

THE PUBLIC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

press@publictheater.org | 212.539.8624



Jenna Bainbridge



Ally Bonino



Tsilala Brock



Jenn Colella



Hannah Cruz



Nadia Dandashi



Aisha de Haas



Stephanie Everett



Amina Faye



Holly Gould



Cassandra James



Nikki M. James



Jaygee Macapugay



Grace McLean



Susan Oliveras



Mia Pak



Monica Tulia Ramirez



J. Riley Jr.



Phillipa Soo



Shaina Taub



Angela Travino



Ada Westfall

PHOTOS: CAST & CREATIVE TEAM HEADSHOTS

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL *SUFFS*

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Shaina Taub
Choreography by Raja Feather Kelly
Directed by Leigh Silverman

Ensemble Cast Includes Jenna Bainbridge, Ally Bonino, Tsilala Brock, Jenn Colella, Hannah Cruz, Nadia Dandashi, Aisha de Haas, Stephanie Everett, Amina Faye, Holly Gould, Cassandra James, Nikki M. James, Jaygee Macapugay, Grace McLean, Susan Oliveras, Mia Pak, Monica Tulia Ramirez, J. Riley Jr., Phillipa Soo, Shaina Taub, Angela Travino, and Ada Westfall

Performances Begin Thursday, March 10 and Run Through Sunday, April 24;
Official Press Opening on Wednesday, April 6

November 16, 2021 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced casting today for the World Premiere of **SUFFS**, a new musical with book, music, and lyrics by Public Theater Artist-in-Residence **Shaina Taub**, choreography by Obie Award winner **Raja**

Feather Kelly, and direction by Tony Award nominee **Leigh Silverman**. **SUFFS** will begin performances in the Newman Theater with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Thursday, March 10 and run through Sunday, April 24, with an official press opening on Wednesday, April 6.

The ensemble cast of **SUFFS** will feature **Jenna Bainbridge** (*Harry T. Burn/Ensemble*), **Ally Bonino** (*Lucy Burns*), **Tsilala Brock** (*Dudley Malone*), **Jenn Colella** (*Carrie Catt*), **Hannah Cruz** (*Ruza Wenclawska*), **Nadia Dandashi** (*Doris Stevens*), **Aisha de Haas** (*Alva Belmont/Phoebe Burn*), **Stephanie Everett** (*Understudy*), **Amina Faye** (*Robin/Ensemble*), **Holly Gould** (*Alice Paul Standby*), **Cassondra James** (*Mary Church Terrell*), **Nikki M. James** (*Ida B. Wells*), **Jaygee Macapugay** (*Mollie Hay/Ensemble*), **Grace McLean** (*Woodrow Wilson*), **Susan Oliveras** (*Nina Otero-Warren/Ensemble*), **Mia Pak** (*Mrs. Wu/Ensemble*), **Monica Tulia Ramirez** (*Understudy*), **J. Riley Jr** (*Phyllis Terrell/Ensemble*), **Phillipa Soo** (*Inez Milholland*), **Shaina Taub** (*Alice Paul*), **Angela Travino** (*Understudy*), and **Ada Westfall** (*Mrs. Herndon/Ensemble*). Complete casting will be announced at a later date.

A musical event one hundred years in the making, **SUFFS** brings to life a complicated chapter in the ongoing battle for the right to vote: the American women's suffrage movement. Written by and featuring one of the most exciting new voices in theater, Shaina Taub, this epic new musical takes an unflinching look at these unsung trailblazers. In the seven years leading up to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, an impassioned group of suffragists—"Suffs" as they called themselves—took to the streets, pioneering protest tactics that transformed the country. They risked their lives as they clashed with the president, the public, and each other. A thrilling story of brilliant, flawed women working against and across generational, racial, and class divides, **SUFFS** boldly explores the victories and failures of a fight for equality that is still far from over.

