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**THE PUBLIC THEATER**  
**ANNOUNCES**  
**2019-20 SEASON**

**SOFT POWER**

NEW YORK PREMIERE MUSICAL  
BOOK & LYRICS BY DAVID HENRY HWANG  
MUSIC & ADDITIONAL LYRICS BY JEANINE TESORI  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY SAM PINKLETON  
DIRECTED BY LEIGH SILVERMAN

**A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY**

FIRST MAJOR NEW YORK REVIVAL  
WRITTEN BY TONY KUSHNER  
DIRECTED BY OSKAR EUSTIS

**THE MICHAELS**

WORLD PREMIERE PUBLIC THEATER COMMISSION  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RICHARD NELSON  
OPENING NIGHT – OCTOBER 27

**FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/**

**WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF**

RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER 40 YEARS  
WRITTEN BY NTOZAKE SHANGE  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY CAMILLE A. BROWN  
DIRECTED BY LEAH C. GARDINER

**THE VISITOR**

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL  
MUSIC BY TOM KITT  
LYRICS BY BRIAN YORKEY  
BOOK BY KWAME KWEI-ARMAH & BRIAN YORKEY  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY LORIN LATARRO  
DIRECTED BY DANIEL SULLIVAN

**COAL COUNTRY**

WORLD PREMIERE PUBLIC THEATER COMMISSION  
WRITTEN BY JESSICA BLANK AND ERIK JENSEN  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY STEVE EARLE  
DIRECTED BY JESSICA BLANK

**THE VAGRANT TRILOGY**  
NEW YORK PREMIERE PUBLIC THEATER COMMISSION  
WRITTEN BY EMERGING WRITERS GROUP ALUM MONA MANSOUR  
DIRECTED BY MARK WING-DAVEY

**CULLUD WATTAH**  
WORLD PREMIERE  
WRITTEN BY PUBLIC STUDIO ALUM ERIKA DICKERSON-DESPENZA  
DIRECTED BY CANDIS C. JONES

JOE'S PUB AT THE PUBLIC  
**ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT'S (STILL) ASKING FOR IT**  
WRITTEN BY AND STARRING ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT  
DIRECTED BY AND DEVELOPED WITH ELLIE HEYMAN

**16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL**

**TWO FREE MOBILE UNIT TOURS TO ALL FIVE BOROUGHS**  
**AND PUBLIC WORKS CONTINUES WITH HERCULES**  
**AT THE DELACORTE AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 8**

June 6, 2019 - Public Theater Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham announced the line-up today for **The Public's 2019-20 Season** at their landmark home on 425 Lafayette Street. The iconic New York destination, which includes five theaters and Joe's Pub, as well as The Library restaurant, has been home to over 50 years of revolutionary theater, and continues this season with new plays and musicals by Jessica Blank, Public Studio Alum Erika Dickerson-Despenza, Steve Earle, David Henry Hwang, Erik Jensen, Tom Kitt, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Emerging Writers Group Alum Mona Mansour, Richard Nelson, Jeanine Tesori, and Brian Yorkey. The season will also feature a new revisiting of Tony Kushner's first play *A Bright Room Called Day* and the first major New York revival of the epic choreopoem, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* by the late Ntozake Shange, which returns to The Public for the first time in over 40 years.

"We are reviving two of the great works in The Public's history, Ntozake Shange's first legendary play *for colored girls...* and Tony Kushner's first incendiary play *A Bright Room Called Day*," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Both of these extraordinary works speak with astonishing directness to this exact contemporary moment. Surround those plays with brilliant new musicals like *Soft Power* and *The Visitor*, add incredibly diverse plays like *The Vagrant Trilogy*, *Coal Country*, *The Michaels*, and *Cullud Wattah*, and you have The Public's must-see '19-20 season."

The Public furthers its mission of theater of, by, and for all people through the continuation of year-round and accessible community engagement programming including two free Mobile Unit productions bringing Shakespeare to all five boroughs, free monthly Civic Salons and Public Forum events, Public Shakespeare Initiative's long-standing partnership with the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble, the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Under the Radar Festival with low cost tickets and work by artists from around the world, the Joseph Papp Free Preview Initiative bringing free tickets to all downtown productions at Astor Place, Public Works' free musical adaptation of *Hercules* featuring 200 New Yorkers on The Delacorte stage this fall, and the 58<sup>th</sup> season of beloved Free Shakespeare in the Park.

