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THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES ROBUST SLATE OF FREE FALL PROGRAMMING

PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTS CREATIVE ACTIVISM: A DAY OF ART, IDEAS, AND ACTION

SAY THEIR NAMES

Visual Installation on The Public's Facade Dedicated to the Black Lives Lost to Police Brutality and White Violence

KIKI & HERB: SEEKING ASYLUM!

Special Broadcast of Iconic Joe's Pub Concert
Created by Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Original Public Works Documentary to Premiere on ALL ARTS

THE SEED PROJECT

Large-scale Projection Project to Cover The Public's Façade with Offerings from the Public Works Community for the Future of our City

VENUS SMILES NOT IN THE HOUSE OF TEARS

World Premiere Joe's Pub New York Voices Commission
Created and Performed by Samora Pinderhughes and Jack DeBoe
Directed by Christian Padron and Kassim Norris
Choreography by Amanda Krische

SHIPWRECK

Audio Version and Original Stage Play by Anne Washburn
Directed and Freely Adapted by Saheem Ali
New York Premiere Audio Play to be Released as a Four-part Podcast

MOBILE UNIT IN CORRECTIONS

New Initiative of The Public's Mobile Unit Launches in October
with *Hip Hop vs. Shakespeare* Video Series

A PRE-ELECTION NIGHT PUBLIC FORUM: WE THE PEOPLE

TOSHI REAGON'S POST-ELECTION CONCERT

Digital and Community Engagement Work Continues with Brave New Shakespeare Challenge, the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble, Watch Me Work with

Suzan-Lori Parks, #BARS Monthly Workshops, and Return of Civic Salons

September 17, 2020 – Public Theater Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham announced the line-up today for The Public's free digital fall season. The Public will present new digital works, deepen community relationships through its artistic programs, and continue its long tradition of civic engagement in this crucial election season. Though its physical stages remain dark, the robust slate of virtual programming will include a full-day summit for creative activism; a visual art installation projected on the historic facade of The Public's home on Astor Place dedicated to the Black lives that have been lost to police brutality and white violence; the world premiere of an original Public Works documentary on ALL ARTS; the election season-centered return of Kiki & Herb and Toshi Reagon to the Joe's Pub digital stage; and new works by Samora Pinderhughes and Jack DeBoe, and Anne Washburn.

"Now, more than ever, we need what the theater has to offer: hope, truth, joy, solidarity, beauty. The artists of The Public Theater have responded to the multiple crises we are facing—racial, medical, economic, and political—with courage and immense creativity," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Our community partners through all five boroughs have doubled down on their support of their communities, and we are continuing to support them and our own community of artists. We are also discovering unexpected victories: our digital content is reaching an audience across the country, and across the world, bringing free access to a larger and more diverse audience than we could have ever hoped."

This fall will be unlike any The Public has experienced before. The Public continues to be unable to gather in-person in theaters and is navigating immense challenges because of the global coronavirus pandemic, and in response to the long overdue reckoning around racism in the country and in the theater community, The Public has begun interrogating its practices and systems to move closer to being an inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist organization. This is a moment of uncertainty, transformation, action, and accountability. There is much work to be done, but The Public's mission has not changed, and artists and their voices play a critical role in this moment too.

Eustis continued, "Though times are difficult, The Public will not stop striving to fulfill its mission. This season, we reaffirm our commitment to amplifying artists of color, to anti-racism both on and off of our stages, and to creating new works that respond to the demands for racial reckoning and justice that continue resounding throughout the nation."

"As we hurl towards an election of great consequence in perennial isolation, The Public Theater has the privileged position of engaging artists seeking to create art even in the face of adversity, and making it all free," said **Associate Artistic Director and Resident Director Saheem Ali**. "I'm thrilled to be directing Anne Washburn's searing new play *Shipwreck* as an audio drama, reconceived to bring an intensely theatrical and political play into our current discourse."

