

**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
ANNOUNCES  
2015 ANNUAL GALA  
ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9**

**ALFRESCO DINNER & PERFORMANCE OF  
*THE TEMPEST*  
AT DELCORTE THEATER**

**Celebrating Oskar and Laurie Eustis  
and Honoring Bernard and Anne Spitzer  
For Dedication and Service**

April 22, 2015 – The Public Theater announced today that The Public Theater’s Annual Gala will take place on **Tuesday, June 9** at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. The evening will include a special performance of the free Shakespeare in the Park production of ***THE TEMPEST***, featuring a cast that includes Sam Waterston and Jesse Tyler Ferguson and directed by Michael Greif, as well as an alfresco dinner in Central Park followed by a dessert reception. Pat Fili-Krushel and Audrey Wilf will serve as Gala Co-Chairs for this popular summer event.

This year, The Public will celebrate **Oskar and Laurie Eustis** for their unwavering commitment to the mission of The Public Theater and a decade of service to the artistic community and city of New York. Oskar Eustis celebrates 10 years as Artistic Director of The Public Theater this year and Laurie Eustis has been working with artists and literary icons for more than a decade, most recently at the acclaimed literary publication *Lapham’s Quarterly*.

The Public will also proudly honor **Bernard Spitzer (1924–2014) and Anne Spitzer** for their extraordinary support. Through their generosity, the Spitzer family played a vital role in the capital campaign for the revitalization of The Public’s landmark Astor Place building, and helped to ensure The Public can continue offering free tickets to world-class productions of Shakespeare in the Park.

“The Public’s annual gala, set so beautifully in the middle of Central Park, is the perfect place to honor those extraordinary individuals who have supported and championed The Public Theater and its enduring legacy,” said **Executive Director Patrick Willingham**. “Oskar and Laurie Eustis and Bernard and Anne Spitzer are true visionaries in their dedication and commitment to the theater and firm believers in the impact that art can have on the community, the city and the world.”

The gala evening at the Delacorte on Monday, June 9 will begin with cocktails and dinner alfresco at 6:00 p.m. followed by a special performance of ***THE TEMPEST*** at 8:00 p.m. and conclude with a dessert reception under the stars. The gala rain date is Wednesday, June 10.

Tickets to The Public Theater’s Annual Gala start at \$650 and are available for purchase by calling (212) 539-8634, online at [www.publictheater.org/gala](http://www.publictheater.org/gala) or via email at [gala@publictheater.org](mailto:gala@publictheater.org). Proceeds from the gala will help support The Public’s mission of providing a home for artists who give voice to the pressing issues of our time, provide affordable access to thousands of New Yorkers with free Shakespeare in the

Park and other groundbreaking works, and strengthen the vital relationship between our artists and audiences.

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 The Public's mission to increase access and engage the community.

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

**THE TEMPEST**, Shakespeare's classic about young love, old enemies, and the eternal magic of storytelling, will run for five weeks from Wednesday, May 27 through Sunday, July 5, with an official press opening on Tuesday, June 16. In addition to Sam Waterston and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, the cast will include Louis Cancelmi (*Caliban*); Francesca Carpanini (*Miranda*); Nicholas Christopher (*Boatswain, Spirit*); Olga Karmansky (*Iris*); Tamika Lawrence (*Ceres*); Danny Mastrogiorgio (*Stephano*); Charles Parnell (*Alonso*); Chris Perfetti (*Ariel*); Rodney Richardson (*Ferdinand*); Cotter Smith (*Antonio*); and Bernard White (*Gonzalo*). The non-equity ensemble includes Jordan Barrow, Chloe Fox, Thomas Gibbons, Sunny Hitt, Brandon Kalm, Rico Lebron, and Matthew Oaks. The production features scenic design by Riccardo Hernandez; costume design by Emily Rebholz; lighting design by David Lander; sound design by Acme Sound Partners and Jason Crystal; soundscape by Matt Tierney; original music by Michael Friedman; and choreography by Denis Jones.

**THE TEMPEST** was first staged at the Delacorte in its inaugural year in 1962 and was directed by Gerald Freedman, featuring Paul Stevens, James Earl Jones, and Kathleen Widdoes. It was also performed at the Delacorte in 1981, directed by Lee Breuer with Ruth Maleczek, and featuring Raúl Julia as Prospero. It was again staged at the Delacorte in 1991 and was adapted by Ugo Ulive and directed by Carlos Gimenez, featuring Jose Tejera as Prospero. It was later staged in 1995 and directed by George C. Wolfe, featuring Patrick Stewart as Prospero, Liev Schreiber as Sebastian, Bill Irwin as Trinculo, and John Pankow as Stephano, which later transferred to Broadway. Most recently the show was presented in 2013 as part of Public Works, an ongoing initiative of The Public Theater that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators, and deliberately blurs the line between professional artists and community members, creating theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well.

**OSKAR AND LAURIE EUSTIS** (*Honorees*) have been leaders of the artistic community in New York and across the country for more than 25 years. Oskar has served as the Artistic Director of The Public Theater since 2005, celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this season. During his tenure at The Public he has produced such acclaimed pieces of theater as the revival of *Hair*, *Twelfth Night* with Anne Hathaway; *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino; Tony Kushner's *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide To Capitalism and Socialism With a Key to the Scriptures*; Stew and Heidi Rodewald's *Passing Strange*; *The Apple Family Plays* by Richard Nelson; *Fun Home* by Lisa Kron and Jeannie Tesori; *Here Lies Love* by David Byrne and Alex Timbers; *Father Comes Home From The Wars* by Suzan-Lori Parks; Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*; and created new community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences like Public Lab, Public Studio, Public Forum, Public Works and a remount of the Mobile Shakespeare Unit. Laurie Eustis worked at the Goodman Theatre under Artistic Director Gregory Mosher after graduating from Northwestern University. In a decade in Los Angeles, she worked at Rogers and Cowan Public Relations and as a casting director at Embassy Television. She also served as a producer at Mark Taper Forum with Gordon Davidson, where she championed their annual New Play Festival, among other projects. She has most recently been working with artists and literary icons at the acclaimed *Lapham's Quarterly* and *The Paris Review*.

**BERNARD SPITZER (1924 – 2014) AND ANNE SPITZER** (*Honorees*) have both been long-time supporters of The Public Theater. Bernard, a civil engineer and real estate developer, was always grateful for the opportunities that he received in New York City, and he delighted in making all the City has to offer available to others. Born on the lower east side, he attended Townsend Harris High School, CCNY, served in naval intelligence in World War II, and then attended Columbia University on the GI bill, earning a Master of Science in Engineering. Over time he built residential and commercial buildings throughout Manhattan,

changing the skyline in interesting ways. He was always passionate about learning, educational opportunities for all, and the cultural life of New York, and he endowed, among other things, a new architecture and urban planning school at City College, the Hall of Human Origins at the American Museum of Natural History, and a stem cell research program at Columbia University. He met Anne in 1942 when he was playing the saxophone and she was working as a camp counselor at Weinrib's resort in the Catskills. Anne had a passion for literature, which she taught for decades at Hunter and Marymount Manhattan College. It was Bernard and Anne's shared passion for the written word that inspired them to support The Public Theater, donating to the capital campaign so The Public would continue to have a worthy home, and also providing funding so that The Public could continue to distribute free tickets to its extraordinary productions of Shakespeare in the Park to the general public.

### **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 [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; 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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