**Eustis** continued, "The Public is more than just plays. The programs that reach across the world, to the people of New York, the United States, and abroad, extend the reach of theater to people from all walks of life. Our Mobile Unit not only serves all five boroughs of New York, but also tours to the rural Midwest as well. The Public Forum makes The Public a center of civic life, where ideas and values are shared and debated in lively and diverse groups. We are one Public."

As a champion for new and diverse voices, The Public's wide range of artist development programs and residencies includes the Devised Theater Initiative; the fifth session of the #BARS Workshop, a lab series created by artists Rafael Casal and Daveed Diggs investigating the intersection between contemporary verse and theater; Public Studio, staging new work by early-career writers; the fifth year of the Joe's Pub Working Group; and the Emerging Writers Group.

The Public's programs and productions can be seen on Broadway, regionally across the country, and around the world. *Hamilton*, the acclaimed Public Theater production, continues its groundbreaking run on Broadway, as well as London's West End, Chicago, and on tours nationally. This summer, Simon Stephens and Nick Payne's *Sea Wall/A Life* will premiere on Broadway with Tom Sturridge and Jake Gyllenhaal at the Hudson Theatre, and John Leguizamo's *Latin History for Morons* will launch a 15-city national tour at the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem. Public Works continues to expand its global reach with Founding National Partners in Dallas and Seattle, as well as London's National Theatre all presenting Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery's musical adaptation of *As You Like It* this summer. Public Works also welcomes seven new National Affiliates, building a network of theaters gathering to share practices and help build momentum around community-based theater nationwide.

"The Public is reaching around the country, and around the world. Everywhere *Hamilton* plays, The Public is there; everywhere *Latin History for Morons* performs, The Public is there; every community where our Public Works programs happen, there The Public is. From London to Seattle, from Berlin to Hong Kong, from Dallas to Perth, The Public's influence is global," said **Eustis**.

Patrons who join The Public Theater as a donor starting with a gift of \$100 gain early access to tickets for shows and events throughout the year. To find out how you can support The Public by joining one of the donor programs, visit [publictheater.org/support](http://publictheater.org/support) or call 212-967-7555. Tickets for the 2019-20 season will be accessible later this year.

The Library at The Public continues to be open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with an American menu created by Chefs Andrew Carmellini and John Ramirez, featuring local ingredients and New York influence.

### **THE PUBLIC THEATER'S 2019-20 SEASON:**

New York Premiere

#### ***SOFT POWER***

Book & Lyrics by David Henry Hwang

Music & Additional Lyrics by Jeanine Tesori

Choreography by Sam Pinkleton

Directed by Leigh Silverman

**September 24 – November 3, 2019**

A co-commission and co-production with Center Theatre Group

Initial casting includes Billy Bustamante (*Xue Xing Standby*), Kendyl Ito (*Jing/Ensemble*), Francis Jue (*DHH*), Austin Ku (*Bobby Bob*), Raymond J. Lee (*Randy Ray/VEEP/Ensemble*), Alyse Alan Louis (*Zoe/Hillary*), Jaygee Macapugay (*Campaign Manager/Ensemble*), Daniel May (*Ensemble*), Paul HeeSang Miller (*Ensemble*), Geena Quintos (*Ensemble*), Conrad Ricamora (*Xue Xing*), Trevor Salter (*Ensemble*), Kyra Smith (*Ensemble*), Emily Stillings (*Female Swing*), Emily Trumble (*Zoe/Hillary Understudy*), and John Yi (*Male Swing*)

Tony Award winners David Henry Hwang and Jeanine Tesori bring their groundbreaking new musical-within-a-play to The Public for its New York premiere. One of the most exciting theatrical collaborations in recent memory, ***SOFT POWER*** is an exploration of America's current place in the world, told through an East-West musical from China's point of view, in which a theater producer from Shanghai forges a powerful bond with Hillary Clinton. ***SOFT POWER*** is a fever dream of modern American politics amidst global conversations, asking us all—why do we love democracy? And should we? Featuring the choreography of Tony nominee Sam Pinkleton, Tony nominee Leigh Silverman directs this exhilarating new show.

