

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
CONTINUES
51 YEARS OF
FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
AT THE DELACORTE**

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Daniel Sullivan

Featuring

Jesse Tyler Ferguson as Dromio

Hamish Linklater as Antipholus

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, A NEW MUSICAL

Songs by Michael Friedman

Book Adapted by Alex Timbers

Based on the play by William Shakespeare

Directed by Alex Timbers

**BANK OF AMERICA RETURNS AS LEAD SPONSOR OF
THE PUBLIC THEATER'S FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK**

February 12, 2013 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the line-up today for the 2013 Shakespeare in the Park season, continuing a five decade tradition of free theater in Central Park. Since 1962, over five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at the Delacorte Theater.

The Public's 2013 free Shakespeare in the Park season will begin on Tuesday, May 28 with ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS***, featuring Shakespeare in the Park alumni **Jesse Tyler Ferguson** ("Modern Family") as Dromio and **Hamish Linklater** ("The New Adventures of Old Christine") as Antipholus. Ferguson and Linklater last performed together in *The Winter's Tale* and *The Merchant of Venice* in 2010 for The Public's Shakespeare in the Park. Directed by **Daniel Sullivan**, ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** will run for five weeks through Sunday, June 30.

The second show of The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park season will be a new musical adaptation of Shakespeare's ***LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST***, directed by **Alex Timbers** with songs by **Michael**

Friedman, and book adaptation by **Alex Timbers**. Timbers and Friedman last collaborated on the award-winning musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* at The Public and Timbers will direct the new David Byrne musical *Here Lies Love* this spring at The Public's downtown home at Astor Place. **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, A NEW MUSICAL** will begin performances on Tuesday, July 23 and run through Sunday, August 18.

"This summer will be a joyous and light-hearted celebration of Shakespeare's comic side – from the wild slapstick of *The Comedy of Errors* to the hip beauty of Alex Timbers and Michael Friedman's musical adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost*," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "*The Comedy of Errors* will let our beloved Dan Sullivan explore his antic side, and *Love's Labour's Lost* will be the first original musical adaptation of Shakespeare's work at the Delacorte since the storied *Two Gentlemen of Verona* in 1971. The summer will be filled with universal laughter!"

Bank of America continues its leadership sponsorship in support of The Public's mission to keep Shakespeare in the Park free.

"At Bank of America, we understand that the arts are an integral part of New York City's chemistry and an important local economic driver," said **Jeff Barker, Bank of America's New York City president**. "Shakespeare in the Park is one of the city's finest summertime traditions and attracts tens of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors alike each season. We are proud to return as the lead sponsor for the 2013 season and to continue to play a pivotal role in creating opportunities to access premier arts and culture programming."

The Public Theater's free Shakespeare in the Park was conceived by founder Joe Papp more than 50 years ago as a way to make great theater accessible to all and 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.

The Public Theater has a long history of premiering new musicals at the Delacorte that have made a strong impact on the landscape of musical theater and are still performed around the world today. The first musical adaptation of Shakespeare's work at the Delacorte was ***Two Gentleman of Verona, The Musical*** which premiered in 1971 with music by Galt MacDermot, lyrics by John Guare, and direction by Mel Shapiro. The Broadway transfer won the 1972 Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Book. The acclaimed musical was later revived at the Delacorte in 2005 with a cast that included Norm Lewis, Rosario Dawson, and Renee Elise Goldsberry, and was directed and choreographed by Kathleen Marshall. In 1980, The Public produced the musical ***The Pirates of Penzance***, featuring Kevin Kline, Linda Ronstadt and Rex Smith, at the Delacorte. It later transferred to Broadway and won the 1981 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival. ***The Mystery of Edwin Drood*** by Rupert Holmes premiered at the Delacorte in 1985, featuring George Rose, Donna Murphy, Judy Kuhn and Betty Buckley, and was directed by Wilford Leach. The Broadway transfer won the 1986 Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Book, Best Original Score, Best Lead Actor and Best Direction of a Musical. In 2008, The Public Theater revived the musical ***HAIR***, first created by The Public in 1967, for an acclaimed Shakespeare in the Park run that included Jonathan Groff and Will Swenson, and was directed by Diane Paulus. The Broadway transfer won the 2009 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival.

The sparkling new production of ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** concerns two sets of identical twins who were separated as children and now live as master-servant pairs in rival neighboring cities. When one pair crosses the border to find the other, so begins an exquisitely enjoyable mess of mistaken identity, wrongful imprisonment, questionable flirting and general mayhem. The stage is set for a wildly fun evening of physical comedy and brilliant wordplay as this irresistible Shakespearean confection returns to Central Park for the first time in 20 years!

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS was first staged at the Delacorte in 1967, directed by Gerald Freedman and featured David Birney and Charles Durning as the twins. The most recent park production in 1992 was directed by Caca Rosset and featured Boyd Gaines as Antipholus of Syracuse, John Michael

Higgins as Antipholus of Ephesus, Howard Samuelsohn as Dromio of Ephesus, and Peter Jacobson as Dromio of Syracuse.

In **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST**, romance, revelry and enchanting music ignite in this contemporary yet lovingly faithful musical adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy. The King and his best buds decide at their five-year college reunion to swear off the joys of women. But when four cute, clever girls from their past show up, they're forced to reconsider all of that nonsense! Smart, sexy, outrageous, and irreverent, **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST** is a madcap celebration of true love and coming of age, continuing The Public Theater's long tradition of premiering new musicals in New York's most magical summer setting.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST was developed in collaboration with Les Freres Corbusier.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS and **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST** will feature scenic design by **John Lee Beatty**.

