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**THE PUBLIC THEATER'S  
MOBILE UNIT  
TO TOUR THIS SPRING WITH  
*CYMBELINE*  
DIRECTED BY CARL COFIELD**

**Extended Four-Week Tour Visits  
Correctional Facilities, Homeless Shelters,  
Social Service Organizations, and Community Centers  
in All Five Boroughs  
April 16 – May 15**

**Free Performances at The Public  
Continue Tradition of Access to Shakespeare for All  
May 18 – June 7**

**Complete Casting Announced**

March 5, 2020 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will bring Shakespeare's *CYMBELINE*, directed by **Carl Cofield**, on tour for the first time ever to venues across the city in a free four-week tour (April 16-May 15), as part of The Public's commitment to bringing free theater to all and deepening its engagement with communities across the five boroughs. The Mobile Unit's free tours bring Shakespeare and other works to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts by visiting correctional facilities, homeless shelters, social service organizations, and other community organizations. Following the tour to the five boroughs, there will also be a free three-week engagement of *CYMBELINE* in The Public's Shiva Theater running Monday, May 18 through Sunday, June 7, with an official press opening on Thursday, May 21.

The complete cast of *CYMBELINE* features **Barzin Akhavan** (*Cymbeline*), **Danaya Esperanza** (*Imogen*), **Stephanie Roth Haberle** (*Queen/Belarius*), **Brandon Mendez Homer** (*Posthumus/Cloten*), **Paco Lozano** (*Caius Lucius*), **Keren Lugo** (*Arviragus*), **Daniel José Molina** (*Iachimo*), **Reynaldo Piniella** (*Guiderius*), and **Simone Recasner** (*Pisanio*).

"Carl Cofield has been doing some wonderful work in recent years, perhaps most notably with the indispensable Classical Theatre of Harlem," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "We are thrilled he is joining us for our Mobile Unit production of *CYMBELINE*, one of Shakespeare's wildest and most beautiful plays."

Bringing high-quality theater to communities across the five boroughs, the Mobile Unit embodies Joseph Papp's dream of theater for all. This season, The Public's acclaimed Mobile Unit tour invites New Yorkers into a 21<sup>st</sup> century fairytale in Shakespeare's **CYMBELINE**. **Carl Cofield** reimagines Shakespeare's epic romance as a familiar yet fantastical story. When Imogen, princess and heir to the throne, secretly marries her true love, her father, the King, banishes her husband. Unleashed jealousy, weaponized ego, and distorted pride trip up every character in this contemporary version of an age-old tale of love and power. Will Imogen choose her love or familial duty?

"This is the first time Mobile Unit is taking on Shakespeare's **CYMBELINE**, which has such an interesting mix of iconic characteristics from all of his stories, and we have Carl Cofield at the helm," said **Director of Mobile Unit Karen Ann Daniels**. "His **CYMBELINE** will revive and renew the concept of the fairytale, offering us a vibrant, contemporary story that feels both fantastic and familiar at the same time."

**CYMBELINE** features co-scenic design by Wilson Chin and Riw Rakkulchon, costume design by Mika Eubanks, music composition by Frederick Kennedy, and movement direction by Byron Easley. Katie Kennedy will serve as production stage manager.

In 2020, the **MOBILE UNIT** celebrates the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its inaugural mobile tour in 1957 which began with a production of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Joseph Papp with Bryarly Lee and Stephen Joyce in the titular roles. The 1957 Mobile Unit tour received early support from New York City authorities. Stanley Lowell, then deputy mayor, was an early champion for free theater and mobilized city resources and departments to support Papp's production. The first Mobile Unit rolled up to performance venues across the city in borrowed Department of Sanitation vehicles with a wooden folding stage mounted to a truck bed and portable seating risers to accommodate 700 people per venue. The city's Parks Department permitted performances in local parks across all five boroughs. Subsequent productions included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1964), *Henry V* (1965), *The Taming of the Shrew* (1965), *Macbeth* (1966), *Volpone* (1967), *Take One Step* (1968), *Ti-Jean and His Brothers* (1972), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1973), and *Unfinished Women Cry in No Man's Land While a Bird Dies in a Gilded Cage* (1977), among many others.

This modern reimagining of The Public Theater's original Mobile Theater is inspired by Ten Thousand Things Theater in Minneapolis, MN. In the fall of 2018, the **MOBILE UNIT** toured nationally with a Mobile Unit National Tour of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat* to communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The tour extended beyond performances by actively interacting with audiences in community engagement activities on the issues and conversations most alive in their communities.

