

## THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES 2013-2014 SEASON

### *FUN HOME*

A NEW MUSICAL BY JEANINE TESORI & LISA KRON

### *REGULAR SINGING*

FOURTH AND FINAL APPLE FAMILY PLAY BY RICHARD NELSON  
WITH THE THREE PREVIOUS APPLE FAMILY PLAYS  
RUNNING IN REPERTORY

### *ANTONY & CLEOPATRA*

A RADICAL NEW VERSION

EDITED AND DIRECTED BY TARELL ALVIN McCRANEY

### THE WALLACE SHAWN-ANDRÉ GREGORY PROJECT

*THE DESIGNATED MOURNER*

*GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS*

### *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)*

A NEW PLAY BY PUBLIC THEATER MASTER WRITER CHAIR  
SUZAN-LORI PARKS

*A SECOND CHANCE* A NEW MUSICAL BY TED SHEN

*ARGUENDO* CREATED BY ELEVATOR REPAIR SERVICE

*ALL THE FACES OF THE MOON* BY MIKE DAISEY

*THE GREAT IMMENSITY* BY STEVEN COSSON & MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

THE FOUNDRY THEATRE'S *GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN*

### UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

April 16, 2013 – Public Theater Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis** and Executive Director **Patrick Willingham** announced the line-up today for The Public's 2013-2014 season, continuing the theater's nearly 60 year tradition of producing Shakespeare and the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental works in equal measure while engaging a wide range of audiences and artists at its six downtown theaters at Astor Place, including Joe's Pub, as well as the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. The Public's 58<sup>th</sup> season will also celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the acclaimed Under the Radar Festival and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world-renowned Joe's Pub.

"This season – whether classics, new plays, musicals or experimental ensembles – speaks to the way we live now," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "We will bring you the triumphant return (and climax) of Richard Nelson's *Apple Family Plays*, the heartbreaking and gorgeous new musical *Fun Home*, and

Tarell Alvin McCraney's thrilling *Antony & Cleopatra*, in a collaboration between England and America's leading Shakespeare companies. We are deeply proud of the range and depth of the work of these remarkable artists and are delighted to add them to the rich history of The Public Theater."

The Public's 2013-2014 season will premiere two new musicals, beginning with ***FUN HOME***, based on **Alison Bechdel's** acclaimed graphic novel, with music by **Jeanine Tesori**, book and lyrics by **Lisa Kron**, and directed by **Sam Gold**.

The New York premiere of the new musical, ***A SECOND CHANCE***, with book, music, and lyrics by **Ted Shen** and direction by **Jonathan Butterell**, explores the powerful journey faced by a recent widower and divorcée who meet in mid-life.

Tony Award winner **Richard Nelson** has premiered a new Public Lab play every year at The Public, since 2010, about the fictional Apple family of Rhinebeck, New York. This fall, The Public will present all of ***THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS*** in repertory, including the world premiere of the fourth and final play in the series, ***REGULAR SINGING***. Opening night for the final play will be Friday, November 22, 2013 – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JFK's assassination.

As part of an international collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company and GableStage in Miami, award-winning playwright **Tarell Alvin McCraney** will return, as The Public's artist in residence, to direct a radical new version of Shakespeare's ***ANTONY & CLEOPATRA***, setting the play in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, sun-soaked Saint-Domingue on the eve of revolution.

***The Wallace Shawn-André Gregory Project***, a co-production with Theatre for a New Audience, is a celebration of the remarkable collaboration between these two theatrical legends. This long overdue retrospective of Shawn's work began in June with ***THE DESIGNATED MOURNER*** and continues in the fall with the American premiere of ***GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS***. These two projects give Wallace Shawn an opportunity to appear on the New York stage again under André Gregory's direction.

Pulitzer Prize winner **Suzan-Lori Parks** continues her longstanding residency as The Public's Master Writer Chair with this Public Lab production of ***FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)***, an explosively powerful drama about the mess of war, the cost of freedom, and the heartbreak of love. All tickets are only \$20.

***THE CIVILIANS' THE GREAT IMMENSITY***, written and directed by **Steven Cosson**, with songs by **Michael Friedman**, will premiere as part of Public Lab with all tickets only \$20. Presented in association with The Civilians, this New York premiere is about a woman who uncovers a mysterious plot surrounding an international climate summit.

Following sold-out performances at Joe's Pub at The Public this past season, master monologist **Mike Daisey** will premiere ***ALL THE FACES OF THE MOON***, a major theatrical event where he will perform 29 new monologues in 29 consecutive days over the course of the lunar month.

Elevator Repair Service, one of America's most acclaimed theater ensembles, returns with their latest piece, ***ARGUENDO***, a co-production with The Public Theater about a First Amendment case brought before the Supreme Court by a group of go-go dancers.

