

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
COMPLETE CASTING FOR
FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
PRODUCTION OF
KING LEAR
DIRECTED BY DANIEL SULLIVAN**

**Annette Bening, Jessica Collins, Jessica Hecht
To Play Goneril, Cordelia and Regan**

**Jeremy Bobb, Steven Boyer, Glenn Fleshler, Slate Holmgren,
Christopher Innvar, Chukwudi Iwuji, Clarke Peters,
Dale Place, Jay O. Sanders, Eric Sheffer Stevens
Join Previously Announced John Lithgow in Title Role**

May 20, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for *KING LEAR*, the second show of The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park season at the Delacorte. Featuring the previously announced **John Lithgow** as Lear, this enduring tragedy will begin performances on Tuesday, July 22 and run through Sunday, August 17, with an official press opening on Tuesday, August 5.

The complete cast of *KING LEAR* features **Annette Bening** (*Goneril*); **Jeremy Bobb** (*Oswald*); **Steven Boyer** (*Fool*); **Jessica Collins** (*Cordelia*); **Glenn Fleshler** (*Cornwall*); **Jessica Hecht** (*Regan*); **Slate Holmgren** (*King of France*); **Christopher Innvar** (*Albany*); **Chukwudi Iwuji** (*Edgar*); **John Lithgow** (*Lear*); **Clarke Peters** (*Gloucester*); **Dale Place** (*Old Man, Curan*); **Jay O. Sanders** (*Kent*); and **Eric Sheffer Stevens** (*Edmund*). The non-equity ensemble includes Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Andrew Burnap, Christopher Ghaffari, Ryan-James Hatanaka, Matt Helm, Dave Klasko, and Phillip Shinn.

Revenge, rage, grief and delusion thunder upon the Delacorte as Tony Award winner **Daniel Sullivan** directs Shakespeare's classic drama about a King who loses everything—including his mind—when he disowns his favorite daughter, and finds himself betrayed in return. *KING LEAR* has not been seen at Shakespeare in the Park since 1973.

KING LEAR features scenic design by John Lee Beatty, costume design by Susan Hilferty, lighting design by Jeff Croiter, sound design by ACME Sound Partners, and original music by Dan Moses Schreier.

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

The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park is continuing a 52-year 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. Conceived by founder Joe Papp as a

way to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access and engage the community.

The first show of The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park season, ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*** begins previews on Tuesday, June 3 and runs through Sunday, July 6, with an official press opening on Monday, June 16. Obie Award winner **Hamish Linklater** and Tony Award nominee **Lily Rabe** return to the Park this summer as the wise-cracking, would-be lovers Beatrice and Benedick in the beloved romantic comedy. Central Park becomes sun-drenched Sicily at the turn of the last century, where the heat of summer ignites the fevered passions of lovesick ladies in corsets and pining gentlemen spying from the verandah. Three-time Tony winner **Jack O'Brien** directs this delightful skirmish of wit between two self-declared bachelors tricked by their mischief-making friends into falling in love against their will and in spite of their own hearts.

The complete cast features **Steel Burkhardt** (*Balthazar*); **Jack Cutmore-Scott** (*Claudio*); **Austin Durant** (*Friar Francis, Sexton*); **John Glover** (*Leonato*); **Hamish Linklater** (*Benedick*); **David Manis** (*Antonio, Verges*); **Kathryn Meisle** (*Ursula*); **Ismenia Mendes** (*Hero*); **Brian Stokes Mitchell** (*Don Pedro*); **John Pankow** (*Dogberry*); **Pedro Pascal** (*Don John*); **Lily Rabe** (*Beatrice*); **Eric Sheffer Stevens** (*Borachio*); and **Zoë Winters** (*Margaret*). The non-equity ensemble includes Matt Bittner, Alex Breaux, Carisa Cotera, Isabella Curti, Paco Lozano, and Matthew Russell.

