

THE PUBLIC THEATER
BEGINS FREE PERFORMANCES FOR
THE MOBILE UNIT'S
THE TEMPEST
MONDAY, APRIL 29

DIRECTED BY LAURIE WOOLERY

Free Performances at The Public
Continue Tradition of Access
to Shakespeare for All

April 23, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will begin previews for the **MOBILE UNIT**'s production of Shakespeare's *THE TEMPEST* on Monday, April 29. Directed by **Laurie Woolery**, the free sit-down run of *THE TEMPEST* follows a three-week tour to five boroughs bringing Shakespeare to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts. *THE TEMPEST* will run through Sunday, May 19 with an official press opening on Friday, May 3.

Furthering the mission of making great theater accessible to all, tickets to the **MOBILE UNIT**'s run at The Public are **FREE** and are available via TodayTix digital lottery and in-person distribution downtown at The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street at Astor Place. On each public performance date, free tickets will be distributed in-person beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain, and via digital lottery on the TodayTix app and website at TodayTix.com. Visit publictheater.org for more information.

The complete cast of *THE TEMPEST* features **Jasai Chase-Owens** (*Ferdinand/Ensemble*), **Dan Domingues** (*Antonio/Stephano/Ancessor/Ensemble*), **Danaya Esperanza** (*Crew 1/Ariel*), **Christopher Ryan Grant** (*Boatswain/Caliban/Ensemble*), **Sam Morales** (*Crew 2/Miranda/Ensemble*), **Nancy Rodriguez** (*Gonzalo/Ancessor/Ensemble*), **Reza Salazar** (*Sebastian/Trinculo*), **Myra Lucretia Taylor** (*Prospero*), and **J.D. Webster** (*Alonso/Ancessor/Ensemble*).

Prospero, a powerful magician and the rightful Duke of Milan, has been usurped by her brother and has escaped to a remote and barren island. There, despite the unforgiving landscape, she has tried her best to make a home for her daughter, Miranda. When Prospero conjures a powerful storm to sink her brother's ship, she must decide how to deal with him and his confederates, who have washed ashore. How will she exact her long-awaited revenge? How do you satiate a desire for justice?

THE TEMPEST features scenic design by Claire DeLiso, costume design by Wilberth Gonzalez, music composition by Michelle J. Rodriguez, and movement direction by Christopher Windom.

In 2018, the **MOBILE UNIT** celebrated the 61st anniversary of its inaugural mobile tour in 1957 which began with a production of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Joseph Papp with Bryarly Lee and Stephen Joyce in the titular roles. The 1957 Mobile Unit tour received early support from New York City authorities. Stanley Lowell, then deputy mayor, was an early champion for free theater and mobilized city resources and departments to support Papp's production. The first Mobile Unit rolled up to performance venues across the city in borrowed Department of Sanitation vehicles with a wooden folding stage mounted to a truck bed and portable seating risers to

accommodate 700 people per venue. The city's Parks Department permitted performances in local parks across all five boroughs. Subsequent productions included *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Ti-Jean and His Brothers*, *Take One Step*, *Unfinished Women Cry in No Man's Land While a Bird Dies in a Gilded Cage*, and *Volpone*, among many others. This modern reimagining of The Public Theater's original Mobile Theater is inspired by Ten Thousand Things Theater in Minneapolis, MN. In the fall of 2018, the **MOBILE UNIT** toured nationally with a Mobile Unit National Tour of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat* to communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The tour extended beyond performances with community engagement activities on the issues and conversations most alive in their communities.

Recent **MOBILE UNIT** productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Henry V*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Twelfth Night*; *Hamlet*; *Romeo & Juliet*; *The Comedy of Errors*; *Measure for Measure*; *Richard III*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*; and *Macbeth*. This program reinforces The Public's commitment to the ongoing exploration of Shakespeare's canon, along with the Public Shakespeare Initiative; the recent Public Works productions of *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* staged at the Delacorte Theater for free; Free Shakespeare in the Park; and The Public's other affordable productions at its downtown home at Astor Place.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THE PUBLIC'S MOBILE UNIT

"I do not know if I have ever been so moved by a theatrical work in my life."
– Highbridge Recreation Center Audience Member

"Thank you for making Mobile Unit a reality. I sat in an audience with people of different colors and ages. I saw people on stage that had physical characteristics like mine. And I saw a little girl be enthralled by Shakespeare's work. Keep it up! Pa'lante!"
– North Brooklyn YMCA Audience Member

*"Pure joy! Thanks for continuing to push boundaries and bringing theatre to everyone!
Love what you're doing!"*
– Pelham Fritz Recreation Center Audience Member

"I love that you came to my neighborhood! The same room where I vote!"
– Pelham Fritz Recreation Center Audience Member

The Mobile Unit is made possible with the support of **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**, **The Tow Foundation**, **The McLaughlin Children's Trust**, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, and the **Abrams Foundation**. Additional support provided by **JetBlue Airways**, **Open Society Foundations**, **Susan & David Edelstein**, **The MAE Private Foundation**, and **The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.** This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the City Council. **The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust** provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

Laurie Woolery (*Director*) is a theater director and community artist. She has worked at The Public Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory, Trinity Repertory, Cornerstone Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, and Los Angeles Philharmonic, among others. Woolery has directed world premieres of plays by Tanya Saracho, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Charise Castro Smith, Marisela Treviño Orta, Aditi Kapil, K.J. Sanchez, and more. Currently, Woolery is the Director of Public Works, an initiative at The Public Theater that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators. In 2015, Woolery launched ACTivate, a program that puts community members in the artistic driver's seat. In 2017, with collaborator Shaina Taub, Woolery created a new musical adaptation of *As You Like It* at the Delacorte Theater featuring 200 New Yorkers. That production topped *The New York Times*' "The Best Theater in 2017." She is the former Associate Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company and former Conservatory Director at South Coast Repertory. Woolery has taught at Princeton, NYU, Brown, and more, and serves on the Board of the Latinx Producers Action Network and Latinx Theatre Commons. She is also one of the founding members of The Sol Project and recipient of the Fuller Road Fellowship for Female Directors of Color.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC is theater of, by, and for all people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, The Public continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, The Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 170 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

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The performance schedule at The Public will be Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. *(There are no performances at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, and no performance at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. There are added performances on Monday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m.)*

Please check The Public's website for the most up-to-date performance times.

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drink, 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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