

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
OPENS
WORLD PREMIERE OF
WHITE NOISE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
Written by Suzan-Lori Parks
Directed by Oskar Eustis**

Run Extended Two Weeks Through Sunday, May 5

March 19, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today a two-week extension of the world premiere of ***WHITE NOISE***, written by Public Theater Master Writer Chair and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks**. **Oskar Eustis** directs this fierce new drama that began performances on Tuesday, March 5 in The Public’s Anspacher Theater and will now run through Sunday, May 5, with an official press opening on Wednesday, March 20.

The complete cast of ***WHITE NOISE*** features **Daveed Diggs** (*Leo*), **Sheria Irving** (*Misha*), **Thomas Sadoski** (*Ralph*), and **Zoë Winters** (*Dawn*).

Following her critically-acclaimed trilogy *Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks returns to The Public with a world premiere play about race, friendship, and our rapidly unraveling social contract. Long-time friends and lovers Leo, Misha, Ralph, and Dawn are educated, progressive, cosmopolitan, and woke. But when a racially motivated incident with the cops leaves Leo shaken, he decides extreme measures must be taken for self-preservation.

Public Theater Master Writer Chair Suzan-Lori Parks has a long relationship with The Public beginning in 1994 with *The America Play*, directed by Liz Diamond. Since then, her works have been produced by The Public five times, including *Venus* in 1996, directed by Richard Foreman; the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Topdog/Underdog* in 2001, directed by George C. Wolfe and featuring Don Cheadle and Jeffrey Wright; *F*cking A* in 2003, directed by Michael Greif; *Book of Grace* in 2010, directed by James G. MacDonald; and *Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*, directed by Jo Bonney, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

WHITE NOISE features scenic design by Clint Ramos, costume design by Toni-Leslie James, lighting design by Xavier Pierce, sound design by Dan Moses Schreier, and projection design by Lucy Mackinnon.

SUZAN-LORI PARKS (*Playwright*) was named one of *TIME* magazine’s “100 Innovators for the Next New Wave,” and is the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her play *Topdog/Underdog*. She is a MacArthur “Genius Grant” prize recipient and she’s also received The Gish Prize for Excellence in the Arts. Her Broadway credits include *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess*, which was awarded the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, and *Topdog/Underdog*, which starred Jeffrey Wright and Mos Def and was directed by George C. Wolfe. The play received a Tony nomination and recently was named by *The New York Times* as the most important American play within the last 25 years.

Other plays include *In the Blood* (Pulitzer Prize finalist), *F*cking A*, *The Death of The Last Black Man In The Whole Entire World aka The Negro Book Of The Dead*, and more recently *Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* (Pulitzer Prize finalist). In 2003, Parks wrote a play a day culminating in *365 Days/365 Plays*; the plays were produced globally in over 700 theatres, which, at the time, was said to be the largest theatrical grassroots undertaking of its kind. More recently, to reflect on the current presidential administration, Parks wrote *100 Plays For The First Hundred Days*. Parks has authored a novel, *Getting Mother's Body*, which is published by Random House. Her screenplays include *Girl 6* (directed by Spike Lee); *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (produced by Oprah Winfrey); and *Anemone Me* (produced by Christine Vachon and Todd Haynes), and she has two new screenplays in production: *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* (directed by Lee Daniels) and an adaptation of Richard Wright's *Native Son* (directed by Rashid Johnson) which opened the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. She's at work on a stage musical adaptation of the film *The Harder They Come* and two new stage plays — one of them, *White Noise* directed by Oskar Eustis. Parks is The Public Theater's Master Writer Chair, where she performs *Watch Me Work*, a weekly writing performance/class free of charge and open to all. She also writes songs and fronts her band Suzan-Lori Parks & The Band.