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK TICKET INFORMATION

FREE TICKETS to The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park are distributed, two per person (age 5+), at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park beginning at **12:00 p.m.** on the day of each performance. In order to allow as many different people as possible to attend free Shakespeare in the Park this summer, visitors will be limited to receiving free tickets to two performances only of each production. There will continue to be a separate line for accessible tickets for senior citizens (65+) and patrons with disabilities.

VIRTUAL TICKETING LOTTERY FOR FREE TICKETS will be available at www.publictheater.org on the day of the show, beginning Tuesday, June 3.

BOROUGH DISTRIBUTION: In addition to the ticket line at the Delacorte Theater and Virtual Ticketing online, a limited number of vouchers for specific performances will be distributed, while supplies last, at locations throughout New York's five boroughs. Each person in line is allowed two vouchers and each voucher is good for one ticket for that evening's performance. Vouchers must be exchanged for tickets at the Delacorte Theater Box Office that day from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

For ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***, ticket vouchers will be distributed, while supplies last, on Wednesday, June 4 in the Bronx at The Point (940 Garrison Avenue); Thursday, June 5 in Brooklyn at New York City College of Technology (300 Jay Street); Friday, June 6 in Manhattan at Harlem Stage at The Gatehouse (150 Convent Avenue at W. 135th Street); Saturday, June 7 in Queens at the New York Hall of Science (47-01 111th Street); Tuesday, June 10 in Staten Island at Snug Harbor Cultural Center (1000 Richmond Terrace); Wednesday, June 18 in the Bronx at The DreamYard Project (1085 Washington Avenue).

For ***KING LEAR***, ticket vouchers will be distributed, while supplies last, on Wednesday, July 23 in Staten Island at Snug Harbor Cultural Center (1000 Richmond Terrace); Thursday, July 24 in the Bronx at Lehman Stages at Lehman College (250 Bedford Park Boulevard West); Friday, July 25 in Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Avenue); Saturday, July 26 in Queens at the Queens Museum (New York City Building); Tuesday, July 29 in Manhattan at The Public Theater (425 Lafayette Street).

SUMMER SUPPORTER TICKETS, first conceived by Joe Papp as a way to support free Shakespeare in the Park, are available now. A fully tax-deductible contribution of \$200 entitles each Supporter to one reserved seat for either production. A limited number of Summer Supporter seats are available to ensure that as many free seats as possible will be available to distribute to the general public on the day of the show. A limited number of Summer Supporter tickets are also available to the opening night

performances of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** (June 16) and **KING LEAR** (August 5) for a contribution of \$300. Supporter contributions help to underwrite free Shakespeare in the Park.

Supporter donations can be made at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street, by phone at (212) 967-7555, or online at www.publictheater.org. Seating locations for donors are allocated strictly by giving level and in the order that they are received.

For additional access to Shakespeare in the Park you can become a Public Theater Partner. For more information on The Public Theater Partner Program please call (212) 539-8734 or visit www.publictheater.org.

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

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DANIEL SULLIVAN (*King Lear* Director). For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *The Comedy of Errors*, *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 recent production of *Snow Geese*; *Orphans*; the 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.

ANNETTE BENING (*Goneril*) is making her Public Theater debut. She last appeared on Broadway in 1988 in *Coastal Disturbances*, a role which earned her a Tony Award nomination as Best Featured Actress in a Play. Bening went on to win the Clarence Derwent Award, Drama Desk Award and Theatre World Award for that performance. Her off-Broadway credits include *Spoils of War* and *Coastal Disturbances*. She recently appeared in the one-woman show *Ruth Draper's Monologues* at the Geffen Playhouse. Her other Geffen Playhouse credits include the 2010 production of *The Female of the Species* and the title role in the 1999 production of *Hedda Gabler*. She has received Oscar nominations for her performances in *The Grifters*, *American Beauty*, *Being Julia*, and *The Kids Are All Right*, and she won Golden Globe Awards for the latter two films. Her additional film credits include *The Face of Love*; *Girl Most Likely*; *Ginger & Rosa*; *Ruby Sparks*; *Mother and Child*; *The Women*; *Running with Scissors*; *Open Range*; *In Dreams*; *The Siege*; *The American President*; *Richard III*; *Bugsy*, and many others.

