

**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
ANNOUNCES  
*JOSEPHINE AND I*  
BY CUSH JUMBO  
ADDED TO SPRING LINE-UP  
New York Premiere Directed by  
Phyllida Lloyd**

December 1, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that ***JOSEPHINE AND I***, the London hit by Olivier nominated actress and writer **Cush Jumbo**, has been added to The Public's downtown spring season. Directed by **Phyllida Lloyd**, the New York premiere of ***JOSEPHINE AND I*** will begin performances at Joe's Pub at The Public on Friday, February 27 and run through Sunday, April 5, with an official press opening on Tuesday, March 10.

"We know Cush Jumbo is an astonishing actress; now we get to see her in a whole new light," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Phyllida Lloyd is one of our bravest and most brilliant directors, and I'm proud to be presenting her long awaited Public debut."

Following a critically acclaimed run at London's Bush Theatre, **Cush Jumbo** (*The River, Julius Caesar, "Getting On"*) brings her one-woman show to The Public. Born into poverty in the slums of St. Louis, Josephine Baker became one of the most famous and groundbreaking stars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first African-American performer to rise to international prominence, she was a French Resistance spy and civil rights activist who was married twice by age 16 and served as muse to Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, who called her "the most sensational woman anyone ever saw." Now, nearly 40 years after her death, Baker's life inspires a young woman to face up to the sacrifices required to follow one's dreams. A performance featuring swinging jazz and ragtime rhythms, this theatrical event directed by Tony nominee **Phyllida Lloyd** (*Julius Caesar, Mary Stuart, The Iron Lady, Mama Mia!*) interweaves a modern day story of an ambitious young woman with the fascinating life of the peerless, fearless, Josephine Baker.

*"It's a dazzling tour de force by this truly brilliant performer.  
A dazzling...all-stops-out performance, full of vivacious energy."*  
– The Guardian

*"Cush Jumbo's solo show effervesces with energy and charm.  
Phyllida Lloyd directs with a sparkling ingenuity that is mirrored by Jumbo's own deliciously  
persuasive performance – by turns funny, touching and thought-provoking."*  
– The Telegraph

Member tickets, starting at \$30, will be available Tuesday, December 2. Single tickets, starting at \$40, will be available Thursday, December 18 by calling **(212) 967-7555**, [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street. Joe's Pub at The Public serves food nightly but there is no food or drink minimum for ***JOSEPHINE AND I***. The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This production was originally produced at the Bush Theatre in London. Cush Jumbo is appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association. The Producers gratefully acknowledge Actors' Equity Association for its assistance of this production.

**PHYLLIDA LLOYD** (*Director*). Her London theatre credits include *Henry IV* (Donmar Warehouse); *Julius Caesar* (Donmar Warehouse and St Ann's Warehouse, NY); *Mary Stuart* (Donmar Warehouse, Apollo, and Broadway); *The Threepenny Opera*; *Boston Marriage* (Donmar Warehouse); *Josephine and I* (Bush Theatre); *Six Degrees of Separation*; *Hysteria*; *Wild East* (Royal Court); *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (Old Vic Tunnels); *The Way of the World*; *Pericles*; *What the Butler Saw*; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*; *The Duchess of Malfi* (Royal National Theatre); *Artists and Admirers*; *The Virtuoso* (RSC); *MAMMA MIA!* (London, Broadway and worldwide). Her film credits include *The Iron Lady* (Pathe/DJ Films/ Film Four); *MAMMA MIA!* (Universal Pictures); *Gloriana a Film* (Illuminations Films). For the opera, she has directed *La Bohème*, *Medea*, *Carmen*, *L'Etoile*, *Gloriana*, *Albert Herring*, *Peter Grimes* (Opera North); *Macbeth* (Paris/ROH); *The Handmaid's Tale* (Copenhagen, ENO and Toronto); *The Carmelites*, *Verdi Requiem*, *Rhinegold*, *Valkyrie*, *Siegfried* and *Twilight of the Gods* (ENO). For *Gloriana a Film*, she received an International Emmy, a F.I.P.A. d'Or, and the Royal Philharmonic Society Award. She won the South Bank Show Award for both *Mary Stuart* (2005) and *Peter Grimes* (2006). Lloyd was awarded a CBE in 2012.

**CUSH JUMBO**, currently appearing in *The River* on Broadway with Hugh Jackman, was presented with the "Emerging Talent Award" at this year's Evening Standard Awards for her self-penned solo show, *Josephine and I* (which originated at The Bush Theatre in July 2013). She was also nominated for "Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre" at the Oliver Awards for her performance. That year Jumbo also reprised her role of Marc Antony in an all-female version of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at St. Ann's Warehouse. The show originated at the Donmar Warehouse in London. For her performance, she was also nominated for an Olivier Award. Both productions were directed by acclaimed film and theatre director Phyllida Lloyd. Other theatre awards include "Best Actress" at The Manchester Awards for her performance as Nora in *A Doll's House* at the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester and the prestigious "Ian Charleson Award" for her performance as Rosalind in *As You Like It*, also at the Royal Exchange. Her television credits include the series lead in the top-rated "Vera" opposite Brenda Blethyn; the acclaimed comedy, "Getting On" (a U.S. version of the show now airs on HBO). Her film credits include the lead role in *Remainder* (based on the Tom K. McCarthy novel) and the hit feature *The Inbetweeners*.

### **ABOUT JOE'S PUB AT THE PUBLIC**

Named for Public Theater founder Joe Papp, Joe's Pub at The Public opened in 1998 and plays a vital role in The Public's mission of supporting young artists while providing established artists with an intimate space to perform and develop new work. Joe's Pub consistently presents the best in live music and performance nightly, continuing its commitment to diversity, production values, community and artistic freedom. The organization also offers unique opportunities like *New York Voices*, an artist commissioning program that provides musicians the resources and tools needed to develop new original works. Commissioned artists have included Allen Toussaint, Ethan Lipton, Toshi Reagon, Bridget Everett, and more. In 2011, Joe's Pub received a top-to-bottom renovation, leading to improved sightlines, expanded seating capacity and a new menu from acclaimed Chef Andrew Carmellini. With its intimate atmosphere and superior acoustics, Joe's Pub presents talent from all over the world as part of The Public's programming downtown at its Astor Place home, hosting approximately 800 shows and serving over 100,000 audience members annually.

### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER**

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, 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; Public Works, a new initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including Public Lab; 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, designed by the Rockwell Group. [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org)

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities; Bank of America, Proud Season Sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg New Play Development Fund at The Public Theater Supports the Creation and Development of New Plays; The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation - Lead Supporter of The Public's Access and Engagement Programming; The Time Warner Foundation, Founding Sponsor of The Emerging Writers Group; Delta Air Lines, Official Airline of The Public Theater; *New York Magazine* is the official print sponsor of The Public Theater's 2014-2015 downtown season; Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency.

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

***JOSEPHINE AND I***, written by Cush Jumbo and directed by Phyllida Lloyd, begins performances at Joe's Pub at The Public on Friday, February 27 and runs through Sunday, April 5, with an official press opening on Tuesday, March 10. The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Member tickets, starting at \$30, will be available Tuesday, December 2 and single tickets, starting at \$40, will be available Thursday, December 18 by calling **(212) 967-7555**, [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

Rush tickets are available, subject to availability, beginning at 6:00 p.m. for all evening performances and one hour prior to matinee performances. Rush tickets are \$20, cash only, with a limit of two tickets per person.

Joe's Pub at The Public serves food nightly but there is no food or drink minimum for ***JOSEPHINE AND I***. The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org).

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