

THE PUBLIC THEATER CONTINUES 53 YEARS OF FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK AT THE DELACORTE

THE TEMPEST
Directed by Michael Greif
Sam Waterston as Prospero
May 27 – July 5

CYMBELINE
Directed by Daniel Sullivan
July 27 – August 23

BANK OF AMERICA RETURNS AS LEAD SPONSOR OF THE PUBLIC THEATER'S FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

January 29, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the line-up today for the 2015 FREE Shakespeare in the Park season, continuing a 53-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. This summer, free Shakespeare in the Park will feature Shakespeare's late romances with *THE TEMPEST* (May 27-July 5), directed by Tony Award nominee **Michael Greif**, and **CYMBELINE** (July 27-August 23), directed by Tony Award winner **Daniel Sullivan**.

"With these two gorgeous productions, we will have produced all of Shakespeare's late romances in one season, *The Winter's Tale* in Public Works and *Pericles* with the Mobile Unit," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "These wise, magical, and emotional works were Shakespeare's climactic achievement in the theater. In these plays, hope can be found in the darkest hour, every loss can be restored, and even death is not permanent."

Kicking off the summer, The Public will see the return of Academy Award nominee **Sam Waterston** ("The Newsroom") to the Delacorte stage playing Prospero in *THE TEMPEST*, his 13th Shakespearean production at The Public. He first premiered on the Delacorte stage in *As You Like It* in 1963. Most recently he played Lear in *King Lear* downtown at Astor Place, and has also been seen in productions of *Hamlet* as Hamlet and Polonius; *Much Ado About Nothing* as Leonato and Benedick; *Measure for Measure* as the Duke; *Cymbeline* as Cloten; *Henry VI Part 1* and *Part 2* as Prince Hal; *Ergo* as Aslan; and *As You Like It* as Sylvius.

Daniel Sullivan, who directed last summer's production of *King Lear*, will return in July to direct the Shakespearean fairy tale *CYMBELINE*. First seen in the Park in 1971, *CYMBELINE* will begin performances on July 27 and run through August 22.

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

"Bank of America's support of programs like Shakespeare in the Park reflects our belief that the arts are a powerful tool that assist in bolstering local economies, helping individuals to connect with each other and across cultures, and educating and enriching societies," said **Jeff Barker**, **Bank of America New York City President**. "Shakespeare in the Park continues to be one of our city's premier summertime traditions and we're proud to continue as the lead sponsor as part of our broader commitment to creating opportunities for the public to access the arts for free."

Tickets to The Public Theater's FREE Shakespeare in the Park are distributed, two per person, at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park on the day of the show. The Public Theater will again offer free tickets through our Virtual Ticketing lottery on the day of the show at www.shakespeareinthepark.org. The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is accessible by entering at 81st Street and Central Park West or at 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Sam Waterston returns in *THE TEMPEST*, Shakespeare's classic about young love, old enemies, and the eternal magic of storytelling. Exiled to a fantastical island, Prospero unleashes a churning storm to shipwreck the traitor brother who stole his throne and settle the score once and for all. But bitter revenge is upended by newfound love in this sublime masterpiece that proves we are all "such stuff as dreams are made on." Tony nominee Michael Greif directs.

It was first staged at the Delacorte in its inaugural year in 1962 and was directed by Gerald Freedman, featuring Paul Stevens, James Earl Jones, and Kathleen Widdoes. It was also performed at the Delacorte in 1981, directed by Lee Breuer with Ruth Maleczech, and featuring Raúl Julia as Prospero. It was again staged at the Delacorte in 1991 and was adapted by Ugo Ulive and directed by Carlos Gimenez, featuring Jose Tejera as Prospero. It was later staged in 1995 and directed by George C. Wolfe, featuring Patrick Stewart as Prospero, Liev Schreiber as Sebastian, Bill Irwin as Trinculo, and John Pankow as Stephano, which later transferred to Broadway. Most recently the show was presented in 2013 as part of Public Works, an ongoing initiative of The Public Theater that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators, and deliberately blurs the line between professional artists and community members, creating theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well.

