

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES RICHARD NELSON'S AWARD-WINNING *APPLE FAMILY PLAYS* TO LAUNCH EUROPEAN TOUR APRIL 23-MAY 23

March 12, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that Richard Nelson's award-winning ***THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS: SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE COUNTRY*** will tour Europe for five weeks beginning April 23 at The Find Festival in Berlin. The other tour venues include The May International Festival in Weisbaden, Germany; The Brighton Festival in the United Kingdom; and the Vienna Festival in Austria where the tour will conclude on May 23. The tour is being produced by David Eden, Executive Producer for David Eden Productions, and co-produced and general managed by Tim Smith for Pemberley Productions.

The European tour will feature original company members **Maryann Plunkett** (*Barbara*), **Jay O. Sanders** (*Richard*), **Jon DeVries** (*Benjamin*), and **Sally Murphy** (*Jane*), along with new cast members **Mariann Mayberry** (*Marian*) and **Jesse Pennington** (*Tim*).

Beginning in 2010, Tony Award winner Richard Nelson premiered a new play each year at The Public Theater about the fictional, liberal Apple family of Rhinebeck, New York. These plays about family, politics, change, and the way we live today burst with remarkable immediacy. Each of ***The Apple Family Plays*** originally premiered on the night on which it is set. In ***That Hopey Changey Thing***, the Apples reflect on the state of their family and discuss memory, manners and politics as polls close on mid-term election night on November 2, 2010 and a groundswell of conservative sentiment flips Congress on its head. In ***Sweet and Sad***, on November 11, 2011, a family brunch stirs up discussions of loss, remembrance and a decade of change. ***Sorry***, which premiered on November 6, 2012, finds the Apples sorting through family anxieties and confusion on the day of electing the President. The series finally concluded on November 23, 2013 with ***Regular Singing***, which premiered on the 50th Anniversary of JFK's assassination that shocked the world.

*"A rare and radiant mirror on the way we live – a deeply intimate drama with a superb ensemble!
To my knowledge, no previous works of theater have been topical
in the resonant and specific ways of *The Apple Family Plays*."* - Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS first premiered as part of The Public's Pub Lab series and was the 2012 recipient of the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance and the 2012 Obie Award for Performance for *Sweet and Sad*. The plays were filmed by PBS and aired nationally beginning in October, 2014.

THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS feature scenic and costume design by Susan Hilferty; lighting design by Jennifer Tipton; and sound design by Scott Lehrer and Will Pickens.

RICHARD NELSON (*Playwright, Director*) wrote and directed all four acclaimed plays *The Apple Family Plays: Scenes from Life in the Country* at The Public Theater. His additional credits for The Public include *Conversations in Tusculum*. His other plays include *Nikolai and the Others*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere*, *Two Shakespearean Actors*, *Some American Abroad*, *Madame Melville*, *New England*,

Frank's Home, Rodney's Wife, Franny's Way, The General from America, The Vienna Notes, and others. His musicals include *James Joyce's The Dead*, for which he won a Tony Award; and *My Life with Albertine*. His films include *Hyde Park on Hudson, Ethan Frome,* and *Sensibility and Sense*. He is a recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is an honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which has produced ten of his plays.

JON DEVRIES (*Benjamin*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Regular Singing, Sorry, Sweet and Sad, That Hopey Changey Thing, As You Like It, One Flea Spare, Titus Andronicus, The Cherry Orchard, Agamemnon,* and *Ballad of Soapy Smith*. His Broadway credits include *Devour the Snow, Execution of Justice, Major Barbara, Loose Ends,* and *Inspector General*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Galileo, Accomplices, Goodnight Children Everywhere, General From America, Sight Unseen, Hamlet, Richard II,* and *Oedipus*. He performed in the National Tour of *August: Osage County*. His select Film and TV credits include *Kill Your Darlings; American Gangster; The International; Evening; The Baxter,* "Law & Order"; and "Boardwalk Empire."

MARIANN MAYBERRY (*Marian*) has performed on Broadway in *August: Osage County; Metamorphoses;* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Go Back To Where You Are* and *The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci*. Additionally she has been an ensemble member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company since 1993. Her film and television credits include *Dogman, War of the Worlds, The Company, Life Sentence,* "Blue Bloods," "Person of Interest," and "Mercy."

