

**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
BEGINS PREVIEWS FOR  
THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF  
THE NEW MUSICAL  
*GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY*  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

**Written and Directed by Conor McPherson  
Music and Lyrics by Bob Dylan**

**EXTENDED THREE WEEKS THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

September 6, 2018 - The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will begin previews for the North American premiere of ***GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY*** on Tuesday, September 11 with a Free First Preview performance. Written and directed by Olivier Award winner and Tony Award nominee **Conor McPherson** with music and lyrics by music icon **Bob Dylan**, ***GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY*** weaves the music of our greatest poet-singer-songwriter into a piercing drama about home, heart, and the searching determination of the American soul. This new musical was initially extended through Sunday, November 18, and has been extended an additional three weeks through Sunday, December 9 with an official press opening on Monday, October 1.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Free First Previews program will continue this fall; free tickets to the first preview on Tuesday, September 11 will be available beginning Tuesday, September 4, via TodayTix mobile lottery, and on September 11 via the lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater at Astor Place, with entries starting at 11:00 a.m. and winners drawn at 12:00 p.m.

The complete American cast features **Todd Almond** (*Elias Burke*), **Jeannette Bayardelle** (*Mrs. Neilson*), **Stephen Bogardus** (*Nick Laine*), **Sydney James Harcourt** (*Joe Scott*), **Matthew Frederick Harris** (*Ensemble*), **Caitlin Houlahan** (*Kate Draper*), **Robert Joy** (*Dr. Walker*), **Marc Kudisch** (*Mr. Burke*), **Luba Mason** (*Mrs. Burke*), **Tom Nelis** (*Mr. Perry*), **David Pittu** (*Reverend Marlowe*), **Colton Ryan** (*Gene Laine*), **John Schiappa** (*Ensemble*), **Rachel Stern** (*Ensemble*), **Chelsea Lee Williams** (*Ensemble*), and **Mare Winningham** (*Elizabeth Laine*), with **Kimber Sprawl** joining the company as Marianne Laine, replacing the previously announced Samantha Marie Ware who had a scheduling conflict.

Following a sold-out run at London's Old Vic and a West End transfer, this astonishing new show from Olivier Award winner and Tony Award nominee Conor McPherson and music icon Bob Dylan will make its North American premiere at The Public with an American cast this fall. Dylan's inimitable songbook is authentically transformed by McPherson into an achingly beautiful story of a down-on-its-luck community on the brink of change in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1934.

*"Beguiling, soulful, and exquisitely heart-breaking. A very special piece of theatre."*

—The Evening Standard

**GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY** features scenic and costume design by Rae Smith; lighting design by Mark Henderson; sound design by Simon Baker; hair, wig, and makeup design by Leah J. Loukas; orchestrations, arrangements, and musical supervision by Simon Hale; movement direction by Lucy Hind; and fight direction by UnkleDave's Fight-House.

**CONOR McPHERSON** (*Writer and Director*) is an acclaimed writer and director. He was born in Dublin in 1971 and attended University College Dublin where he began to write and direct. His stage plays include *Rum & Vodka*, *The Good Thief*, *This Lime Tree Bower*, *St Nicholas*, *The Weir* (Olivier, Evening Standard, and Critics Circle Awards), *Dublin Carol*, *Port Authority*, *Shining City* (Tony Award nominated), *The Seafarer* (Tony, Olivier, and Evening Standard Award nominated), *The Veil*, and *The Night Alive* (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, Olivier, Evening Standard, and Lucille Lortel Award nominated). His adaptations include Franz Xaver Kroetz's *The Nest* and August Strindberg's *The Dance of Death* and his screen credits include the screenplay for the BBC series "Paula," broadcast earlier this year.

**BOB DYLAN** (*Music and Lyrics*) is one of our culture's most influential and ground-breaking artists. Born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1941; self-taught on piano, guitar, and harmonica, he travelled to New York City in 1961, quickly establishing himself as an explosive performer in the Greenwich Village music scene. More than half a century later, Dylan continues to perform almost 100 concerts each year. He has released more than 50 albums and written over 600 songs. He's sold more than 125 million records and is the holder of 11 Grammy Awards. His songs have been covered more than 6,000 times by artists as diverse as Duke Ellington, Jimi Hendrix, Guns N' Roses, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, and Adele. He is also an accomplished visual artist and author, and in 2016 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature – the first songwriter to receive such a distinction.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

**GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY** begins performances in The Public's Newman Theater on Tuesday, September 11 and has been extended an additional three weeks through Sunday, December 9, with an official press opening on Monday, October 1.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and Member tickets are available now. Single tickets, starting at \$95, can be accessed now by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

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The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (*There is no 7:30 p.m. performance on September 19, October 2 or November 22. There is no 1:30 p.m. performance on September 15. There is an added performance on September 17 at 7:30 p.m. and on November 21 at 1:30 p.m. The performances on September 20, September 27, and October 10 are at 8:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. on October 17.*)

To allow as many New Yorkers the opportunity to experience **GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY** as possible, there will be an open caption performance on October 13 at 1:30 p.m. and an ADA audio described performance on October 20 at 1:30 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](http://www.publictheater.org).

### **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 Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org).

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