Recent **MOBILE UNIT** productions include *Measure for Measure* (2019); *The Tempest* (2019); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2018); *Henry V* (2018); *The Winter's Tale* (2017); *Twelfth Night* (2017); *Hamlet* (2016); *Romeo & Juliet* (2016); *The Comedy of Errors* (2015); *Macbeth* (2015); *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* (2014); *Much Ado About Nothing* (2013); *Richard III* (2012); and *Measure for Measure* (2010). This program reinforces The Public's commitment to the ongoing exploration of Shakespeare's canon, along with the Public Shakespeare Initiative; the recent Public Works productions of *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* staged at The Delacorte Theater for free; Free Shakespeare in the Park; and The Public's other affordable productions at its downtown home at Astor Place.

### **CYMBELINE TOUR DATES AND VENUES:**

Dates marked with \* are open to the public with RSVP at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

April 16 – The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Manhattan \*

April 17 – Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Manhattan \*

April 18 – Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn \*

April 21 – DreamYard Arts Center, Bronx

April 22 – Brownsville Recreation Center, Brooklyn \*

April 23 – Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, Bronx \*

April 25 – Faber Park Recreation Center, Staten Island \*

May 1 – New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Manhattan \*

May 2 – Hunts Point Recreation Center, Bronx \*

May 5 – Edgecombe Correctional Facility, Manhattan  
May 6 – Einstein Community Center – Co-Op City, Bronx \*  
May 7 – Queens Public Library – Central Branch, Queens \*  
May 9 – North Brooklyn YMCA, Brooklyn \*  
May 12 – Taconic Correctional Facility, Westchester  
May 14 – A.R.R.O.W. Field House, Queens \*  
May 15 – St. Paul’s Chapel, Manhattan \*

### **VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THE PUBLIC’S MOBILE UNIT**

*“Thank you for bringing me extreme joy and for making me think.  
For subverting traditional expectations of what Shakespeare can and should be.  
And for showing that bare-bones storytelling is beyond powerful.”*  
– Faber Park Recreation Center Audience Member

*“There are no better productions of Shakespeare in NYC.  
You make me think theater can actually change the world.”*  
– New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Audience Member

*“Thank you for your mission, for these Mobile Unit performances,  
and for finding the actors you do, who so often do not look like other actors do, but rather like us.”*  
– Pelham Fritz Recreation Center Audience Member

**CARL COFIELD** (*Director*) is the Associate Artistic Director of The Classical Theatre of Harlem. He directed the award-winning world premiere of *One Night in Miami* (*Huffington Post* Best of LA 2013, N.A.A.C.P., LA Drama Critics Circle, and others) for Rogue Machine Theater. Off-Broadway directing credits include *The Bacchae*, *Antigone*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *Dutchman* at The Classical Theatre of Harlem. Regional credits include *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Twelfth Night* at Yale Rep, *Henry IV* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Disgraced* at Denver Center, *The Mountaintop* at Cleveland Playhouse, and others. As an actor, his work has been seen at The Manhattan Theater Club (*Ruined*), Berkeley Rep, Alliance, Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theater, Intiman, Actors Theater of Louisville, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Milwaukee Rep, Alabama Shakespeare, McCarter, The Acting Company, The Studio Theatre, and many others. He holds an MFA from Columbia and teaches at Columbia and NYU.

### **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 and *Girl From the North Country*. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 178 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 56 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics’ Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

The Mobile Unit is made possible with the support of **Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Tow Foundation, The McLaughlin Children’s Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Abrams Foundation**. Additional support provided by **JetBlue Airways, Open Society Foundations, Robert & Mercedes Eicholz Foundation, Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel & Ambassador Carl Spielvogel, The MAE Private Foundation, Walt Disney Company, and The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.** This program is

supported, in part, by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the City Council. **The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust** provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

All tour performances are free and performances at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Weeksville Heritage Center, Brownsville Recreation Center, Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, Faber Park Recreation Center, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Hunts Point Recreation Center, Einstein Community Center – Co-Op City, Queens Public Library – Central Branch, North Brooklyn YMCA, A.R.R.O.W. Field House, and St. Paul's Chapel are also open to the general public. RSVP information can be found at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org). Please check The Public's website for the most up-to-date performance times.

Following the **MOBILE UNIT** tour of the five boroughs, **CYMBELINE** will run at The Public Theater from Monday, May 18 through Sunday, June 7 in the Shiva Theater, with an official press opening on Thursday, May 21. To expand the reach of **THE MOBILE UNIT**, tickets for each performance of the limited run at The Public Theater will be given to community organizations that are unable to host a visit from the tour.

Furthering the mission of making great theater accessible to all, tickets to the **MOBILE UNIT**'s run at The Public are **FREE** and are available via TodayTix mobile Lottery and in-person distribution downtown at The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street at Astor Place. On each public performance date, free tickets will be distributed in-person beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain, and via mobile lottery on the TodayTix app. Download the TodayTix app to enter or visit [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org) for more information.

The performance schedule at The Public will be Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. *(There is an additional performance on Monday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 3 at 2:00 p.m. There are no 7:00 p.m. performances on Friday, May 22 and Sunday, June 7.)*

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, 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 [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

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