More important than ever, The Public also continues its year-round engagement through its vital programs: [Joe's Pub](#), [Mobile Unit](#), [Public Works](#), [Under the Radar Festival](#), [Public Forum](#), [Public Shakespeare Initiative](#), #BARS, and [Emerging Writers Group](#). This fall, Mobile Unit will launch its brand new Mobile Unit in Corrections Initiative, bringing the tools of theater into the daily lives of incarcerated communities; Public Shakespeare Initiative will bring back its full scope of activity with a new lens on digital platforms through the continuation of its Brave New Shakespeare Challenge and the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble will be working virtually on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Public Works will continue with digital workshops and classes with partner organizations in all five boroughs; Public Forum will bring back its monthly Civic Salons via Zoom; Joe's Pub will present streamed concerts from their family of artists on the Joe's Pub stage; and #BARS will host monthly digital masterclasses, led by Daveed Diggs, Rafael Casal, and Chris Hicks.

"In the midst of national and local upheaval, our relationships through our Public Works partners, Mobile Unit sites, and Hunts Point Alliance for Children have been such inspiring touchstones as we think deeply about how to be a true civic partner and how theater can continue to tell our new shared American stories,"

said **Associate Artistic Director and Director of Artistic Programs Shanta Thake**. “This is a necessary moment to reflect the truth in our cities and the joy of our interdependence as dreamers, drawing on the strength of our relationships around the world and growing into whatever comes next.”

“In these challenging times, while our theaters remain dark, it is encouraging to see our artists continue to engage with our world to make art that speaks with courage and truth to this moment,” said **Associate Artistic Director and Director of Public Theater Productions Mandy Hackett**. “We need artists and storytellers to help bring us together and it is vital to our mission that we do this through free digital productions that break down theater’s traditional barriers to access, uniting us in our humanity.”

With theaters closed and in-person programming on pause, The Public Theater continues to navigate the immense challenges created by the pandemic, including an operating budget that has contracted significantly, substantial furloughs among full-time staff, and a lack of employment opportunities to offer the freelance artistic community. The Public continues to rely on its community of loyal supporters who stand alongside the organization as it upholds its mission during this uncertain time. With the generous contributions of supporters as the only current source of revenue, The Public continues to reimagine theater for the digital space, support a range of artistic voices in making new work, and share it with a growing global audience. Become a Partner or a Supporter of The Public Theater today at www.publictheater.org.

THE PUBLIC THEATER’S FALL DIGITAL PROGRAMMING:

RSVP for free digital events through The Public’s website to receive email updates and reminders. The Public Theater strives to make its performances, digital content, and facilities accessible to all patrons and visitors. For additional information or if you have questions, need assistance, or an accommodation to access our digital content, please email at accessibility@publictheater.org.

Public Forum Presents

CREATIVE ACTIVISM: A DAY OF ART, IDEAS, AND ACTION

Full-Day Summit — September 23; Multiple sessions from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST

With less than 50 days until the 2020 Election, the need to activate our civic power has never been stronger. Public Forum will help you harness your power for change with **CREATIVE ACTIVISM**, a day-long summit of art, ideas, and action featuring some of the leading creatives and community organizers in our country. **CREATIVE ACTIVISM** will feature panel discussions, workshops, performances, and keynote addresses, all designed to connect you with the artists and activists who are making change in today’s world. Featuring Dominique Morisseau, Alison Stewart, Claudia Rankine, P. Carl, Erika Dickerson-Despenza, Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi, and Cara Page; workshops with For Freedoms and The Brennan Center for Justice, and more.

Special Broadcast of Iconic Joe’s Pub Concert

KIKI & HERB: SEEKING ASYLUM!

Created by Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman

Premieres September 24 at 7:00 p.m. EST featuring a live chat with the artists

Available via the Joe’s Pub YouTube and The Public’s website through November 5

This season, The Public offers an antidote to all our isolation anxiety with the “bombastic, razor sharp & triumphant return” (*W Magazine*) of the incomparable Kiki & Herb. After major successes at Carnegie Hall, on Broadway, and on the International Concert Circuit, cabaret legends Kiki and Herb took a break from the live performance grind to explore other opportunities. Kiki’s sabbatical included a stint as a Middle East correspondent for *Al Jazeera*, while Herb found himself in hot water—both literal and proverbial—in Southeast Asia. After their dramatic escapes, from undisclosed locations in Syria and Thailand, Kiki and Herb immediately returned to Joe’s Pub with a brand new show, **KIKI & HERB: SEEKING ASYLUM!** — an instant cabaret classic that crashed the Joe’s Pub website the moment it was announced. Enjoy in the “demented, raw and pointedly political” (*The New Yorker*) ecstasy of Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman’s sold-out 2016 show, streaming for free, on demand, for a limited time.

