

**THE PUBLIC THEATER'S  
MOBILE UNIT  
TO TOUR THIS SPRING WITH  
*HENRY V*  
DIRECTED BY  
ROBERT O'HARA**

**Free Performances at The Public  
Continue Tradition of Access  
to Shakespeare for All  
April 23 – May 13**

**Free Three-Week Tour Visits  
Correctional Facilities, Homeless Shelters,  
Social Service Organizations, Community Centers  
March 29 – April 21**

**Complete Casting Announced**

February 28, 2018 – Continuing its commitment to bringing free Shakespeare to the community and strengthening audience engagement with the arts, The Public Theater will mount its **MOBILE UNIT** again this spring with a free three-week tour to the five boroughs of Shakespeare's *HENRY V*, directed by **Robert O'Hara**. Now in its eighth year, the Mobile Unit's free tour (March 29 – April 21) brings Shakespeare and other works to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts by visiting correctional facilities, homeless shelters, social service organizations, and other community venues. Part of The Public's Astor Anniversary Season at their landmark downtown home on Lafayette Street, celebrating 50 years of new work at 425 Lafayette Street and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *HAIR*, the three-week engagement of *HENRY V* at The Public Theater will also be free, running Monday, April 23 through Sunday, May 13 with an official press opening on Friday, April 27.

The complete cast of *HENRY V* includes **Michael Bradley Cohen** (*Canterbury/Dauphin*), **Leland Fowler** (*Scroop/William-Bates*), **Patrice Johnson** (*Montjoy/Messengers*), **Carolyn Kettig** (*Katharine/Cambridge*), **Ariel Shafir** (*Westmoreland/Constable*), **David Ryan Smith** (*Exeter/Governor*), **Joe Tapper** (*French King/French Queen*), **Zenzi Williams** (*Henry*), and **Kim Wong** (*Alice/Grey*).

"Robert O'Hara is one of our most electrifying theater artists, and his version of Shakespeare's masterpiece of war, invasion, and what it takes to be a king is sure to be astonishing," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**.

Obie Award-winning director **Robert O'Hara** (*Bootycandy*, *The Brother/Sister Plays (Part 2)*) brings a warring King and his band of brothers to communities throughout New York with the Mobile Unit's spring production of *HENRY V*.

Insulted by the regent of France, Britain's King Henry V (Zenzi Williams) decides to wage war and claim the

throne across the Channel. Resonating over the centuries, wherever there may be a kingdom for a stage and royalty to act, Shakespeare's drama about invasion, ego, and leadership delves into history's thorniest questions: What makes a person worthy of wearing the crown, and what do they owe the people they lead? But this time, our King is played with startling freshness by an African-American actress, unearthing new meaning to our little touch of Henry, as our King makes his way through this bloody campaign.

"The Mobile Unit is fueled by an unwavering belief in the power of a shared storytelling, and a commitment to meeting audiences where they are," said **Director of Special Artistic Projects Stephanie Ybarra**. "I'm thrilled to welcome this company of artists to join The Public's decades-old legacy of creating world-class theater for the city of New York."

All tour performances are free, and performances at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center; Roy Wilkins Recreation Center; The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; Brownsville Recreation Center; Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center; St. Paul's Chapel; Pelham Fritz Recreation Center; and Faber Park Field House, are also open to the general public via RSVP at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org). To further the mission and reach of the **MOBILE UNIT**, tickets for each performance of the limited run at The Public Theater will be given to community organizations that are unable to host a visit from the tour.

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 mobile 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 mobile lottery on the TodayTix app. Download the TodayTix app to enter or visit [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org) for more information.

**HENRY V** features scenic and costume design by Clint Ramos and original music by Elisheba Ittoop.

In 2017, **THE MOBILE UNIT** celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> 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 *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.

Recent **MOBILE UNIT** productions include *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 new Public Shakespeare Initiative; the recent Public Works production of *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 and everyone involved for bringing this play to EMTc.  
By doing so, you have made every inmate's day -  
and somehow drawn a clear glass of water from a muddy well."*  
— Riker's Island Audience Member

*"You took an everyday space and made it something more, something special."*  
— Queens Public Library Audience Member

*"I feel emotional because it is the first time that I am in a theater."*

–DreamYard Art Center Audience Member

**THE MOBILE UNIT** is made possible with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Ford Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Tow Foundation, The Herbert McLaughlin Children's CLUT, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and JetBlue Airways. Additional support provided by Susan & David Edelstein 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 Philip and Janice Levin Foundation provides lead support for The Public's access and engagement programming. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

**TOUR DATES WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING VENUES (March 29 – April 21):**

**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Manhattan**, is a one-of-a-kind organization that empowers community members to lead healthy, successful lives (March 29).

