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**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
ANNOUNCES  
CASTING FOR  
NEW YORK PREMIERE OF  
*THE VAGRANT TRILOGY***

**Written by Mona Mansour  
Directed by Mark Wing-Davey**

**Ensemble Cast Includes Bassam Abdelfattah, Tala Ashe,  
Osh Ashruf, Caitlin Nasema Cassidy, Ramsey Faraqallah,  
Nadine Malouf, Nuah Ozryel, Rudy Roushdi, and Hadi Tabbal**

**Performances Begin with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Friday, April 8 and  
Run Through Sunday, May 8; Official Press Opening on Monday, April 25**

February 9, 2022 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced casting today for the New York premiere of **THE VAGRANT TRILOGY**, a Public Theater commission written by Emerging Writers Group alumna **Mona Mansour** and directed by Obie Award winner **Mark Wing-Davey**. Following the cancellation of the 2020 production just five days before the first performance and a two-year postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **THE VAGRANT TRILOGY** begins performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Friday, April 8 and will run through Sunday, May 8, with an official press opening on Monday, April 25.

“Just as there's no way to describe the anguish of having this production come to a stop in March 2020, in the first days of tech, there's no way to describe the beauty and surreality of getting to return to it this spring—nearly two years to the day,” said Playwright **Mona Mansour**. “I'm grateful that Oskar and The Public's commitment to it didn't waver during this extended pause, and thrilled that the entire company of eight actors and stage manager will be able to come back to it. We're all changed from when last we met—and I hope our process will allow us to fold in the grief and love and communion we've shared in the past two years, and that our production will reflect that. In a play about *return* and the lack of ability to return, the reconvening of this company, and this project, is especially sweet. We can't wait to share it.”

“I've been working with Mona Mansour on the plays in *The Vagrant Trilogy* in their various iterations since 2011, and am beyond thrilled with the work *The Vagrant Trilogy* has become—in its form, its casting concept, and its reimagining,” said Director **Mark Wing-Davey**. “Of course, it was incredibly frustrating to be just days away from presenting the piece to the public when the pandemic hit. It is, though, wonderfully gratifying that we have managed to retain the original cast, in no small part due to their own sense of community fostered throughout lockdown with weekly poetry meetings on Zoom. We can't wait to get started again.”

The ensemble cast of **THE VAGRANT TRILOGY** includes **Bassam Abdelfattah** (*Adham/Jul Understudy*), **Tala Ashe** (*Abir and Others*), **Osh Ashruf** (*Hamzi and Others*), **Caitlin Nasema Cassidy** (*Abir/Jamila Understudy*), **Ramsey Faragallah** (*Ghassan and Others*), **Nadine Malouf** (*Jamila and Others*), **Nuah Ozryel** (*Hamzi/Ghassan Understudy*), **Rudy Roushdi** (*Jul and Others*), and **Hadi Tabbal** (*Adham*). The cast portrays 19 different characters across several decades.

Mona Mansour, award-winning playwright and alumna of The Public's Emerging Writers Group, delves into the Palestinian struggle for home and identity in **THE VAGRANT TRILOGY**, a single epic story told in three parts. In 1967, Adham, a Palestinian Wordsworth scholar, goes to London with his new wife to deliver a lecture. When war breaks out at home, he must decide in an instant what to do—a choice that will affect the rest of his life. The two parts that follow explore alternate realities based on that decision. Each part in the trilogy speaks to the others, together painting a rare and moving picture of Palestinian displacement and a refugee's life of permanent impermanence. Featuring six actors in 19 different roles, Mansour's drama spans four decades and three generations of a family uprooted by war and politics. Obie Award winner and Drama Desk Award nominee Mark Wing-Davey directs this sweeping new epic about the poetry and pain of losing the place called home.

**THE VAGRANT TRILOGY** will feature scenic design by Allen Moyer; costume design by Dina El-Aziz; lighting design by Reza Behjat; sound design by Tye Hunt Fitzgerald and Sinan Refik Zafar; video design by Greg Emetaz; hair, wigs, and make-up design by Tom Watson; and prop management by Susan Barras and Alexander Wylie. Caroline Englander will serve as production stage manager and Luisa Sánchez Colón will serve as stage manager.

The Public's audience policy requires complete COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose (for those eligible according to CDC guidelines), by the date of attendance for access into the facility, theaters, and restaurant. For complete health and safety protocols, visit [Safe At The Public](#).

The Library at The Public has reopened, serving food and drink Tuesday through Sunday beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library will be closed on Mondays. For more information, visit [publictheater.org](#).

