

**THE PUBLIC THEATER'S  
MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT  
RETURNS THIS FALL TO TOUR  
*MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*  
FOR FREE TO AUDIENCES WHO HAVE LIMITED  
OR NO ACCESS TO THE ARTS**

**Tour Venues Include  
Correctional Facilities, Homeless Shelters,  
Centers for At-Risk-Youth, Senior Centers and  
Park Recreation Centers**

***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* Will Run  
November 25 – December 15 at The Public Theater  
Following Three-Week Tour of Five Boroughs**

October 17, 2013 – Continuing its commitment to bringing Shakespeare to the community and strengthening audience engagement with the arts, The Public Theater will mount its **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT** again this November with a free three-week tour to the five boroughs of Shakespeare's comedy ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***, directed by **Kwame Kwei-Armah** and featuring choreography by **Chase Brock**. The three-week mobile tour (November 4-22) will bring free Shakespeare to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts by visiting prisons, homeless shelters, centers for the elderly, and other community venues, including stops at our Public Works community partner venues: Brownsville Recreation Center in Brooklyn, Fortune Society in Queens and DreamYard Project in the Bronx.

"The Mobile Shakespeare Unit is at the heart of The Public Theater's mission to democratize our culture," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Shakespeare is for everyone, the theater is for everyone, just as America belongs to us all. It is an honor to welcome Kwame Kwei-Armah back to The Public and to offer his delightful *Much Ado About Nothing* to our audiences."

Following the free mobile tour, ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*** will have a sit-down run at The Public Theater from November 25 to December 15, with an official press opening on Tuesday, December 3. Single tickets, priced at \$20, go on sale on Thursday, October 31. Tickets can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at 425 Lafayette Street. To further the mission and reach of the **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT**, 20 tickets for each performance of the run at The Public Theater will be given to community organizations that cannot host a visit from the tour.

*"The concept of this travelling Shakespeare unit is a worthy return to the roots of The Public's mission as Joseph Papp conceived it: to make the arts accessible to the widest possible audience."*

—Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

*"Think of The Mobile Unit as William Shakespeare sans a stage, free of charge and all for a good cause."*—Frank DiLella, NY 1

Now in its third year, **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. Recent Mobile Shakespeare Unit productions include *Measure for Measure* and *Richard III*. **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT** will also present educational workshops at selected tour venues, expanding The Public's existing community outreach and education program. This program will continue the expansion of The Public's Shakespeare Initiative, which includes the recent Public Works production of *The Tempest* staged at the Delacorte Theater for three nights for free in September, free Shakespeare in the Park, and The Public's other affordable Shakespeare productions at its downtown home at Astor Place, all reinforcing the company's commitment to the ongoing exploration of Shakespeare's canon.

The cast features **Michael Braun** (*Benedick*); **Rosal Colón** (*Margaret, Borachia, Friar Francis*); **Ramsey Faragallah** (*Leonato, Watch*); **Marc Damon Johnson** (*Don Pedro, Verges*); **A.Z. Kelsey** (*Claudio, Conrade*); **Lucas Caleb Rooney** (*Dogberry, Don John*); **Samantha Soule** (*Beatrice*); and **Kerry Warren** (*Hero, Sexton*).

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** features scenic design by **Timothy R. Mackabee**; costume design by **Clint Ramos**; and music by **Shane Rettig**.

This program is made possible with the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and The Ford Foundation. Additional support is provided by Bloomberg.

**MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT TOUR (November 4-22) will include the following venues:**

**Charlotte's Place, Manhattan**, part of Trinity Wall Street Church – a free and open space for the diverse communities living, working, and going to school in lower Manhattan (November 4).

**Park Avenue Armory Women's Mental Health Shelter, Manhattan**, provides short-term, safe, and supportive environments to address immediate needs for mentally ill, homeless women (November 5).

**St. John's Recreation Center, Brooklyn**, is a park and recreation center located in Bedford-Stuyvesant (November 6).

**Eric M. Taylor Center, Rikers Island** – Built in 1964, EMTC houses nearly 2,000 adult and adolescent males sentenced to one year or less (November 7).

**Roy Wilkins Recreation Center, Queens**, a park and recreation center, this public space is a cultural touchstone for all of New York City (November 8).

**Greenbelt Recreation Center, Staten Island**, a park and recreation center (November 9).

**Jackie Robinson Recreation Center, Manhattan**, a park and recreation center, this history park located in Harlem serves much of Upper Manhattan (November 11).

**Queensboro Correctional Facility, Queens**, is a minimum security prison in Long Island City, (November 12).

**Brownsville Recreation Center, Brooklyn**, a Public Works community partner, is a recreation center is located in the Brownsville Playground with extensive resources for youth and seniors. The center offers a vibrant space to tap into pursuits artistic and athletic alike (November 13).

**Fortune Society, Queens**, a Public Works community partner, is a social service and advocacy organization, supporting successful reentry from prison, and promoting alternatives to incarceration (November 14).

**The Osborne Association, Bronx**, offers opportunities for individuals who have been in conflict with the law to transform their lives through innovative, effective, and replicable programs that serve the community by reducing crime and its human and economic costs (November 15).

**Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center, Brooklyn**, a secure center for juveniles awaiting resolution on their court cases. (November 16).

**Taconic Correctional Facility, Westchester**, is the largest maximum security prison for women in New York (November 18).

**Rose M. Singer Center, Rikers Island** – Built in 1988, RMSC houses more than 1,700 adult and adolescent females (November 19).

**DreamYard Project, Bronx**, a Public Works community partner, uses project-based arts learning to ignite the transformative spirit (November 20).