DANIEL SULLIVAN (*The Comedy of Errors Director*). For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *As You Like It*, The Delacorte Theater's 50th Anniversary reading of *Romeo and Juliet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Broadway/Shakespeare in the Park), *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Stuff Happens*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Among his Broadway credits are the upcoming production of *Orphans*, featuring Alec Baldwin and Shia LaBeouf; the recent revival of *Glengarry Glen Ross*; *The Columnist*; *Good People*; *Time Stands Still*; *Accent on Youth*; *The Homecoming*; *Prelude to a Kiss*; *Rabbit Hole*; *After the Night and the Music*; *Julius Caesar*; *Brooklyn Boy*; *Sight Unseen*; *I'm Not Rappaport*; *Morning's at Seven*; *Proof*; the 2000 production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; *The Sisters Rosensweig*; *Conversations With My Father*; and *The Heidi Chronicles*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Intimate Apparel*, *Far East*, *Spinning into Butter*, *Third* at Lincoln Center, *Dinner With Friends*, and *The Substance of Fire*. From 1981 to 1997, he served as Artistic Director of Seattle Repertory Theatre. Sullivan is the Swanlund Professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

ALEX TIMBERS (*Love's Labour's Lost Director, Book Adaptation*). For The Public, Timbers wrote the book and directed the critically acclaimed musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. He will also direct The Public's upcoming production of *Here Lies Love* in April. Timbers is the Artistic Director of Les Freres Corbusier and his additional Broadway credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. His additional Off-Broadway directing credits include *A Very Merry Unauthorized Pageant*; *Gutenberg! The Musical!*; and *Hell House*. He is a Tony-nominated writer-director and is the recipient of Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards, as well as two Obie Awards.

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN (*Love's Labour's Lost, Songs*) wrote the music and lyrics for The Public's critically acclaimed musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and was the co-author of *Paris Commune* (which recently played at the BAM Next Wave Festival.) His previous work at the Delacorte includes *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Seagull*, and *Cymbeline*. As a founding associate artist of The Civilians, he has written music and lyrics for *The Great Immensity*; *This Beautiful City*; *In the Footprint*; *Gone Missing*; *[I Am] Nobody's Lunch*; and *Canard Canard Goose?* Other works include *Saved* and *The Brand New Kid*. He has been a MacDowell Fellow, a Princeton Hodder Fellow, a Meet the Composer fellow, a Visiting Professor at the Princeton Environmental Institute, and an artist-in-residence at Spring Workshop Hong Kong. He performed in a Lincoln Center's American Songbook concert of his songs and received an Obie Award for Sustained Achievement.

JESSE TYLER FERGUSON (*Dromio in The Comedy of Errors*). His credits for The Public Theater include *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Winter's Tale*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *On The Town*. Ferguson currently stars as "Mitchell Pritchett" on the Emmy Award-winning ABC comedy "Modern Family" for which he has received three Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series, and has won three SAG Awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series. In 2013, Ferguson was nominated for a People's Choice Award for Favorite Comedic

TV Actor for “Modern Family.” His additional film and television credits include *Untraceable*, *Wonderful World*, “Do Not Disturb,” and “Ugly Betty.” Ferguson’s Broadway credits include *On The Town*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and other theater credits include *Where Do We Live*, *Little Fish*, and *The Producers* at The Hollywood Bowl. In 2012, Ferguson co-founded the non-profit advocacy organization, Tie The Knot, which raises funds for various organizations fighting for civil rights and equality on behalf of the LGBT community through the sale of fashionable bow-ties.

HAMISH LINKLATER (*Antipholus in The Comedy of Errors*). His credits for The Public Theater include *The Merchant of Venice*; *The Winter’s Tale*; *Twelfth Night*, for which he received a Drama Desk nomination; *Hamlet*; *The Square*; and *Love’s Fire*. He was recently seen on Broadway in *Seminar*, and his additional Off-Broadway credits include the play *The Vandal*, which was recently extended at the Flea Theater, which Linklater wrote; *The School for Lies*, earning him an Obie Award and Lortel and Outer Critics Circle nominations; *The Busy World Is Hushed*, earning him a Drama League nomination; *Recent Tragic Events*; and *Good Thing*. His film and television credits include *42*, *The Angriest Man in Brooklyn*, *Lola Versus*, *Battleship*, *The Future*, *Groove*, *Fantastic Four*, “The Good Wife,” “The Newsroom,” “The Big C,” and “The New Adventures of Old Christine.”

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to The Public Theater’s Shakespeare in the Park are FREE and are distributed, two per person, at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park on the day of the show. The Public Theater will again offer free tickets through our **Virtual Ticketing** lottery at www.shakespeareinthepark.org on the day of the show. To support The Public Theater’s efforts of providing free Shakespeare in the Park, call **212-967-7555**.

The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is accessible by entering at 81st Street and Central Park West or at 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

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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

ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bank of America's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way across more than 100 markets around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending, investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create shared value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. Learn more at <http://www.bankofamerica.com/about> and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community. Visit the Bank of America newsroom for more [Bank of America news](#).

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