## **BIOS:**

**MONA MANSOUR** (*Playwright*). Mansour's play *Beginning Days of True Jubilation* (dir. Scott Illingworth) was conceived with her company SOCIETY and part of New Ohio's Ice Factory Digital Festival in summer 2020. *Unseen* will have its West Coast debut at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in spring 2022, directed by Evren Odcikin. *We Swim, We Talk, We Go to War* premiered at Golden Thread in 2018 (dir. Odcikin). *The Vagrant Trilogy* was presented at Mosaic Theater in June 2018 (dir. Wing-Davey.) Of the trilogy: *The Hour of Feeling* (dir. Wing-Davey) premiered at the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and an Arabic translation was presented at NYU Abu Dhabi's Arab Voices Festival in 2016. *Urge for Going* was produced at The Public Theater (dir. Hal Brooks) and Golden Thread (dir. Odcikin). *The Vagrant* was commissioned by The Public and workshopped at the Sundance Theater Institute. *The Way West* was produced at Labyrinth (dir. Mimi O'Donnell); Village Theater (dir. Christina Myatt); Steppenwolf (dir. Amy Morton); and Marin Theatre Company (dir. Hayley Finn). Mansour was a member of The Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group. With Tala Manassah, she has written *Falling Down the Stairs*, an EST/Sloan commission. Their play *Dressing* is part *Of Facing Our Truths: Short Plays About Trayvon, Race, and Privilege*, commissioned by the New Black Festival. Commissions include Playwrights Horizons, La Jolla Playhouse, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival's "American Revolutions." Awards include Kesselring Prize, Helen Merrill Award, Whiting Award, Middle East America Playwright Award, MacDowell Colony, and New Dramatists Class of 2020. Mansour writes for NBC's "New Amsterdam" and is working on a script for AMC International.

**MARK WING-DAVEY** (*Director*) has been working on the plays in *The Vagrant Trilogy* in their various iterations since 2011. He first came to prominence with his production of Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest* (NYTW), initiating his U.S. directing career. Working extensively in New York for NYTW, MTC, Lincoln

Center, Playwrights Horizons, LAByrinth, and, most often, The Public, where *Troilus & Cressida* and *Henry V* (Free Shakespeare in the Park), *School of the Americas*, *Silence Cunning Exile*, *36 Views*, *Unconditional*, *The Singing Forest*, and *The Skriker* are highlights. Recent work includes Nina Raine's *Consent* and Francis Turnly's *The Great Wave*, his sixth production for Berkeley Rep. He also directed numerous productions of new and classic plays at major regional theaters, London's Royal Court Theatre, National Theatre, the Edinburgh Festival, and musicals in the West End and Australia, including the world premiere of *Dirty Dancing*. He has directed new work by Caryl Churchill, Sarah Ruhl, Mona Mansour, Naomi Iizuka, Carson Kreitzer, Rinne Groff, José Rivera, Keith Reddin, Brett Leonard, Adam Rapp, Tony Kushner, and Craig Lucas, among others, and is currently working on Jean Genet's *The Screens* in a new translation by Caryl Churchill and a new Tim Blake Nelson play *And Then We Were No More*. He lives in NYC, is an Arts Professor at Tisch School of the Arts, and was chair of NYU's Graduate Acting Program for 12 years, from 2008 until 2020.

**BASSAM ABDELFAHATTAH** (*Adham/Jul Understudy*). Chicago theater credits include *Oslo* (Broadway in Chicago and TimeLine Theatre), *The Invisible Hand* (Steep Theatre), *Ellis Island* (Chicago Sinfonietta and Steep Theatre), *Language Rooms* (Broken Nose Theatre), *Great Expectations* (Silk Road Rising), and *Detour Guide* (Silk Road Rising). TV credits include "The Chi" (Showtime), Philip K. Dick's "Electric Dreams" (Amazon), "NeXt" (Fox Television), "Chicago Med" (NBC), and "Lightyears" (coming soon on Amazon).

**TALA ASHE** (*Abir and Others*). Productions at The Public include *Troilus and Cressida* and *Urge for Going*. Off-Broadway credits include *English (Atlantic/Roundabout)*, *The Profane* (Playwrights Horizons), and *The Who and the What* (LCT3). Regional credits include *Head Over Heels*, *The Happiest Song Plays Last*, *Troilus and Cressida* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Welcome to Arroyo's* (The Old Globe); and *Love's Labour's Lost* (The Huntington). TV credits include "DC's Legends of Tomorrow," "American Odyssey," "Smash," "Law and Order: CI," "Covert Affairs," "30 Rock," and "Law and Order." BFA: Boston University, LAMDA.

