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ARTIST HEADSHOTS & ARTWORK

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES 2023-24 SEASON

THE TEMPEST

PUBLIC WORKS MUSICAL ADAPTATION

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY BENJAMIN VELEZ

CHOREOGRAPHY BY TIFFANY REA-FISHER

DIRECTED BY LAURIE WOOLERY

FEATURING A CAST OF NEW YORKERS FROM ALL FIVE BOROUGHS

HELL'S KITCHEN

WORLD PREMIERE

**A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL CHASING A NEW YORK DREAM, LOOSELY BASED ON
ALICIA KEYS' OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES**

MUSIC & LYRICS BY ALICIA KEYS

BOOK BY KRISTOFFER DIAZ

CHOREOGRAPHY BY CAMILLE A. BROWN

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GREIF

MANHATTA

NEW YORK PREMIERE

BY MARY KATHRYN NAGLE

DIRECTED BY LAURIE WOOLERY

THE ALLY

WORLD PREMIERE

BY ITAMAR MOSES

DIRECTED BY LILA NEUGEBAUER

FEATURING JOSH RADNOR

SALLY & TOM

NEW YORK PREMIERE

BY SUZAN-LORI PARKS

DIRECTED BY STEVE H. BROADNAX III

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE GUTHRIE THEATER

JORDANS

WORLD PREMIERE

BY IFE OLUJOBI

DIRECTED BY WHITNEY WHITE

DruidO'Casey: SEÁN O'CASEY'S DUBLIN TRILOGY

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

DIRECTED BY GARRY HYNES

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NYU SKIRBALL

FREE MOBILE UNIT TO TOUR FIVE BOROUGHES

JOE'S PUB CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

WITH VANGUARD RESIDENCY HONORING ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO,

NEW YORK VOICES COMMISSIONS, AND NIGHTLY PERFORMANCES

JOSEPH PAPP FREE PERFORMANCES RETURN FOR ALL PRODUCTIONS

June 1, 2023 – The Public Theater's Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham announced the line-up today for **The Public's 2023-24 Season** at their landmark Astor Place home on 425 Lafayette Street with an innovative and dynamic slate of new productions and ongoing mission-driven programming. An iconic New York theatrical institution producing revolutionary work downtown since 1967, The Public will premiere new musicals and plays by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Kristoffer Diaz**, 15-time Grammy Award winner **Alicia Keys**, Tony Award winner **Itamar Moses**, Emerging Writers Group alumni **Mary Kathryn Nagle** and **Ife Olujobi**, Pulitzer Prize winner and Writer-in-Residence **Suzan-Lori Parks**, and Jonathan Larson Grant recipient **Benjamin Velez**. Public Theater Supporter Plus tickets for Fall 2023 shows will go on sale on Tuesday, June 13 and Public Theater Supporter tickets on Thursday, June 15. Full-price single tickets will be available on Tuesday, August 1.

"We are deeply proud of this season at The Public, a season of extraordinary artistic work that reflects our deepest values and passions," said Public Theater Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**. "For the second year in a row, we are producing a wonderful new play by a Native writer; we are introducing an extraordinary new playwright to our broad audience; we are tackling the thorny issues of America's relationship to Palestine and Israel; we are continuing our lifelong support of The Public's Writer-in-Residence's works; we are presenting three brilliant plays by one of the greatest playwrights of the 20th century, performed by a revered international company; and, of course, we have created an astonishing, ground-breaking musical by one of the most beloved and brilliant artists that New York has ever produced. The work we do matters; the tremendously diverse artists who work here embody our belief that art is at its strongest when it is at its most inclusive."

In addition to its mainstage season downtown at Astor Place, The Public continues its year-round engagement through its vital, mission-driven programs. Focused on furthering The Public's belief that art and culture belong to everyone, these programs and initiatives offer free and low-cost tickets, build community through theater, and develop the next generation of theater artists. This fall, [Public Works](#) kicks off the season with a new musical adaptation of Shakespeare at The Delacorte Theater. In 2024, the [Mobile Unit](#) will tour the city with free performances in the five boroughs, and [Public Shakespeare Initiative](#)'s Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble tackles a new Shakespeare play in their year-round work. The Public will also host its first ever cohort of Jose Solís' [BIPOC Critics Lab](#) alongside new cohorts of the [Emerging Writers Group](#), [Devised Theater Working Group](#), and [Joe's Pub Working Group](#).