In the Shakespearean fairytale **CYMBELINE**, Princess Imogen's fidelity is put to the royal test when her disapproving father banishes her soul mate. Cross-dressing girls and cross-dressing boys, poisons and swordfights and dastardly villains all take the stage in this enchanting romp about the conquering power of love.

It was first staged at the Delacorte Theater in 1971, directed by A.J. Antoon and featuring Tom Aldrege as Cymbeline, Sam Waterston as Cloten, and Christopher Walken as Postumus Leonatus. It was later staged downtown at The Public on Astor Place in 1989, directed by JoAnne Akalaitis and featuring Don Cheadle as Arviragus, Joan Cusack as Imogen, and Michael Cumpsty as Iachimo. It was last staged at the Delacorte in 1998, directed by Andrei Serban, featuring Herb Foster as Cymbeline, Liev Schreiber as Iachimo and Jupiter and Michael C. Hall as Posthumus Leonatus.

Generous support for Free Shakespeare in the Park is provided by The Bernard & Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust. The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation provide lead support of The Public's access and engagement programming.

MICHAEL GREIF (The Tempest Director) has directed Romeo and Juliet and The Winter's Tale at the Delacorte Theater; as well as Tony Kushner's The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide...; Giant; Satellites; Fucking A; Dogeaters (Obie Award); Marisol, Pericles, Casanova, A Bright Room Called Day, and Machinal (Obie Award) at The Public Theater. His Broadway credits include If/Then; the Pulitzer Prize

winners *Next To Normal* and *Rent; Grey Gardens;* and *Never Gonna Dance*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include new plays, musicals, and revivals at Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Class Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout, Second Stage, and Signature, including the 2010 revival of Kushner's *Angels in America*, John Guare's *A Few Stout Individuals, Landscape of the Body,* and Katori Hall's *Our Lady of Kibeho*. Regionally he has directed at the Arena, The Guthrie, the Mark Taper, Baltimore Center Stage, the Goodman, the Dallas Theater Center, and 10 seasons at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He served as the Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse from 1995 to 1999.

DANIEL SULLIVAN (*Cymbeline Director*). For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *King Lear, 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 *The Country House, 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 <i>A Moon for the Misbegotten; Ah, Wilderness!*; *The Sisters Rosensweig, Conversations With My Father*, and *The Heidi Chronicles.* His Off-Broadway credits include *Lost Lake, 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.

SAM WATERSTON (*Prospero*) has previously appeared in 12 Public Theater productions, including Hamlet (Hamlet, Polonius, Laertes), Much Ado About Nothing (Leonato, Benedick), Measure for Measure (Duke), Cymbeline (Cloten), Henry IV Part 1 and Part 2 (Prince Hal), Ergo (Aslan) and As You Like It (Silvius). He has appeared in Abe Lincoln in Illinois and A Doll's House at Lincoln Center, and as Prospero. His film and television credits include The Great Gatsby, The Killing Fields, four Woody Allen films, Serial Mom, The Glass Menagerie, "I'll Fly Away," and on HBO, Aaron Sorkin's "The Newsroom." "Grace and Frankie," with Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Martin Sheen, debuts on Netflix this spring. Waterston is an Academy Award-nominee for his work in The Killing Fields, and he received an Emmy nomination and a Golden Globe Award for his work as Jack McCoy on "Law & Order."

THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE AND THE DELACORTE THEATER IN CENTRAL PARK:

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 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; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency.

Conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, The Delacorte Theater 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 Delcorte 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, Mervl 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; 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 in 2013; and Lily Rabe and Hamish Linklater in Jack O'Brien's Much Ado About Nothing, and John Lithgow as Lear in King Lear in 2014.

ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA

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