

**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
CONTINUES  
52 YEARS OF  
FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK  
AT THE DELACORTE**

***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***

**Directed by Jack O'Brien**

**Lily Rabe as Beatrice**

**Hamish Linklater as Benedick**

**June 3 – July 6**

***KING LEAR***

**Directed by Daniel Sullivan**

**John Lithgow as Lear**

**July 22 – August 17**

**BANK OF AMERICA RETURNS AS LEAD SPONSOR OF  
THE PUBLIC THEATER'S FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK**

February 13, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the line-up today for the 2014 free Shakespeare in the Park season, continuing a 52-year tradition of free theater in Central Park. Since 1962, over five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at the Delacorte Theater. Conceived by founder Joe Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access and engage the community. This summer, free Shakespeare in the Park will feature a comedy and a tragedy with **Jack O'Brien** directing ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*** and **Daniel Sullivan** directing ***KING LEAR***.

Beginning on Tuesday, June 3, ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***, featuring **Lily Rabe** ("American Horror Story") as Beatrice and **Hamish Linklater** ("The Crazy Ones") as Benedick, will run for five weeks through Sunday, July 6. Linklater most recently performed in *The Comedy of Errors* last summer, while Rabe was in the 2012 Shakespeare in the Park production of *As You Like It*. They both performed in Daniel Sullivan's 2010 production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

**John Lithgow** returns to the Delacorte in July to play Lear in The Public's second show of the free Shakespeare in the Park summer season. ***KING LEAR***, not seen in the Park since 1973, will begin performances on Tuesday, July 22 and run through Sunday, August 17. Lithgow last performed at the Delacorte Theater as Laertes in *Hamlet* in 1975.

“This summer, Shakespeare in the Park features two of the greatest plays ever written: the magnificent comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* and the towering tragedy of *King Lear*,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. “We are welcoming back three of The Public’s most beloved Shakespeareans of the past decade, Dan Sullivan, Lily Rabe and Hamish Linklater. And we are proud that one of America’s greatest theater artists, Jack O’Brien, will be making his Delacorte debut and that the amazingly talented John Lithgow will be returning to the Park after an inexplicable 35-year absence. It will be a miraculous summer.”

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

“At Bank of America, we understand that the arts, in all its forms, so often lends vitality to a city as it inspires, transcends socio-economic barriers, and celebrates diversity,” said **Jeff Barker, Bank of America New York City President**. “Shakespeare in the Park is one of our city’s finest summertime traditions and attracts tens of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors alike each season. We’re proud to return as the lead sponsor for 2014 as part of our broader commitment to create opportunities for the public to access arts and culture.”

**Tickets to The Public Theater’s Shakespeare in the Park are FREE** and are distributed, two per person, at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park on the day of the show. The Public Theater will again offer free tickets through our Virtual Ticketing lottery on the day of the show at [www.shakespeareinthepark.org](http://www.shakespeareinthepark.org). The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is accessible by entering at 81<sup>st</sup> Street and Central Park West or at 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** was first staged at the Delacorte in 1972 and was directed by A. J. Antoon, featuring Sam Waterston as Benedick and Kathleen Widdoes as Beatrice. It was also performed at the Delacorte in 1988, directed by Gerald Freedman and featuring Kevin Kline as Benedick, Blythe Danner as Beatrice, David Hyde Pierce as Don Juan, and Jerry Stiller as Dogberry. It was last staged at the Delacorte in 2004, directed by David Esbjornson, featuring Jimmy Smits as Benedick, Kristen Johnston as Beatrice, Sam Waterston as Leonato, Elizabeth Waterston as Hero, and Jayne Houdyshell as Ursula. Most recently, the comedy was presented as part of The Public’s Mobile Shakespeare Unit last year, bringing Shakespeare to audiences in the five boroughs who have limited or no access to the arts.

**KING LEAR** was first staged at the Delacorte in its inaugural year, 1962, directed by Joseph Papp and Gladys Vaughan. The show featured Frank Silvera as Lear, Roscoe Lee Brown as Lear’s Fool and John Cullum as the King of France. The last time it was staged at the Delacorte was in 1973, where it was directed by Edwin Sherin and featured James Earl Jones as Lear, Tom Aldredge as Lear’s Fool, and Raúl Julia as Edmund. *King Lear* was staged at The Public Theater at Astor Place in 1996 with F. Murray Abraham as Lear and Jeffrey Wright as the Fool. It was presented again in 2007 with Kevin Kline as Lear and Michael Cerveris as Kent and was last presented downtown at Astor Place in 2011 with Sam Waterston as Lear, Bill Irwin as the Fool, Kelli O’Hara as Regan and Michael McKean as Gloucester.

