

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES SPRING LINE-UP FOR PUBLIC FORUM SERIES

“Lost” Arthur Miller Play

NO VILLAIN

With Peter Friedman, Santino Fontana,

Judith Light, and More

Monday, May 2

An Evening in Joe’s Pub to Explore

The Total Bent and the Music Industry in 21st Century

Monday, May 23

April 14, 2016 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the 2016 Spring Public Forum line-up, featuring two one-night-only performances in May with conversations that connect dramatic literature to the way we live now. Now in its sixth year, the popular Public Forum series presents one-night-only conversations and performances with leading voices in politics, media, and the arts that discuss, debate, and further explore the ideas present on The Public Theater’s stages.

Public Forum’s Drama Club series returns on **Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Martinson Hall with ***PUBLIC FORUM DRAMA CLUB: NO VILLAIN***, a very special debut of a “lost” play by Arthur Miller, written when he was just a sophomore at the University of Michigan. ***NO VILLAIN*** shows a playwright coming into his own, grappling with the issues of labor and society as well as displaying the intra-family relationships that would come to define his entire body of work. The cast includes **Alessandra Baldacchino, Francois Battiste, Dr. Enoch Brater, Brandon J. Dirden, Santino Fontana, Peter Friedman, Wendy C. Goldberg, Hugh Kennedy, Judith Light, James Surowiecki, Frank Wood**, and more.

Just in time for *The Total Bent*, the new musical from Stew and Heidi Rodewald, Public Forum continues its ongoing series of conversations about contemporary music and theater with ***PUBLIC FORUM: THE SOUND THAT MAKES THE WORLD GO ‘ROUND*** in Joe’s Pub on **Monday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.** Icons of the music industry will discuss the politics of popular music as well as the complex relationships of music producers, artists and the art of song.

“As a long-time fan of (and sometime participant in) the Public Forum’s events, I look forward to continuing to bring new and unexpected voices and conversations to our stages,” said **Director of Public Forum Michael Friedman**.

Public Theater Member tickets, priced at \$25, and single tickets priced at \$35, are available now and can be accessed at **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. (*There is no food or drink minimum for the Public Forum series in Joe’s Pub.*)

PUBLIC FORUM, now in its sixth season, brings together talented members of the theater community and interesting individuals from the arts, media, politics, and society to discuss, debate, and further explore the ideas present on The Public Theater's stages. Alec Baldwin, Anne Hathaway, Cynthia Nixon, Sam Waterston, Jeremy McCarter, and former NEA Chair Rocco Landesman have hosted its programs, which have featured insights and performances from the likes of Uzo Aduba, Christine Baranski, David Brooks, David Byrne, Jessica Chastain, Matt Damon, E.L. Doctorow, James Earl Jones, Tony Kushner, Wynton Marsalis, Darryl "D.M.C." McDaniels, Audra McDonald, Stephin Merritt, Suzan-Lori Parks, Salman Rushdie, David Simon, Anna Deavere Smith, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, and many more. Through curated conversations and surprising combinations, Public Forum seeks to engage audiences in discovering answers to the questions that drive us, both onstage and off.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

The Public Theater, under the leadership of 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. Celebrating his 10th anniversary season 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 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 Emerging Writers Group and to the Public Forum series. 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; and 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 *Fun Home* and Lin-Manuel Miranda's acclaimed American musical *Hamilton*, and Danai Gurira's *Eclipsed* featuring Lupita Nyong'o. The Public has received 47 Tony Awards, 167 Obie Awards, 52 Drama Desk Awards, 48 Lortel Awards, 31 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics Awards, and four Pulitzer Prizes. www.publictheater.org.

PUBLIC FORUM TICKET INFORMATION

Public Theater Member tickets, priced at \$25, and single tickets priced at \$35, for the upcoming **Public Forums** are available now and can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, at www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

There is no food or drink minimum for the Public Forum series in Joe's Pub. Please note the final line-up is subject to change. The Library at The Public Theater is also open for food and drink nightly beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The Public Theater is located at 425 Lafayette Street. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org