

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR *FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE*

World Premiere Musical by
Michael John LaChiusa
Directed by Kirsten Sanderson

Previews Begin Tuesday, October 6

August 5, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the world premiere musical *FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE*, written by **Michael John LaChiusa**. Directed by **Kirsten Sanderson**, *FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE* begins previews on Tuesday, October 6 and runs through Sunday, November 15, with an official press opening on Wednesday, October 21.

Member tickets are available now. Single tickets, starting at \$65, will be available beginning on Thursday, August 6 and can be accessed by calling [\(212\) 967-7555](tel:2129677555), 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, October 6 will be available via **TodayTix** mobile lottery, launching Tuesday, September 29. 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 *FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE* features **Alison Fraser** (*Nancy Reagan, Betty Ford*); **Rachel Bay Jones** (*Laura Bush, Rosalynn Carter*); **Caissie Levy** (*Patti Davis, Julie Nixon*); **Theresa McCarthy** (*Robin Bush, Hannah Nixon*); **Betsy Morgan** (*Trisha Nixon, Susan Ford*); **Isabel Santiago** (*Anita Castelo*); **Carly Tamer** (*Amy Carter*); **Mary Testa** (*Barbara Bush*); and **Barbara Walsh** (*Pat Nixon*).

Tony nominee Michael John LaChiusa imagines the inner lives and dreams of America's best-known daughters with a funny and moving follow-up to his 1993 Public musical *First Lady Suite*. A historical fantasia in four parts, *FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE* follows Patricia Nixon and daughters Tricia and Julie, Rosalynn and Amy Carter, Betty and Susan Ford, Patti Davis and mom Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush and daughter-in-law Laura as they strive to live meaningful lives in the public eye, while dealing with the complex private relationships all of us face with our parents and children. Directed by Kirsten Sanderson, this wholly captivating new musical with a lush, sweeping score is a deeply felt new work about mothers, daughters and the surprising discoveries we make about one another as we grow.

FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE features scenic design by Scott Pask, costume design by Toni-Leslie James, lighting design by Tyler Micoleau, and sound design by Ken Travis.

MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA (*Book, Music and Lyrics*)'s credits for The Public include *Giant*, *See What I Wanna See*, *The Wild Party* (Tony noms., Best Score and Best Book with George C. Wolfe), *The Petrified Prince*, *First Lady Suite*. His additional credits include *Queen of the Mist*; *Los Otros*; *Bernarda Alba*; *The*

Highest Yellow; Little Fish; Marie Christine (Tony noms., Best Score and Best Book); *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Tony nom., Best Book with Graciela Daniele/Jim Lewis); *Hello Again; Break/Agnes/Eulogy for Mister Hamm*. Operas: *Send (who are you? I love you)*, Houston Grand Opera; *Lovers and Friends (Chautauqua Variations)*, Lyric Opera of Chicago. Additionally, his musical *Rain* will premiere at the Old Globe in San Diego in the Spring of 2016. He is the Obie Award winner and recipient of the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Musical Theater Award. Composer for *The Wonder Pets*, two Emmy Awards. Additionally he has written special material for Neil Patrick Harris and Hugh Jackman for the Tony Awards and *Hugh Jackman on Broadway*. Current faculty of NYU and Columbia.

KIRSTEN SANDERSON (*Director*) has directed new plays by Michael John LaChiusa, Craig Lucas, Shel Silverstein, Steven Schwartz and Blake Edwards, among others. Her work has been seen at Playwright's Horizons, The Public, PS 122, Circle Rep, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Director's Company, Sundance Theatre Lab, The Blank Theatre Company, Theatreworks USA, The Women's Project, HBO Comedy Arts Festival, New York Fringe Festival, New York Music Theatre Festival, Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Town Hall. Previous collaborations with LaChiusa include the original production of *First Lady Suite* at The Public; *Eulogy for Mr. Hamm/Break/Agnes/Lucky Nurse* at Playwrights Horizons; *Little Fish* and *Sukie and Sue: Their Story* at the Blank Theatre in Hollywood; as well as numerous outings in the Marathon at Ensemble Studio Theatre.

