

## THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR **BARBECUE**

**World Premiere by Robert O'Hara  
Directed by Kent Gash**

**Performances Begin Tuesday, September 22**

August 12, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the world premiere of **BARBECUE**, written by Obie Award winner **Robert O'Hara**. Directed by **Kent Gash**, **BARBECUE** begins previews on Tuesday, September 22 and runs through Sunday, November 1, with an official press opening on Thursday, October 8.

Member tickets are available now, and single tickets, starting at \$50, can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, [www.publictheater.org](http://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.

Free tickets to the first preview on Tuesday, September 22 will be available via **TodayTix** mobile lottery, launching Tuesday, September 15. Winners will be notified by email and push notifications between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the day of the first preview. Winners must confirm their winning tickets in the TodayTix app within one hour of being notified.

The complete cast of **BARBECUE** features **Becky Ann Baker, Marc Damon Johnson, Arden Myrin, Paul Niebanck, Tamberla Perry, Constance Shulman, Heather Alicia Simms, Samantha Soule, Benja Kay Thomas, and Kim Wayans.**

The O'Mallerys have gathered in their local park to share some barbecue and straight talk with their sister Barbara, whose spiral of drugs and recklessness has forced her siblings to stage an open-air intervention. But the event becomes raucous and unpredictable as familial stereotypes collide with hard realities, and racial politics slam up against the stories we tell—and maybe even believe—about who we were and who we become. Kent Gash directs this new play that proves family can be a bigger vice than any other addiction.

**BARBECUE** features scenic design by Clint Ramos; costume design by Paul Tazewell; lighting design by Jason Lyons; and original music & sound design by Lindsay Jones.

**ROBERT O'HARA** (*Playwright*). His credits for The Public include his play *Insurrection: Holding History*; as well as directing *Wild With Happy* and *The Brother/Sister Plays (Part 2)*. His recent Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Bootycandy* (Obie Award) at Playwrights Horizons, *In the Continuum* (Obie Award) at Primary Stages, *Marie Antoinette* at Steppenwolf Theater Company, *Five Guys Named Moe* and *The Mountaintop* at Arena Theater. His play, *Zombie: The American*, world premiere this season at Woolly Mammoth Theatre. He's worked at McCarter Theatre, Magic Theatre, CTG/Kirk Douglas Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Alley Theater, City Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, American Conservatory Theater, Goodman

Theatre and Cleveland Playhouse. Film: *The Inheritance*. Awards: 2 Obies, Helen Hayes, NAACP, Oppenheimer, Lammy. He is currently the Mellon Playwright in Residence at Woolly Mammoth Theater.

**KENT GASH** (*Director*). His credits in New York City include *Langston in Harlem* at Urban Stages, which earned the AUDELCO Award for Best Musical; *Brokeology* at Julliard; *Miss Evers' Boys* and *Home* for the Melting Post Theatre; and *Beggars' Holiday* at the York Theatre Company. His regional credits include *The Comedy of Errors* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Choir Boy* at Studio Theatre in DC and the Marin Theatre Company; and the premiere of *The CA Lyons Project*. He also served as the Associated Artistic Director of the Alliance Theatre from 2001 to 2009 where he also directed the premiere of Quiara Hudes' *26 Miles and Elliot; A Soldier's Fugue; Jelly's Last Jam*; and *Topdog/Underdog* with Trinity Rep and New Rep, which earned him the Elliot Norton Award. He has directed *King Hedley II*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Pacific Overtures* with Cincinnati Playhouse and North Shore; and *God of Carnage* starring Jasmine Guy. The Alliance Theatre was also the recipient of the 2007 Regional Tony Award. He has directed over 50 other regional productions including *Harriet's Return* at the Kennedy Center starring Debbie Allen; and *Native Son* at Intiman, which he also adapted. He served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival from 1999 to 2001 where he directed *Troilus and Cressida*, *Twelfth Night*, *Guys and Dolls*, and others. He received his B.F.A. from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama and his M.F.A. in Directing from UCLA. He is the Founding Director of NYU Tisch, New Studio on Broadway.

**BECKY ANN BAKER** has performed in The Public Theater productions of *The Comedy of Errors*, *Othello*, and *Two Gentleman of Verona*. Her Broadway credits include *Good People*, *All My Sons*, *Assassins*, *Titanic*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Great God Pan*, *The House in Town*, *Shanghai Moon*, *June Moon*, *Durang Durang*, and *Laura Dennis*. Her television credits include "Girls," "Person of Interest," "Elementary," "The Good Wife," and "Freaks and Geeks."