SAY THEIR NAMES

Curated by Garlia Cornelia Jones

The Public Theater will be converting the facade of their historic home at 425 Lafayette into a blank canvas for an artist installation. **SAY THEIR NAMES** will honor, remember, and include at least 2,200 names and accompanying sentences of Black lives murdered at the hands of the police. Curated by Garlia Cornelia Jones, this installation will cover the entire front of the landmark building and feature work by ten visual artists from varying mediums including *From Ferguson to Baltimore* by Dáreece Walker and *Pietà* by Tylonn J. Sawyer, responding to one single prompt:

For centuries, the murders of Black Americans have been overlooked, covered up, and disregarded.

We invite you to remember.

We invite you to honor.

We invite you to Say Their Names.

Original Public Works Documentary

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Premieres October 7 at 8:00 p.m. EST on ALL ARTS, The WNET Group's arts and culture broadcast channel and streaming platform. Visit allarts.org/everywhere for information on where to watch.

Watch the Trailer: [Under the Greenwood Tree Trailer](#)

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE, a new documentary from The Public Theater created with Art Docs and premiering this fall on ALL ARTS, focuses on The Public Theater's 2017 Public Works musical production of *As You Like It*, which was performed by 200 New Yorkers of all ages and boroughs, and was named one of the Top Ten shows of 2017 by *The New York Times*. Co-adapted by Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery, with music and lyrics by Shaina Taub, original choreography by Sonya Tayeh, and direction by Laurie Woolery, *As You Like It* was set to be remounted as part of the 2020 Free Shakespeare in the Park season, but those plans were halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This film tracks the creation of *As You Like It* and the ways this resilient community has banded together amidst the crises of 2020. Public Works, a major program of The Public Theater, aims to restore and build community by connecting people through theater—both performing it and experiencing it—creating theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well. For the last eight years, Public Works has partnered with organizations across New York City, inviting community members to take classes, attend performances, and join in the creation of ambitious works of participatory theater.

THE SEED PROJECT

Large-Scale Visual Projection Project to Cover the Facade of The Public

This is a rare moment of intense shared experience across our country. Given the anti-racist uprising in the U.S. and the global pandemic, the theaters in the Public Works National Cohort feel called to reimagine how to be of service to their communities. This cohort of community artists is activating their creativity to reimagine spaces for collective artmaking and believes that there is strength and joy to be found in envisioning the future together. This artistic call to action has resulted in ***THE SEED PROJECT***, an ambitious work of collaborative and participatory art across the nation and in New York City. Community members from the Public Works National Partners and Affiliates across the country are responding to the prompt: "*Today, I am planting a seed of ...*" These offerings for the future are being turned into large-scale pieces of public art, with each theater in the National Cohort creating a unique work of art for its own community. In New York, Public Works has collected responses from 150 community members from all five boroughs, and is using them to create a large-scale projection that will cover the entire facade of the historic Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street with offerings for the future of our city. The projections will be designed by Lucy MacKinnon and Shih-lien Eugene Yen, using words by and images of the Public Works community, with photography by Jennifer Young.

World Premiere Joe's Pub New York Voices Commission

VENUS SMILES NOT IN THE HOUSE OF TEARS

Created and Performed by Samora Pinderhughes and Jack DeBoe

Directed by Christian Padron and Kassim Norris

Choreography by Amanda Krische

Premieres October 9 at 8:00 p.m. EST with live chat from Samora Pinderhughes and Jack DeBoe

Available via the Joe's Pub YouTube and The Public's website through November 20

VENUS SMILES NOT IN THE HOUSE OF TEARS is a transformative concert event, written and produced by Samora Pinderhughes and Jack DeBoe. ***VENUS*** is an intimate, radical experiment in multi-genre storytelling, full of "pathos-laden melody and heart-rending harmonies" (*New York Times*). Captivating Venus pulls us close and then leaves us to wrestle with the truths and lies of love, through Pinderhughes' explorations of romance, grief, and memory in relationships past. Heralded as one of his generation's most captivating composers, Pinderhughes showcases his style—a combination of emotional and political storytelling, with radically honest lyrics set to lush harmonies—in this enthralling new work.