First Major New York Revival

***FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF***

Written by Ntozake Shange

Choreography by Camille A. Brown

Directed by Leah C. Gardiner

**October 8 – November 17, 2019; Opening Night: October 22**

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.

World Premiere

***THE MICHAELS***

Written and Directed by Richard Nelson

**October 19 – November 17, 2019; Opening Night: October 27**

Commissioned by The Public Theater

Complete casting includes Charlotte Bydwell (*Lucy Michael*), Haviland Morris (*Irenie Walker*), Maryann Plunkett (*Kate Harris*), Matilda Sakamoto (*May Mary Jane Smith*), Jay O. Sanders (*David Michael*), Brenda Wehle (*Rose Michael*), and Rita Wolf (*Sally Michael*)

Tony Award-winning playwright/director Richard Nelson returns to The Public with the world premiere of ***THE MICHAELS***. Part of Nelson's critically acclaimed RHINEBECK PANORAMA, which includes *The Apple Family* and *The Gabriels*, this new drama places the audience directly into the kitchen of Rose Michael, a celebrated choreographer. Dinner is cooked, modern dances are rehearsed, and the meal is eaten—all amidst conversations about art, death, family, dance, politics, the state of America, and how the world sees our country...and a host of everyday questions that make up the richness of ordinary life. With grace and depth, Nelson once again creates an intricate, moving snapshot of modern-day America. Laced with humor and heartbreak, ***THE MICHAELS*** is a beautiful new play, illustrating the rich humanity within the incidental moments of one day.

First Major New York Revival

***A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY***

Written by Tony Kushner

Directed by Oskar Eustis

**October 29 – December 8, 2019; Opening Night: November 19**

Initial casting includes Jonathan Hadary (*Xillah*), Linda Emond (*Annabella Gotchling*), and Estelle Parsons (*Die Alte*)

Tony Kushner, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, reunites with longtime collaborator and Public Theater Artistic Director Oskar Eustis in a scorching new version of his first play, the prescient 1985 masterwork suggesting the possibility of the Reagan counter-revolution eventually giving rise to American fascism. Agnes, an actress in Weimar Germany, and her cadre of passionate, progressive friends, are torn between protest, escape, and survival as the world they knew crumbles around them. Her story is interrupted by an American woman enraged by the cruelty of the Reagan administration, and a new character, grappling with the anxiety, distraction, hope, and hopelessness of an artist facing the once unthinkable rise of authoritarianism in modern America. Funny, brilliant, and devastating, this new production of ***A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY*** revisits an epic work that takes a piercing look at the vulnerability of American democracy, and demands to know: when the devil takes up residence in your country...will you act?

Joe's Pub at The Public

**ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT'S (STILL) ASKING FOR IT**

Written by and Starring Adrienne Truscott

Directed by and Developed with Ellie Heyman

**September 20 – October 13, 2019; Opening Night: October 3**

**ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT'S (STILL) ASKING FOR IT** (A Stand-Up Rape About Comedy Starring Her P\*ssy and Little Else!) is a sex positive, seriously funny, unflinching and nuanced show about rape culture. Its first iteration, *Asking for It*, performed in 2013, was a ribald provocation that came for everyone: comedians, rapists, lazy rape-apologists, and the ding-a-ling chodes who think women aren't funny. Dressed only from the waist up and the ankles down, "brilliantly bold" (*Times UK*) creator Adrienne Truscott will be joined onstage by sexual assault survivors, anti-harassment allies, and surprise special guests! **(STILL) ASKING FOR IT** reveals how jokes tickle, thrill, enrage, or rile—when the storytellers bring vastly different lived experiences to the same provocative material. Imagine *The Aristocrats* if it were rooted in material that matters...and performed without pants.

16<sup>th</sup> Edition

**UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL**

**January 8 – 19, 2020**

Curated by UTR Director Mark Russell, the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of this highly-anticipated downtown winter festival will bring together exciting artists from around the world who are redefining the act of making theater.

