

THE PUBLIC THEATER APPOINTS JEANIE O'HARE DIRECTOR OF NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT

June 2, 2016 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that **Jeanie O'Hare** has been named the Director of New Work Development. O'Hare, who will start at The Public in September, has more than 20 years of experience, working with leading theater companies in Britain and most recently serving as the Chair of Playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.

"Jeanie O'Hare has the vision, the experience, the brains and the drive to elevate all our work at The Public Theater," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "I am thrilled she will be joining our staff and I look forward to our partnership with joy."

"This is a wildly exciting time to be joining The Public Theater. Oskar Eustis leads a company that has become *the* place for America to take its boldest theatrical risks," said **Jeanie O'Hare**. "From my time at the Royal Court through to the Royal Shakespeare Company, and now to find myself invited into what is the *de facto* national theater of America feels like a philosophical homecoming. The Public has always been a home to writers who have the guts and the instinct to match the temper of the times and to do it with exuberance. There are great voices all across this country, and I look forward to playing my part in the realization of their ambitions."

JEANIE O'HARE has served as the Chair of Playwriting at the Yale School of Drama since 2012, where she has re-shaped the curriculum, focusing primarily on collaboration and encouraging playwrights to look at new models of producing works. Prior to her time at the Yale School of Drama she served as the Company Dramaturg for the Royal Shakespeare Company for seven years. During that time she oversaw 35 writers under commission including David Greig, Helen Edmundson, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Stephin Merritt, and many others, as well as pairing together writing team Tim Minchin and Dennis Kelly for *Matilda the Musical*. She commissioned Shakespeare's poem *The Rape of Lucrece* as a musical song cycle; created the Embedded Writers Scheme for living writers to bring the lost voice to the classical rehearsal room; created the International Writer in Residence Program bringing Tarell Alvin McCraney to the RSC for two years; commissioned emerging playwrights to edit Shakespeare to 70 minutes for Shakespeare in School performed by RSC actors; relaunched the RSC Studio to allow writers to enjoy core classical training; and she achieved a historical first of getting new writing onto the main-stage at Stratford. She served as the Literary Manager of the Hampstead Theatre from 2001 to 2004, and for every year of her tenure Hampstead received Olivier Award nominations for Most Promising Playwright, winning twice. She also worked as the Literary Assistant at the Royal Court Theatre under Artistic Directors Stephen Daldry and Ian Rickson, where she served as Senior Script Reader and ran the literary team of readers who put plays forward for programming, and led the Royal Court Young Writers' Group with Rufus Norris.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

The Public Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces in equal measure. Celebrating his 10th anniversary season at The Public, Eustis has created new community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences like Public Lab, Public Studio, Public Forum, Public Works, and a remount of the Mobile Unit. 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 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, an expanding initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; and audience and artist development initiatives that range from Emerging Writers Group and to the Public Forum series. The Public 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. The Public is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning *Fun Home* and Lin-Manuel Miranda’s acclaimed American musical *Hamilton*, and Danai Gurira’s *Eclipsed* featuring Lupita Nyong’o. The Public has received 47 Tony Awards, 168 Obie Awards, 52 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics Awards, and five Pulitzer Prizes. www.publictheater.org.

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