**JACK O’BRIEN** (*Much Ado About Nothing* Director). His Broadway credits include *Macbeth*, *The Nance*, *Dead Accounts*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Impressionism*, *The Coast of Utopia* (Tony Award), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Tony nomination), *Henry IV* (Tony Award), *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Imaginary Friends*, *The Invention of Love* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award), *The Full Monty* (Tony nomination), *More to Love*, *Getting Away With Murder*, *Pride’s Crossing*, *The Little Foxes*, *Hapgood* (Lucille Lortel Award, Best Director), *Damn Yankees*, *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony nomination), and *Porgy and Bess* (Tony nomination). For the Metropolitan Opera he directed *Il Trittico*, as well as *Love Never Dies*, and *Hairspray* (Olivier nomination) in London, and *His Girl Friday* at the National Theatre. He served as Artistic Director of the Old Globe Theatre from 1981 to 2007. He has also directed six movies for PBS’s “American Playhouse.” His additional awards include the 2008 Theatre Hall of Fame Inductee; 2005 John Houseman Award; ArtServe Michigan 2008 International Achievement Award; Honorary Doctorate, University of Michigan. His film credits for acting include *Sex and the City 2* and he is the author of *JACK BE NIMBLE* published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

**DANIEL SULLIVAN** (*King Lear* Director). For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *The Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, The Delacorte Theater's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reading of *Romeo and Juliet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Broadway/Shakespeare in the Park), *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Stuff Happens*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Among his Broadway credits are the recent production of *Snow Geese*; *Orphans*; the revival of *Glengarry Glen Ross*; *The Columnist*; *Good People*; *Time Stands Still*; *Accent on Youth*; *The Homecoming*; *Prelude to a Kiss*; *Rabbit Hole*; *After the Night and the Music*; *Julius Caesar*; *Brooklyn Boy*; *Sight Unseen*; *I'm Not Rappaport*; *Morning's at Seven*; *Proof*; the 2000 production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; *The Sisters Rosensweig*; *Conversations With My Father*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Intimate Apparel*, *Far East*, *Spinning into Butter*, *Third* at Lincoln Center, *Dinner With Friends*, and *The Substance of Fire*. From 1981 to 1997, he served as Artistic Director of Seattle Repertory Theatre. Sullivan is the Swanlund Professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**HAMISH LINKLATER** (*Benedick*). His credits for The Public Theater include *The Comedy of Errors*; *The Merchant of Venice*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Twelfth Night*, for which he received a Drama Desk nomination; *Hamlet*; *The Square*; and *Love's Fire*. He has been seen on Broadway in *Seminar*, and his additional Off-Broadway credits include the *The Vandal* at the Flea Theater, which Linklater wrote; *The School for Lies*, earning him an Obie Award and Lortel and Outer Critics Circle nominations; *The Busy World Is Hushed*, earning him a Drama League nomination; *Recent Tragic Events*; and *Good Thing*. His film and television credits include *42*, *The Angriest Man in Brooklyn*, *Lola Versus*, *Battleship*, *The Future*, *Groove*, *Fantastic Four*, Woody Allen's upcoming *Magic in the Moonlight*, "The Crazy Ones" opposite Robin Williams, "The Good Wife," "The Newsroom," "The Big C," and "The New Adventures of Old Christine."