New York Premiere Audio Play

SHIPWRECK

Audio Version and Original Stage Play by Anne Washburn

Directed and Freely Adapted by Saheem Ali

Four-Part Podcast Production to be Released in October 16 on The Public's Website

In a co-production with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

The complete cast includes **Mia Barron** (*Mare*), **Brooke Bloom** (*Allie*), **Phillip James Brannon** (*George W. Bush*), **Bill Camp** (*Donald J. Trump*), **Rob Campbell** (*Jim*), **Raúl Esparza** (*Luis*), **Jenny Jules** (*Trump's Secretary*), **Sue Jean Kim** (*Jools*), **Bruce McKenzie** (*Lawrence*), **Joe Morton** (*James Comey*), **Jeremy Shamos** (*Andrew*), and **Richard Topol** (*Richard*)

This fall, as the election draws near, tune in to a searing and searching new audio drama from acclaimed playwright Anne Washburn about America's present-day divisions, seen through the eyes of the very recent past. ***SHIPWRECK*** centers on a group of liberal friends gathered at an upstate farmhouse on a day of crystalline beauty. While the weather outside grows increasingly apocalyptic and the conversation within grows precariously honest, the group discovers that in turbulent times, every dinner invitation comes at a cost. Slated to be a stage production in The Public's 2020 season, ***SHIPWRECK*** has been re-worked specifically for an audience listening from home or headphones. Saheem Ali directs this harrowing and hilarious masterpiece about race, religion, family, and the nightmarish fallout of the American experiment.

MOBILE UNIT IN CORRECTIONS

New Initiative of Mobile Unit Program Launches this October

The Public Theater is proud to announce ***MOBILE UNIT IN CORRECTIONS***, its first long-term program that brings the tools of theater into the daily lives of incarcerated communities. At a time when most institutions are on lock-down, inmates are at high-risk for COVID and have even more limitations, it is important to the health and safety of the entire corrections community to provide some kind of outlet. This initial engagement offering will launch in October with *Hip-Hop vs. Shakespeare* delivered via video inviting participants to tell their own stories. Created and conceived by hip-hop theater artist, Malik Work and Mobile Unit Community Programs Manager, Praycious Wilson-Gay, the *Hip-Hop vs. Shakespeare* video series will help activate creative thinking, develop skills of writing and performing verse while encouraging a life-long passion for learning. Participants are provided with supplemental materials administered through our corrections partners. Videos are produced and directed by Mobile Unit Program Manager, Alejandra Cisneros. The Public Theater's Mobile Unit remains community-driven, radically inclusive, and civically engaged; maintains a strong dialogue with communities across the five boroughs and continues to deepen partnerships with corrections, community centers and libraries, while developing new ways to create narratives about, for and by our beloved communities.

PUBLIC FORUM: WE THE PEOPLE
Live on November 2 at 8:00 p.m. EST

Available via The Public's YouTube and website

Public Forum continues a beloved Election Night tradition with a new twist, and a new date! This season, ***WE THE PEOPLE*** will take place online the night prior to the election and will feature performances and commentary. Celebrate the democratic process and unite virtually with community through music and poetry by The Public's family of artists and enter election day galvanized and ready to use your voice!

Joe's Pub Concert

TOSHI REAGON: POST-ELECTION DAY CONCERT

Premieres November 4 at 7:00 p.m. EST

Available via the Joe's Pub YouTube and The Public's website through December 16

Toshi Reagon is a singer, musician, composer, producer, and curator, who has been described by *Vibe* magazine as "one helluva rock'n'roller-coaster ride" and by *PopMatters.com* as "a treasure waiting to be found, Reagon is a one-woman celebration of all that is dynamic, progressive and uplifting in American music." At her quadrennial Post-Election Day show, Reagon will be joined by special guests to address the future of America.

