

THE PUBLIC THEATER EXTENDS TWO POPULAR FALL SHOWS

**LYNN NOTTAGE'S
SWEAT
TO DECEMBER 4**

**PARTY PEOPLE
BY UNIVERSES
(STEVEN SAPP, MILDRED RUIZ-SAPP,
AND WILLIAM RUIZ A.K.A. NINJA)
TO DECEMBER 11**

October 11, 2016 - The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that two popular fall shows have extended due to strong demand, with a new block of tickets going on sale Thursday, October 13.

The New York premiere of **Lynn Nottage's SWEAT** has been extended an additional week for the second time. Directed by **Kate Whoriskey**, **SWEAT** begins previews on Tuesday, October 18 and officially opens on Thursday, November 3. Originally extended to November 27, it will now run an additional week through Sunday, December 4.

PARTY PEOPLE, created by **UNIVERSES** (Steven Sapp, Mildred Ruiz-Sapp, and William Ruiz a.k.a. Ninja), composed by **UNIVERSES** with Broken Chord, choreographed by Millicent Johnnie, and developed and directed by **Liesl Tommy** has been extended an additional week. The New York premiere of **PARTY PEOPLE** begins previews on Tuesday, November 1 and officially opens on Tuesday, November 15. Originally scheduled to run through December 4, it will now run an additional week through Sunday, December 11.

Member and Partner tickets for the extension weeks are on sale now. Single tickets will be available on Thursday, October 13 and can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org; or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. 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.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's First Performance "Free for All" returns this fall; free tickets to the first preview of **SWEAT** on Tuesday, October 18 will be available beginning October 11, and free tickets to the first preview of **PARTY PEOPLE** on November 1 will be available on October 25 via TodayTix mobile lottery. \$20 tickets will be available for main stage productions in The Public's downtown season at Astor Place through a TodayTix Mobile Lottery.

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.

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*).

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.

UNIVERSES, the award-winning ensemble known for their fusion of theater, poetry, jazz, hip-hop, politics, down home blues and Spanish boleros, makes their Public Theater premiere with an explosive new work about the complicated legacies of the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords Org/Party. Developed and directed by Tony Award nominee Liesl Tommy, UNIVERSES created **PARTY PEOPLE** based on dozens of interviews with members of these groundbreaking, society-changing groups. **PARTY PEOPLE** imagines a present-day reunion at an art opening curated by two young counter culturalists; but the curators themselves have complex relationships with the Party members, who fought injustice and provided free food and medical care for their communities—often at the expense of the people who loved them most. Old wounds and generational divides collide in this astonishing, multi-media theatrical event about the price of being a revolutionary, and what it means for those who come after. Breaking the bounds of the expected, the members of UNIVERSES (Steven Sapp, Mildred Ruiz-Sapp and William Ruiz aka Ninja) and Liesl Tommy —invite audiences of every age, color and creed to join them as they continue to revolutionize American theater and explore the fight to bring power to the people, and the people to power.

The complete cast of **PARTY PEOPLE** features **Oberon K.A. Adjepong** (*Blue*); **Michael Elich** (*Marcus, FBI Agent*); **Gizel Jiménez** (*Clara*); **Ramona Keller** (*Amira*); **Christopher Livingston** (*Malik*); **Jesse J. Perez** (*Tito*); **Sophia Ramos** (*Maruca*); **Robynn Rodriguez** (*Donna, Fina*); **Horace V. Rogers** (*Solias*); **William Ruiz a.k.a. Ninja** (*Jimmy “Primo”*); **Mildred Ruiz-Sapp** (*Helita*); and **Steven Sapp** (*Omar*).

PARTY PEOPLE features scenic and lighting design by Marcus Doshi, costume design by Meg Neville, sound design and vocal direction by Broken Chord, music composition UNIVERSES and Broken Chord, projection design by Sven Ortel, and hair and wig design by Cookie Jordan.

For more information about tickets and performance schedules, please visit www.publictheater.org.

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.

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