World Premiere

**COAL COUNTRY**

Written by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen

Original Music by Steve Earle

Directed by Jessica Blank

**February 18 – March 29, 2020**

Commissioned by The Public Theater

In 2010, the Upper Big Branch mine explosion killed 29 men, and tore a hole in the lives of countless others. In this riveting, emotionally stunning new work based on first-person accounts by survivors and family members, Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, award-winning writers of *The Exonerated*, and three-time Grammy Award-winning country/folk legend Steve Earle, dig deep into the lives and loss of the most deadly mining disaster in recent U.S. history. Jessica Blank directs this haunting world premiere that gives voice to those yet unheard and shines a piercing light on the deadly forces of greed and the enduring power of love.

New York Premiere

**THE VAGRANT TRILOGY**

Written by Mona Mansour

Directed by Mark Wing-Davey

**March 17 – April 26, 2020**

Commissioned by The Public Theater

Mona Mansour, award-winning playwright and alum 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.

World Premiere Musical

**THE VISITOR**

Music by Tom Kitt

Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

Book by Kwame Kwei-Armah & Brian Yorkey

Choreography by Lorin Latarro

Directed by Daniel Sullivan

**March 24 – May 10, 2020**

Initial casting includes Jacqueline Antaramian (*Mouna*), Joaquina Kalukango (*Zainab*), David Hyde Pierce (*Walter*), and Ari'el Stachel (*Tarek*)

With heart, humor, and lush new songs, Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning team Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey with Kwame Kwei-Armah bring their soul-stirring new musical based on the acclaimed independent film, **THE VISITOR** by Thomas McCarthy, to The Public for its World Premiere. Widowed and living alone, Walter is a college professor whose life has lost a sense of purpose. When he discovers two young undocumented immigrants living in his New York apartment, the drummer Tarek and jewelry maker Zainab, Walter finds himself in the middle of their battle to stay in an America that's lost its better angels. Tony winner Daniel Sullivan directs this unforgettable new musical about friends and lovers caught between two worlds.

World Premiere

**CULLUD WATTAH**

Written by Public Studio Alum Erika Dickerson-Despenza

Directed by Candis C. Jones

**July 7 – August 16, 2020**

2018 Relentless Award Semifinalist and poet-playwright Erika Dickerson-Despenza's new Afro-surrealist play premieres at The Public about three generations of Black women living through the current water crisis in Flint, Michigan. It's been 936 days since Flint has had clean water. Marion, a third generation General Motors employee, is consumed by layoffs at the engine plant. When her sister, Ainee, seeks justice and restitution for lead poisoning, her plan reveals the toxic entanglements between the city and its most powerful industry, forcing their family to confront the past-present-future cost of survival. As lead seeps into their home and their bodies, corrosive memories and secrets rise among them. Will this family ever be able to filter out the truth? Directed by Lilly Award winner Candis C. Jones, **CULLUD WATTAH** blends form and bends time, diving deep into the poisonous choices of the outside world, the contamination within, and how we make the best choices for our families' future when there are no real, present options.

**ONGOING PROGRAMS AT THE PUBLIC THEATER:**

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

**FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is one of the cornerstones of The Public Theater's mission. Since 1962, over five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals. This summer, The Public presents the romantic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* (May 21-June 23), directed by Tony Award winner Kenny Leon; and for the first time in 40 years, the war-torn tragedy *Coriolanus*, directed by Tony Award winner Daniel Sullivan (July 16-August 11). The Delacorte summer season will conclude with the seventh year of the acclaimed Public Works initiative with free performances of the Public Works' musical adaptation of *Hercules* (August 31-September 8), with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by David Zippel, book by Kristoffer Diaz, and directed by Lear deBessonet. Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Donald McEnery, Bob Shaw, and Irene Mecchi and directed by Ron Clements and John Musker, *Hercules* will feature choreography by Chase Brock, as well as additional new music by Menken and Zippel for this Public Works production. Lead support for Free Shakespeare in the Park provided by The Jerome L. Greene Foundation and Bank of America.