**Al Oerter Recreation Center, Queens**, a recreation center providing affordable or free athletic activities and arts events to people of all ages (November 20).

**Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Westchester**, is the largest maximum security prison for women in New York (November 21).

**Hamilton Partnership for Paterson, Paterson, New Jersey**, a community development organization near the Great Falls National Park (November 22).

**KWAME KWEI-ARMAH** (*Director*) recently directed the Public Lab production of *Detroit '67* at The Public, and he is the Artistic Director of Baltimore Centerstage and Chancellor of the University of the Arts London. He has served as Writer in Residence for the Old Vic and BBC Radio. Amongst his many plays, *Elmina's Kitchen*, *Fix Up*, and *Statement of Regret* premiered at the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain, with *Elmina's Kitchen* transferring to London's West End, making him the first Black British playwright to have that honor. Kwame was awarded an OBE from Queen Elizabeth II on her Jubilee Honours List for Services to Drama. His other awards include the Olivier Award, BAFTA nominations, Evening Standard Charles Winton Award, Screen Nation Award, 100 Black Men of Britain Public Figure Award, GPA Man of the year, and the RECON Local Community Leadership Award. He also served as a Good Will Ambassador for Trade for Christian Aid (2003-2008). He is currently on the board of TCG and serves on the Steinberg Playwright Award Advisory Committee. Plays he has directed at Centerstage include *Things of Dry Hours*, *The Whipping Man*, *Enemy of the People*, and *The Mountaintop*. At the Tricycle Theatre he has directed *Let There be Love*, and *Seize the Day*. He also directed the opening ceremony of the World Festival of Black Arts and Culture in Dakar, Senegal.

**CHASE BROCK** (*Choreography*) most recently choreographed the Public Works production of *The Tempest*, featuring more than 200 New Yorkers from all five boroughs, and the Public Lab production of *Venice* at The Public. His Broadway credits include *Picnic* and *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. His Off-Broadway credits include *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Blue Flower*, and *Lost in the Stars*. His television credits include "Late Show with David Letterman" and "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade." For the opera he has choreographed *Roméo et Juliette* for Salzburger Festspiele. Additionally, he has choreographed 25 dances for the Brooklyn-based dance company, The Chase Brock Experience.

**MICHAEL BRAUN** (*Benedick*) has appeared on Broadway in *War Horse*, and Off-Broadway in *The Bad Guys* and *The Winter's Tale* at BAM as part of The Bridge Project. His additional regional credits include *The Matchmaker*, *Future Me*, *The Breach*, *The Front Page*, and *On The Razzle*.

**ROSAL COLÓN** (*Margaret, Borachia, Friar Francis*) has appeared on Broadway in *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat* and *A Free Man of Color*, and Off-Broadway in *Basilicia* at the Cherry Lane Theatre, and LAByrnth Theater Company's *Ninth and Joanie*. Her film and television credits include *The House That Jack Built* and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

**RAMSEY FARAGALLAH** (*Leonato, Watch*) has appeared in the Public Lab production of *Urge For Going* at The Public. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Betrayed* and *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom*. His television credits include "Homeland"; "The Big C"; "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"; "Blue Bloods"; and "The Good Wife."

**MARC DAMON JOHNSON** (*Don Pedro, Verges*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *The Brother/Sister Plays*, which earned him an Obie award; and at the Delacorte Theater in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Measure for Measure*. His Broadway credits include *Lucky Guy*; and his additional Off-Broadway credits include *Mr. Fox: A Ruminant*; *Mud and Drowning*; and *As you Like It*. His film and television credits include *Preaching to the Choir*, *It Runs in the Family*, “Army Wives,” and “The Sopranos.”

**A.Z. KELSEY** (*Claudio, Conrade*) has appeared Off-Broadway and regionally in *Shipwrecked*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Last Friend He Ever Had*, *Dead Letter Office*, and *Best Friends Forever*.

**LUCAS CALEB ROONEY** (*Dogberry, Don John*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Measure for Measure*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *Yellowface*. His Broadway credits include *Golden Boy*, *The Country Girl*, and *Henry IV*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Regrets*, *The Orphans' Home Cycle*, and *an oak tree*. His film and television credits include *The Magic of Belle Isle*, “Elementary,” “The Good Wife,” “Boardwalk Empire,” and “Person of Interest.”

**SAMANTHA SOULE** (*Beatrice*) has appeared in the Public Lab production of *Detroit '67* at The Public. She has appeared on Broadway in *The Philanthropist*, *Coram Boy*, and *Dinner at Eight*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *A Summer Day*, *A Little Journey*, *Gabriel*, *The Voyage Inheritance*, *White Chocolate*, and *Valhalla*. Her film and television credits include *Revolutionary Road*; “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”; and “Smash.”

**KERRY WARREN** (*Hero, Sexton*) has appeared regionally in *As You Like It*, *The Elephant Man*, and in the Primary Stages reading of *Black Hoodie*. She is a recent graduate of The Juilliard School.

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

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public Theater at Astor Place is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces 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 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, 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, as well as construction of new exterior entry stair and glass canopy; installation of ramps for improved accessibility; an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with 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)

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Following the free Mobile Shakespeare Unit tour, ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*** will run at The Public Theater from Monday, November 25 to Sunday, December 15 in the LuEsther Theater, with an official press opening on Tuesday, December 3.

The performance schedule will be Mondays through Sundays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (*There is no performance on Thursday, November 28; Wednesday, December 4; Monday, December 9*)

Single tickets, priced at \$20, and go on sale Thursday, October 31. Tickets can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at 425 Lafayette Street.

**The Library at The Public** is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org).