

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR 2018-19 EMERGING WRITERS GROUP SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Free Full-Length Readings Showcasing Exciting New Voices In American Playwriting

Brittany K. Allen, Oscar A.L. Cabrera, Daniella De Jesús,
Ryan J. Haddad, Obehi Janice, Diana Oh, Ife Olujobi,
Joshua Young, and David Zheng

May 22, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the line-up for the popular **Spotlight Series** of invitation-only staged readings of new plays by The Public's **Emerging Writers Group**, beginning on Monday, June 10 and running through Monday, December 9. Now in its seventh cycle, the Emerging Writers Group is an important part of The Public's commitment and long legacy of supporting current and future generations of our country's most important writers.

This year's Spotlight Series will present readings of a full-length play by each writer of the 2018-19 Emerging Writers Group: **Brittany K. Allen, Oscar A.L. Cabrera, Daniella De Jesús, Ryan J. Haddad, Obehi Janice, Diana Oh, Ife Olujobi, Joshua Young, and David Zheng**. These evenings are directed and performed by experienced artists from the theatrical community. Admission to the EWG Spotlight Series is free. If interested in joining for a reading—or the whole series—please visit the EWG Information Page at publictheater.org to fill out the form to receive an official invitation.

The **Emerging Writers Group** is a component of **The Public Writers Initiative**, a long-term program that provides key support and resources for writers at every stage of their careers. It creates a fertile community and fosters a web of supportive artistic relationships across generations. Time Warner is the Founding Sponsor of the **Emerging Writers Group**.

In just 10 years, The Public's **Emerging Writers Group** has nurtured numerous playwrights who have gone on to have their plays staged at The Public and elsewhere around the country. Previous Public productions by EWG playwrights include *Eve's Song* (2018) and *Pretty Hunger* (Public Studio 2017) written by Patricia Ione Lloyd; *The Outer Space* (2017) and the Obie Award-winning *No Place to Go* (2012) written by Ethan Lipton; Ricardo Pérez González's *The Grounds Of Belonging* presented as part of the Public Studio series in March 2017; *Detroit '67* (2013) written by Dominique Morisseau; Mona Mansour's *Urge For Going* presented in The Public Lab in March 2011; as well as Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Neighbors* in February 2010; and Raúl Castillo's *Knives and Other Sharp Objects* in March 2009.

2019 SPOTLIGHT SERIES SCHEDULE:

Monday, June 10

LIME-A-RITA RACIST

Written by Joshua Young

Directed by Tyne Rafaeli

Is it right to punch a Nazi? When a mild-mannered guy knocks the ever-loving crap out of a racist scumbag, it causes his coworker to wonder if toxic masculinity is still toxic if it's used for good.

Monday, July 1

GOOD TIME CHARLIE

Written by Ryan J. Haddad

Directed by Danny Sharron

Charlie is Cleveland's most glamorous dentist, destined for the stage but afraid of what happens once he gets there. In this metatheatrical family romp, actor/playwright Ryan J. Haddad crafts a portrait of intergenerational gay identity, filled with comical and complicated memories that his larger-than-life protagonist would prefer not to revisit.

Monday, July 29

MY H8 LETTER TO THE GR8 AMERICAN THEATRE

Written and Directed by Diana Oh

There is a before and after of this play and liberation is on the other side of it.

Monday, August 5

NO WAHALA

Written by Obehi Janice

A Nigerian marriage. An American divorce. In *No Wahala*, polygamy, juju, and Jesus haunt four siblings in The Highlands of Lowell, Massachusetts. Behind closed doors, their parents are in trouble -- but out in the open, public reputation and community survival reign supreme. Can this family save face while their home catches fire?

Monday, September 16

HAPPY HAPPY JOY JOY

Written by Brittany K. Allen

Izz, a fabulist journalist who's been the subject of a recent national disgrace, returns to her Texas hometown seeking safe harbor—but her former-Panther grandmother is not here to absolve. *Happy Happy Joy Joy* is the story of two very different Black women defining their moral and ethical borders.

Monday, October 28

PA' TI TENGO DE TODO

Written by Daniella De Jesús

Dulce and Tato, a bickering, expecting couple, take a cruise through the Bermuda Triangle for their "baby moon." There they meet the semi-otherworldly cruise ship staff who guide them on a journey through the Atlantic Ocean and the fifth dimension.

Monday, November 11

JORDANS

Written by Ife Olujobi

In a workplace where appearance is everything, two young, black, career-minded strivers are forced together and torn apart by their race, racism, and otherworldly circumstance. *Jordans* is a story of identity mistaken, power subverted, and rage unleashed.

Monday, November 25
KIDNAPPING JANE DOE
Written by David Zheng

Gentrification is about to pop off in The Bronx, but not if these three friends got anything to say about it. *Kidnapping Jane Doe* follows Jody, Mookie, and Brick as they kidnap their local Congresswoman and show her the best time of her life.

Monday, December 9
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST
Written by Oscar A. L. Cabrera

Mateo's dreams are haunted by a long stretch of dirt road behind the hospital of his Texas hometown. Even with the disguise of his New York apartment and liberal girlfriend, he can't run from the feeling of never truly fitting in. When his mother comes to meet his new life, what he discovers may be the key to his salvation from his family...or his damnation.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER'S EMERGING WRITERS GROUP:

The **Emerging Writers Group** creates an artistic home for a diverse group of exceptionally talented up-and-coming playwrights. Developed in collaboration with Time Warner's Office of Corporate Responsibility, the Emerging Writers Group is one element of The Public Writers Initiative, a long-term program that provides key support and resources for writers at every stage of their careers. Each emerging writer receives a two-year fellowship at The Public which includes a \$7,500 honorarium; participation in a biweekly writers' group led by The Public's New Work Development Department; master classes with established playwrights; career development advice and artistic support from acclaimed writers and Public artistic staff; complimentary tickets to Public shows and supplemental stipends for productions at other theaters; and a reading of their work in the Emerging Writers Group Evening of Excerpts and Spotlight Series. Bios for the 2018-19 Emerging Writers group can be found at publictheater.org.

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, 178 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 56 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

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