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in October 2023, iconic music, comedy, and live performance venue [Joe's Pub](#) at The Public continues tradition with a season of dynamic nightly performances. As part of its season, singer-songwriter **Angélique Kidjo** is awarded the Joe's Pub **2023-24 Vanguard Residency**, a yearlong curatorial residency at Joe's Pub celebrating her contributions to popular culture and her role in the Joe's Pub family of artists. The Joe's Pub **New York Voices** commissions for 2023-24 feature three works: **Sarah Elizabeth Charles**' song cycle featuring music written to the poetry of Dr. Maya Angelou; **Dan**

Fishback's project *Dan Fishback is Alive and Unwell and Living in His Apartment*; and **Omar Offendum's** *Little Syria*.

Additional Joe's Pub performances will include **Michael Olatuja** (presented as part of Angelique Kidjo's Vanguard Residency), the return of both **Habibi Festival** and the **DANCE NOW Joe's Pub Festival**, and **John Cameron Mitchell & Amber Martin: Cassette Roulette**. More information about Joe's Pub's fall season can be found at publictheater.org.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance Initiative will return for all 2023-24 productions. Free tickets to a performance of every production will be available via a digital lottery, powered by The Public's digital partner, TodayTix.

The Public Theater is committed to being a more just, more anti-racist, and more equitable organization. The Public's leadership and staff-led cultural transformation work is guided by a plan that is built on impactful commitments and goals and the actions needed to achieve them. Learn more about The Public's cultural transformation plan [here](#).

Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is no longer required for access to The Public's facility, restaurant, and theater spaces. In general, a face mask is strongly recommended but also not required. However, The Public may schedule one or two select performances when a face mask will be required.

The Library at The Public serves food and drink Tuesday through Sunday, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit publictheater.org.

Become a Partner or a Supporter of The Public Theater today at publictheater.org.

THE PUBLIC THEATER'S 2023-24 SEASON:

Free Public Works Musical Adaptation

THE TEMPEST

By William Shakespeare

Music & Lyrics by Benjamin Velez

Choreography by Tiffany Rea-Fisher

Directed by Laurie Woolery

August 27, 2023–September 3, 2023

As we continue to rebuild out of the pandemic, Public Works enters its second decade by revisiting the play that launched the program, William Shakespeare's **THE TEMPEST**. In The Public's decade-long tradition of bringing together a diverse ensemble of both professional and community members from all five boroughs of New York City, this Public Works production examines what it means to be isolated and how we find our way back to one another. With music and lyrics by **Benjamin Velez** and directed by Obie Award winner and Director of Public Works **Laurie Woolery**, this ambitious work of participatory theater explores the grief of being cut off from community, the desire for retribution, and the healing power of love.

Forced from their home, Prospero and her daughter Miranda have survived for 12 years among the ruins of an abandoned island. As Prospero grows closer to getting the justice she desires, she witnesses her daughter fall in love, listens to the wisdom of spirit ancestors, and discovers that sometimes forgiveness is the only way to break cycles and right the course for the next generation. Hilarious fools, magical spells, and ancestral spirits dance through this production as we all come together to celebrate what it means to be human.

The creative team of **THE TEMPEST** includes scenic design by Alexis Distler; costume design by Wilberth Gonzalez; lighting design by David Weiner; sound design by Jessica Paz; hair, wig, and makeup design by Krystal Balleza; orchestrations by Mike Brun; with Kristy Norter as music coordinator and Andrea Grody

as music director. Roxana Khan will serve as production stage manager, with Janelle Caso and Jessie Moore as stage managers.

North American Premiere of Druid Theatre's

DruidO'Casey

Seán O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy

The Plough and the Stars

The Shadow of a Gunman

Juno and the Paycock

Directed by Garry Hynes

In Partnership with NYU Skirball

Performances at NYU Skirball – 566 LaGuardia Place

October 4–14, 2023

A century ago, Ireland was reborn in the fires of rebellion and war. Ireland's playwright **Seán O'Casey** bore witness to these seismic events and dramatized them as the *Dublin Trilogy*, three great works of Irish theater, full of history, humanity, and humor. A hundred years later, Druid Theatre will weave O'Casey's three plays into an epic theatrical event of conflict, national identity, and the human toll of war: **DruidO'Casey**. Audiences will experience O'Casey's work as never before; directed by Tony Award winner **Garry Hynes**, a company of 18 actors will perform over 40 roles in these three classic plays.