PUBLIC FORUM: CIVIC SALONS

Live on Zoom: October 13, November 16, and December 14 at 7:00 p.m. EST

RSVP at publictheater.org

Civic Salons are back, and they've gone digital! Never before has it been more important to connect with the communities around us. Civic Salons are a community crossroads where artists and audiences can come together to nurture our minds and our bodies. Through songs, poetry, text, and speeches all driven by a common theme, Civic Salons feature artists, activists, and organizers who are using their voices to create change in their communities. Break bread with your neighbor, raise your voice in song, and leave inspired.

THE #BARS WORKSHOP

New Season of Free Masterclasses Goes Digital in October

The #BARS Workshop is a lab series created by Rafael Casal and Daveed Diggs. #BARS will go digital in October 2020 with Rafael Casal, Daveed Diggs, and Chris Walker hosting monthly online masterclasses with incredible guest artists that will be free and open to the public. Leading up to each masterclass, the #BARS team will release creative prompts on social media so that #BARS can continue to serve as a space for artists to investigate the intersection between contemporary verse and theater while we're all creating and learning from home. Follow along at [@barsworkshop](https://www.instagram.com/barsworkshop) on Instagram.

#WATCHMEWORK FROM HOME WITH SUZAN-LORI PARKS

Live on select Mondays at 5:00 p.m. EST – visit publictheater.org for schedule

Watch Me Work is a performance piece, a meditation on the artistic process, and an actual work session, featuring Suzan-Lori Parks working on her newest writing project. Traditionally hosted on the mezzanine of The Public Theater Lobby, this new version continues the program via Zoom sessions and HowlRound livestreams.

BRAVE NEW SHAKESPEARE CHALLENGE

New challenges posted to The Public's social channels every other week on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. EST

Inspired by the courageous ways the world community is responding to this challenging time by creating performance, song, conversation, and connection, The Public Theater is inviting the world to use Shakespeare's words to connect with friends, family, and communities, all from their homes. Every other week, across Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, they focus on a different passage or scene from Shakespeare and invite everyone to join in and create.

HUNTS POINT CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE ENSEMBLE

After last season's triumphant transition into the online space, the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble takes on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, remotely to begin the school year. The Public Theater is proud to continue our partnership with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children and honors the resilience and spirit of the Hunts Point community.

ARTIST BIOS:

GARLIA CORNELIA JONES (*Say Their Names* Curator) is a writer, producer, photographer, and mother from Detroit, MI. In 2008, Garlia founded Blackboard Plays, a monthly series devoted to Black Playwrights. She is one of the founding producers of Harlem9, OBIE Award winners for "48Hours in...™Harlem." Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon.com*, and *American Theatre*. Her work as a playwright has been supported by the cell, The Fire This Time Festival, and #24viralmonologues. She is currently a guest artist at Wayne State University. She worked on an MA in African American and African Diaspora studies at Indiana University before coming to New York for her MFA in Playwriting which she earned at The New School for Drama. Garlia is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and a Line Producer at The Public Theater (*Socrates*; *Much Ado About Nothing*, filmed for Great Performances on PBS; *Mojada*; *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enough*; and *Coal Country*). Garlia was the Co-Creative Producer of *#ToBeBlack*, released on Juneteenth. Finally, Garlia is the Producing Director of PAAL, and received one of their first childcare grants in 2019.

KIKI AND HERB (Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman) is a Tony-nominated, Obie and Bessie Award winning American cabaret duo. Justin Vivian Bond has appeared on stage, screen, television, nightclub stages, and in concert halls worldwide. They have been at the forefront of Trans visibility and activism since the early 1990s. Kenny Mellman is a musician and cabaret artist, who is known for his inventive solo shows and acclaimed collaborations with other artists.

SHAINA TAUB (*Under the Greenwood Tree* Executive Producer and Creative Consultant) is an Emmy-nominated and award-winning songwriter and performer. She is an artist-in-residence at the Public Theater and is currently writing lyrics for the upcoming Broadway musical *The Devil Wears Prada*, with music by Sir Elton John, as well as a new musical about the American women's suffrage movement. She created and starred in musical adaptations of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* that were commissioned by The Public Theater in Central Park.