SUFFS will feature scenic design by Mimi Lien, costume design by Toni-Leslie James, lighting design by Natasha Katz, sound design by Sun Hee Kil, orchestrations by Mike Brun, and music direction and supervision by Andrea Grody. In addition to choreographer, Raja Feather Kelly will be creative consultant, Ayanna Thompson will be dramaturg, Melanie J. Lisby will serve as production stage manager, and Jessie Moore will serve as stage manager.

The Public is excited to welcome our community back to its flagship home at Astor Place. The Public's audience policy requires complete COVID-19 vaccination by the date of attendance for access into the facility, theaters, and restaurant. For complete health and safety protocols, visit [Safe At The Public](#).

BIOS:

SHAINA TAUB (*Book, Music, and Lyrics*) is an Emmy and Drama Desk-nominated songwriter and performer. She is a winner of the Kleban Prize, the Fred Ebb Award, and the Jonathan Larson Grant. She is a signed artist with Atlantic Records, and an artist-in-residence at The Public Theater, where she has a regular concert residency at Joe's Pub. She's currently writing lyrics for the upcoming Broadway musical *The Devil Wears Prada*, with music by Sir Elton John. She created and starred in musical adaptations of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* that were commissioned and produced by The Public Theater at The Delacorte in Central Park as part of their groundbreaking community-based program, Public Works. Those adaptations have now been produced in London, Seattle, Dallas, and beyond.

RAJA FEATHER KELLY (*Choreographer & Creative Consultant*) is a choreographer, a director, and the artistic director of the feath3r theory. In 2020, he was an Obie Award winner and Outer Critics Circle Award honoree for choreography for the Pulitzer-winning musical *A Strange Loop*. In 2019, he was an SDCF Joe A. Callaway Award finalist for both *A Strange Loop* and the Pulitzer-winning play *Fairview*. He is a three-time Princess Grace Award winner (2017, 2018, 2019) and two-time Lucille Lortel Award nominee (2019, 2020). Kelly was also the 2019–2020 Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts, an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, a 2019 Creative Capital award recipient, and a resident artist of HERE and Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU.

LEIGH SILVERMAN (*Director*). Broadway credits include *Grand Horizons* (2ST; Williamstown Theater Festival), *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Studio 54), *Violet* (Roundabout; Tony nomination), *Chinglish* (Goodman Theatre; Longacre), *Well* (Public Theater; ACT; Longacre). Other Public Theater productions include *Soft Power* (co-production with Ahmanson Theater/Curran Theater; Drama Desk nom), *Wild Goose Dreams* (co-production with La Jolla Playhouse), *The Outer Space, No Place To Go*, *In the Wake* (co-production with BRT and CTG), and *Yellow Face*. Recent Off-Broadway credits include *Harry Clarke* (Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nom), *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb), *Hurricane Diane* (New York Theatre Workshop; Two River Theater), *Sweet Charity* (New Group), and *On The Exhale* (Roundabout). Encores! productions include *Bring Me to Light*, *Violet*, *The Wild Party*, and *Really Rosie*. 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence. Upcoming productions include *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (The Shed).

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

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 Lab, 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, 184 Obie Awards, 55 Drama Desk Awards, 58 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 56 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards and we pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

Additional support for **SUFFS** provided by the Edgerton Foundation and the Laurents / Hatcher Foundation.

TICKET INFORMATION

The World Premiere of **SUFFS** will begin performances in The Public's Newman Theater with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Thursday, March 10 and run through Sunday, April 24, with an official press opening on Wednesday, April 6.

Public Theater Partner and Supporter Plus tickets are available now and can be accessed by visiting publictheater.org, calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street. Supporter tickets will be available on Thursday, November 18 and full-price single tickets will be available on Wednesday, December 1.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will continue with free tickets to the performance on Thursday, March 10 available via Goldstar lottery.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (*There is no 1:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13.*)

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. The **American Sign Language Interpreted** performance will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

The full performance calendar and complete ticket distribution details can be found at publictheater.org.

CONNECT WITH US

[Facebook.com/PublicTheater](https://www.facebook.com/PublicTheater)

Twitter | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://twitter.com/PublicTheaterNY)

Instagram | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.instagram.com/PublicTheaterNY)

#