OSKAR EUSTIS (*Director*) has served as the Artistic Director of The Public Theater since 2005. In the last four years, he has produced two Tony Award-winning Best Musicals (*Fun Home* and *Hamilton*), and back-to-back winners of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Hamilton* and *Sweat*. He came to The Public from Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, RI where he served as Artistic Director from 1994 to 2005. Eustis served as Associate Artistic Director at Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum from 1989 to 1994, and prior to that he was with the Eureka Theatre Company in San Francisco, serving as Resident Director and Dramaturg from 1981 to 1986 and Artistic Director from 1986 to 1989. Eustis is currently a Professor of Dramatic Writing and Arts and Public Policy at New York University, and has held professorships at UCLA, Middlebury College, and Brown University, where he founded and chaired the Trinity Rep/Brown University Consortium for professional theater training. At The Public, Eustis directed the New York premieres of Rinne Groff's *Compulsion* and *The Ruby Sunrise*; Larry Wright's *The Human Scale*; and most recently *Julius Caesar* and Public Works' *Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare in the Park. He has founded numerous ground-breaking programs at The Public, from Public Works and Public Forum to the Emerging Writers Group and the Mobile Unit. At Trinity Rep, he directed the world premiere of Paula Vogel's *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*, both recipients of the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production. While at the Eureka Theatre, he commissioned Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, and directed its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum. Eustis delivered a well-received TED Talk on "Why Theater is Essential to Democracy" in Vancouver, Canada in 2018. Eustis has also directed the world premieres of plays by Philip Kan Gotanda, David Henry Hwang, Emily Mann, Suzan-Lori Parks, Ellen McLaughlin, and Eduardo Machado, among many others.

DAVEED DIGGS (*Leo*). Tony, Grammy, and Lucille Lortel Award-winning actor, writer, rapper, and producer Daveed Diggs broke out in Broadway's *Hamilton*. His critically-acclaimed film *Blindspotting* (Lionsgate) earned him an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Male Lead. Diggs recently appeared in the feature *Velvet Buzzsaw* (Netflix), and will next appear on television in "Snowpiercer" (TNT) and "Undone" (Netflix). His previous films include *Wonder* (Lionsgate) and *Ferdinand* (Fox). His television appearances include "Bob's Burgers" (Fox), "Bojack Horseman" (Netflix), "black-ish" (ABC), "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" (Netflix), "Tour de Pharmacy" (HBO), "The Get Down" (Netflix), and "The Mayor" (ABC), which he also executive produced. Diggs is a member of the West Coast-based hip-hop trio, clipping.

SHERIA IRVING (*Misha*) has appeared on Broadway in *Romeo and Juliet* (Richard Rodgers Theater). Her Off-Broadway and New York theater credits include *Crownation: I Will Not Lie to David* (National Black Theatre); *Fit for a Queen* (Classical Theatre of Harlem); *While I Yet Live* (Primary Stages); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Masterworks); and *Ethel Sings* (Theater Row). She has appeared regionally in *The Model American* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); and *Cymbeline* and *The Winter's Tale* (Yale Rep). Her film and television credits include Lena Waithe's "Twenties"; "The Good Wife," and "Madam Secretary".

THOMAS SADOSKI (*Ralph*) currently stars in the CBS comedy series "Life in Pieces." Some of Sadoski's film credits are *Wild*, *The Last Word*, *John Wick*, *John Wick: Chapter Two*, *I Smile Back*, and *Take Care*. His additional television credits include "The Newsroom," "The Slap," and appearances in each of the series in the "Law & Order" franchise, among others. His Broadway credits include *reasons to be pretty*,

which earned him a Tony Award nomination and three other nominations; *Other Desert Cities*; *The House of Blue Leaves*; and his Broadway debut, *Reckless*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Other Desert Cities* (Obie and Lortel Awards), *The Way We Get By*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *Becky Shaw* (Lortel Award), *This Is Our Youth*, *The Mistakes Madeline Made*, *Gemini*, *Stay*, *Where We're Born*, *Jump/Cut*, *All This Intimacy*, and *The General from America*, and over 20 regional productions at Williamstown, the Long Wharf, and others.

ZOË WINTERS (*Dawn*) has appeared at The Public in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Her additional Off-Broadway credits include *The Last Match* (Roundabout); *The Harvest*, *4000 Miles*, *Shows for Days* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater); *Small Mouth Sounds* (Signature); *Red Speedo*, *Love and Information* (NYTW); *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep); and *Love Song* (59E59). Regional includes Old Globe, Paper Mill Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, and Magic Theatre's *Reel to Reel*. Her films include *Gray Dog*, *Under*, and *Giant*. Television credits include "Instinct," "The Good Fight," "Madam Secretary," "Elementary," and "Law & Order." She is a member of NYTW Usual Suspects and LCT Angels Artists.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC is theater of, by, and for all people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, The Public continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, The Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 170 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

WHITE NOISE began performances on Tuesday, March 5 in The Public's Anspacher Theater. The world premiere play has been twice extended and will now run through Sunday, May 5 with an official press opening on Wednesday, March 20.

Public Theater Partner, Public Supporter, Member, and Full price tickets are available now and can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*There is no 7:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, April 14. The performance on Tuesday, April 16 will be at 7:30 p.m.*)

The **open captioning** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. The **audio described** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30.

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe's Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org.

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