

**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
ANNOUNCES  
COMPLETE CASTING FOR  
RICHARD FOREMAN'S  
*OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)***

**Foreman Comes Out Of Retirement  
To Write, Direct and Design  
This World Premiere**

**Previews Begin Tuesday, April 30 at  
The Public Theater at Astor Place**

February 26, 2013 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the world premiere of ***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)***. Written, directed, and designed by **Richard Foreman** who has been working with The Public Theater for more than 36 years, ***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)*** begins performances in The Public's Martinson Theater on Tuesday, April 30 and runs through Sunday, June 2, with an official press opening on Tuesday, May 7.

Single tickets, starting at \$60, are on sale now and can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street. **The Library at The Public** will also be open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and **Joe's Pub** will continue to offer some of the best music in the city.

The complete cast of Richard Foreman's ***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)*** features **Stephanie Hayes** (*Gabriella*), **Alenka Kraigher** (*Suzie*), **Nicolas Norena** (*Michelin Man*), **Rocco Sisto** (*Samuel*), and **David Skeist** (*Alfredo*).

Foreman has a long history with The Public Theater that began in 1977 when he directed the Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Threepenny Opera*. His other Public Theater credits include *Penguin Touquet* (1981), *Three Acts of Recognition* (1982), *Don Juan* (1982), *Egyptology: My Head Was A Sledgehammer* (1983), *The Golem* (1984), *Largo Desolato* (1986), *What Did He See?* (1988), *Venus* (1996) and most recently, *Idiot Savant* in 2009, which he wrote, directed and designed.

Snapshots from an enigmatic fairy-tale in which Suzie, the elusive coquette, brings Samuel to his knees – from where he worships a life he only half understands, ***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)*** is an expressionistic chamber-play that twists emotional heartache into a landscape of continual mental invention. Marking the return to theater of a celebrated artist who the *New York Times* has dubbed "the Godfather of the American avant-garde," it is presented in association with Ontological-Hysteric Theater.

***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)*** features costume design by **Gabriel Berry**, and lighting design by **Yael Lubetsky**.

**RICHARD FOREMAN** (*Playwright/Director*) has been the Founder and Director of Ontological-Hysteric Theater since 1968 and has written, directed and designed more than 50 of his own plays in New York City and abroad. Among his honors are 10 OBIE Awards (including one for Sustained Achievement); a MacArthur "Genius" fellowship; a Guggenheim fellowship; the Literature award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters; a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Theater from the National Endowment for the Arts; the PEN Club Master American Dramatist Award; and election to the Order of Arts and Letters of France. He most recently directed *Idiot Savant* with Willem Dafoe at The Public Theater in 2009. His other Public Theater credits include *The Threepenny Opera* (1977), *Penguin Touquet* (1981), *Three Acts of Recognition* (1982), *Don Juan* (1982), *Egyptology: My Head Was A Sledgehammer* (1983), *The Golem* (1984), *Largo Desolato* (1986), *What Did He See?* (1988), and *Venus* (1996).

**STEPHANIE HAYES** (*Gabriella*) has recently appeared at The Public Theater in Gabriel Kahane and Seth Bockley's *February House*. She has also worked as an actor, writer, and musician in Sweden, the UK, and Canada. Her credits at the Yale School of Drama include *The Seagull*, *Eurydice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Homebody/Kabul*, and *Orestes*. Her written plays include *Rigor Mortis; Exit; Commander Kitty!*; and *Vaska Vaska Glöm: A Tale of Foreigners and Fish*.

**ALENKA KRAIGHER** (*Suzie*) last appeared at The Public in *Idiot Savant*. Her film credits include *Slovenian Girl*, *My Little Darlings*, and *Rooster's Breakfast*. She has written and directed the documentaries *The Big Jump* and *Monika* for the European Broadcasting Union, as well as the short films *The Dog Died at the Right Time*, *Eye of the Tiger* and *Peter*.

**NICOLAS NORENA** (*Michelin Man*) is a performance artist who recently graduated from the Experimental Theatre Wing at TSOA-NYU, where he created a show called *Morning to be Changed from the morning to the Morning*. In the past few months, he has performed at the Incubator in Katie Brook's *Lady Han*, at The Basin Artist Refuge in Mary Overlie's *The BunnyTail Range*, and interned for Big Dance Theatre. He's the co-editor and contributor in a performance-art online publication called *Morning to Morning*.

**ROCCO SISTO** (*Samuel*) has appeared at The Public in *The Bacchae; Macbeth; Silence, Cunning, Exile; The Merry Wives of Windsor; All's Well That Ends Well; 'Tis Pity She's a Whore; Machinal; The Winter's Tale; What Did He See?; My Uncle Sam; and Hamlet*. His Broadway credits include *Seminar, To Be Or Not To Be, Amadeus, and A Month in the Country*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Volpone; Measure for Measure; Palace of the End; Iphigenia 2.0; Soul of Naples; and The Harlequin Studies*; among others. His select film and television credits include *Donnie Brasco, The Alphabet Killer, "The Sopranos," "JAG," "NYPD Blue," "Alias," and "666 Park Avenue."*

**DAVID SKEIST** (*Alfredo*) has appeared at The Public as a member of the 2011 Shakespeare Lab. His additional theater credits include *Open Up, Hadrian; Beginning of the End of the...; Shlemiel the First; Forth; and Salamander Leviathan*. His film and television credits include *Veronika Decides to Die, Memorial Day, "Law & Order: SVU", and "All My Children."*

### **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](http://www.publictheater.org)

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

***OLD-FASHIONED PROSTITUTES (A TRUE ROMANCE)*** begins performances in The Public's Martinson Theater on Tuesday, April 30 and runs through Sunday, June 2, with an official press opening on Tuesday, May 7.

Member tickets, priced at \$35, and single tickets, starting at \$60, are on sale now and can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at The Public Theater box office.

The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**The Library at The Public** is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and **Joe's Pub** will continue to offer some of the best music in the city. The Public Theater at Astor Place is located at 425 Lafayette Street. For more information, visit [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org).

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