

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES FALL 2015 LINE-UP FOR ACCLAIMED PUBLIC FORUM SERIES

One-Night-Only Performances and Conversations
Include Oskar Eustis and Tom Geoghegan Exploring *Waiting For Lefty*,
An Evening With Cleopatra Featuring Christine Baranski,
An Adaptation of Lorca's Classic *Poet in New York* by Nilo Cruz,
The Return of Wilder's *The Long Christmas Dinner*

July 28, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced the 2015 Fall Public Forum season, featuring an exciting line-up of one-night-only performances and conversations that connect dramatic literature to the way we live now. Now in its sixth year, the popular Public Forum series presents the theater of ideas: conversations and performances with leading voices in politics, media, and the arts.

Public Theater Member tickets for the Public Forum series, starting at \$40, are available now. Single tickets, starting at \$50, will be available on Thursday, August 6 and can be accessed at [\(212\) 967-7555](tel:2129677555), www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. (There is no food or drink minimum for the Public Forum series in Joe's Pub.)

Public Forum kicks off its sixth season with the return of the celebrated Drama Club series with **DRAMA CLUB: WAITING FOR LEFTY** on **Monday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.** in Joe's Pub. This blockbuster evening will feature a reading and discussion of Clifford Odets' fiery first play about a group of cab drivers on the eve of a planned labor strike. The cast of this political event will feature Public Theater Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**, El Teatro Campesino founder **Luis Valdez**, noted labor lawyer **Tom Geoghegan**, author and *New Yorker* contributor **George Packer**, actors **Adam Green** and **Miriam Silverman**, and more.

On **Monday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m.**, Public Forum celebrates **DRAMA CLUB: LORCA IN NEW YORK** in Joe's Pub. In 1929, a young Federico García Lorca was studying at Columbia University. Transfixed by his surroundings, he produced *Poet in New York* – a love letter to the city, warts and all. With a reading of excerpts from this classic work, Nilo Cruz's vibrant translation and adaptation brings the poetry of Lorca's words and of our fair metropolis to life. The cast will feature **Saeed Jones**, *BuzzFeed* Literary Editor and author of the PEN/Joyce Osterwell Award-winning poetry collection *Prelude to Bruise*, and more.

With the Presidential election just under a year away, on **Monday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m.**, **DRAMA CLUB: AN EVENING WITH CLEOPATRA** will host an exploration of modern women in power in Joe's Pub via the great dramatic depictions of Egypt's famous queen – from Shakespeare to Shaw to Wilder and more. The evening will feature actress **Christine Baranski** as the iconic Queen of the Nile, journalist **Rebecca Traister**, and more.

On **Monday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.** Public Forum's holiday tradition returns to Joe's Pub with **DRAMA CLUB: THE LONG CHRISTMAS DINNER**, Thornton Wilder's ingenious, heartbreaking play about 90

years in the life of an American family shown over the course of their Christmas meal and insightful discussion about family and storytelling. Wilder's nephew and literary executor **Tappan Wilder** returns along with a tremendous new cast.

PUBLIC FORUM, directed by Jeremy McCarter, presents the theater of ideas: performances and conversations that explore the way we live now. Alec Baldwin, Anne Hathaway, Cynthia Nixon, Sam Waterston, and former NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman have hosted its programs, which have featured the insights of Kurt Andersen, David Brooks, David Byrne, Tony Kushner, Rachel Maddow, Wynton Marsalis, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, Suzan-Lori Parks, Salman Rushdie, David Simon, Anna Deavere Smith, Stephen Sondheim, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, young veterans of the war in Afghanistan - plus performances and readings by Christine Baranski, Annette Bening, Jessica Chastain, America Ferrera, Billy Collins, Matt Damon, E.L. Doctorow, Holly Hunter, James Earl Jones, Audra McDonald, Uzo Aduba, Luis Valdez, and Vanessa Redgrave, among others. The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation provides lead support for The Public's access and engagement programming.

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.

PUBLIC FORUM TICKET INFORMATION

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There is no food or drink minimum for the Public Forum series in Joe's Pub. Please note the final line-up is subject to change. The Library at The Public Theater is also open for food and drink nightly.

The Public Theater is located at 425 Lafayette Street. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org

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