

THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
THE GABRIELS:
ELECTION YEAR IN THE LIFE OF ONE FAMILY
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RICHARD NELSON

Three-Play Cycle Will Premiere
In March, September and November 2016

June 16, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that the world premiere of a new **Richard Nelson** three-play cycle, ***THE GABRIELS: Election Year in the Life of One Family***, has been added to the 2015-2016 downtown season. Written and directed by Nelson, Play One: ***HUNGRY*** will begin previews on Saturday, February 27 and run through, Sunday, March 20, with an official press opening on Friday, March 4, 2016. As with *The Apple Family Plays*, each play in ***THE GABRIELS*** cycle will feature a core acting company and will open on the day it is set and unfold in real time over a couple of hours. The second play in the cycle will open in September 2016 and the final play will open on Election Night November 8, 2016.

“Richard Nelson’s *The Apple Family Plays* were one of the landmark achievements of the American theater’s last decade,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. “The Public is thrilled to continue the investigation of ensemble based, historically immediate plays by one of our master writer/directors.”

Nelson and company members Jon DeVries, Mariann Mayberry, Sally Murphy, Jesse Pennington, Maryann Plunkett, and Jay O. Sanders recently completed a highly acclaimed European tour of *The Apple Family Plays* to The FIND Festival at the Schaubuhne Theater in Berlin; The May International Festival in Weisbaden, Germany; The Brighton Festival in the United Kingdom; and the Vienna Festival in Austria. Of the plays on tour, Michael Billington of *The Guardian* wrote, “the plays present the rare spectacle of a tight-knit American ensemble at work. We seem to be not so much watching a play as eavesdropping on life itself.” *The Apple Family Plays* at The Public were the 2012 recipient of the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance and the 2012 Obie Award for Performance for *Sweet and Sad*. The plays were filmed by PBS and aired in 2014.

In the spirit of *The Apple Family Plays* and shining an important spotlight on the upcoming 2016 political election year, Tony Award-winning playwright and director Richard Nelson returns to The Public with his latest three-play cycle, ***THE GABRIELS***. Subtitled ***Election Year in the Life of One Family***, the first play in the cycle, ***HUNGRY***, will premiere in March 2016 and will introduce us to the Gabriels of Rhinebeck, New York. (*The Gabriels live just around the corner from the Apple Family*). These three new plays will track the lives of the Gabriels throughout the coming presidential election year with the final play opening in real time on Election Night, November 8, 2016. To the rhythm of peeling, chopping and mixing, ***HUNGRY*** places us in the center of the Gabriels’ kitchen. The family discusses their lives and disappointments, and the world at large and nearby, as they struggle against the fear of being left behind and the challenge to find resilience in the face of loss.

RICHARD NELSON (*Playwright/Director*) returns to The Public with *The Gabriels* after the acclaimed 2013 run of *The Apple Family Plays: Scenes from Life in the Country (That Hopey Changey Thing, Sweet and*

Sad, Sorry, Regular Singing). His additional credits for The Public include *Conversations in Tusculum*. His other plays include *Oblivion, Nikolai and the Others, Goodnight Children Everywhere* (Olivier Award Best Play), *Two Shakespearean Actors, Some American Abroad, Madame Melville, New England, Frank's Home, Rodney's Wife, Franny's Way, The General from America, The Vienna Notes*, and others. His musicals include *James Joyce's The Dead*, for which he won a Tony Award; and *My Life with Albertine*. His films include *Hyde Park on Hudson, Ethan Frome, and Sensibility and Sense*. He is a recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is an honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which has produced ten of his plays.

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.

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