DruidO'Casey begins with *The Plough and the Stars*, the story of newlyweds Jack and Nora Clitheroe living in a city on the brink of rebellion in 1916. In *The Shadow of a Gunman*, Donal Davoren, Seumas Shields, and Minnie Powell find themselves tragically tangled up in the Irish War of Independence. The saga ends with *Juno and the Paycock* and the Boyle family who see their fortunes dashed amidst the upheaval of the Irish Civil War. Renowned for their previous play cycles (*DruidSynge*, *DruidMurphy*, and *DruidShakespeare*), **DruidO'Casey** will be the most ambitious production in Druid's history. Prior to the North American premiere in New York, the world premiere of **DruidO'Casey** will take place in Galway in July as part of Galway International Arts Festival, followed by performances in Belfast and Dublin. The production will tour to Ann Arbor, Michigan following its New York run.

World Premiere

HELL'S KITCHEN

Music & Lyrics by Alicia Keys

Book by Kristoffer Diaz

Choreography by Camille A. Brown

Directed by Michael Greif

October 24–December 10, 2023 (Opening: November 19, 2023)

Grammy Award-winning artist **Alicia Keys** and Pulitzer Prize-finalist playwright **Kristoffer Diaz** bring their exhilarating coming-of-age musical **HELL'S KITCHEN** to The Public this fall. In a cramped apartment hanging off the side of Times Square, 17-year-old Ali is desperate to get her piece of the New York dream. Ali's mother is just as determined to protect her daughter from the same mistakes she made. When Ali falls for a talented young drummer, both mother and daughter must face hard truths about race, defiance, and growing up. Ali feels trapped, until the sound of a neighbor playing piano opens the door to an unexpected friendship and a radically different future. Choreographed by Tony Award nominee **Camille A. Brown** and directed by Tony Award nominee **Michael Greif**, **HELL'S KITCHEN** is an unforgettable new show featuring both newly created music and the soulful, iconic songs of New York's own Alicia Keys.

The cast of **HELL'S KITCHEN** includes **Shoshana Bean** (*Jersey*), **Chad Carstarphen** (*Ray/Ensemble*), **Reid Clarke** (*Ensemble*), **Chloe Davis** (*Ensemble*), **Nico DeJesus** (*Ensemble*), **Brandon Victor Dixon** (*Davis*), **Timothy L. Edwards** (*Ensemble*), **Badia Farha** (*Understudy*), **Vanessa Ferguson** (*Tiny/Ensemble*), **Crystal Monee Hall** (*Crystal/Ensemble*), **Gianna Harris** (*Understudy*), **Chris Lee** (*Knuck*), **Jackie Leon** (*Jessica/Ensemble*), **Kecia Lewis** (*Miss Liza Jane*), **Raechelle Manalo** (*Ensemble*),

Maleah Joi Moon (*Ali*), **Onyx Noel** (*Understudy*), **Sarah Parker** (*Ensemble*), **William Roberson** (*Understudy*), **Niki Saludez** (*Ensemble*), **Mariand Torres** (*Maria/Ensemble*), **Donna Vivino** (*Understudy*), and **Lamont Walker II** (*Riq*).

The creative team of **HELL'S KITCHEN** includes scenic design by Robert Brill, costume design by Dede Ayite, lighting design by Natasha Katz, sound design by Gareth Owens, projection design by Peter Nigrini, and hair and wig design by Mia Neal. Danny Maly will serve as production stage manager.

New York Premiere

MANAHATTA

By Mary Kathryn Nagle

Directed by Laurie Woolery

November 16–December 17, 2023 (Opening: December 5, 2023)

A gripping journey from the fur trade of the 1600s to the stock trade of today, **Mary Kathryn Nagle's MANAHATTA** tells the story of Jane Snake, a brilliant young Native American woman with a Stanford MBA. Jane reconnects with her ancestral Lenape homeland, known as Manahatta, when she moves from Oklahoma to New York for a banking job just before the 2008 financial meltdown. Jane's struggle to reconcile her new life with the expectations and traditions of her family and Nation are powerfully interwoven with the heartbreaking history of the Delaware Nation's expulsion from their land. Both old and new Manahatta converge in a lesson about the dangers of living in a society where there's no such thing as enough. A stunning play about self-discovery, **MANAHATTA** was written as part of The Public's prestigious Emerging Writers Group. Obie Award winner and The Public's Director of Public Works, **Laurie Woolery**, directs.