JEREMY BOBB (*Oswald*) has appeared on Broadway in *Is He Dead?* and *Translations*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Harrison, TX*; *Cactus Flower*; and *Beast*. His film and television credits include *The Wolf of Wall Street*, "House of Cards," "The Knick," "Hostages," and "Boardwalk Empire."

STEVEN BOYER (*Fool*) has appeared on Broadway in *I'm Not Rappaport*. He recently finished the Off-Broadway run of *Hand to God*, for which he won the 2014 Lortel Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Explorers Club*; *Modern Terrorism, or They Who Want to Kill Us and How We Learn to Love Them*; *The School for Lies*; *The Coward*; *Misalliance*; and *Richard III*. His film and television credits include *The Wolf of Wall Street*; *Did You Hear About the Morgans?*; "The Crazy Ones"; and "Louie."

JESSICA COLLINS (*Cordelia*) has appeared on Broadway in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and Off-Broadway in *We Live Here* and *Manic Flight Reaction*. Her film and television credits include *Zero Dark Thirty*, ABC's "Revolution," "Person of Interest," "Rubicon," and "The Nine."

GLENN FLESHLER (*Cornwall*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Mother Courage and her Children*, *Stuff Happens*, and the Broadway transfer of the 2010 production of *The Merchant of Venice*. His additional Broadway credits include *Death of a Salesman*, *Arcadia*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Spring Awakening*. He recently played the role of "Errol" on HBO's "True Detective," and his additional film and television credits include *God's Pocket*, *Blue Jasmine*, *The Immigrant*, "Boardwalk Empire," "Delocated," and "Damages."

JESSICA HECHT (*Regan*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Stop Kiss*. Her Broadway credits include *The Assembled Parties*, *Harvey*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Julius Caesar*, *After The Fall*, and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. She recently appeared Off-Broadway in *Stage Kiss*, for which she received an Outer Critics Circle Nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Play; as well as *Three Sisters*; *Howard Katz*; *The House in Town*; and *Flesh and Blood*. Her film and television credits include *The English Teacher*, *Space Cadet*, *J. Edgar*, "Breaking Bad," "Elementary," and "Bored to Death."

SLATE HOLMGREN (*King of France*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Twelfth Night*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Seagull*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Double Flasehood*. His film and television credits include *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Returning to the Hiding Place*, "The Good Wife," "Blue Bloods," and "Everwood."

CHRISTOPHER INNVAR (*Albany*) has appeared on Broadway in *The Snow Geese*; *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*; *The People in the Picture*; *110 in the Shade*; *The Threepenny Opera*; *Victor/Victoria*; and *Les Misérables*; His Off-Broadway credits include *Harper Regan*, *The Witch of Edmonton*, *The Chemistry of Change*, and *A New Brain*. His film and television credits include *You Don't Mess With the Zohan*, "The Following," "The Good Wife," "Gravity."

CHUKWUDI IWUJI (*Edgar*) recently appeared at The Public Theater in Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Antony and Cleopatra*, which also performed in London and Miami, Florida. His additional credits include *Henry V*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Coriolanus*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Hamlet* with the Royal Shakespeare Company. His film and television credits include *Fall to Rise*, *Exam*, "Murder in Manhattan," "Wizards vs. Aliens," "Doctor Who," and "The Garden."