**Lenox Hill Neighborhood House/Women's Mental Health Shelter, Manhattan**, provides short-term, safe, and supportive environments to address immediate needs for mentally ill homeless women (March 30).

**Roy Wilkins Recreation Center, Queens**, is a park and recreation center, and this public space is a cultural touchstone for all of New York City (April 3).

**Queensboro Correctional Facility, Queens**, is a minimum security correctional facility in Long Island City (April 4).

**Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn**, is a U.S. federal administrative detention facility, which holds male and female prisoners of all security levels (April 5).

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Manhattan**, houses one of the world's most extensive collections in its field, available free of charge (April 6).

**North Brooklyn YMCA**, is a community center that in Brooklyn that is here to empower youth, improve health, and strengthen community. (April 7).

**Queens Public Library, Central Branch**, is located in Jamaica, Queens and also serves as a Public Theater borough distribution center (April 9).

**DreamYard Arts Project, Bronx**, a Public Works community partner, uses project-based arts learning to ignite the transformative spirit (April 10).

**Brownsville Recreation Center, Brooklyn**, a Public Works community partner, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in the Brownsville Playground with extensive resources for youth and seniors. The center offers a vibrant space to tap into pursuits artistic and athletic alike (April 11).

**Casita Maria, Bronx**, a Public Works community partner, empowers youth and their families through high quality social, cultural, and educational opportunities (April 12).

**Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn**, is a U.S. federal administrative detention facility, which holds male and female prisoners of all security levels (April 13).

**Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, Bronx**, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in the Bronx (April 14).

**Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Westchester**, is the largest maximum security facility for women in New York (April 16).

**Taconic Correctional Facility, Westchester**, is a medium security facility for women in New York (April 17).

**Metropolitan Detention Center, Manhattan**, is a U.S. federal administrative detention facility, which holds male and female prisoners of all security levels (April 18).

**St. Paul's Chapel, Manhattan**, part of Trinity Wall Street, is an Episcopal parish that has been a part of New York City since 1697 (April 19).

**Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Manhattan**, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in Harlem (April 20).

**Faber Park Field House, Staten Island**, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in Staten Island (April 21).

**ROBERT O'HARA** (*Director*) has received the NAACP Best Director Award, the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play, two Obies and the Oppenheimer Award. He directed the world premieres of Nikkole Salter and Danai Gurira's *In the Continuum*, Tarell McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays (Part 2)*, Colman Domingo's *Wild with Happy*, Kirsten Childs' *Bella: An American Tall Tale*, as well as his own plays, *Mankind*, *Bootycandy* and *Insurrection: Holding History*. His recent plays *Zombie: The American* and *Barbecue* world premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theater and New York Shakespeare Festival, respectively. His recent directing projects include, Kirsten Childs' *Bubbly Black Girl* at City Center/Encores Off Center, the Universes' *Uni/Son*, inspired by the poetry of August Wilson, at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts. He holds a Directing MFA from Columbia University.

### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:**

**THE PUBLIC** is theater of, by, and for the 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, 169 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Desk Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

All tour performances are free, and performances at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center; Roy Wilkins Recreation Center; The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; Brownsville Recreation Center; Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center; St. Paul's Chapel; Pelham Fritz Recreation Center; and Faber Park Field House are also open to the general public via RSVP at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org). Please check The Public's website for the most up-to-date performance times.

Following the Mobile Unit tour of the five boroughs, **HENRY V** will run at The Public Theater from Monday, April 23 through Sunday, May 13 in the Shiva Theater, with an official press opening on Friday, April 27.

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 mobile 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 mobile lottery on the TodayTix app. Download the TodayTix app to enter or visit [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org) for more information.

The performance schedule at The Public will be Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*There is an added performance on Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. There are no performances on Saturday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.*)

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](http://www.publictheater.org).

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