

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
MERYL STREEP AND SIR HOWARD STRINGER
TO HONOR
THE LATE NORA EPHRON
AT PUBLIC THEATER GALA
MONDAY, JUNE 10**

**One-Night-Only Benefit Concert
of The Public's Tony Award-Winning
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
Featuring Glenn Close, Eric Idle,
Kevin Kline, and Martin Short**

**Montego Glover, Jonathan Groff, Norm Lewis,
and Anika Noni Rose Join The Cast**

May 22, 2013 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that Public Theater alumna and Academy Award winner **Meryl Streep** and **Sir Howard Stringer** will honor their friend and colleague, the late **Nora Ephron**, a long-time Public Theater board member, at The Public's Gala on Monday, June 10 at the Delacorte Theater, where the benefit evening will culminate in a concert performance of ***THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE***.

In collaboration with The Central Park Conservancy and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, The Public Theater will plant a flowering cherry tree in Central Park across from the Delacorte Theater in honor of Ephron, who was a consummate lover of The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park. A plaque will be mounted outside the Delacorte to memorialize the occasion and Ephron's dedication to The Public.

"Meryl Streep and Howard Stringer will share their history and bond with Nora Ephron," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "And the flowering cherry tree will be a beautiful reminder, for generations to come, of Nora's generosity of spirit."

Meryl Streep and **Nora Ephron** have a long history of collaboration together, beginning in 1983 when Streep was featured in Nora Ephron's *Silkwood*, directed by Mike Nichols, and most recently the 2009 feature film *Julie & Julia*, written and directed by Ephron.

Howard Stringer and **Nora Ephron's** relationship goes back decades, when Stringer became friends with Nick Pileggi, Ephron's future husband. When the Stringers had children, Ephron was named the godparent to David Stringer, and Nick to Harriet Stringer. As CEO of Sony, Stringer, who has 11 Emmy Awards, paid close attention to its Hollywood studio, and among his joys was the knowledge that Ephron made her movies for Sony.

In addition to the previously announced **Kevin Kline** as The Pirate King, **Glenn Close** as Ruth, **Eric Idle** as the Sergeant, and **Martin Short** as Major-General Stanley, **Montego Glover** has joined **THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** company as Kate, with **Jonathan Groff** as Frederic, **Norm Lewis** as Samuel, and **Anika Noni Rose** as Mabel. The cast will also include **Sarah Bolt**, **Darius Nichols**, **Eliseo Roman**, **Martín Solá**, **Matthew Stocke**, and **Frank Vlastnik** in the ensemble.

Directed by **Ted Sperling**, with musical staging by original choreographer **Graciela Daniele**, and music direction by **James Moore**, the benefit concert will be staged at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park where The Public's award-winning production originally premiered more than three decades ago. The Public has a long history of premiering new musicals at the Delacorte Theater that have made a strong impact on the landscape of musical theater and are still performed around the world today.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 5:00 p.m. followed by alfresco dinner in Central Park. The concert performance of **THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** at 8:00 p.m. will be followed by a dessert reception under the stars. Tickets to The Public Theater's annual gala on Monday, June 10 start at \$650 and are now available for purchase at www.publictheater.org/gala, by calling (212) 539-8634 or via email gala@publictheater.org. The evening will be co-chaired by **Sir Howard Stringer**, **Arielle Tepper Madover**, and **Renée Beaumont**.

Inspired to produce the classics for free in a more popular arena, Public Theater founder Joe Papp brought Gilbert and Sullivan's delightful pirate tale, **THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**, to the Delacorte Theater in a groundbreaking, rock-infused, modern staging starring Kevin Kline, Linda Ronstadt and Rex Smith. It was an overnight sensation, moving to Broadway in 1981 where it won the Tony Award for Best Revival.

The Public Theater's free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access. Since the opening of The Delacorte Theater in Central Park in 1962, more than five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at The Delacorte Theater.

Bank of America returns for the seventh year as season sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park supporting The Public in its mission to keep this valued program free for all.

