

THE PUBLIC THEATER BEGINS PREVIEWS FOR NEW YORK PREMIERE OF *LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS* FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Created and Performed by John Leguizamo
Directed by Tony Taccone

February 15, 2017 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will begin previews for the New York premiere of *LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS* on Friday, February 24. Directed by **Tony Taccone**, this fiercely funny, satirical one-man show created and performed by **John Leguizamo** was inspired by Leguizamo's observation that Latinos are essentially invisible in the standard American history curriculum. This insightful and hilarious, often over-looked version of American history, will run through Sunday, April 23, with an official press opening on Monday, March 27.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's First Performance "Free for All" returns this spring; free tickets to the first preview on February 24 will be available beginning February 17, via TodayTix mobile lottery.

Public Theater Member and Partner tickets, as well as single tickets starting at \$80, can be accessed now by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. A post-show talkback with the creative team is scheduled to take place immediately following the performance on Tuesday, March 7. The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe's Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

John Leguizamo was last seen at The Public in the 1987 productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *La Puta Vida Trilogy*. His up close and personal solo shows about growing up in Queens and climbing to the top of the Hollywood ladder earned him scores of fans and accolades – and an Emmy and Obie Award. In *LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS* the outrageous, multifaceted performer schools his son – and the rest of us – on the marginalization of Latinos in U.S. history and the vital roles they played in building this country. From a satirical recap of Aztec and Incan history to stories of Latin patriots in the Revolutionary and Civil War and beyond, Leguizamo breaks down 3,000 years into 90 irreverent and uncensored minutes in his trademark comedic style. *LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS* is a co-production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS features scenic design by Rachel Hauck, lighting design by Alexander V. Nichols, and original music and sound design by Bray Poor.

JOHN LEGUIZAMO (*Creator and Performer*) is a multifaceted performer and Emmy Award winner, and has a notable career that defies categorization. Possessing boundless energy and creativity, his work spans the genres of film, theatre, television, literature, and beyond. As writer and performer, Leguizamo created the Off-Broadway sensation *Mambo Mouth* (1991), in which he portrayed seven different characters (Obie, Outer Critics Circle, Vanguardia Awards). His second one-man show, *Spic-O-Rama* (1993) enjoyed extended sold-out runs in Chicago and New York (Dramatists' Guild Hull-Warriner Award for Best American Play, Lucille Lortel Outstanding Achievement Award for Best Broadway Performance,

Drama Desk Award for Best Solo Performance). His third solo show, *Freak*, completed a successful run on Broadway in 1998. A special presentation of *Freak*, directed by Spike Lee, aired on HBO (Emmy Award for Outstanding Performance in a Variety or Music Program and nomination for Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Special). In 2001, Leguizamo returned to Broadway with *Sexaholix...a Love Story*, directed by Peter Askin (Outer Critics Circle Award nomination for "Outstanding Solo Performance" and Tony Award nomination for Best Special Theatrical Performance). *Sexaholix* aired as an HBO Special in 2002 and toured widely. His most recent one-man show, *Ghetto Clown*, was performed at Berkeley Rep in 2010 and went on to a Broadway run in 2011. Presently, Leguizamo delights younger fans as the voice of "Sid" in *Ice Age 1, 2, 3*. He has been seen in countless films including *Love in the Time of Cholera* opposite Javier Bardem and Benjamin Bratt; *The Happening* opposite Mark Wahlberg; *Righteous Kill* opposite Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino; *The Babysitters* opposite Cynthia Nixon; and *The Take* opposite Rosie Perez; as well as *Miracle at St. Anna*; *Land of the Dead*; *The Groomsmen*; *Lies & Alibis*; *Assault on Precinct 13*; *Sueño*; *Spin*; *Moulin Rouge*; *Summer of Sam*; *King of the Jungle*; *Spawn*; *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*; *Dr. Doolittle*; *Carlito's Way*; and *Casualties of War*.

TONY TACCONE (*Director*) directed *Taking Over* at The Public in 2008. He is Artistic Director of Berkeley Rep, the Tony Award-winning nonprofit that has earned a reputation as an international leader in innovative theatre. In those 18 years, Berkeley Rep has presented more than 70 world, American, and West Coast premieres and sent 23 shows to New York, two to London, and one to Hong Kong. Taccone has staged more than 35 plays in Berkeley, including new work from Culture Clash, Rinde Eckert, David Edgar, Danny Hoch, Geoff Hoyle, Quincy Long, Itamar Moses, and Lemony Snicket. He directed the shows that transferred to London, *Continental Divide* and *Tiny Kushner*, and two that landed on Broadway as well: *Bridge & Tunnel* and *Wishful Drinking*. Prior to working at Berkeley Rep, Taccone served as artistic director of Eureka Theatre, which produced the American premieres of plays by Dario Fo, Caryl Churchill, and David Edgar before focusing on a new generation of American writers. While at the Eureka, Taccone commissioned Tony Kushner's legendary *Angels in America* and co-directed its world premiere. He has collaborated with Kushner on eight plays at Berkeley Rep, including *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*. Taccone's regional credits include Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Center Theatre Group, the Eureka Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, the Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Public Theater, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. As a playwright, he debuted *Ghost Light*, *Rita Moreno: Life Without Makeup*, and *Game On*, written with Dan Hoyle. In 2012, Taccone received the Margo Jones Award for "demonstrating a significant impact, understanding, and affirmation of playwriting, with a commitment to the living theatre."

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

The Public Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces in equal measure. In over 10 years at The Public, Eustis has created new community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences like Public Lab, Public Studio, Public Forum, Public Works, and a remount of the Mobile Unit. 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 by 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 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, an expanding initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences, and the community each year; and audience and artist development initiatives that range from the Emerging Writers Group to the Public Forum series. The Public's work is also seen on tour throughout the U.S. and internationally and in collaborations and co-productions with regional and international theaters. The Public is located on property owned by the City of New York and receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. 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. The Public is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning acclaimed American musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and in spring 2017, Lynn Nottage's acclaimed new play *Sweat*. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 168 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics Awards, and five Pulitzer Prizes. www.publictheater.org.

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TICKET INFORMATION

LATIN HISTORY FOR MORONS begins previews in The Public's Anspacher Theater on Friday, February 24 and has been extended through Sunday, April 23, with an official press opening on Monday, March 27.

Public Theater Member and Partner tickets, as well as single tickets starting at \$80, can be accessed now by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. There is no performance on Saturday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m.

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