World Premiere

THE ALLY

By Itamar Moses

Directed by Lila Neugebauer

February 2024

Tony Award-winning playwright **Itamar Moses** returns to The Public with the world premiere of **THE ALLY**. When Asaf (**Josh Radnor**) is asked to sign a social justice manifesto, he expects to be able to do so without hesitation. Instead, he becomes embroiled in an increasingly conflicted web of relationships that challenge his commitments as a liberal, a husband, an academic, an American, an atheist, and a Jew. With tensions at an all-time high, Asaf is forced to confront the age-old question: "If I am only for myself, what am I?" Directed by Drama Desk Award winner **Lila Neugebauer**, **THE ALLY** is a passionate, provocative, and unflinching new play about the vanishing line between the personal and the political.

The cast of **THE ALLY** includes **Josh Radnor** (*Asaf*). Additional casting will be announced at a later date.

New York Premiere

SALLY & TOM

By Suzan-Lori Parks

Directed by Steve H. Broadnax III

In Association with The Guthrie Theater

Joseph Haj, Artistic Director; James Haskins, Managing Director

March 2024

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks**, the author of last season's *The Harder They Come*, returns to her artistic home with an edgy dramedy that celebrates the craft of theater while taking a hard look at history. The off-off-off-Broadway theater troupe Good Company is putting on a play about Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson. Writer Luce is cast as Sally; her romantic partner, and the play's director, Mike, is cast as Tom—really, people, what could possibly go wrong? In association with Minneapolis's

acclaimed Guthrie Theater, this funny, ferocious new work is about art, politics, and the contradictions that make all of us. Directed by **Steve H. Broadnax III**, **SALLY & TOM** is an unmissable New York premiere from one of our finest and most daring playwrights.

World Premiere

JORDANS

By Ife Olujobi

Directed by Whitney White

April 2024

A biting funny, wildly imaginative new play by The Public's Emerging Writers Group alumnus **Ife Olujobi**, **JORDANS** is a piercing exploration of assimilation, racial capitalism, success, and survival. At an overwhelmingly white workplace where appearance is everything, a long-suffering receptionist finds herself in personal, professional, and psychic jeopardy when her ruthless boss hires a hip new employee in an effort to improve the company's image and "culture." Suddenly, the two young, Black social climbers are forced together and torn apart by their race, ambition, and otherworldly circumstance. **JORDANS** is a story of identity mistaken, power subverted, and rage unleashed. Don't miss this bold new play directed by Obie Award winner **Whitney White** about the true cost of "diversity" in the workplace.

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THE GUTHRIE THEATER (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) is an esteemed center for theater performance that seeks to illuminate our common humanity and transform our world through the power of live theater. Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and firmly rooted in the community since 1963, the Guthrie is dedicated to producing classic and contemporary works with excellence, cultivating artists and inspiring the next generation of theatergoers. Open to the public year-round and welcoming more than 350,000 patrons annually, the Guthrie houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, restaurants and dramatic public spaces. guthrietheater.org

NYU SKIRBALL is NYC's home for cutting-edge performance, artistic research, and discourse, holding close to James Baldwin's dictum that "artists are here to disturb the peace." NYU Skirball is located in the heart of Greenwich Village, historically a center of resistance, dissent and free thinking. Its programming reflects this history and embraces today's renegade artists and companies, presenting works that aim to engage, provoke, and inspire audiences. The 800-seat theater, led by Director Jay Wegman, provides a home for internationally renowned artists, innovators, and thinkers and presents ground-breaking events ranging from re-inventions of the classics to cutting-edge premieres, in genres ranging from dance, theater and performance arts to comedy, music and film. nyuskirball.org

THE PUBLIC THEATER 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 the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Fat Ham* by James Ijames. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 190 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 62 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 Public also gives our respect to the people of Seneca Village, a community of Black property owners who were removed from their land and whose village was destroyed in the creation of Central Park. We recognize the sacrifice that these ancestors made and honor Seneca Village's legacy.

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

Generous support for **HELL'S KITCHEN** is provided by an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, Gina Maria Leonetti, Audrey & Zygi Wilf, and Ted & Anne Clarke Wolff.

Generous support for **MANAHATTA** is provided by the Ford Foundation.

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