NORA EPHRON (*Artistic Honoree*) (1941-2012). A longtime supporter of The Public Theater, Ephron served on The Public's Board of Trustees for over eight years. After becoming one of the industry's most respected screenwriters, Ephron turned to directing in 1992 with her first feature, 20th Century Fox's *This is My Life* starring Julie Kavner. She followed it in 1993 with her second picture, TriStar's *Sleepless in Seattle* starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, which grossed over \$200 million worldwide, and then *Michael*, starring John Travolta, William Hurt and Andie McDowell. Ephron teamed Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan again for the 1998 released *You've Got Mail*. In 2000, she directed *Lucky Numbers*, starring John Travolta and Lisa Kudrow. Her first Broadway play, *Imaginary Friends*, was produced on Broadway in December 2002 and starred Cherry Jones and Swoosie Kurtz. She also wrote *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* with her sister Delia Ephron, which ran Off-Broadway in 2009. Her latest play, *Lucky Guy*, featuring Tom Hanks, is currently at the Broadhurst Theatre. Her last film was the 2008 released *Julie & Julia*, starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams. Ephron received three Academy Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay: for *Sleepless in Seattle* (with David Ward and Jeff Arch), for Rob Reiner's hit comedy *When Harry Met Sally...* and for Mike Nichols' *Silkwood* (co-written with Alice Arlen). She began screenwriting after years as one of the country's best known journalists. She started as a newspaper reporter for the *New York Post* and then became a magazine writer for *Esquire*, the *New York Times Magazine* and *New York Magazine*, among others. Two collections of her essays, "Crazy Salad" and "Scribble, Scribble" are bestsellers and her book, "I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman," reached number one on the *New York Times* Bestsellers List. Her collection of essays, "I Remember Nothing: And Other Reflections," was published in 2010 and was also a national bestseller.

GLENN CLOSE (*Ruth*) recently lent her voice to the Giant in The Public's production of *Into The Woods*. She is a six-time Oscar-nominated, Emmy, Golden Globe, and Tony Award-winning actress. Her

Broadway credits include *Sunset Boulevard* (Tony, Drama Desk, L.A. Drama Critics Circle awards); *The Real Thing*, *Dead and the Maiden* (Tony Awards); *Barnum*, *The Crucifer of Blood* and *Love for Love*. Off-Broadway she has appeared in *The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs* (Obie Award). In London she has appeared in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Royal National Theater). Her most recent film credit is *Albert Nobbs*, which she also co-wrote and produced. Her television credits include "Damages," which recently completed its fifth and final season.

GRACIELA DANIELE (*Musical Staging*) choreographed the original production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Delacorte Theater, as well as the Broadway production, which earned her a Tony Award nomination. Her additional Public Theater choreography credits include *Alice In Concert*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Knife*, and *Dancing on Her Knees*, which she directed. Her additional Broadway credits include *The Most Happy Fella*, *Zorba*, *The Rink*, *Marie Christine*, *Once on this Island*, *Ragtime*, *Dangerous Games*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She also choreographed the film version of *The Pirates of Penzance*, as well as three Woody Allen films, including *Mighty Aphrodite* (winner 1996 Fosse Award) and *Everyone Says I Love You* (winner 1997 Fosse Award).

MONTEGO GLOVER (*Kate*) made her Broadway debut in *The Color Purple* in the roles of Celie and Nettie. She created the role of Felicia Farrell in the Broadway musical *Memphis* and received a Tony Award nomination for Lead Actress in a Musical as well as a Drama League nomination and won both the Outer Critics' Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award for her performance. Her film and television credits include *Hostages*, *Smash*, *Golden Boy*, *The Good Wife*, *White Collar*, *NYC 22*, *Law & Order*, and *Made In Jersey* as well as several award-winning programs for PBS including *Memphis on Broadway*.

JONATHAN GROFF (*Frederic*) has performed in The Public's Shakespeare in the Park productions of *The Bacchae* and *HAIR*; and at The Public in *The Singing Forest*, earning him an OBIE Award. His Broadway credits include *Spring Awakening* and *In My Life*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Submission*, *Prayer For My Enemy*, and *Spring Awakening*. He has been seen on film and television in *Taking Woodstock*, *The Conspirator*, as Jesse St. James on "Glee," "The Good Wife," "Boss," and he can be seen in the upcoming TV movie *The Normal Heart*.

ERIC IDLE (*The Sergeant*) is an English comedian, actor, author, singer, playwright, and songwriter. Co-creator of *Monty Python* on TV, stage and five films, including *Life of Brian* and *Holy Grail*, which later he adapted for the stage as *Spamalot*, writing the book, and lyrics, which won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2005. Creator of *The Rutles*, he starred as Ko-Ko in the English National Opera version of *The Mikado*, in London and Houston. He is also one of the conceivers of the musical *Seussical*. His most recent live performance was in front of a billion people worldwide singing his song *Always Look On the Bright Side of Life* at the Closing Ceremony of the London Olympics. His latest musical play, entitled *What About Dick?*, stars Eric with Eddie Izzard, Russell Brand, Billy Connolly, Tracey Ullman, Jane Leeves and Tim Curry, and is available for download at Whataboutdick.com. Visit EricIdle.com for further details.