**MOBILE UNIT** is a reinvention of Joseph Papp's Mobile Shakespeare program, beginning in 1957 with the simple idea that theater belongs to everyone, evolving into the New York Shakespeare Festival and ultimately becoming The Public Theater. Now in its eighth year, the Mobile Unit meets audiences where they are by presenting world-class Shakespeare and other works in recreation centers, correctional facilities, senior centers, schools, and other community gathering places across the five boroughs. The Mobile Unit has already toured *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth*, *Pericles*, *Measure for Measure*, *Richard III*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. The Mobile Unit is made possible with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Tow Foundation, The McLaughlin Children's Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the Abrams Foundation. Additional support provided by JetBlue Airways, Open Society Foundations, Susan & David Edelstein, New York State Council on the Arts, The MAE Private Foundation, and The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

**PUBLIC WORKS**, now in its seventh year, is a major initiative of The Public Theater that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators. Led by Founder Lear deBessonet and Director of Public Works Laurie Woolery, Public Works deliberately blurs the line between professional artists and community members, creating theater that is not only *for* the people, but *by* and *of* the people as well. Working with community partners in all five boroughs, Public Works invites community members to take classes, attend performances, and join in the creation of ambitious works of participatory theater. The Public Works community partner organizations in New York City are Brownsville Recreation Center (Brooklyn), Center for Family Life in Sunset Park (Brooklyn), DreamYard (Bronx), The Fortune Society (Queens), and Military Resilience Foundation (all boroughs), along with alumni partners Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education (Bronx), Children's Aid (all boroughs), and Domestic Workers United (all boroughs). The Founding Public Works National Partners are Dallas Theater Center (Dallas, TX), the National Theatre's Public Acts programme (London and nationally, England), and Seattle Repertory Theatre (Seattle, WA). In 2019, Public Works welcomed seven new Public Works National Affiliates: Long Wharf Theatre (New Haven, CT), Pittsburgh Public Theater (Pittsburgh, PA), Theatre Under The Stars (Houston, TX), Trinity Repertory Company (Providence, RI), Tulsa Performing Arts Center and Trust (Tulsa, OK), Virginia Stage Company (Norfolk, VA), and Williamstown Theatre Festival (Williamstown, MA). Lead support for Public Works is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Tow Foundation, the Abrams Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., The One World Fund, David Rockefeller Fund, The SHS Foundation, New York Community Trust, and New York State Council on the Arts. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

**PUBLIC SHAKESPEARE INITIATIVE** offers a wide range of programming which includes larger Public Shakespeare Presents evenings, blending incisive commentary by scholars and other thinkers with appearances by artists of all disciplines; intimate Public Shakespeare Talks, giving audiences unique insight into the artistic and intellectual processes of leading Shakespeare practitioners working in the theater; Artist Development Programs, to cultivate some of the most visionary artistic minds working on Shakespeare today; and Education Programs, specifically the Hunts Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble, which The Shakespeare Society co-founded with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children over a decade ago, and which has offered hundreds of elementary and middle school students the opportunity to develop their confidence, knowledge, and creativity through the transformative experience of bringing Shakespeare's words to life onstage in the 12 Shakespeare productions the Ensemble has presented.

**JOE'S PUB**, named for Public Theater founder Joseph Papp, opened in 1998 and plays a vital role in The Public's mission of supporting young artists while providing established artists with an intimate space to perform and develop new work. Joe's Pub presents the best in live music and performance nightly, continuing its commitment to diversity, production values, community, and artistic freedom. The organization also offers opportunities like New York Voices, an artist commissioning program that helps musicians develop original theater works; Joe's Pub Working Group, an artist development initiative; The Vanguard Award & Residency, a yearlong series that celebrates the career of a prolific and influential artist;

and nationwide programming partnerships. Commissioned artists have included Mx Justin Vivian Bond, Bridget Everett, Daniel Alexander Jones, Ethan Lipton, Toshi Reagon, Allen Toussaint, and more. The venue's food and beverage partner is the venerated Noho Hospitality Group, helmed by acclaimed chef Andrew Carmellini. With its intimate atmosphere and superior acoustics, Joe's Pub presents talent from all over the world as part of The Public's programming downtown at its Astor Place home, hosting approximately 800 shows and serving over 100,000 audience members annually. Support for New York Voices is provided by the National Endowment of the Arts.

**THE JOE'S PUB WORKING GROUP** is a unique artist-support program that aims to enrich the sustainability and enhance the growth of a hand-picked selection of New York-based performance artists. Working Group members are provided with administrative resources, physical space, and ongoing curatorial services. The program offers personalized, practical, and creative assistance and facilitates the benefits of participating in an artistic collaborative group, with the intent of aid in the development of new work. Now in its fifth year, the 2019 Working Group Class includes songwriter/performer Migguel Anggelo, composer/vocalist Trevor Bachman, comedian/actor Becca Blackwell, jazz musician Yacine Boulares, and singer/songwriter Treya Lam; a group intentionally chosen to reflect the diversity, scope, and talent found nightly at Joe's Pub.

