

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
ADDITIONAL CASTING FOR
2014 FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
PRODUCTION OF
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
DIRECTED BY JACK O'BRIEN**

**Steel Burkhardt, Austin Durant, John Glover,
David Manis, Kathryn Meisle, Ismenia Mendes,
Brian Stokes Mitchell, John Pankow,
Pedro Pascal, Eric Sheffer Stevens, Zoë Winters
Join Shakespeare's Comedy**

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

April 24, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced additional casting today for *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, the first show of The Public's 2014 season of free Shakespeare in the Park at the Delacorte. Directed by **Jack O'Brien**, *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* begins previews on Tuesday, June 3 and runs through Sunday, July 6, with an official press opening on Monday, June 16.

In addition to the previously announced **Lily Rabe** (*Beatrice*) and **Hamish Linklater** (*Benedick*), *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* will feature **Steel Burkhardt** (*Balthasar*); **Austin Durant** (*Friar Francis, Sexton*); **John Glover** (*Leonato*); **David Manis** (*Antonio, Verges*); **Kathryn Meisle** (*Ursula*); **Ismenia Mendes** (*Hero*); **Brian Stokes Mitchell** (*Don Pedro*); **John Pankow** (*Dogberry*); **Pedro Pascal** (*Don John*); **Eric Sheffer Stevens** (*Borachio*); and **Zoë Winters** (*Margaret*). The non-equity ensemble includes **Matt Bittner, Alex Breaux, Paco Lozano, and Matthew Russell**.

Obie Award winner Hamish Linklater and Tony Award nominee Lily Rabe return to the Park this summer as the wise-cracking, would-be lovers Beatrice and Benedick in the beloved romantic comedy *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*. Central Park becomes sun-drenched Sicily at the turn of the last century, where the heat of summer ignites the fevered passions of lovesick ladies in corsets and pining gentlemen spying from the verandah. Three-time Tony winner Jack O'Brien directs this delightful skirmish of wit between two self-declared bachelors tricked by their mischief-making friends into falling in love against their will and in spite of their own hearts.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING features scenic design by **John Lee Beatty**, costume design by **Jane Greenwood**, lighting design by **Jeff Croiter**, sound design by **ACME Sound Partners**, and original music by **David Yazbek**.

Following ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***, **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, with an official press opening on Tuesday, August 5. Lithgow last performed at the Delacorte Theater as Laertes in *Hamlet* in 1975.

Revenge, rage, grief and delusion thunder upon the Delacorte as Tony and Emmy Award winner John Lithgow takes the stage as one of theater's great tragic heroes, King Lear. Tony Award winner **Daniel Sullivan** directs Shakespeare's classic drama about a King who loses everything—including his mind—when he disowns his favorite daughter, and finds himself betrayed in return.

KING LEAR features scenic design by **John Lee Beatty**, costume design by **Susan Hilferty**, lighting design by **Jeff Croiter**, sound design by **ACME Sound Partners**, and original music by **Dan Moses Schreier**.

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

The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park is 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.

The Public Theater Annual Gala will be celebrated on **Monday, June 23** at the Delacorte Theater. To receive an invitation to The Public Theater's Gala, please call (212) 539-8634 or visit www.publictheater.org.

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK TICKET INFORMATION

FREE TICKETS to The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park are distributed, two per person (age 5+), at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park beginning at **12:00 p.m.** on the day of each performance. In order to allow as many different people as possible to attend free Shakespeare in the Park this summer, visitors will be limited to receiving free tickets to two performances only of each production. There will continue to be a separate line for accessible tickets for senior citizens (65+) and patrons with disabilities.

VIRTUAL TICKETING LOTTERY FOR FREE TICKETS will be available at www.publictheater.org on the day of the show, beginning Tuesday, June 3.