The acclaimed **Foundry Theatre's** production of ***GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN*** will re-open at The Public, under the skilled direction of The Public's Director of Public Works **Lear deBessonnet**. This theatrical classic will feature **Taylor Mac** in the lead along with the rest of the original cast members, and include original, live music by **César Alvarez with The Lisps**.

"As a center for culture, arts, and ideas, it is our job to be a place where our community can grapple with the important issues of the day, and our 2013-2014 season allows us to do just that," said **Executive Director Patrick Willingham**. "I am very pleased that this season continues to embody our mission to provide great cultural experiences for all people through the diversity of artists, mediums, and accessible forms of work we are producing this season."

**THE PUBLIC THEATER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM** offers patrons the opportunity to purchase significantly discounted tickets to shows and events throughout the year for an annual \$60 (tax-deductible) donation. Memberships are available by calling [212-967-7555](tel:212-967-7555). Single tickets for the 2013-2014 season will go on sale later this year.

## **2013-2014 DOWNTOWN SEASON:**

### **THE WALLACE SHAWN-ANDRÉ GREGORY PROJECT**

A co-production with Theatre for a New Audience, *The Wallace Shawn-André Gregory Project* is a celebration of a remarkable theatrical collaboration. Wallace Shawn is one of America's most significant playwrights, long overdue for a major retrospective. André Gregory, his *My Dinner with André* co-star, has been directing Shawn's plays for 40 years, and as part of this retrospective, he directs Shawn's two most recent plays; the first New York revival of the acclaimed masterwork *The Designated Mourner* and the American premiere of the profoundly provocative *Grasses of a Thousand Colors*. Shawn is a multifaceted figure: an internationally famous character actor as well as an incomparably courageous playwright whom critics have placed in the first rank of contemporary dramatists. Gregory is the acclaimed director who has brought his most challenging works to fruition, including *Our Late Night*, Shawn's first play in New York City which was presented at The Public Theater in 1975.

American Premiere

#### ***GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS***

Written by Wallace Shawn

Directed by André Gregory

Featuring Julie Hagerty, Emily McDonnell, Wallace Shawn, and Jennifer Tilly

**October 7-November 10, 2013; Opening night: Monday, October 28**

Shawn's most outlandish work to date, *GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS* is a disturbing and anomalously beautiful play that explores the role of human beings in nature and the role of nature in human beings, sexuality being as Shawn says, "nature's most obvious footprint in the human soul." The play's central character is a doctor who believes he has solved world hunger when he figures out how to rejigger the metabolisms of animals to tolerate eating their own kind. This has unexpected consequences. The play tells a story about the doctor, his wife, and his lovers, that is also a story about human beings and animals and the planet we live on.

World Premiere

#### ***ALL THE FACES OF THE MOON***

Created and Performed By Mike Daisey

Directed by Jean-Michele Gregory

**September 5-October 3, 2013; Opening Night: Wednesday, September 11**

Mike Daisey returns to The Public with a breathtakingly epic theatrical event: a story told over the course of a lunar month, a new monologue every night, in 29 unique, consecutive performances. Each evening stands alone as a single episode, but together they create a living theatrical novel set against the secret history of New York City—a city that is loved and loathed and larger than life. From Pentecostal church services held in IKEA showrooms to Nikola Tesla's laboratories in the Lower East Side, from the infamous Mole People's convocations deep beneath the subway lines to the hidden and terrifying plans of Robert Moses, Daisey weaves a story of ordinary magic in a most extraordinary city. Night after night he will strive like Scheherazade to tell the largest story ever attempted in the American theater.

World Premiere

#### ***ARGUENDO***

Created and Performed by Elevator Repair Service

Directed by John Collins

**September 10-October 6, 2013; Opening Night: Tuesday, September 24**

Last year, The Public Theater co-produced, to great acclaim, *Gatz* (a unique word-for-word staging of *The Great Gatsby*) created and performed by Elevator Repair Service (ERS), one of America's most acclaimed theater ensembles. This season, The Public reunites with ERS for a co-production of **ARGUENDO**, a playful riff on the 1991 Supreme Court case *Barnes v. Glen Theatre*. In this provocative case, a group of exotic dancers, citing the First Amendment, challenged a ban on public nudity. ERS stages the oral argument of the case verbatim with their signature theatricality, wit and physical precision. The production design features a breathtaking swirl of animated text projections by celebrated visual artist, Ben Rubin. **ARGUENDO** was co-commissioned by The Public Theater; Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; ArtsEmerson: The World on Stage; and Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University.