KEVIN KLINE (*The Pirate King*) is an Academy Award and Tony Award-winning actor who last appeared at the Delacorte in the 2012 gala performance of *Romeo and Juliet* with Meryl Streep. His other Public Theater credits include *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *King Lear*, *The Seagull*, *The Wars of the Roses* cycle; *The Pirates of Penzance*, which also transferred to Broadway earning him a Tony Award; *Richard III*; *Henry V*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Hamlet*; and *Measure for Measure*. His Broadway credits include *Three Sisters*, *Ivanov*, *Arms and the Man*, *On the Twentieth Century* (Tony), and *Loose Ends*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Lower Depths*, and *The School for Scandal*. His extensive film and television credits include *Sophie's Choice*, *The Big Chill*, *Silverado*, *Cry Freedom*, *A Fish Called Wanda* (Oscar), *Soapdish*, *Grand Canyon*, *Dave*, *French Kiss*, *The Ice Storm*, *In and Out*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Life as a House*, *The Emperor's Club*, *De-Lovely*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, *No Strings Attached*, *Darling Companion* and *Hamlet* on PBS.

NORM LEWIS (*Samuel*) has appeared in The Public's Shakespeare in the Park production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* in 2005. He was last seen as 'Senator Edison Davis' on the hit ABC drama,

“Scandal.” He recently received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the recent Broadway production of *The Gershwins’ Porgy & Bess*. His other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, *Tommy*. He has been seen in West End/London productions of *Les Misérables*, *Les Misérables 25th Anniversary Concert* (London’s O2 Arena, PBS). He has performed Off-Broadway in *Ragtime*, with the New York Philharmonic (Avery Fisher Hall), *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), *Captains Courageous*, *A New Brain*, and regionally in Porgy in *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* (A.R.T.), *Ragtime*, *Dreamgirls* (with Jennifer Holiday), *First You Dream*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Fantasticks*. His film credits include *Sex and the City 2*, *Confidences*, *Preaching to the Chior*, and the upcoming *Winter’s Tale* opposite Russell Crowe. His television credits include “Mystery Women,” “All My Children,” “As the World Turns,” “Cosby,” “Strong Medicine.” CD: Norm Lewis: This Is the Life! www.normlewis.com.

ANIKA NONI ROSE (*Mabel*) was featured in The Public Theater production of *Caroline, or Change*; as well as the Broadway production, earning her a Tony Award. In addition to providing the voice of Princess Tiana, in Disney’s *The Princess and The Frog*, Rose has sung all over the world, including: Lincoln Center (American Songbook), The Venetian Room (S.F.), & a sold out run with Jason Robert Brown, at London’s Garrick Theater. She has also performed at Carnegie Hall, a solo show with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and performed Leonard Bernstein’s Mass, at the Vatican. Her additional Broadway credits include *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*. Her film and television credits include *Dreamgirls*, *As Cool As I Am*, *Half of A Yellow Sun*, “The Good Wife,” “Private Practice,” and “The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency.” @AnikaNoniRose www.AnikaNoniRose.com.

MARTIN SHORT (*Major-General Stanley*), a celebrated comedian and actor, has won fans and accolades in television, film and theater since his breakout season on *Saturday Night Live* almost 30 years ago. Short won a Tony and an Outer Critics Circle Award for his role in the revival of *Little Me*. He was also nominated for a Tony and took home an Outer Critics Circle Award for the musical version of Neil Simon’s *The Goodbye Girl*. Short also co-wrote and was featured in *Fame Becomes Me*. He made his feature film debut in *Three Amigos* and followed with *Inner Space*, *Three Fugitives*, *Clifford*, *Pure Luck*, *Mars Attack*, and the remake of *Father of the Bride*, as well as the follow-up, *Father of the Bride Part 2*. Short’s television credits include his Emmy-nominated role for the mini-series “Merlin” and host of “The Martin Short Show,” which garnered him seven Emmy nominations. Short also wrote, produced and starred in three comedy specials, winning two Cable ACE awards and an Emmy. In 2001, he launched the critically acclaimed “Primetime Glick,” garnering another five Emmy nominations. Short was nominated for his nineteenth Emmy award in 2010 for his work on “Damages.”

TED SPERLING (*Director*) is The Public Theater’s Musical Theater Initiative Consultant, and is a director, music director, arranger, orchestrator, conductor, singer, pianist, and violinist. For The Public he directed *See What I Wanna See* and did the musical direction for *Saturn Returns*. In 2005, he won Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his orchestrations of *The Light In The Piazza* (also music director). His other Broadway credits as music director/conductor/pianist include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Full Monty*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, *Angels In America*, *My Favorite Year*, *Falsettos*, *Drood*, *Les Misérables*, *Roza*, and *Sunday In The Park With George*.