**OSH ASHRUF** (*Hamzi and Others*). Select theater credits include The Guthrie, Abingdon, Prospect, A.R.T., Moscow Art, Garis & Hahn. Select TV credits include "High Maintenance," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "The Blacklist," "The Good Fight," "The Looming Tower," "Happyish," "Deadbeat," "Late Night with Seth Meyers," and "Law & Order: SVU." Film credits include *All We Had*. BA/BS: Loyola Chicago; MFA: Harvard University, Presidential Public Service Fellow. Ghanimah is a Teach For America and TEDxBroadway alumnus, as well as a Prince Fellow, Columbia University, and Founder, Broadway For All. @therealnycog

**CAITLIN NASEMA CASSIDY** (*Abir/Jamila Understudy*). Off-Broadway credits include *Pay No Attention to the Girl* and *Marjana* (Target Margin). National tours/regional include *There is a Field* (Tour), *Paradise* (Central Square - 2018 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actress), *Matt and Ben* (The Kitchen), and *Anything Goes* (Williamstown). TV credits include "A Crime to Remember." Training: East 15, Shakespeare's Globe, Georgetown. Cassidy is an Inaugural Fellow of The Lab for Global Performance and Politics and Co-Artistic Director of LubDub Theatre Co. @caitlinnasemacassidy [caitlinnasemacassidy.com](http://caitlinnasemacassidy.com)

**RAMSEY FARAGALLAH** (*Ghassan and Others*) has worked off-Broadway, regionally, at maximum security prisons, and theaters throughout England, Europe, and Australia. On television, he has had numerous recurring and guest star roles. On film, he's worked with Sidney Pollack, Sidney Lumet, and Woody Allen, among others. Voice work includes "This American Life," "Radio Lab," "The Late Show," "Nova," "Playing on Air," and multiple commercials, TV shows, and film. Faragallah studied with Stella Adler and is a member of The Actors Center.

**NADINE MALOUF** (*Jamila and Others*). The Public credits include *A Bright Room Called Day*. Off-Broadway credits include *Dead Are My People* (Next Door at NYTW); *Intractable Woman*, *Oh My Sweet Land* (The Play Company); *queens*, *The Who & The What* (LCT3); and *Today Is My Birthday* and *Ultimate Beauty Bible* (Page 73). Regional credits include *Yerma* (Huntington); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Old

Globe/ACT/Theatre Calgary); and *Salomé* (Shakespeare Theatre Company). Television/film work includes “High Fidelity,” “High Maintenance,” “The Looming Tower,” *The Volunteers*, and *May in the Summer*. Malouf received Lincoln Center Theater’s 2019 Emerging Artist Award.

**NUAH OZRYEL** (*Hamzi/Ghassan Understudy*). New York theater credits include *The Art of Hijab*, *Kohl Black*, and *The Right Way to Pray* (FiveMyles); *Rest Upon the Wind* (Skirball Center); and *I Come From Syria* (Beit Jeddo). Regional productions include *Hard Cell* (Geva Theatre – Rochester). TV/Film credits include “Madam Secretary” (CBS), “The Other Two” (HBO Max), “Law & Order: SVU” (NBC), “Mr. Robot” (USA), “The Looming Tower” (Hulu), “The Blacklist” (NBC), and *Moments Before* (Lithium Productions). BA: University of Toronto. MFA: Columbia University.

**RUDY ROUSHDI** (*Jul and Others*). He/Him. *The Vagrant Trilogy* is Roushdi's Off-Broadway debut. Select regional credits include *Twelfth Night* (Two River Theater); *King Charles III* (Seattle Rep); *Concrete Orange* (Guthrie Theater); *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Cymbeline*, and the world premiere of Mark St. Germain's *Gertrude and Claudius* (Orlando Shakes); *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (7 Stages); *The Liar* (Seattle Public Theater); and *The Winter's Tale* (Seattle Shakespeare Company). TV credits include “The Enemy Within” and “Ordinary Joe” (NBC) and “The Resident” (FOX). Roushdi is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Drama Professional Actor Training Program.

**HADI TABBAL** (*Adham*). Off-Broadway credits include *English* (Atlantic Theater). Regional credits include *The Vagrant Trilogy* (Mosaic Theater, DC), *The Hour of Feeling* (Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, KY). Film credits include *Rosa* (HBO) and *Circumstance* (Sundance Audience Award). Tabbal played Amir Al-Raisani on NBC's “The Brave.” Other TV credits include “Bull” (CBS), “Law & Order: SVU” (NBC), “FBI” (CBS), “The Blacklist” (NBC). MFA in Acting from The New School for Drama. Tabbal was previously an artistic associate for The Sundance Theater Institute and a Fulbright grant recipient from Beirut, Lebanon.

## **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. 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, 58 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://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—and 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.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

**THE VAGRANT TRILOGY** begins performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall on Friday, April 8 and will run through Sunday, May 8, with an official press opening on Monday, April 25.

Public Theater Partner and Supporter are available now. Full-price single tickets will be available Thursday, February 10. Tickets can be accessed by visiting [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org), calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will continue this spring with free tickets to the performance on Friday, April 8 available via TodayTix.

The performance schedule is Wednesday through Saturday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (*There is no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, April 9. The performance on Sunday, April 10 will be at 7:00 p.m. There is a 7:00 p.m. performance on Monday, April 25 and Tuesday, May 3.*)

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. The **American Sign Language Interpreted** performance will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

The full performance calendar and complete ticket distribution details can be found at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org).

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