World Premiere Musical

***FUN HOME***

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the Alison Bechdel book

Directed by Sam Gold

**September 30-November 3, 2013; Opening Night: Tuesday, October 22**

From four-time Tony Award-nominated composer Jeanine Tesori (*Caroline, or Change*) and Tony-nominee Lisa Kron (*In The Wake, Well*) comes a fresh, daring new musical based on the acclaimed graphic novel by Alison Bechdel. When her father dies unexpectedly, graphic novelist Alison dives deep into her past to tell the story of the volatile, brilliant, one-of-a-kind man whose temperament and secrets defined her family and her life. Moving between past and present, Alison relives her unique childhood playing at the family's Bechdel Funeral Home, her growing understanding of her own sexuality and the looming, unanswerable questions about her father's hidden desires. Directed by Sam Gold, **FUN HOME** is a groundbreaking world-premiere musical about seeing your parents through grown-up eyes.

**The Foundry Theatre's Production of  
*GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN***

By Bertolt Brecht

Translation by John Willett

Directed by Lear deBessonet

Featuring Kate Benson, Ephraim Birney, Vinie Burrows, Clifton Duncan, Jack Allen Greenfield, Annie Golden, Brooke Ishibashi, Paul Juhn, Mia Katigbak, Lisa Kron, Taylor Mac, David Turner, and Darryl Winslow

With Original Live Music by César Alvarez with The Lisps

**October 18-November 24, 2013; Opening Night: Tuesday, October 29**

Can we practice goodness and create a world to sustain it? In this comic and complex play, one of Brecht's most entertaining characters, Shen Tei, the good-hearted, penniless, cross-dressing prostitute, is forced to disguise herself as a savvy businessman named Shui Ta to master the ruthlessness necessary to be a "good person" in a cruel world of limited resources. The award-winning Foundry Theatre and Director Lear deBessonet bring this theatrical classic to life for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Taylor Mac in the lead and original live music by César Alvarez with The Lisps.

World Premiere

***THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS: SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE COUNTRY***

Written and Directed by Richard Nelson

**October 22-December 15, 2013**

*“Mr. Nelson’s series is quietly turning into one of the great accomplishments in American theater to date in this century.” – Ben Brantley, The New York Times*

Each year since 2010, Tony Award winner Richard Nelson has premiered a new play at The Public about the fictional, liberal Apple family of Rhinebeck, New York. This year, the award-winning ensemble that has come to embody Nelson’s fascinating family will be reunited once more as the first three Apple plays triumphantly return, in repertory, along with the world premiere of the fourth and final play in this powerful and timely series.

These plays about family, politics, change, and the way we live today burst with remarkable immediacy. Each of **THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS** originally premiered on the night on which it is set. In **THAT HOPEY CHANGEY THING**, the Apples reflect on the state of their family and discuss memory, manners and politics as polls close on mid-term election night 2010 and a groundswell of conservative sentiment flips Congress on its head. In **SWEET AND SAD** (*The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, Bloomberg, Top 10 of 2011) a family brunch stirs up discussions of loss, remembrance and a decade of change. And **SORRY** (*The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The Daily News*, Bloomberg, Top 10 of 2012) which premiered last fall, finds the Apples sorting through family anxieties and confusion on the day of electing the President.

The fourth and final play in this captivating series, **REGULAR SINGING**, will open on November 22, 2013 – the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JFK’s assassination that shocked the world. **REGULAR SINGING** is a Public Lab production with all tickets \$20.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL**

**January 7-19, 2014**

This acclaimed 12-day festival, curated by Mark Russell and Meiyin Wang, showcases cutting-edge theater from around the U.S. and the world, with all performances at The Public Theater’s downtown home at Astor Place.

New York Premiere

## **ANTONY & CLEOPATRA**

By William Shakespeare

Edited and Directed by Tarell Alvin McCraney

**February 18-March 23, 2014**

In an exciting international collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company and GableStage in Miami, The Public welcomes back writer/director Tarell Alvin McCraney (*The Brother/Sister Plays*) as its new artist in residence with **ANTONY & CLEOPATRA**. At the fringes of a war-torn empire, a man and a woman have fallen desperately, passionately in love. But for a soldier set to enforce the imperial will and the queen of a people intent on throwing off the yoke of empire, there is no place for personal desire. McCraney creates a stripped down, radical new version of Shakespeare’s gripping story of romance set against a world of imperial politics and power play and transports us to 18<sup>th</sup> century, sun-soaked Saint-Domingue on the eve of revolution. RSC in America is presented in collaboration with The Ohio State University.

Public Lab: All tickets \$20

## **FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)**

By Suzan-Lori Parks

Directed by Jo Bonney

**March 11-March 30, 2014**

Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks (*Topdog/Underdog*, *The Book of Grace*) continues her longstanding residency as The Public’s Master Writer Chair with **FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE**

**WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)**, an explosively powerful drama about the mess of war, the cost of freedom, and the heartbreak of love. **PART 1** introduces us to Hero, a slave who must choose whether or not to join his master on the Confederate battlefield. In **PART 2**, a band of rebel soldiers test Hero's loyalty as the cannons approach. **PART 3** finds Hero's loved ones anxiously awaiting his return. **FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3)** is a profound and powerful tale about love and hope in a world of impossible choices.