MERYL STREEP last appeared on the Delacorte stage last summer as Juliet in the Gala reading of *Romeo and Juliet* with Kevin Kline. Her other Public Theater credits include the critically acclaimed production of *Mother Courage*, *The Seagull* directed by Mike Nichols; *Trelawny of the Wells*; *Henry V*; *Measure for Measure*; *The Cherry Orchard*; *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Taken in Marriage*; and *Alice at the Palace*. Streep has been nominated for the Academy Award seventeen times, and has won it three times, most recently for her role in *The Iron Lady*. Her first film role was in the 1977 film *Julia*, and the following year she was nominated for her first Oscar for her role in *The Deer Hunter*. She went on to win the Academy Award for her performances in *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *Sophie’s Choice*. Her additional film credits include *Silkwood*, *Out of Africa*, *Ironweed*, *A Cry in the Dark*, *Postcards from the Edge*, *Death Becomes Her*, *The House of the Spirits*, *The River Wild*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Before and After*, *Marvin’s Room*, *One True Thing*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Music of the Heart*, *The Hours*, *Angels in America*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Prime*, *A Prairie*

Home Companion, The Devil Wears Prada, Dark Matter, Rendition, Mamma Mia!, Doubt, Julie & Julia, Fantastic Mr. Fox, It's Complicated, and the upcoming film Hope Springs.

SIR HOWARD STRINGER (*Gala Co-Chair*) is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sony Corporation. Sir Howard served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Sony Corporation until April 1, 2012, when his chosen successor, Kazuo Hirai, formerly Executive Deputy President, assumed those positions. He also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sony Corporation of America (SCA) until June 27, 2012. Sir Howard joined Sony in May 1997 as President and COO of SCA. He was named Chairman and CEO of SCA in 1998, and became Chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation in June 2005. The title of President was given to him in April 2009. Prior to joining Sony in May 1997, Sir Howard had a distinguished 30-year career as a journalist, producer and executive at CBS Inc. As President of CBS from 1988 to 1995, he was responsible for all broadcast activities of the company, including entertainment, news, sports, and its radio and television stations. Under his leadership, the CBS Television Network became the first network to rise from last to first place in one season. A native of Cardiff, Wales, Sir Howard received the title of Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours list of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on December 31, 1999. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in modern history from Oxford University. He has honorary Fellowships from Merton College, Oxford, and the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Sir Howard has also received Honorary Doctorates from Oxford University, the University of Glamorgan in Wales and the University of the Arts London. He is a recipient of the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement for service in Vietnam (1965-1967). He became a U.S. citizen in 1985. He is married to Dr. Jennifer A.K. Patterson and they have two children.

ABOUT THE DELACORTE THEATER

The Delacorte Theater officially opened in Central Park on June 18, 1962 with *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Joseph Papp and Gladys Vaughan and featuring George C. Scott as Shylock. *The Merchant of Venice* was followed that summer by a production of *The Tempest*, directed by Gerald Freedman and featuring Paul Stevens as Prospero and James Earl Jones as Caliban. The first Delacorte summer season concluded with *King Lear*, directed by Joseph Papp and Gladys Vaughan and featuring Frank Silvera as Lear. Since that time more than 150 productions have been presented for free at the Delacorte Theater. Highlights of past productions include *Othello* in 1964 with James Earl Jones; *Hamlet* in 1975 with Sam Waterston; *The Taming of the Shrew* in 1978 with Raul Julia and Meryl Streep; *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1980 with Kevin Kline and Linda Ronstadt; *Henry V* in 1984 with Kevin Kline; *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1988 with Kevin Kline and Blythe Danner; *Richard III* in 1990 with Denzel Washington; *Othello* in 1991 with Raul Julia and Christopher Walken; *The Tempest* in 1995 with Patrick Stewart; *The Seagull* in 2001 with Natalie Portman, Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Philip Seymour Hoffman; *Mother Courage* in 2006 with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline; *Macbeth* in 2006 with Liev Schreiber; *HAIR* in 2008 with Jonathan Groff and Will Swenson; *Twelfth Night* in 2009 with Anne Hathaway; *The Merchant of Venice* in 2010 with Al Pacino and Lily Rabe; the 2011 repertory productions of *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*; and most recently in 2012 *As You Like It* featuring Lily Rabe; and Amy Adams, Denis O'Hare, and Donna Murphy in the beloved musical *Into The Woods*.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER'S DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Completed in October 2012, the revitalization of The Public Theater's downtown home at Astor Place physically manifests the Company's core mission of sparking new dialogues and increasing accessibility for artists and audiences by dramatically opening up its landmark building to the street and community, and transforming the lobby into a public piazza for artists, students, and audiences. Designed by Ennead Architects and constructed by Westerman Construction, the project encompasses enhancements to the building's interior and exterior while preserving the historic structure. Key elements of the design include infrastructure updates to the 158-year old building, as well as construction of new exterior entry stair and glass canopy; installation of ramps for improved accessibility; an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new lounge, The Library at The Public, designed by the Rockwell Group; expansion and remodeling of restroom facilities; and comprehensive exterior restoration, ensuring stability of the landmark façade.

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 and the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces 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 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. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater’s year-round activities. www.publictheater.org

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