

**THE PUBLIC THEATER'S
BEGINS PREVIEWS
FOR MOBILE UNIT'S
THE WINTER'S TALE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

**Directed By Lee Sunday Evans
Free Performances at The Public
Continue Tradition of Access
to Shakespeare for All**

November 15, 2017 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will begin previews for the **MOBILE UNIT's** production of *THE WINTER'S TALE* on Sunday, November 26. Directed by Lee Sunday Evans, the free run of *THE WINTER'S TALE* at The Public follows a three-week tour to the five boroughs bringing Shakespeare to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts. 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 50th Anniversary of *HAIR*, *THE WINTER'S TALE* at The Public Theater will run through Sunday, December 17 with an official press opening on Thursday, November 30.

The complete cast of *THE WINTER'S TALE* includes **Justin Cunningham** (*Leontes*), **Christopher Ryan Grant** (*Antigonus, Old Shepherd*), **Nina Grollman** (*Young Shepherd*), **Nicholas Hoge** (*Polixenes*), **Patrena Murray** (*Paulina*), **Chris Myers** (*Florizel*), **Sathya Sridharan** (*Camillo*), **Ayana Workman** (*Perdita*), and **Stacey Yen** (*Hermione*).

This fall, The Public Theater's Mobile Unit, which strengthens community engagement with the arts by bringing free, world-class productions of Shakespeare to communities all across New York City, journey through tragedy into comedy with an enchanting new production of *THE WINTER'S TALE*, directed by Lee Sunday Evans. Dire misunderstanding changes the course of destiny when King Leontes becomes convinced that his wife is pregnant with his friend's child. The maligned wife perishes, the accused friend flees, and the cursed infant is left to die alone on the shore. But from the depths of tragedy, wondrous things can occur. What's lost is found, false identities lead to true love, and the miracle of forgiveness brings new life to the world in one of Shakespeare's most treasured romances.

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 for more information. 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.

THE WINTER'S TALE features scenic design by Mariana Sanchez, costume design by Ntokozo Fuzunina Kunene, puppet design by James Ortiz, and music composition by Heather Christian.

THE MOBILE UNIT celebrates the 60th 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 *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 for the wonderful experience! It has been one of the very
few bright spots that has happened to me in the 18 years of my incarceration!"
–Queensboro Correctional Facility Audience Member*

*"This is the first time I've seen a professional performance outside of a traditional theater.
It reminded me of how important live theater is for everyone, not just those who can afford it."
–Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center 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, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Additional support provided by 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.

LEE SUNDAY EVANS (Director of *The Winter's Tale*) is an Obie Award-winning director and choreographer. Her work has been seen at Lincoln Center, The Play Company, The Bushwick Starr, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Company, Humana Festival at Actors Theater of Louisville, Dallas Theater Center, Clubbed Thumb, Women's Project, Sundance Theater Lab, BAX, CATCH, LMCC, Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, and Juilliard. She creates ensemble-driven devised work with CollaborationTown; she recently received the Susan Stroman Directing Award from The Vineyard Theater. Upcoming projects include *Home* by Geoff Sobelle at BAM, *Porto* by Kate Benson at Women's Project, *Dance Nation* by Clare Barron at Playwrights Horizons.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC THEATER 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 and John Leguizamo's *Latin History for Morons*. 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

TICKET INFORMATION

Following the Mobile Unit tour of the five boroughs, ***THE WINTER'S TALE*** will run at The Public Theater from Sunday, November 26 through Sunday, December 17 in the LuEsther Theater, with an official press opening on Thursday, November 30.

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 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 Sunday, November 26 and Monday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m. There is no performance on Friday, December 1 at 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.

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