LAURIE WOOLERY (*Under the Greenwood Tree* Writer, Executive Producer, and Creative Consultant; *Seed Project* Curator) is the Director of Public Works at The Public Theater and has worked at theaters across the country such as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory, Trinity Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Cornerstone Theater and others. Woolery has directed world premieres of plays by Mary Kathryn Nagle, Charise Castro Smith, Tanya Saracho, Marisela Trevino Orta, Aditi Kapil among others. Woolery created a musical adaptation of *As You Like It* with Shaina Taub featuring 200 New Yorkers that premiered at The Delacorte Theater. Woolery serves on the Board of the Latinx Producers Action Network, Latinx Theatre Commons and is a founding member of The Sol Project. Woolery is a recipient of the Fuller Road Fellowship for Female Directors of Color and was recently named a 2020 United States Artist Fellow. www.lauriewoolery.com

SAMORA PINDERHUGHES (*Venus* Creator and Performer) is a composer/pianist/vocalist known for striking intimacy and radically honest lyrics alongside high-level musicianship. He is also known for his use of music to examine sociopolitical issues and fight for change. He's collaborated with artists across boundary and scene including Common, Sara Bareilles, Glenn Ligon, Robert Glasper, Rafael Casal, Daveed Diggs, Lalah Hathaway, Herbie Hancock, and more. Samora is the first-ever Art for Justice + Soros Justice Fellow and was also awarded Chamber Music America's 2020 Visionary Award. A Sundance Composers Lab fellow, Samora scored the award-winning documentary, *Whose Streets?*. He is also currently getting his PhD at Harvard University.

JACK DEBOE (*Venus Creator and Performer*) is an American drummer, music producer, and engineer born and raised in the Midwest, currently based out of Brooklyn, NY. With over 30 years of experience performing on stages and making records, Jack is known for using his empathic communication style to bridge the emotional and personal elements of an artist's unique experience with creative and technical wizardry in recording and live environments. He has worked in a variety of capacities with a wide range of artists and organizations, including Meshell Ndegeocello, Tyler the Creator, YEBBA, Megan Hilty, Lizz Wright, Trixie Whitley, NPR, and NASA.

ANNE WASHBURN (*Shipwreck Playwright*) a New York based playwright. Anne's plays include *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play* (*New York Times* Critic's Pick; recently listed as #4 on the *New York Times* "[The 25 Best American Plays Since 'Angels in America'](#)"), *Shipwreck* (received its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre and made its U.S. premiere at the Woolly Mammoth), *10 Out Of 12*, *Antlia Pneumatica*, *A Devil at Noon*, *Apparition*, *The Communist Dracula Pageant*, *I Have Loved Strangers*, *The Ladies*, *The Internationalist*, *The Small*, an adaptation of *The Twilight Zone*, and transadaptations of Euripides' *Orestes* and *Iphigenia In Aulis*. Her work has been produced nationally and internationally and has premiered with 13P, Actors Theater of Louisville, the Almeida, American Repertory Theatre, Cherry Lane Theatre, Classic Stage Company, Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, Dixon Place, Ensemble Studio Theater, The Fogler, Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, Two River Theater Company, Vineyard Theater and Woolly Mammoth. Honors include a Guggenheim, a Whiting, an Alpert Award, a PEN/Laura Pels award for artist in mid-career, a NYFA Fellowship, a Time Warner Fellowship, and residencies at MacDowell and Yaddo. She is an associated artist with The Civilians, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Chochiqq, and is an alumna of New Dramatists.

