

THE PUBLIC THEATER EXTENDS *SWEAT* TWO FINAL WEEKS TO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

By Lynn Nottage
Directed by Kate Whoriskey

November 10, 2016 - The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that the acclaimed New York premiere of ***SWEAT*** by **Lynn Nottage** has been extended two final weeks. Directed by **Kate Whoriskey**, ***SWEAT*** began performances on Tuesday, October 18 and opened on Thursday, November 3. It originally was extended two weeks to Sunday, December 4 and will now play an additional two weeks to Sunday, December 18.

“Now more than ever, we need *Sweat*. On election night we discovered how powerful and explosive the anger of the American working class is, and how it can alter our entire world,” said Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**. “*Sweat* speaks to that anger in brilliant, human, moving, and complex terms. The audience response to Lynn’s play has been enormous; their hunger to hear this story has been humbling.”

*“Superb. Lynn Nottage is writing at the peak of her powers. Surprisingly funny and heartbreaking. *Sweat* could hardly be more timely.”* - Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

“Keenly observed and often surprisingly funny - but ultimately heartbreaking - the work traces the roots of a tragedy with both forensic psychological detail and embracing compassion.”
- Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

The complete cast of ***SWEAT*** features **Carlo Albán** (*Oscar*), **James Colby** (*Stan*), **Khris Davis** (*Chris*), **Johanna Day** (*Tracey*), **John Earl Jelks** (*Brucie*), **Will Pullen** (*Jason*), **Miriam Shor** (*Jessie*), **Lance Coadie Williams** (*Evan*), and **Michelle Wilson** (*Cynthia*).

Public Theater Member and Partner tickets, as well as single tickets starting at \$95, can be accessed now by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. Post-show talkbacks with the creative team are scheduled to take place immediately following the performance on Wednesday, November 16. Additional Audience Discussion and Speaker Series talkbacks will take place immediately following the performances on Sunday, November 13. The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:00 p.m., and Joe’s Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

The Public presents the New York premiere of ***SWEAT***, the “extraordinarily moving drama” (*The New York Times*) by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Ruined*, Lynn Nottage. With warm humor and tremendous heart, *Sweat* tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs while working together on the line of a factory floor. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in the hard fight to stay afloat. Kate Whoriskey directs this stunning new play about the collision of race, class, family and friendship, and the tragic, unintended costs of community without opportunity.

SWEAT features scenic design by John Lee Beatty, costume design by Jennifer Moeller, lighting design by Peter Kaczorowski, original music and sound design by Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen, and projection design by Jeff Sugg.

CARLO ALBÁN (*Oscar*) is a member of Labyrinth Theater Company. His New York credits include *Tamburlaine*, *A Small Melodramatic Story*, *Intrínquilis*, *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot*, *A Summer Day*, *Living Dead in Denmark*. Regionally he has appeared in *Sweat*, *The River Bride*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Timon of Athens* (OSF); *A Parallelogram* (CTG); *Lydia* (Denver, Yale, CTG); *Night of the Iguana* (Guthrie). His film and television credits include *Hurricane Streets*, *Hi Life*, *Strangers With Candy*, *Life Support*, *21 Grams*, *Whip It*, *Margaret*, *Law & Order*, *Oz*, *Thicker Than Blood*, *Prison Break*, *Sesame Street*, and *The Night Of*.

JAMES COLBY (*Stan*)'s film include *Patriot's Day* (upcoming), *Demolition*, *Tower Heist*, *Inside Llewelyn Davis*, *The Drop*, and *The Immigrant*. His television credits include *Madoff*, *Blacklist*, *Bluebloods*, *Blindspot*, *Gotham*, *Limitless*, *Chicago PD*, *Law & order*, *NYPD Blues*, *Taxi Brooklyn* (Series Regular), and *Water Front* (Series Regular). He has numerous theatrical credits with favorite roles including James Tyrone Jr, Brick, Shannon and Stanley.

JOHANNA DAY (*Tracey*) received a Tony nomination for Best Supporting Actress in *Proof*, directed by Daniel Sullivan. Her additional Broadway credits include *You Can't Take It With You*; *Lombardi*; and *August: Osage County*. She won the Helen Hayes Award for her performance in Arena Stage's *The Rainmaker*, a Drama Desk nomination for *Peter and Jerry* written by Edward Albee and won an Obie Award for *Appropriate* at Signature Theater, directed by Liesl Tommy. She appeared in original cast of *How I Learned To Drive* at the Vineyard Theatre, the Arena Stage production of *Sweat*, the world premieres of Westport Country Playhouse's *Oblivion* and Yale Repertory Theatre's *The Realistic Joneses* and created the role of *Zippy* in *Choice* at The Huntington Theatre. Day currently recurs on the CBS drama *Madam Secretary* as Ellen Hill. Other television appearances include "The Knick," "The Americans," "Masters of Sex," "Royal Pains" and "Fringe."

KHRIS DAVIS (*Chris*) credits include *The Royale* at Lincoln Center, *Colossal* with Dallas Theatre Company, *Bill Durham* at Alliance Theatre, *Love in Afghanistan* at Arena Stage, *Ruined* with The Philadelphia Theatre Company, and *Antigone*, *Othello*, *Arms and the Man*, and *Wind in the Willows* with the Quintessence Theatre Group.

