one."
- **Adam Feldman, Time Out New York**

A new block of tickets is on sale now and can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street. **The Library at The Public** is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and **Joe's Pub** continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

Can we practice goodness and create a world to sustain it? In this comic and complex play, one of Brecht's most entertaining characters, Shen Tei, the good-hearted, penniless, cross-dressing prostitute, is forced to disguise herself as a savvy businessman named Shui Ta to master the ruthlessness necessary to be a "good person" in a cruel world of limited resources. The award-winning Foundry Theatre and director Lear deBessonet bring this theatrical classic to life for the 21st century with **Taylor Mac** in the lead and original live music by **César Alvarez with The Lisps**.

The complete cast features original members **Kate Benson** (*Mrs. Shin*); **Ephraim Birney** (*The Nephew*); **Vinie Burrows** (*God #1*); **Clifton Duncan** (*Grandfather, Yang Sun*); **Jack Allen Greenfield** (*Boy, Carpenter's Son*); **Brooke Ishibashi** (*The Woman*); **Paul Juhn** (*The Man, Mr. Shu Fu*); **Mia Katigbak** (*God #2*); **Lisa Kron**, (*Mrs. Mi Tzu. Mrs. Yang*); **Taylor Mac** (*Shen Tei*); **Mary Shultz** (*God #3*); **David Turner** (*Wang, Waiter*); and **Darryl Winslow** (*Unemployed Man, Carpenter, Policeman*).

GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN features set design by **Matt Saunders**, costume design by **Clint Ramos**, lighting design by **Tyler Micoleau**, sound design by **Brandon Wolcott**, and choreography by **Danny Mefford**.

LEAR deBESSONET (*Director*) has created large-scale theatrical events pairing artistic excellence with community organizing in New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Kazakhstan. She is the director of The Public's Public Works initiative and recently directed a musical adaptation of *The Tempest* with over 200 community members from across New York City. Her additional recent work includes, Sherie Rene Scott's *Piece of Meat* at 54 Below, *On the Levee* for Lincoln Center Theater/LCT3 (*Time Out* Best of 2010) and *The Odyssey* at the Old Globe, a community-based collaboration featuring professional artists alongside 180 San Diegans. In May 2009, her *Don Quixote*, a collaboration with homeless shelter Broad Street Ministry, premiered in Philadelphia (*Philadelphia Weekly* Best of 2009). Other credits include *Saint Joan of the Stockyards* (PS122), Toshi Reagon's *LINES* (Joe's Pub), *Takarazuka* (Clubbed Thumb), *Monstrosity* (13P), *The Scarlet Letter* (Intiman Theatre), *transFigures* (Women's Project), *In the Dark Ages* (National Opera Theatre of Kazakhstan), and *When I Was a Ghost* (Guthrie Theater). For Ten Thousand Things, she has directed productions of *My Fair Lady* and *As You Like It* that toured to prisons, community centers, and homeless shelters in Minneapolis. She created and ran the TICKETS FOR THE PEOPLE program in New York, an initiative designed to distribute tickets to non-traditional theatre-goers including immigrants, students, and seniors. In 2006 she was named one of *Time Out New York's* "25 People to Watch," and in 2008 she was honored with LMCC's Presidential Award for Artistic Excellence. A recipient of an NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors, she has also acted as a visiting professor at NYU-Tisch School of the Arts.

CÉSAR ALVAREZ (*Composer, Musical Director*) is a Drama Desk nominated composer, lyricist, and writer. He is the founder of The Lisps, as well as co-founder and resident composer of the LA-based dance company Contra-Tiempo. His recent credits include *Futurity; 3 2's or AFAR* by Mac Wellman, and *Full Still Hungry* for Contra-Tiempo. He is currently teaching at Sarah Lawrence College and Harvard University.

DANNY MEFFORD (*Choreography*)'s Public Theater credits include the current production of *Fun Home*, as well as *Love's Labour's Lost*, *February House*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. His additional choreography credits include *Melancholy Play*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*. His directing credits include *Becoming Lib Ullmann*, *Wasted* and *The Maids*.

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

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TICKET INFORMATION

GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN began performances in The Public's Martinson Theater on Friday, October 18 and officially opened on Tuesday, October 29. The show will now run an additional two weeks through Sunday, December 8.

Single tickets start at \$56.50 for performances through November 24; \$61.50 for performances from November 25 to December 8. Tickets can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The performance schedule is Wednesday through Monday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There are no performances on Sunday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday, November 28; Saturday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m. There is an added performance on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. The performance on Friday, November 22 is at 6:00 p.m. and the performances from Monday, December 2 through Sunday, December 8 are at 7:30 p.m.

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