Borough Distribution: In addition to the ticket line at the Delacorte Theater and Virtual Ticketing online, a limited number of vouchers for specific performances will be distributed, while supplies last, at locations throughout New York's five boroughs. Each person in line is allowed two vouchers and each voucher is good for one ticket for that evening's performance. Vouchers must be exchanged for tickets at the Delacorte Theater Box Office that day from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

For ***MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***, ticket vouchers will be distributed, while supplies last, on Wednesday, June 4 in the Bronx at The Point (940 Garrison Avenue); Friday, June 6 in Manhattan at Harlem Stage at The Gatehouse (150 Convent Avenue at W. 135th Street); Saturday, June 7 in Queens at the New York Hall of Science (47-01 111th Street); Tuesday, June 10 in Staten Island at Snug Harbor Cultural Center (1000 Richmond Terrace); Wednesday, June 18 in the Bronx at The DreamYard Project (1085 Washington Avenue).

For ***KING LEAR***, ticket vouchers will be distributed, while supplies last, on Wednesday, July 23 in Staten Island at Snug Harbor Cultural Center (1000 Richmond Terrace); Thursday, July 24 in the Bronx at Lehman Stages at Lehman College (250 Bedford Park Boulevard West); Friday, July 25 in Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Avenue); Saturday, July 26 in Queens at the Queens

Museum (New York City Building); Tuesday, July 29 in Manhattan at The Public Theater (425 Lafayette Street).

SUMMER SUPPORTER TICKETS, first conceived by Joe Papp as a way to support free Shakespeare in the Park, are available now for **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** and **KING LEAR**. A fully tax-deductible contribution of \$200 entitles each Supporter to one reserved seat for either production. A limited number of Summer Supporter seats are available to ensure that as many free seats as possible will be available to distribute to the general public on the day of the show. A limited number of Summer Supporter tickets are also available to the opening night performances of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** (June 16) and **KING LEAR** (August 5) for a contribution of \$300. Supporter contributions help to underwrite free Shakespeare in the Park.

Supporter donations can be made at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street, by phone at (212) 967-7555, or online at www.publictheater.org. Seating locations for donors are allocated strictly by giving level and in the order that they are received.

For additional access to Shakespeare in the Park you can become a Public Theater Partner. For more information on The Public Theater Partner Program please call (212) 539-8734 or visit www.publictheater.org.

The Delcaorte Theater is accessible by entering at 81st Street and Central Park West, or 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

#

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.

STEEL BURKHARDT (*Balthasar*) has appeared in The Public Theater production of *HAIR* at the Delacorte Theater, as well as the Broadway transfer, London transfer, and the national tour. His additional credits include the regional premiere of *Murder Ballad*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; and *Kiss Me, Kate*.

AUSTIN DURANT (*Friar Francis*, *Sexton*) recently appeared on Broadway in *Macbeth* and *War Horse*. Regionally, he has appeared in *Death of a Salesman*, *Passion Play*, *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, *The Illusion*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Fantasticks*, *Othello*, and *Jelly's Last Jam*, among others. His television credits include "Person of Interest" and "Nurse Jackie."

JOHN GLOVER (*Leonato*) has appeared at The Public in *Subjects to Fits* and *Rebel Women*. His Broadway credits include the recent revival of *Hamlet*; *Death of a Salesman*; *The Royal Family*; *Waiting for Godot*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *Tartuffe*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *Design For Living*; *Whodunnit*; and more. His film and television credits include *Sweet Talk*; *Sanitarium*; "The Good Wife"; "TRON: Uprising"; "Smallville"; "Numb3rs"; and "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd."

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."

DAVID MANIS (*Antonio, Verges*) has appeared at The Public in *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure* at the Delacorte, as well as *Timon Of Athens* and *Henry IV Parts I and II*. His Broadway credits include the upcoming *Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*, *War Horse*, *Exit The King*, *The Coast Of Utopia*, *The Rivals*, *Henry IV*, *Arcadia*. Additionally, he has appeared Off-Broadway in *Our Town*. His extensive regional credits include productions at the Guthrie, the Mark Taper Forum, Shakespeare Theater DC, The Acting Company, among others. His television credits include "Monk," "Frasier," "King Of Queens," and "The X-Files."