SAHEEM ALI (*Shipwreck Director*) is a proud immigrant from Kenya. As a freelance director in New York City, he has worked on new plays, musicals, and classics. This summer, he conceived for the radio and directed *Richard II* starring André Holland for The Public, in collaboration with WNYC. Recent productions include *Shipwreck* (Woolly Mammoth), *Fires in The Mirror* (Signature Theatre), *The Rolling Stone* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The New Englanders* (MTC), and *Passage* (Soho Rep). His original musical *Goddess*, with Michael Thurber and Jocelyn Bioh, will receive its world premiere at Berkeley Rep in 2021. Other past productions include *Fireflies* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Dangerous House* (Williamstown Theater Festival), *Sugar in Our Wounds* (MTC), *Tartuffe* (Playmakers Rep), *Where Storms Are Born* (WTF), *Twelfth Night* (The Public Theater Mobile Unit), *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theater), *Nollywood Dreams* (Cherry Lane), and *Dot* (Detroit Public Theater). Saheem works extensively on new work and has workshopped plays and musicals at The Public, Playwrights Horizons, The Playwrights Realm, MCC, New Dramatists, O'Neill Musical Theater Conference, New York Stage & Film, Roundabout Underground, Page 73, NAMT, and The Lark. He is a New York Theater Workshop Fellow and Usual Suspect, a Sir John Gielgud SDCF Fellow, and a Shubert Fellow. He holds an MFA from Columbia University.

MALIK WORK (*Mobile Unit in Corrections*), the NYC based actor-teacher-writer-emcee is a founding member of the groundbreaking jazz/hip hop conglomerate: The Real Live Show. He has written and starred in a one-man show entitled *Verses At Work*, for which he was nominated for Best Solo Performance at the 2017 AUDELCO Awards. He also wrote, starred in, and executive produced a film version of *Verses @ Work* that was selected by the Hip Hop Film Festival, and won the International Spotlight Award at the Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival. His recent television credits include "Broad City" on Comedy Central and "Blacklist: Redemption" on NBC. He has provided voice-over for national network commercials, scripted television, radio, internet, a museum opening in 2021, and has written for HBO. He teaches acting, creative writing, Shakespeare, theater arts, hip hop and hip hop theater, locally and internationally. His show *Verses At Work* has taken many forms recently: an experimental Odyssey version debuted at Park Avenue Armory in NYC, an immersive Black History version debuted at Nublu 151 in NYC, and the international version has thrived in South Africa, most recently at the 2019 National Arts Festival in Makhanda, formerly known as Grahamstown. Follow him at @malikwork on IG/Twitter, www.malikwork.com, and www.versesatwork.net.

ALEJANDRA CISNEROS (*Mobile Unit in Corrections Hip-Hop vs. Shakespeare Director*) is a director and producer. Her work lives at the intersection of community building and art making, manifested in the

superhero staged series *El Verde!* toured throughout Southern California. Collaborations include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*La Comedia of Errors*, *OSF School Visit Program*), Center Theatre Group (*Chisme y Queso*, *Annazul*, *Sueños Frosted Flakes*), Grand Park in Downtown LA (*New Year's Eve LA*, *Fourth of July Block Party*), the Music Center, Artists at Play (*World Premiere of In Love and Warcraft*), the Robey Theatre Company, and Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre. She is an alumnus of Director's Lab West, a NALAC Leadership Institute Fellow, a Directing FAIR Fellow at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and a Nathan Cummings Young Leaders of Color recipient. In 2016, Alejandra was awarded a Leadership U: One-on-One grant, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group. For more information please visit alecisneros.com

TOSHI REAGON is a one-woman celebration of all that's dynamic, progressive, and uplifting in American music. Since first taking to the stage at age 17, this versatile singer-songwriter-guitarist has moved audiences of all kinds with her big-hearted, hold-nothing-back approach to rock, blues, R&B, country, folk, spirituals, and funk.

ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATER COMPANY:

Woolly Mammoth is "the hottest theater company in town" (*Washington Post*); priding itself on developing, producing, and making theatre that disrupts conventional processes and stimulates transformative experiences. For almost four decades, Woolly has held a unique position at the leading edge of the American theater, earning a reputation for staying "uniquely plugged in to the mad temper of the times" (*New York Times*). The co-leadership of María Manuela Goyanes (Artistic Director) and Emika Abe (Managing Director) is supported by a core company of artists that holds itself to a high standard of artistic excellence. Woolly is relentless in its desire to take risks, experiment, innovate, interrogate, and create a radically inclusive community.

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, 184 Obie Awards, 55 Drama Desk Awards, 58 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 53 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

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

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