**EMERGING WRITERS GROUP** is a component of The Public Writers Initiative, a long-term program that provides key support and resources for writers at every stage of their careers. In just 10 years, it has nurtured numerous playwrights who have gone on to have their plays staged at The Public and elsewhere around the country. Time Warner is the Founding Sponsor of the Emerging Writers Group.

**PUBLIC FORUM**, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> season, brings together surprising combinations of artists, audiences, and experts to explore the issues and ideas raised on our stages. Through one-of-a-kind events and our digital engagement platform *Digiturgy*, Public Forum engages both the world of our plays and the world at large with some of the most original thinkers of today.

**PUBLIC STUDIO** is a performance series dedicated exclusively to developing the work of emerging writers. In a laboratory environment, writers rehearse with actors and a director, incorporate bare-bones design elements, and open the process to an audience over a series of performances. More than a reading or workshop, but not a full production, this middle step affords early career writers the important opportunity to deepen their experience of working collaboratively over an extended rehearsal period and to see their work staged in front of an audience. Previous Public Studio plays include *Cullud Wattah* by Erika Dickerson-Despenza, *The Loophole* by Zeniba Britt and Jay Adana, *Ain't No Mo'* by Jordan E. Cooper, *Masculinity Max* by MJ Kaufman, *On the Grounds of Belonging* by Ricardo Pérez González, *Wild Goose Dreams* by Hansol Jung, *Pretty Hunger* by Patricia Ione Lloyd, *Teenage Dick* by Mike Lew, *Ping Pong* by Rogelio Martinez, *Fidelis* by Christina Gorman, *Manahatta* by Mary Kathryn Nagle, and *The Urban Retreat* by A. Zell Williams. Each year, one Public Studio production is designated The Lisa Quiroz Emerging Writers Group/Public Studio Production, in honor of former Public Theater Trustee Lisa Garcia Quiroz, who, as Chief Diversity Officer and SVP of Cultural Investments at Time Warner, was instrumental in forming EWG and Public Studio. Public Studio was founded with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Time Warner Foundation.

**#BARS WORKSHOP** is where verse and theater come together for rappers, actors, poets, performers, orators, playwrights, and song birds. Come create, learn, develop, and innovate firmly at the center. The poetry of speech is what brings it all together. If that is your sweet spot, we think you should enter. The #BARS Workshop is a lab series created by Rafael Casal and Daveed Diggs, to serve as a space for artists to investigate the intersection between contemporary verse and theater.

**DEVISED THEATER INITIATIVE** at The Public is one of the first of its kind in the U.S., providing support and resources to the next generation of independent artists and ensembles. The Public Theater has been a strong supporter of the devised theater movement and has helped promote the work of prominent and emerging devised theatermakers. Through The Public's annual Under the Radar Festival and year-round downtown season at Astor Place, many examples of this inventive art form have been brought to the attention of audiences in New York and around the world.

**UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL**, over the past 15 years, has presented over 229 companies from 42 countries. It has grown into a landmark of the New York City theater season and is a vital part of The Public's mission, providing a high-visibility platform to support artists from diverse backgrounds who are redefining the act of making theater. Widely recognized as a premier launching pad for new and cutting-edge performance from the U.S. and abroad, UTR has presented works by such respected artists as 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Elevator Repair Service, Nature Theater of Oklahoma, Belarus Free Theatre, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Guillermo Calderón, and Young Jean Lee. These artists provide a snapshot of contemporary theater: richly distinct in terms of perspectives, aesthetics, and social practice and pointing to the future of the art form.

**THE LIBRARY AT THE PUBLIC** is open nightly for dinner and cocktail service. Chefs Andrew Carmellini and John Ramirez have created an American menu of bar snacks, shareable appetizers, sandwiches, dinner plates, and desserts sourcing local ingredients and New York influence that is available in both The Library and Joe's Pub.

### **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. 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](http://publictheater.org)

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