**JOHN LITHGOW** (*King Lear*) has performed with The Public Theater in *Hamlet* at the Delacorte in 1975, *Trelawney of the "Wells"* at the Vivian Beaumont in 1975, and in *Salt Lake City Skyline* in the Anspacher Theater in 1980. His Broadway credits include *The Changing Room*, *My Fat Friend*, *Comedians*, *Anna Christie*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *Spokesong*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *The Front Page*, *M. Butterfly*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, *The Retreat From Moscow*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *All My Sons*, and most recently, *The Columnist*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Mrs. Farnsworth* and *Mr. & Mrs. Fitch*. In England, he has played the title role in *The Magistrate* at London's National Theatre and Malvoilo in *Twelfth Night* for The RSC at Stratford-Upon-Avon. He tours regularly with his one-man show *Stories By Heart*. His film and television credits include *All That Jazz*; *Blowout*; *The World According to Garp*; *Terms of Endearment*; *Twilight Zone: The Movie*; *Harry and the Hendersons*; *Footloose*; *Raising Cain*; *Kinsey*; *Shrek*; *This Is 40*; *The Campaign*; "3<sup>rd</sup> Rock From the Sun"; "Dexter"; and "Amazing Stories." Upcoming films include *Love Is Strange*, *The Homesman* and *Interstellar*. He has authored nine bestselling picture books for children, and has recorded the CDs *Singing' in the Bathtub* and *The Sunny Side of the Street*. He wrote and performed a new narration for *Carnival of the Animals* at the New York City Ballet, and his memoir, *Drama: An Actor's Education*, was published by Harper in 2011. He has won two Tony Awards, three Drama Desk Awards, five Emmys, two Golden Globes, two SAG awards, and he has been nominated for two Oscars and four Grammys.

**LILY RABE** (*Beatrice*) has previously performed at The Public in the 2012 Shakespeare in the Park production of *As You Like It* as Rosalind, and the 2010 Park production of *The Merchant of Venice* as Portia, opposite Al Pacino. She has starred on Broadway in *Seminar* (Drama League nomination), *The Merchant of Venice* (Tony, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk nominations; Callaway Award), *The American Plan*, *Heartbreak House* (Outer Critics Circle nomination, Callaway Award), and *Steel Magnolias* (Drama Desk nomination). Her Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Miss Julie*, *A Doll's House*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Colder Than Here*, *Proof*, and others. Rabe's film credits include *All Good Things*, *Letters from the Big Man*, *Weakness*, *Aftermath*, *What Just Happened*, *The Toe Tactic*, *No Reservations*, *A Crime*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Never Again*, and *Beyond Redemption*. Upcoming films include *Pawn Sacrifice*, directed by Ed Zwick and *Mockingjay*, the final installment of *The Hunger Games* films. She has been a regular on Ryan Murphy's Emmy and Golden Globe nominated FX series "American Horror Story" for the past three seasons (for which she received a 2012 Critics Choice

Nomination) and has guest starred on "The Good Wife," "Nip/Tuck," "Medium," the "Law and Orders," among others.

### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE AND THE DELACORTE 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 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 restaurant 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)

**THE DELACORTE THEATER**, conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, officially opened in Central Park on June 18, 1962, with *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Papp and Gladys Vaughan and featuring George C. Scott as Shylock. *The Merchant of Venice* was followed that summer by a production of *The Tempest*, directed by Gerald Freedman and featuring Paul Stevens as Prospero and James Earl Jones as Caliban. The first Delacorte summer season concluded with *King Lear*, directed by Papp and Vaughan and featuring Frank Silvera as Lear. Since then more than 150 productions have been presented for free at the Delcorte Theater in Central Park. Highlights of past Delacorte productions include *Othello* in 1964 with James Earl Jones; *Hamlet* in 1975 with Sam Waterston; *The Taming of the Shrew* in 1978 with Raul Julia and Meryl Streep; *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1980 with Kevin Kline and Linda Ronstadt; *Henry V* in 1984 with Kevin Kline; *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1988 with Kevin Kline and Blythe Danner; *Richard III* in 1990 with Denzel Washington; *Othello* in 1991 with Raul Julia and Christopher Walken; *The Tempest* in 1995 with Patrick Stewart; *The Seagull* in 2001 with Natalie Portman, Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Philip Seymour Hoffman; *Mother Courage* in 2006 with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline; *Macbeth* in 2006 with Liev Schreiber; *HAIR* in 2008 with Jonathan Groff and Will Swenson; *Twelfth Night* in 2009 with Anne Hathaway; *The Merchant of Venice* in 2010 with Al Pacino and Lily Rabe; Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* with Amy Adams, Denis O'Hare, and Donna Murphy in 2012; and most recently, last summer's acclaimed productions of *The Comedy of Errors* with Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Hamish Linklater, and Alex Timbers and Michael Friedman's world premiere musical adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost*.

### **ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Bank of America's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending,

investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. As part of these efforts, employee volunteers across the company contribute their time, passion and expertise to address issues in communities where they live and work. Learn more at [www.bankofamerica.com/about](http://www.bankofamerica.com/about) and follow us on Twitter at @BofA\_Community. Visit the Bank of America newsroom for more [Bank of America news](#). [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)

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