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**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
COMPLETE CASTING FOR
MAJOR NEW YORK REVIVAL OF
*FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED
SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF***

**Written by Ntozake Shange
Directed by Leah C. Gardiner
Choreography by Camille A. Brown**

**Jocelyn Bioh, Celia Chevalier, Danaya Esperanza,
Jayme Lawson, Adrienne C. Moore,
Okwui Okpokwasili, and Alexandria Wailes Join the Cast**

August 6, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the major New York revival of ***FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF***, written by legendary playwright/poet Ntozake Shange. Directed by Obie Award winner Leah C. Gardiner with choreography by Camille A. Brown, the powerful revival will begin performances in the Martinson Hall on Tuesday, October 8 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance on Thursday, October 10. ***FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF*** will run through Sunday, November 17 with an official press opening on Tuesday, October 22. The award-winning choreopoem premiered at The Public in 1976 and returns for the first time in over 40 years.

Complete casting for ***FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF*** includes **Jocelyn Bioh** (*Lady in Blue*), **Celia Chevalier** (*Lady in Brown*), **Danaya Esperanza** (*Lady in Orange*), **Jayme Lawson** (*Lady in Red*), **Adrienne C. Moore** (*Lady in Yellow*), **Okwui Okpokwasili** (*Lady in Green*), and **Alexandria Wailes** (*Lady in Purple*).

A groundbreaking work in modern American theater, ***FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF*** returns to The Public for the first time since it premiered in 1976, before its breakthrough run on Broadway. Filled with passion, humor, and raw honesty, legendary playwright/poet Ntozake Shange's form-changing choreopoem tells the stories of seven women of color using poetry, song, and movement. With unflinching honesty and emotion, each woman voices her survival story of having to exist in a world shaped by sexism and racism. Obie Award winner Leah C. Gardiner directs this seminal work that speaks to our world today about women's struggles, strength, desires, resilience, and the sanctified magic of love and possibility.

The original production of **FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF** premiered at The Public in 1976 in the Anspacher Theater with direction by Oz Scott, choreography by Paula Moss, and featured Ntozake Shange as “Lady in Orange.” The production won the 1977 Obie Award for Distinguished Production. The play transferred to Broadway later that year, where it was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play and Trazana Beverley received the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress.

FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF will feature an all-women of color creative team with scenic design by Myung Hee Cho, costume design by Toni-Leslie James, lighting design by Jiyoun Chang, sound design by Megumi Katayama, and original composition by Martha Redbone.

NTOZAKE SHANGE (*Playwright*), increasingly recognized as one of America’s greatest writers—has voiced, and embodied, the struggle of Black and all other women for equality, dignity, respect, and the recognition of their contribution to human culture. Her "choreopoem" *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* recorded a 2 ½ year, 746-performance run on Broadway and has been documented as one of the nation’s most-produced college and amateur titles in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Prior to her passing on in 2018, Shange was awarded the 2016 Langston Hughes Medal, the Poetry Society of America’s 2018 Percy Bysshe Shelley Award, and the 2018 Zora Neal Hurston/Richard Wright Prize. She has been more recently inducted into the NY State Writer’s Association and the Off-Broadway Alliance Halls of Fame. Her book, *Wild Beauties*, released in late 2017 by Atria Books/Simon and Schuster has attracted an enthusiastic critical reception. A posthumous re-issue of her popular *If I Can Cook, You Know God Can* was released in January of this year and an unfinished manuscript entitled *Dance We Do* is currently in preparation for a February 2020 release – both of these from Beacon Books.

LEAH C. GARDINER (*Director*) is an Obie Award-winning director known for the “incisive clarity” (*New York Times*) of her work with physicality and text. Her work, ranging from Pulitzer Finalist new plays to Shakespeare to musicals, has been seen across the U.S., and in England and Japan. Recent: *If Pretty Hurts...* by Tori Sampson (Playwrights Horizons); Kevin Artigue’s *Sheepdog* (South Coast Rep, premiere); and *Dead Are My People*, a new musical by Ismail Khalidi with music by Hadi Eldebek (Noor Theatre/NYTW). She is currently working with *New York Times* best-selling writer and “Insta-poet” Rupi Kaur to adapt Kaur’s internationally acclaimed work for the theatre, and developing two commercial musicals: an adaptation of Alexander McCall Smith’s *No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* books; and an original musical with book by Robert O’Hara, for producers George C. Wolfe and Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures. www.LeahCGardiner.com

CAMILLE A. BROWN (*Choreography*) is a Tony Award nominee, Drama Desk nominee, Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, Audelco Award recipient, four-time Princess Grace Award winner, Guggenheim Fellow, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award recipient, and Doris Duke Artist Award recipient. Her Bessie Award-winning company, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, tours nationally and internationally. Broadway, Off-Broadway theater, and television credits include *Choir Boy* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations); Tony Award-winning Broadway revival *Once On This Island* (Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and Chita Rivera nominations); Emmy Award-winning “Jesus Christ Superstar Live” on NBC; *The Fortress of Solitude* (Lortel nomination); *BELLA: An American Tall Tale* (Lortel nomination); *Much Ado About Nothing*; among others. Brown is the Choreographer for *Toni Stone*, “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” (Netflix), and The Metropolitan Opera’s *Porgy & Bess*.

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 Simon Stephens and Nick Payne's *Sea Wall/A Life* featuring Jake Gyllenhaal and Tom Sturridge. 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

TICKET INFORMATION

FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF will begin performances in The Public's Martinson Hall on Tuesday, October 8 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance on Thursday, October 10. It will run through Sunday, November 17 with an official press opening on Tuesday, October 22.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and Member tickets are available now. Single tickets, starting at \$65, will be available beginning August 15 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.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Joseph Papp Free Preview initiative will continue this fall; free tickets to the performance on Thursday, October 10 will be available beginning October 4 via TodayTix mobile lottery, and on October 10 via the lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater at Astor Place, with entries starting at 11:00 a.m. and winners drawn at 12:00 p.m. (Noon).

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (*There is no 2:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 12 or Saturday, November 9. There is no 8:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, November 17.*)

The **open captioning** performance will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. The **audio described** performance will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 17. The **ASL performance** will be on Saturday, November 9 at 2:00 p.m. Additional ASL performances will be announced at a later date. For more information, please visit PublicTheater.org.

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