New York Premiere

***A SECOND CHANCE***

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Ted Shen

Directed by Jonathan Butterell

**March 18-April 13, 2014**

A stirring musical journey, ***A SECOND CHANCE*** is the story of a recent widower and a divorcée who meet in mid-life. Presented with the overwhelming challenge of freeing themselves from their painful pasts, neither feels they deserve to find new love and happiness. Yet, unanticipated feelings awaken within them both, passionately drawing them together and leading them to uncover something they both least expected to find.

Public Lab: All tickets \$20

New York Premiere

***THE CIVILIANS' THE GREAT IMMENSITY***

Written and Directed by Steven Cosson

Songs by Michael Friedman

**April 8-April 27, 2014**

In a thrilling and timely production, presented in association with the celebrated investigative theater company, The Civilians, ***THE GREAT IMMENSITY*** is a continent-hopping thriller following a woman, Phyllis, as she pursues someone close to her who disappeared from a tropical island while on an assignment for a nature show. Through her search, Phyllis uncovers a mysterious plot surrounding the upcoming international climate summit in Auckland. As the days count down to the Auckland Summit, Phyllis must decipher the plan and possibly stop it in time. With arresting projected film and video and a wide-ranging score of songs, ***THE GREAT IMMENSITY*** is a highly theatrical look into one of the most vital questions of our time: how can we change ourselves and our society in time to solve the enormous environmental challenges that confront us?

**ONGOING AT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE:**

**PUBLIC LAB**, now in its seventh season, provides audiences with access to new work and Shakespeare with low-priced tickets and provides emerging and established artists with a platform to further develop their work on stage and in performances with scaled-down productions (shorter rehearsal periods and smaller budgets). All tickets are only \$20.

**THE PUBLIC FORUM**, now in its third year, presents the theater of ideas. Curated by Jeremy McCarter, this series of conversations and performances features leading voices in politics, media and the arts. Its current season has featured Alec Baldwin, David Brooks, David Byrne, Tony Kushner, Rachel Maddow, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Simon, Anna Deavere Smith, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, and more.

**MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT** is a reinvention of Joseph Papp's Mobile Shakespeare program, which began in 1957 to bring Shakespeare to the masses, evolving into the New York Shakespeare Festival and ultimately becoming The Public Theater. Now in its third year, it presents Shakespeare for free to prisons, homeless shelters, centers for the elderly, and other community venues throughout the five boroughs. The Mobile Shakespeare Unit is made possible with the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Additional support is provided by Bloomberg.

**PUBLIC WORKS** is a groundbreaking new initiative working with community partner organizations in all five boroughs. It is designed to bring community partners into the full life of The Public through workshops, classes, dialogues, invitations to shows at The Public, visits from the Mobile Shakespeare Unit and the creation of projects that include dance, music, sonnets, plays and participatory theater.

**NEW WORK NOW!** is a popular, free reading series that allows audiences an opportunity to experience new work by a diverse selection of established and emerging theater artists.

**EMERGING WRITERS GROUP** is a component of The Public Writers Initiative, a long-term program that provides key support and resources for writers at every stage of their careers. Time Warner is the Founding Sponsor of the Emerging Writers Group.

**JOE'S PUB AT THE PUBLIC** will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. Since its debut in 1998, Joe's Pub has quickly become one of New York City's most celebrated and in-demand showcase venues for live music and performance, presenting more than 800 performances a year and serving more than 100,000 audience members annually. Joe's Pub is open seven days a week, and food and drink service is available during every performance.

**THE LIBRARY AT THE PUBLIC** is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### **ONGOING AT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT THE DELACORTE THEATER:**

**FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** is one of the cornerstones of The Public Theater's mission. The Public will also present the Public Works production of *The Tempest*, September 6-8, 2013.

Bank of America continues its leadership sponsorship in support of The Public's mission to keep Shakespeare in the Park free.

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### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE**

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public Theater is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, and contemporary and experimental works in equal measure. 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 its beloved, free Shakespeare in the Park; and the Mobile Unit, which tours Shakespearean and other classic 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, new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, and a range of artist and audience development initiatives including its Public Forum series, which brings together theater artists and professionals from a variety of disciplines for discussions that shed light on social issues explored in Public productions. The Public Theater 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. Key elements of the revitalization included infrastructure updates to the 158-year old building, including changes to the main entry, expanded lobby, additional restrooms, and the addition of a new lounge, The Library at The Public, designed by the

Rockwell Group. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities. [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org)

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