

THE PUBLIC THEATER
EXTENDS
WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL
THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE
TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Book by Itamar Moses
Music and Lyrics by Michael Friedman
Conceived and Directed by Daniel Aukin

New Block of Tickets Available Now

October 23, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced a two-week extension today for ***THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE***, a world premiere musical based on the nationally best-selling novel of the same name by **Jonathan Lethem**. With a book by **Itamar Moses**, music and lyrics by **Michael Friedman**, and conceived and directed by **Daniel Aukin**, ***THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE*** began previews on Tuesday, September 30 and was officially scheduled to close on Sunday, November 2. It will now run an additional two weeks through Sunday, November 16.

“Exuberant, engrossing, and original!”
– Linda Winer, Newsday

“A blood-pumping, heart-thumping show with a soaring score!”
– Marilyn Stasio, Variety

Member tickets, priced at \$50, and single tickets, starting at \$80, are available now 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 Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe’s Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, a co-production with Dallas Theater Center, is the extraordinary coming-of-age story about 1970s Brooklyn and beyond — of black and white, soul and rap, block parties and blackouts, friendship and betrayal, comic books and 45s. And the story of what would happen if two teenagers obsessed with superheroes believed that maybe, just maybe, they could fly.

The complete cast of ***THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE*** features **Ken Barnett** (*Abraham Ebdus*); **Kyle Beltran** (*Mingus*); **Adam Chanler-Berat** (*Dylan*); **André De Shields** (*Senior*); **Carla Duren** (*Marilla*); **Stephane Duret** (*Swing*); **Rebecca Naomi Jones** (*Lala, Abby*); **Jahi Kears** (*Raf, Henry, Desmond, Jared*); **Kevin Mambo** (*Junior*); **Malaiyka Reid** (*Swing*); **David Rossmer** (*Arthur*); **Conor Ryan** (*Radio Guy, Mike, Gabe*); **Kristen Sieh** (*Rachel Ebdus*); **Britton Smith** (*Subtle Distinction*); **Brian Tyree Henry** (*Robert*); **Akron Watson** (*Subtle Distinction*); **Alison Whitehurst** (*Skater Girl, Liza*); and **Jason Williams** (*Subtle Distinction*).

The new musical features scenic design by Eugene Lee; costume design by Jessica Pabst; lighting design by Tyler Micoleau; sound design by Robert Kaplowitz; projection design by Jeff Sugg; hair and wig design by Leah Loukas; and choreography by Camille A. Brown.

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE is supported in part by the National Fund for New Musicals, a program of National Alliance for Musical Theatre, with funding from Stacey Mindich Productions – www.namt.org.

DANIEL AUKIN (*Conceiver and Director*) is a three-time OBIE Award-winning New York-based director. Recent work includes Sam Shepard's *Fool For Love* (Williamstown) and *The Fortress of Solitude* (Dallas Theater Center). Also, the world premieres of Josh Harmon's *Bad Jews* (Roundabout), Marco Ramirez' *The Royale* (Center Theater Group), Melissa James Gibson's *What Rhymes with America* (The Atlantic), *Heartless* by Sam Shepard (Signature), *4000 Miles* by Amy Herzog (Lincoln Center Theatre), *The Bad and the Better* by Derek Ahonen (The Amoralists), *The Ugly One* by Marius von Mayenburg (Soho Rep) and *This* by Melissa James Gibson (Playwrights Horizons & Center Theater Group). Other credits include *Back Back Back* by Itamar Moses (MTC), Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* (Arena Stage), Elmer Rice's *The Adding Machine* (La Jolla Playhouse). As Artistic Director of Soho Rep (1998-2006), Mark Schultz's *Everything Will Be Different*, Melissa James Gibson's *[sic]* (OBIE Award), Melissa James Gibson's *Suitcase*, Quincy Long's *The Year of the Baby*, Mac Wellman's *Cat's-Paw* and Marie Irene Fornes' *Molly's Dream* (OBIE Award).

ITAMAR MOSES (*Book*) is the author of the full-length plays *Outrage; Bach at Leipzig; Celebrity Row; The Four of Us; Yellowjackets; Back Back Back*; and *Completeness*; the musical *Nobody Loves You* with Gaby Alter; and the evening of short plays *Love/Stories (or, But You Will Get Used to It)*. His work has appeared Off-Broadway, across the country, and in Canada, Israel, and Hong Kong, and is published by Faber and Faber and Samuel French. He has received commissions from the McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Berkeley Rep, Wilma Theater, South Coast Rep, Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center, and Goodman Theatre. On television, Itamar has written for both TNT's "Men of a Certain Age" and HBO's "Boardwalk Empire."

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN (*Music and Lyrics*)'s recent work at The Public includes music and lyrics for The Civilians' *The Great Immensity* and the musicals *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (both with Alex Timbers), as well as music for numerous plays. He is the co-author (with Steve Cosson) of *Paris Commune*, which played at The Public and at BAM's Next Wave Festival. As a founding associate artist of The Civilians, he has written music and lyrics for *This Beautiful City; In the Footprint; Gone Missing; (I Am) Nobody's Lunch; Canard Canard Goose?* and the upcoming *Pretty Filthy*, as well as music for Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns*. He has been a MacDowell Fellow, Princeton Hodder Fellow, Barron 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.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER

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, 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; Public Works, a new initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including Public Lab; 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, designed by the Rockwell Group. www.publictheater.org

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities; Bank of America, Proud Season Sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg New Play Development Fund at The Public Theater Supports the Creation and Development of New Plays; The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation - Lead Supporter of The Public's Access and Engagement Programming; The Time Warner Foundation, Founding Sponsor of The Emerging Writers Group; Delta Air Lines, Official Airline of The Public Theater; New York Magazine is the official print and online sponsor of The Public Theater's 2014-2015 downtown season; Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency.

TICKET INFORMATION

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE began performances on Tuesday, September 30 in The Public's Newman Theater and will now run an additional week through Sunday, November 16.

Member tickets, priced at \$50, and single tickets, starting at \$80, are available now by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. Street.

The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Sundays at 8:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (*There is no 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 2*).

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe's Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org.

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