**MARC DAMON JOHNSON** has appeared at The Public in *Much Ado About Nothing*; *The Brother/Sister Plays*; *Measure for Measure*; *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. His additional selected credits include Selected credits include *Lucky Guy* on Broadway, *The Brothers Size* at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, *Mr. Fox: A Rumination*, as well as numerous regional productions at Arena Stage, the McCarter Theatre, Berkeley Rep, and The Kennedy Center. He has appeared on film and in television in *It Runs in The Family*; *Grace & Glorie*; *Sweet and Lowdown* (directed by Woody Allen), "Army Wives," "Rescue Me," "The Sopranos."

**ARDEN MYRIN** has appeared at The Public in *Boston Marriage*. As a comedian and actress, she has appeared in film and television as a roundtable panelist on "Chelsea Lately" over 100 times and in *Morning Glory*, *The Lucky Ones*, *Evan Almighty*, *Christmas with the Kranks*, *Kinsey*, *Wrong Cops*, *Bachelorette*, "Bones," "Psych," "@midnight," "Reno 911," "Fresh Off the Boat," "The Exes," "Anger Management," "Legit," "Orange Is the New Black," "Inside Amy Schumer," "Suburgatory," "Hung," "Hot in Cleveland," and was a cast member of "MADtv" for four seasons.

**PAUL NIEBANCK** has appeared on Broadway in *In the Next Room*. His Off-Broadway credits include *A Picture of Autumn*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Rx*; *Blood and Gifts*; *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*; *Great Expectations*; *All's Well That Ends Well*; *Shockheaded Peter*; *The Pussycat and the Expert Plumber Who Was a Man*; and *The American Clock*. His film and television credits include *Insects with Glasses*, "The Blacklist," "Person of Interest," "Burn Notice," and "Gossip Girl."

**TAMBERLA PERRY** has appeared regionally in *Race*; *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*; *Eclipsed*; *The North Plan*; *The Brothers/Sisters Plays*; *Fedra*; *The Overwhelming*; *Bus Stop*; *Icarus*; *The Piano Lesson*; *Black Diamond*; among others. Her film and television credits include *The Belle of New Orleans*, "The Illinois Lottery," "Boss," "The Jamz," and "Crisis," among others.

**CONSTANCE SHULMAN** has appeared Off-Broadway in *Loose Knit* and *Steel Magnolias*. Her film and television credits include *Fried Green Tomatoes*; *Weekend at Bernie's III*; *McBain*; *He Said, She Said*; *Men Don't Leave*; *A Jersey Christmas*; *Sweet and Lowdown*; *Doug's 1<sup>st</sup> Movie*; "Orange is the New Black"; "Law & Order: SVU"; "The Faculty"; and "Doug."

**HEATHER ALICIA SIMMS** has appeared at The Public in *The Brothers/Sisters Plays, Part 1 and 2*. Her Broadway credits include *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of Great Lakes* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. She has appeared in film and television in *Red Hook Summer*, *The Nanny Diaries*; *Broken NY's Dirty Laundry*; "The Good Wife"; "As the World Turns"; "Law & Order: Criminal Intent"; "Whoopi"; and "Third Watch."

**SAMANTHA SOULE** has appeared at The Public in the Mobile Shakespeare Unit production of *Much Ado About Nothing* and Public Lab's *Detroit '67*. She has appeared on Broadway in *The Philanthropist*, *Coram Boy*, and *Dinner at Eight*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *And I and Silence*, *A Fable*, *A Summer Day*, *A Little Journey*, *Gabriel*, *The Voyage Inheritance*, *White Chocolate*, and *Valhalla*. Her film and television credits include *Revolutionary Road*; *How We Got Away With It*; "Nurse Jackie"; "Blue Bloods"; "Do No Harm"; "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"; and "Smash."

**BENJA KAY THOMAS** has appeared Off-Broadway in Robert O'Hara's *Bootycandy*. Her additional theater credits include *Insurrection: Holding History*; *Unspeakable*; *Pearl's Gone Blue*; *Intimate Apparel*; *Steal Away*; *The Bow Wow Club*; *Brave Brood*; *American Menu*; and *God, The Crack House & The Devil*. She has appeared in film in *The Cycle*, *the Dying Truth*, *The Warrior Class*, and *A Gun for Jennifer*.

**KIM WAYANS** appeared on television in "In Living Color" from 1990 to 2001. Her numerous additional film and television credits include *Pariah*; *Dance Flick*; *Talking about Sex*; "Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood"; *A Low Down Dirty Shame*; *Juwanna Mann*; "In the House"; "Waynehead"; "The Wayans Bros."; "Reckless"; "Hawaii Five-O"; and "The Soul Man"; among others.

### **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](http://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 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**

**BARBECUE** will begin previews in The Public's Newman Theater on Tuesday, September 22 and will run through Sunday, November 1, with an official press opening on Thursday, October 8.

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The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (*There is no performance on Saturday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. or Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. The performances on Tuesday, October 13, Wednesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 21 are at 7:00 p.m.*).

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

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