ALISON FRASER (*Nancy Reagan, Betty Ford*) has appeared at The Public in *Up Against It*; and she has appeared on Broadway in *Gypsy; Tartuffe; Falsettos; The Secret Garden; Romance/Romance*; and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Her additional Off-Broadway include *In Masks Outrageous and Austere; The School For Lies; The Divine Sister; Love, Loss, and What I Wore; The Chaos Theories; an oak tree*; and many others. Her film and television credits include *Commentary, In the Blood, The Thing About My Folks, "Happyish," "It Could Be Worse," "Jack in a Box,"* and many others.

RACHEL BAY JONES (*Laura Bush, Rosalynn Carter*) has appeared on Broadway in the recent revival of *Pippin, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, HAIR, and Meet Me in St. Louis*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Hello Again* with the Transport Group. On television she has appeared in "Louie," and she has released a solo album, *ShowFolk*.

CAISSIE LEVY (*Patti Davis, Julie Nixon*) has appeared on Broadway in *Hairspray, Wicked, HAIR, Ghost the Musical, Les Misérables*, Off-Broadway in *Murder Ballad*, and in the National Tour of *Rent*. She has also released the solo album, *With You*.

THERESA McCARTHY (*Robin Bush, Hannah Nixon*) has appeared at The Public in *Space and Saturn Returns: A Concert*; and she has appeared on Broadway in *Titanic*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *Cinderella-Cendrillon; Floyd Collins; Queen of the Mist; and Three Days to See*. Regionally she has appeared in *The Light in the Piazza, The Dumb Cake, and Stage of Independence*. Her television credits include "House of Cards" and "Law & Order."

BETSY MORGAN (*Trish Nixon, Susan Ford*) is currently on Broadway in *The King and I*, and she has appeared in *Les Misérables, A Little Night Music, The Little Mermaid, and High Fidelity*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Found, The Fantasticks, and Bernarda Alba*, and her television credits include "Flight of the Conchords."

ISABEL SANTIAGO (*Anita Castelo*) appeared in The Public Theater production of Michael John LaChiusa's *Giant* and in the National Tour of *In The Heights*. Regionally she has appeared in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Little Shop of Horrors, Giant, Showboat, and West Side Story*.

CARLY TAMER (*Amy Carter*) has appeared Off-Broadway in *I Love You Petty and Favre* and in the National Tours of *Billy Elliot, How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Her film and television in *We Are The Hartmans, Shadows & Lies, Honeysuckle, Children of Invention, "Sesame Street,"* and "30 Rock."

MARY TESTA (*Barbara Bush*) has appeared at The Public in *The Knife, On the Town, Tartuffe, and See What I Wanna See*. Her Broadway credits include *Guys and Dolls, Xanadu, Wicked, Something Good, 42nd Street, Marie Christine, On the Town, Chicago, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Rink, Marilyn, and Barnum*. Her additional Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Oklahoma!; The*

Caucasian Chalk Circle; Queen of the Mist; Tricks the Devil Taught Me; Regrets Only; A New Brain, From Above; and many others. Her film and television credits include *Big Stone Gap, Tio Papi, "Jack in a Box," "2 Broke Girls," "The Battery's Down," "Cashmere Mafia," "Whoopi," "Courage and the Cowardly Dog,"* and many others.

BARBARA WALSH (*Pat Nixon*) has appeared on Broadway in *Company, Hairspray, Big, Blood Brothers, Falsettos, Nine, Ragtime* and her Off-Broadway credits include *Three Days to See, Stars in Your Eyes, Birds of Paradise* and *Forbidden Broadway*. She has appeared in the National Tours of *Oklahoma!; Les Misérables;* and *Chess;* and regionally in *Company; Dinner With Friends; The Sisters Rosenweig; Side by Side; The Most Happy Fella; A Streetcar Named Desire;* and many others. Her film and television credits include *Life with Mikey;* "Law & Order"; and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."

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 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

FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE will begin previews in The Public's Anspacher Theater on Tuesday, October 6 and will run through Sunday, November 15, with an official press opening on Wednesday, October 21.

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The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m. (*There is no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 10*).

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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