

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
EXCITING PUBLIC FORUM EVENT
HOW WE TELL STORIES — AND WHY
MONDAY, APRIL 21**

**Frank Rich Joins Scott Z. Burns and Steven Soderbergh
To Discuss the Power of Narratives and
Explore Questions Raised by the New Play *The Library***

March 27, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced an additional spring Public Forum, *HOW WE TELL STORIES – AND WHY*, on **Monday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m.** This one-night-only Public Forum event will feature **Frank Rich** sharing his insights on the ways that artists and journalists alike shape narratives, then joining writer **Scott Z. Burns** and director **Steven Soderbergh** for a conversation about the sometimes dangerous power of stories. This 90-minute event in the Newman Theater will be hosted by Public Forum Director **Jeremy McCarter**.

“Few people in public life have studied narratives—the ways that artists, journalists, and entire communities tell stories—with greater insight than Frank Rich,” said **Jeremy McCarter**. “I am thrilled to have him join Scott Burns and Steven Soderbergh for a conversation about why Americans are so eager to tell each other tales, and to believe them.”

Member tickets for the Public Forum, *HOW WE TELL STORIES – AND WHY*, are on sale now. Single tickets, starting at \$40, go on sale Saturday, March 29 and can be purchased at **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at 425 Lafayette Street. The Library restaurant at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with brunch on select weekends, and Joe’s Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

In Scott Z. Burns’ *THE LIBRARY* currently running at The Public Theater, Caitlin Gabriel survives a deadly shooting at her high school. After this traumatic event, she struggles to tell her story to her parents, the authorities and anyone who will listen. But there are other narratives that gain purchase in the media and paint her in a different light. This bold and chilling new play asks us to examine our relationship to the truth and the lies that claim to heal us.

The next spring Public Forum will be ***Sarah Lewis: Pictures and Progress* on Monday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in Joe’s Pub. Author Sarah Lewis, playwright José Rivera, and photographer Carrie Mae Weems will discuss Frederick Douglass’s seminal lecture “Pictures and Progress” and the lessons contemporary artists should take from it. The spring **Drama Club** season concludes on **Sunday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in Joe’s Pub with a reading and discussion of Susan Glaspell’s timely one-act play, *The People*, featuring a special cast comprised entirely of our leading political journalists, including David Brooks (*The New York Times*), Christopher Hayes (MSNBC), and many more.

PUBLIC FORUM presents the theater of ideas. This series of conversations that include Public Forum Drama Club, Public Forum Duets, Public Forum Solos, and the Public Forum Podcast feature

discussions and performances with leading voices in politics, media, and the arts. Alec Baldwin, Anne Hathaway, Cynthia Nixon, Sam Waterston, and former NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman have hosted its programs, which have featured the insights of Kurt Andersen, David Brooks, David Byrne, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Tony Kushner, Rachel Maddow, Wynton Marsalis, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, Francine Prose, Salman Rushdie, David Simon, Anna Deavere Smith, Stephen Sondheim, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, the culture writers of *New York Magazine*, and young veterans of the war in Afghanistan - plus performances by Christine Baranski, Matt Damon, Holly Hunter, Wendell Pierce, and Vanessa Redgrave, among others.

SCOTT Z. BURNS (*Playwright for The Library*) is a screenwriter, director and producer. He most recently wrote the original screenplay for *Side Effects*, a psychological thriller directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Jude Law, Rooney Mara, and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Burns wrote the 2011 original screenplay for *Contagion*, directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Jude Law. He penned the screen adaptation of Soderbergh's *The Informant!*, which starred Damon as well. Burns also co-wrote the Academy Award-winning *Bourne Ultimatum*, directed by Paul Greengrass, and was a producer on *An Inconvenient Truth*, the Academy Award-winning documentary, for which he received the Humanitas Prize and the Stanley Kramer Award from the Producers Guild of America. He wrote and directed HBO Films' critically acclaimed *PU-239*, which was produced by Soderbergh and George Clooney. Additionally, Burns is currently writing and executive producing "Conspiracy," a drama series for NBC based on Christopher MacBride's feature *The Conspiracy*. Burns is currently attached to direct his screenplay *Deep Water*, an adaptation of the documentary by the same name with Colin Firth and Kate Winslet attached to star in the summer of 2014. The film will be produced by Blue Print Pictures, BBC, and Studio Canal. Burns began his career in advertising, after graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota. He was part of the creative team responsible for the original "Got Milk?" campaign and his advertising work has been recognized by the Clio Awards, the Cannes Film Festival, and the New York Film Festival. Burns has written for *GQ Magazine*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Huffington Post*.

STEVEN SODERBERGH (*Director for The Library*) is a writer, director, producer, cinematographer, and editor. His television film "Behind the Candelabra," for which he won a 2013 Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing, debuted on HBO in May of last year. He earned an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay for his directorial debut, *sex, lies, and videotape*, and the Academy Award in 2000 for directing *Traffic*, the same year he was nominated for *Erin Brockovich*. Among his other credits are the films *Side Effects*, *Magic Mike*, *Haywire*, *Contagion*, *And Everything is Going Fine*, *The Girlfriend Experience*, *The Informant!*, *Che*, the *Ocean's* trilogy, *The Good German*, *Bubble*, *Solaris*, *Full Frontal*, *The Limey*, *Out of Sight*, *Gray's Anatomy*, *Schizopolis*, *The Underneath*, *King of the Hill* and *Kafka*. In 2009, he created and directed the play *Tot Mom* for the Sydney Theatre Company. While in Sydney he also directed the film *The Last Time I Saw Michael Gregg*. His upcoming television series, "The Knick," will air on Cinemax.

FRANK RICH (*Moderator/Journalist*) joined *New York* magazine in June 2011 as Writer-at-Large, writing monthly on politics and culture, and editing a special monthly section anchored by his essay. He is also a commentator on nymag.com, engaging in regular dialogues on the news of the week. Rich joined the magazine following a distinguished career at the *New York Times*, where he had been an op-ed columnist since 1994. He was previously the paper's chief drama critic, from 1980 to 1993. His weekly 1,500-word essay helped inaugurate the expanded opinion pages that the *Times* introduced in the Sunday "Week in Review" section in 2005. From 2003 to 2005, Rich had been the front-page columnist for the Sunday "Arts & Leisure" section as part of that section's redesign and expansion. He also served as senior adviser to the *Times'* culture editor on the paper's overall cultural-news report. From 1999 to 2003, he was also senior writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. The dual title was a first for the *Times*. He has written about culture and politics for many national publications. His books include *Ghost Light: A Memoir* and, most recently, *The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth From 9/11 to Katrina*. Rich is also a creative consultant to HBO, where he is an executive producer of two projects: "Veep," a comedy series written and directed by Armando Iannucci and starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and a documentary on Stephen Sondheim.

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, and contemporary and experimental works 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 and other classic 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; 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 included infrastructure updates to the 158-year old building, including changes to the main entry, expanded lobby, additional restrooms, and the addition of a new lounge, The Library at The Public, 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

TICKET INFORMATION

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Scott Z. Burns' new play ***THE LIBRARY***, directed by Steven Soderbergh, is in performances now at The Public Theater and runs thru Sunday, April 27. Single tickets start at \$75.

The Library restaurant at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with brunch on select weekends, and Joe's Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

The Public Theater is located at 425 Lafayette Street. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org.

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