JOHN LITHGOW (*King Lear*) has performed with The Public Theater in *Hamlet* at the Delacorte in 1975, *Trelawney of the "Wells"* at the Vivian Beaumont in 1975, and in *Salt Lake City Skyline* in the Anspacher Theater in 1980. His Broadway credits include *The Changing Room*, *My Fat Friend*, *Comedians*, *Anna Christie*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *Spokesong*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *The Front Page*, *M. Butterfly*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, *The Retreat From Moscow*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *All My Sons*, and most recently, *The Columnist*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Mrs. Farnsworth* and *Mr. & Mrs. Fitch*. In England, he has played the title role in *The Magistrate* at London's National Theatre and Malvoilo in *Twelfth Night* for The RSC at Stratford-Upon-Avon. He tours regularly with his one-man show *Stories By Heart*. His film and television credits include *All That Jazz*; *Blowout*; *The World According to Garp*; *Terms of Endearment*; *Twilight Zone: The Movie*; *Harry and the Hendersons*; *Footloose*; *Raising Cain*; *Kinsey*; *Shrek*; *This Is 40*; *The Campaign*; "3rd Rock From the Sun"; "Dexter"; and "Amazing Stories." Upcoming films include *Love Is Strange*, *The Homesman* and *Interstellar*. He has authored nine bestselling picture books for children, and has recorded the CDs *Singing' in the Bathtub* and *The Sunny Side of the Street*. He wrote and performed a new narration for *Carnival of the Animals* at the New York City Ballet, and his memoir, *Drama: An Actor's Education*, was published by Harper in 2011. He has won two Tony Awards, three Drama Desk Awards, five Emmys, two Golden Globes, two SAG awards, and he has been nominated for two Oscars and four Grammys.

CLARKE PETERS (*Gloucester*) has appeared on Broadway in *The Iceman Cometh* and *Chicago*, and wrote the musical revue *Five Guys Named Moe*. His film and television credits include *Red Good Summer*; *Searching for Sonny*; Nelson Mandela in *Endgame*; *Notting Hill*; "Treme"; "The Wire"; "Person of Interest"; "Archer"; "Covert Affairs"; "Doctor Who: Dreamland"; and "Damages."

DALE PLACE (*Old Man, Curan*) has appeared Off-Broadway in *Nikolai and the Others*. His film and television credits include *What's Your Number?; The Fighter; The Proposal; Gone Baby Gone;* and "The Made America."

JAY O. SANDERS (*Kent*) recently appeared in The Public Theater's acclaimed *Apple Family Plays*, by Richard Nelson. His additional Public Theater credits include *Titus Andronicus, Twelfth night, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry V* and *Stuff Happens*. His Broadway credits include *Doolittle in Pygmalion* and he has appeared Off-Broadway in *The Argument, Lone Star Love,* and *The Exonerated*. His film and television credits include *A Novel Romance, Green Lantern,* "Person of Interest," "True Detective," "Hostages," and "The Good Wife."

ERIC SHEFFER STEVENS (*Edmund*) will appear in The Public's Shakespeare in the Park production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in June, and has appeared on Broadway in *The Coast of Utopia: Parts I-III* and *King Lear*. His additional New York credits include *Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, Chained to the Moon,* and *The Captives*. His select film and television credits include *Julie and Julia, Life Itself, Silent House,* "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie," "Elementary," "Body of Proof," "The Big C," "As The World Turns," "Law & Order," and "Numb3rs."

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, 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; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including Public Lab and Public Studio; 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 of the day. The Public also serves as a home for other New York City cultural programs that include The Shakespeare Society, The PEN World Voice Festival and City Center's Fall For Dance. 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. In October 2012 the landmark building 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby and the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, 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

THE DELACORTE THEATER, home of free Shakespeare in the Park, was conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all. It officially opened in Central Park on June 18, 1962, with *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by 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 Papp and Vaughan and featuring Frank Silvera as Lear. Since then more than 150 productions have been presented for free at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. Highlights of past Delacorte 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; Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* with Amy Adams, Denis O'Hare, and Donna Murphy in 2012; and most recently, last summer's acclaimed productions of *The Comedy of Errors* with Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Hamish Linklater, and Alex Timbers and Michael Friedman's world premiere musical adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost*.

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 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 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. As part of these efforts, employee volunteers across the company contribute their time, passion and expertise to address issues in communities where they live and work. Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community. Visit the Bank of America newsroom for more [Bank of America news](#). www.bankofamerica.com

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