

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
IN ASSOCIATION
WITH *NEW YORK* MAGAZINE
ANNOUNCES
SONNETS FOR THE CITY
A PUBLIC FORUM EVENT TO CELEBRATE
SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY**

**Téa Obrecht, Kathryn Schulz, James Shapiro, and Sam Waterston
To Explore Shakespeare's Sonnets
On Friday, April 26**

April 2, 2013 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will continue its popular Public Forum season this month with ***SONNETS FOR THE CITY*** on **Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at Joe's Pub at The Public**. Presented in association with *New York Magazine*, this one-night-only event will feature insights from notable writers, contemporary artists, and members of the community, including celebrated young novelist **Téa Obrecht**, *New York Magazine* book critic **Kathryn Schulz**, Shakespeare scholar **James Shapiro**, and acclaimed actor **Sam Waterston**.

To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday, the Public Forum will explore the magic of his sonnets. On Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m., one of the world's foremost Shakespeare scholars, **James Shapiro**, will share his insights on these much-loved poems: why Shakespeare wrote them, how they work, and what they do or don't tell us about their author. He will be joined by special guest **Sam Waterston**, a great Shakespearean actor who most recently played King Lear at The Public. Waterston will read some sonnets and talk about what they mean to him. In the second part of the program, **Kathryn Schulz**, the book critic of *New York Magazine*, will share her insights on how Shakespeare's sonnets relate to contemporary authors and the literature of our own time. **Téa Obrecht**, author of the acclaimed novel *The Tiger's Wife*, will read a new poem inspired by Shakespeare's sonnets, as will a student from the DreamYard program in the Bronx.

Public Theater member tickets for ***SONNETS FOR THE CITY***, priced at \$24, are on sale now. Single tickets, priced at \$29, go on sale Thursday, April 4, and can be purchased at **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at The Public Theater box office at 425 Lafayette Street. **The Library at The Public** is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM, now in its third year, presents the theater of ideas. Curated by Jeremy McCarter, this series of lectures, conversations, and performances features leading voices in politics, media, and the arts. Alec Baldwin, Anne Hathaway, Cynthia Nixon, Michael Stuhlbarg, Sam Waterston, and former NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman have hosted its programs, which have featured the insights of Kurt Andersen, Carl Bernstein, David Brooks, David Byrne, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Nathan Englander, Hendrik Hertzberg, Arianna Huffington, Bill Irwin, Tony Kushner, Wynton Marsalis, Jay McInerney, Suzan-Lori Parks, Francine Prose, Reihan Salam, David Simon, Anna Deavere Smith, Ben Smith, Stephen Sondheim, Emma Straub, Sam Tanenhaus, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, Marc Tracy, Damian

Woetzel, the culture writers of *New York Magazine*, and young veterans of the war in Afghanistan - plus performances by Anne Hathaway, Michael Friedman, Gabriel Kahane, and Michael Cerveris, among others.

TÉA OBREHT was born in Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia in 1985 and has lived in the United States since the age of twelve. Her debut novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, won the 2011 Orange Prize for Fiction and was a 2011 National Book Award Finalist. Her writing has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, *Esquire* and *The Guardian*, and has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. She has been named by *The New Yorker* as one of the 20 best American fiction writers under 40 and included in the National Book Foundation's list of Five Under 35.

KATHRYN SCHULZ is the author of *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error* (Ecco/HarperCollins, 2010) and the book critic for *New York Magazine*. Her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *TIME Magazine*, the *Boston Globe*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *New York Times Book Review*, among other publications. In 2012, she won the National Book Critic Circle's Nona Balakian Prize for Excellence in Reviewing. She is the former editor of the online environmental magazine *Grist*, and a former reporter and editor for *The Santiago Times*, of Santiago, Chile, where she covered environmental, labor, and human rights issues. She was a 2004 recipient of the Pew Fellowship in International Journalism, and has reported from throughout Central and South America, Japan, and, most recently, the Middle East. She is a graduate of Brown University.

JAMES SHAPIRO is the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he has taught since 1985. He is the author of several books, most recently, *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599*. He has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants from institutions such as the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. He has written for *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications.

SAM WATERSTON has appeared at The Public in over 12 productions. He first performed as Silvius in *As You Like It* in 1963 for Shakespeare in the Park. His other Public Theater credits include Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Parts I & II* (1968); Cloten in *Cymbeline* (1971); Laertes, Hamlet, Polonius in *Hamlet* (1972, 1975, 2008); Duke in *Measure for Measure* (1976); Benedick, Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* (1972, 2004); and Prospero in *The Tempest* (1974). He most recently played Lear in *King Lear* in 2011 and appeared in the 2012 Shakespeare in the Park anniversary gala reading of *Romeo & Juliet*. His Lincoln Center credits include *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*, and *A Doll's House*. His film and television credits include *The Great Gatsby*, *The Killing Fields*, four Woody Allen films, *Serial Mom*, *The Glass Menagerie*, "I'll Fly Away," "Law & Order" (16 seasons), and Aaron Sorkin's HBO series, "The Newsroom."

NEW YORK MEDIA LLC is the parent company of the ground-breaking weekly *New York Magazine*, founded in 1968; the up-to-the-minute news and service website nymag.com; the Grub Street network of food blogs; the entertainment and culture news site Vulture; and the twice-yearly *New York Weddings* magazine.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER'S DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Completed in October 2012, the revitalization of The Public Theater's downtown home at Astor Place physically manifests the Company's core mission of sparking new dialogues and increasing accessibility for artists and audiences by dramatically opening up its landmark building to the street and community, and transforming the lobby into a public piazza for artists, students, and audiences. Designed by Ennead Architects and constructed by Westerman Construction, the project encompasses enhancements to the building's interior and exterior while preserving the historic structure. Key elements of the design include 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; expansion and remodeling of restroom facilities; and comprehensive exterior restoration, ensuring stability of the landmark façade.

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 and 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 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. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities. www.publictheater.org.

TICKET INFORMATION

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