JOHN EARL JELKS (*Brucie*) previously appeared at The Public in *Head of Passes* and *ToasT*. Broadway credits include *Holla If Ya Hear Me*, *Radio Golf*, and *Gem of the Ocean*. Recently honored with an Obie Award for *Fetch Clay*, *Make Man* and *Sunset Baby*. Other awards include L.A. Ovation Award, NAACP Theatre Award, AUDELCO Award. Select Off-Broadway credits include *The Break of Noon*; *Magnolia*; *Two Trains Running: Fetch Clay, Make Man; Sunset Baby*. His film and television credits include *Snap: The Miraculous*; *Miracle at St. Anna*; "Law & Order: SVU" and "Blue Bloods."

WILL PULLEN (*Jason*) was last seen in the Williamstown Theatre Festival's productions of Tennessee Williams' *Rose Tattoo*, for director Trip Cullman and Wendy Wasserstein's *An American Daughter*, for director Evan Cabnet. He recurred in the Emmy nominated drama "The Americans" and can be seen in the Andrew Neel film *Goat*, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Will's past theater credits include *Scarcity* at the Rattlestick; *Marie Antoinette* at Soho Rep; *Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra* at Playwrights Horizons; *The Wayside Motor Inn* at Signature Theatre Company Clive Barnes Award nomination); and *Punk Rock* at MCC, earning a Lucille Lortel Award nomination.

MIRIAM SHOR (*Jessie*) currently stars in the hit TV Land series "Younger." Her Off-Broadway credits include Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and in the 2001 film adaptation and Grammy-nominated album. She's worked Off-Broadway at the Atlantic, Primary Stages, and the Signature Theatre to name a few. Shor has appeared in more than a dozen films including *Cake Eaters*, *Bedazzled*, and most recently *Puerto Ricans in Paris*. Television credits include "GCB," "Swingtown," "Damages," HBO's "Mildred Pierce," "The Good Wife," "Mysteries of Laura," "The West Wing," "My Name Is Earl," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Bored to Death" and this fall's "High Maintenance."

LANCE COADIE WILLIAMS (*Evan*)'s theater credits include *War* at LCT3; *Shows for Days* at Lincoln Center Theatre; the Obie Award winner *BootyCandy* at Playwrights Horizons; *Sucker Punch*, and *Marcus, or the Secret of Sweet* at Studio Theatre; *BootyCandy*, and *The Convert* at The Wilma Theatre; *The Children's Hour*, *Fences*, *My Children! My Africa!*, and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at Everyman Theatre; *Fences* at Roundhouse Theatre; the title role of *Hamlet* at The Baltimore Shakespeare Festival; *The Oedipus Plays* at The Shakespeare Theatre; *BootyCandy* at Woolly Mammoth; *Love's Fire*, and *Shoot the Piano Player* at The Berkshire Theatre Festival . He also had a recurring role on HBO's "The Wire."

MICHELLE WILSON (*Cynthia*) has previously appeared at The Public in *Detroit '67*. Her Broadway credits include *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth, u/s). Regionally she has appeared in *Detroit '67*; *The People Before the Park*; *Follow Me to Nellie's*; *The Trial of One Short*; *Unspeakable: Richard Pryor*; *Blues for an Alabama Sky*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *State of Miss. vs. Emmitt Till*; *For Colored Girls*; *Nikki Giovanni: New Song*; *Flyin' West*; *Theodora*; *Wilhelm Reich in Hell*; *Race*; *Infants of the Spring*; among others. Her film and television credits include *Reverse Cowgirl*, *Sink*, *Nehemiah*, "Blue Bloods" and "ER."

LYNN NOTTAGE (*Playwright*) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter whose plays have been produced widely in the U.S. and throughout the world. Most recently, her play *Sweat* (Susan Smith Blackburn Award) premiered at OSF and Arena Stage, and will open at The Public this Fall. Her other plays include, *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk nom.); *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lortel, NY Drama Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and OCC Award); *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and NYDCC Awards); *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *POOF!*. She recently developed her play *Intimate Apparel* into a new opera with composer Ricky Ian Gordon commissioned by MET/LCT. She is co-founder of Market Road Films, whose recent projects include *The Notorious Mr. Bout*, *First to Fall* and *American Warlord*, in addition to original projects for HBO, Showtime, and Harpo. Nottage is the recipient of a PEN/Laura Pels Master Dramatist Award, Doris Duke Artist Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Lilly Award, Helen Hayes Award, Lee Reynolds Award, and Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, PEN/Laura Pels Award, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, and is an Associate Professor at Columbia School of the Arts. Member of the Dramatists Guild.

KATE WHORISKEY (*Director*)'s New York credits include The Public's *Ping Pong* and *Manahatta* at Public Studio, *Tales from Red Vienna* and *Ruined* at MTC (Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel nominations), *The Miracle Worker* (Broadway's Circle in the Square), *How I Learned to Drive* (Second Stage), *The Piano Teacher* (Vineyard Theatre), *Oroonoko* (Theatre for A New Audience), world premieres of *Fabulation* and *Inked Baby* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Massacre* at the Labyrinth Theatre. Internationally she has directed *Magdalena* at the Chatelet Theatre in Paris and Teatro Municipal de Sao Paulo. Regionally she has directed at The Goodman, The Geffen, American Repertory Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Huntington, South Coast Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, Sundance Theatre Lab, New York Stage and Film, among others.

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. 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 acclaimed American musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda. 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.

TICKET INFORMATION

SWEAT began previews in The Public's Martinson Theater on Tuesday, October 18 and was extended a final two weeks through Sunday, December 18.

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