

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF *AIN'T NO MO'*

Written by Jordan E. Cooper
Directed by Stevie Walker-Webb

Performances Begin March 12 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview

January 29, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the world premiere play *AIN'T NO MO'*, written by **Jordan E. Cooper** and directed by **Stevie Walker-Webb**. After its initial run in Public Studio in 2018, *AIN'T NO MO'* will begin previews on Tuesday, March 12 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance in The Public's LuEsther Hall. This vital new American play runs through Sunday, April 21, with an official press opening on Wednesday, March 27.

The complete cast of *AIN'T NO MO'* features **Jordan E. Cooper** (*Peaches*), **Marchánt Davis** (*Passenger 2*), **Fedna Jacquet** (*Passenger 1*), **Crystal Lucas-Perry** (*Passenger 5*), **Ebony Marshall-Oliver** (*Passenger 4*), and **Simone Recasner** (*Passenger 3*), **Hermon Whaley Jr.** will be the standby for "Peaches" and will be performing on all Sunday matinees.

"Jordan Cooper is a meteor of a writer, young and brilliant and astonishingly imaginative," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "We are thrilled to give this astonishing artist to the world."

AIN'T NO MO' is a vibrant satirical odyssey portraying the great exodus of black Americans out of a country plagued with injustice. In a kaleidoscope of scenes of the moments before, during, and after this outrageous departure, Jordan E. Cooper's extraordinary new work explores the value of black lives in a country hurtling away from the promise of a black president.

The new play features scenic design by Kimie Nishikawa; costume design by Montana Levi Blanco; lighting design by Adam Honoré; sound design by Emily Auciello; and hair, wig and make-up design by Cookie Jordan.

Additional support for *AIN'T NO MO'* is provided by an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

JORDAN E. COOPER (*Playwright, Peaches*) is an award-winning playwright who resides in Brooklyn, New York, by way of Hurst, Texas. His short film, *americanmother*, won the Audience Choice award at Dallas Video Fest and can currently be viewed on Vimeo. He recently received his BFA from The New School for Performing Arts. His work has most recently been seen at 48Hours in...Harlem, The Fire This Time Festival, and New York Theatre Workshop's Summer Residency at Dartmouth.

STEVIE WALKER-WEBB (*Director*) is a director, performing artist, cultural worker, a former 2050 Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, and recipient of the Princess Grace Award for Theatre. He has served as

the Founding Artistic Director of the Jubilee Theatre in Waco, Texas. He has created art and theater in Madagascar, South Africa, Mexico, and across America. He has worked as the Outreach Coordinator for Theatre of the Oppressed-NYC and is an Emerge-NYC alumnus.

MARCHÁNT DAVIS (*Passenger 2*). Regional and Off-Broadway credits include *Black History Museum* (HERE); *The Fever* (The Public's UTR Festival; US and International Tour); *Mad Forest* (Williamstown Theater Festival); *Big River* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston); and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (The Barnstormers Theater). Film credits include *Gas Gets In Your Eyes* (short), *Dominant Species* (short), and the upcoming projects, *The Day Shall Come* and *Tuscaloosa*. In addition, Davis has written *A Boy And His Mirror*. He attended the BADA Midsummer in Oxford and holds a BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee along with an MFA from NYU Tisch Graduate Acting.

FEDNA JACQUET (*Passenger 1*) has appeared in *Gloria: A Life* (Daryl Roth Theatre), *Black National Museum* (Here), *Homecoming Queen* (NY Stage and Film), *Proof* (True Colors Theatre), *The Tempest* (CTH), *Roots of Liberty* (CST), *The Overwhelming* (Company One), and *Etymology of Bird* (Providence Black Rep). TV credits include "New Amsterdam," "Blacklist," "Elementary," and "Law & Order: SVU." Written work includes *Pefeksyon* (DVRF Finalist), *Isaiah* (ABFF/TvOne Finalist, Sundance Playwright Lab Finalist), and *The BreakUp Series* (currently in production with F.A.M. Creative).

CRYSTAL LUCAS-PERRY (*Passenger 5*) appeared in the Public Studio production of *Ain't No Mo'*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Bull in a China Shop* (LCT), *Little Children Dream of God* (Roundabout), *Bastard Jones*, and *The Convent of Pleasure*. Regional credits include Petruccio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *A Sign of the Times* (Goodspeed/DTC); *Such Things As Vampires* (Peoples Light); and *Far From Heaven* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Lucas-Perry's TV and film credits include "The Last O.G." (TBS), *Mimesis Nosferatu*, *Frank and Azalee Austin* (Craft Acting Award), and *Roulette*. She received her MFA from NYU's Tisch Graduate Acting.

EBONY MARSHALL-OLIVER (*Passenger 4*) appeared Off-Broadway in *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo). Regional credits include *Dreamgirls* at Dallas Theater Center, *Memphis* (Felicia), *The Color Purple* (Celie), *Raisin* (Lena Younger), *In Real Life*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Neat*, and *Pretty Fire*.

SIMONE RECASNER (*Passenger 3*) is a resident of Astoria by way of Los Angeles. She appeared in the Public Studio production of *Ain't No Mo'*. Regional credits include *Pride and Prejudice* (Pittsburgh Public Theater). Recasner can be seen in the NYU Grad Acting Alumni produced series "Sink Sank Sunk" and "Tech Bae."

HERMON WHALEY JR. (*Peaches Standby*). His Off-Broadway credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Tybalt). Regional credits include D.C.'s Shakespeare Theater Company *The Tempest* (Ensemble) and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Understudy). He has also appeared in *Mud, River*, and *Stone* (Joaquim).

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC is theater of, by, and for all 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. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 170 Obie Awards, 53

Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

AIN'T NO MO' will begin preview performances on Tuesday, March 12 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance in The Public's LuEsther Hall. The new play runs through Sunday, April 21, with an official press opening on Wednesday, March 27.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, the Joseph Papp Free Preview Initiative will continue this spring; free tickets to the first preview on Tuesday, March 12 will be available beginning March 5 via TodayTix mobile lottery, and on March 12 via the lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater at Astor Place, with entries starting at 11 a.m. and winners drawn at 12 p.m. (noon).

Public Theater Partner, Public Supporter, and Member tickets are available now. Full price tickets, starting at \$65, can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

On **Thursday, March 21** following the **7:00 p.m.** performance of ***AIN'T NO MO'***, Public Forum will host a Speaker Series conversation. Audio of this Speaker Series conversation will also be available on the Public Forum's website one week after the event. As a part of ongoing post-show programming at The Public, additional Public Forum programming includes events include Artist Talkbacks, Audience Conversations, and the online resource Digiturgy.

The open captioning performance will be at **1:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, March 30**. The audio described performance will be at **1:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, April 6**.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*There is no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 16. There is no 7:00 p.m. performance on Tuesday, March 26 or Sunday, April 14. There is an added performance on Monday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. The performance on Tuesday, April 16 is at 7:30 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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