SALLY MURPHY (*Jane*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Regular Singing, Sorry, Sweet and Sad,* and *That Hopey Changey Thing*. Her Broadway credits include *August: Osage County; Fiddler On The Roof; The Wild Party; Carousel;* and *The Grapes Of Wrath*. She's performed at The National Theater in London in *August: Osage County* and *The Grapes Of Wrath*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *Bernarda Alba; A Man Of No Importance;* and *Brutal Imagination*. As a member of Steppenwolf Theatre Company she's performed in *Sex With Strangers, Time Stands Still, The Crucible, Skylight,* and *Uncle Vanya*. Her film and television credits include *Pollock, Fearless, Scent Of A Woman,* "The Good Wife," "Mob Doctor," "If These Walls Could Talk" (HBO), and PBS' Great Performances.

JESSE PENNINGTON (*Tim*) has performed at The Public Theater in *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Winter's Tale*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *A Place at the Table, Franny's Way, The General From America, Rodney's Wife, The False Servant, Richard II,* and *Bootycandy*. Regionally he has performed in *Maple and Vine, Vera Laughed, Major Barbara, James Joyce's The Dead,* and *Goodnight Children Everywhere*. His film credits include *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* and *American Gun*.

MARYANN PLUNKETT (*Barbara*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Regular Singing, Sorry, Sweet and Sad,* and *That Hopey Changey Thing*. Her Broadway credits include *A Man For All Seasons, The Crucible, Saint Joan, Me and My Girl* (Tony Award), *Sunday in the Park...*, and *Agnes of God*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *Rodney's Wife, Jayson With A Y,* and *Aristocrats*. She is a founding member of Portland Stage. Her television and film credits include "House of Cards," "The Black List," "Law & Order," *A True Story, Company Men, Blue Valentine,* and *Fairhaven*.

JAY O. SANDERS (*Richard*) has appeared at The Public Theater in *Regular Singing, Sorry, Sweet and Sad,* and *That Hopey Changey Thing, Titus Andronicus* (Titus); *Twelfth Night* (Toby Belch); *Hamlet* (Ghost, Player King, Gravedigger); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom); *Stuff Happens* (George W. Bush - Drama Desk); and a workshop of his own play, *Unexplored Interior*. On Broadway he's appeared in *Pygmalion*. At The National in London he's appeared in *Theater of War*. He has appeared in numerous films and television programs.

ABOUT THE TOUR VENUES

THE FIND FESTIVAL in Berlin was founded in 1999 and initially was a festival for young writers from one particular region. Since 2011 the Festival has become a large-scale festival for international productions. The 2014 festival was attended by 17,000 people and featured performances from Angélica Liddell (Todo

el cielo sobre la tierra (El síndrome de Wendy), Spain; Kirill Serebrennikov (Idiots), Russia; La Re-sentida (Tratando de hacer una obra que cambie el mundo), Chile; Rabih Mroué and Lina Saneh (33 RPM and a few Seconds), Lebanon.

THE WEISBADEN MAY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL was founded in 1896 and is one of the most significant festivals in Germany. It is a multi-disciplinary festival (opera, ballets, plays and musicals). Highlights from previous festivals include in 2014 the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre from Taipei in Taiwan and the Rustavi Choir from Georgia. In 2013 the Cape Town Opera from South Africa performed "Porgy and Bess".

THE VIENNA FESTIVAL was founded in 1951 and in 2014 presented a total of 38 productions from 22 countries (Egypt, Belgium, China, Congo, Germany, France, Japan, Croatia, Latvia, Lebanon, Mozambique, Portugal, Austria, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, South Korea, Hungary, USA) with a total of 171 performances.

THE BRIGHTON FESTIVAL, now in its 49th year, is an innovative commissioning and producing festival, which continues to win critical acclaim for its ambitious and daring programme. As England's biggest curated mixed arts festival, Brighton Festival attracts some of the most innovative artists and companies (and some of the most adventurous audiences) from the UK and around the world. Brighton Festival is an annual celebration of music, theatre, dance, circus, art, film, literature, debate, outdoor and family events --taking place in venues both familiar and unusual across Brighton & Hove for three weeks every May.

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

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.

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