

THE PUBLIC THEATER
PRESENTS
FREE *PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW*
AT THE DELACORTE THEATER
MONDAY, JUNE 17

Directed by Will Davis
Hosted by Jomama Jones

One-Night-Only Event to Feature Appearances by
Peppermint, Lea DeLaria, Kate Bornstein, Conrad Ricamora,
Chase Strangio, Erin Markey, Darnell Moore, Trevor Bachman,
Toshi Reagon, Aneesh Sheth, Ryan J. Haddad,
the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, and more

Tickets for this Official WorldPride Event are Free for All

May 16, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that a special, free one-night-only event, ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW***, will take place on **Monday, June 17 at 8:00 p.m.** at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park. In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and WorldPride in New York City, Public Forum adds its voice to the chorus of LGBTQ+ artists, activists, and organizers fighting for a better tomorrow, today.

Hosted by **Jomama Jones** and directed by **Will Davis**, ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW*** will feature appearances by **Trevor Bachman, Kate Bornstein, Lea DeLaria, Ryan J. Haddad, the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Erin Markey, Darnell Moore, Peppermint, Toshi Reagon, Conrad Ricamora, Aneesh Sheth, Chase Strangio**, and more. Join in a celebration of music, poetry, prose, and theater as ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW*** honors the legacy of resistance and the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ liberation and pride. ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW*** is an Official WorldPride Event.

“There is inestimable power in our gathering,” said **host Jomama Jones**. “Our dusk, our stars, our faces, our songs, our stories, our histories, our differences and distinctions, our capacities, ourselves together—intentionally—in Public space.”

A long-time artistic home for queer voices, The Public has premiered game-changing works like Larry Kramer’s *A Normal Heart*, Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori’s *Fun Home*, and Richard Greenberg’s *Take Me Out*. Joe’s Pub has been honored to present groundbreaking queer artists such as Taylor Mac, Justin Vivian Bond, and Jomama Jones, among many others. As a theater of, by, and for all people, The Public is committed to elevating new voices through art and activism on all of its stages. ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW*** will honor The Public’s extensive theatrical legacy of queer voices, as well as excerpts from iconic figures, historic moments, and the exciting new queer voices of tomorrow.

Before ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER & NOW***, The Public Theater will host a Civic Fair from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in front of The Delacorte Theater. The Civic Fair will be centered on engaging audiences to activate their individual and collective civic power to create change in their communities. Attendees will be able to sign up to volunteer, register to vote, and learn more about local and regional resources advancing issues that directly impact the LGBTQ community. A list of participating organizations will be available in advance of the event by visiting PublicTheater.org.

The Public's **PUBLIC FORUM** is a space where art, ideas, and action collide. Previous Public Forum events at The Delacorte have included the 2018 *We Rise: A Celebration of Resistance*, in collaboration with the Resistance Revival Chorus, a celebratory look at the past, present, and future of resistance and civic engagement by women that featured Shakina Nayfack, Shaina Taub, Flor de Toloache, and the Resistance Revival Chorus. In 2016, *Welcome Home: A Celebration of World Refugee Day*, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, began with a naturalization ceremony for brand new American citizens led by U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson on the stage of The Delacorte. In 2014, Public Theater Scholar in Residence James Shapiro curated *Public Forum: Shakespeare in America* to celebrate the Bard's plethora of work with notable participants James Earl Jones, Alec Baldwin, and Jessica Chastain. In 2013, *What Are We Worth? Shakespeare, Money, and Morals*, a partnership with the Aspen Institute, featured readings from Shakespeare's greatest works by acclaimed actors Alan Alda, Vanessa Redgrave, Liev Schreiber, and Matt Damon, and a town hall discussion by Harvard professor Michael Sandel.

Public Forum creates exciting opportunities for communities to engage deeply with current events, original thinkers, and the most pressing questions of our time. We energize civic responsibility by inviting people from all backgrounds to share, converse, and connect. Public Forum hosts one-night-only events, special performances, post-show discussions, and town hall conversations, as well as programming curated with the Public Shakespeare Initiative.

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, 56 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. PublicTheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to ***PUBLIC FORUM: QUEER AND NOW*** will be distributed in a number of ways. On the day of the event, free tickets may be acquired in person at The Delacorte Theater, through a digital lottery via the TodayTix website or mobile app, and via an in-person lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. All tickets are subject to availability. Complete ticket distribution details can be found at PublicTheater.org.

A limited number of tickets are also available via advance reservation by making a contribution in support of The Public Theater. To learn more, or to make a contribution, call **212.967.7555**, or visit PublicTheater.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.

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