KATHRYN MEISLE (*Ursula*) has appeared in The Public Theater Shakespeare in the Park productions of *Othello* and *Twelfth Night*. Her Broadway credits include *A Touch of the Poet*, *The Constant Wife*, *Tartuffe*, *London Assurance*, *The Rehearsal*, and *Racing Demon*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Living Out*, *Old Money*, and *What You Get and What You Expect*. Her film and television credits include *You've Got Mail*, *Rosewood*, "Grey's Anatomy," "Damages," "Oz," and many others.

ISMENIA MENDES (*Hero*) is currently appearing Off-Broadway as Bernie in *Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra* at Playwrights Horizons. Mendes has also appeared Off-Broadway in A.R Gurney's *Family Furniture* at The Flea, and *Baby Screams Miracle* at Clubbed Thumb. Regionally, she has appeared in *Henry V* at Two River Theater.

BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL (*Don Pedro*) has appeared on Broadway in *Women on The Verge....*; *Man of La Mancha*; August Wilson's *King Hedley II*; *Kiss Me, Kate*, for which he received the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Ragtime*; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Oh, Kay!*; *Mail*. His Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Do Re Mi*, *Carnival*, *Kismet*, *Sweeny Todd*, *Sound Pacific*, *Les Misérables*, and *Guys and Dolls*. His film and television credits include *The Prince of Egypt*, *Double Platinum*, *Call Me Claus*, *One Last Thing*, "Frasier," and "Ugly Betty." He has more than a dozen album credits including his own self-titled album.

JOHN PANKOW (*Dogberry*) has appeared in The Public Theater Shakespeare in the Park productions of *Two Gentleman of Verona*; *The Tempest*; *Measure for Measure*; and at The Public in *Ice Cream with Hot Fudge* and *Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*. His Broadway credits include *Cymbeline*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Serious Money*, *The Iceman Cometh*, and *Amadeus*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Medieval Play*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Equivocation*, and others. His film and television credits include *Morning Glory*, *The Extra Man*, *Bride Wars*, *A Stranger Among Us*, *Talk Radio*, "Episodes," "The Book of Daniel," "Mad About You," "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd," and others.

PEDRO PASCAL (*Don John*) has appeared at The Public's Shakespeare in the Park production of *Macbeth* at the Delacorte. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Maple and Vine*, *Old Comedy After Aristophane's Frogs*, *Sand*, *Some Men*, *Based on a Totally True Story*, and *Beauty of the Father*. He currently appears on television in HBO's "Game of Thrones," and his additional film and television credits include *The Adjustment Bureau*, "Graceland," "Homeland," "The Mentalist," "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie," "Nikita," and "Red Widow."

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.

ERIC SHEFFER STEVENS (*Borachio*) has appeared on Broadway in *The Coast of Utopia: Parts I-III* and *King Lear*. His additional New York credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Chained to the Moon*, and *The Captives*. His select film and television credits include *Julie and Julia*, *Life Itself*, *Silent House*, "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie," "Elementary," "Body of Proof," "The Big C," "As The World Turns," "Law & Order," and "Numb3rs."

ZOË WINTERS (*Margaret*) has appeared Off-Broadway in *Love and Information*, *4000 Miles*, and *Love Song*. Her film and television credits include *In The Family*, *Gray Dog*, *Under*, "Ugly Betty," "Army Wives," and "Waitress." Her additional New York performances include her self-written one-woman show *Swimming Legs*, and she has worked with The Old Globe, Baltimore CenterStage, and Seattle Rep.

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

THE DELACORTE THEATER, home of free Shakespeare in the Park, was conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all. It 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 and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community. Visit the Bank of America newsroom for more [Bank of America news](#). www.bankofamerica.com

#