

THE PUBLIC THEATER EXTENDS NEW YORK PREMIERE OF *SWEAT* BY LYNN NOTTAGE

Directed by Kate Whoriskey

Performances Begin October 18

August 18, 2016 - The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that the New York Premiere of *SWEAT* by **Lynn Nottage** has been extended one week. Directed by **Kate Whoriskey**, *SWEAT* begins performances on Tuesday, October 18 and was originally scheduled to run through Sunday, November 20. It will now run through Sunday, November 27 with an official press opening on Thursday, November 3.

Public Theater Member and Partner tickets 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. Single tickets will be available on Tuesday, August 23. Member tickets are priced at \$60 and single tickets start at \$85. Post-show talkbacks with the creative team are scheduled to take place immediately following the performances on Wednesday, November 9 and Wednesday, November 16. 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.

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 Paolo. 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 *Fun Home* and Lin-Manuel Miranda's acclaimed American musical *Hamilton*. 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 begins previews in The Public's Martinson Theater on Tuesday, October 18 and has been extended one week through November, 27, with an official press opening on Thursday, November 3.

Public Theater Member and Partner tickets 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. Single tickets will be available on Tuesday, August 23. Member tickets are priced at \$60 and single tickets start at \$85.

The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. There is an added 7:00 p.m. performance on Monday, November 7 and added 1:00 p.m. performance on Wednesday, November 16 and Wednesday, November 23. There is no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 22; no performance on Tuesday, November 8 or Thursday, November 24; and no 7:00

p.m. performance on Sunday, November 20. Post-show talkbacks with the creative team are scheduled to take place immediately following the performances on Wednesday, November 9 and Wednesday, November 16.

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:00 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.

#