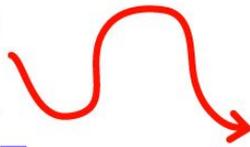


**THE PUBLIC.**



**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**  
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**THE PUBLIC THEATER  
ANNOUNCES “GO PUBLIC!”  
A FESTIVAL OF FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK**

**SUITE OF SUMMER PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:**

**MOBILE UNIT’S  
BILINGUAL MUSICAL ADAPTATION OF  
*THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*  
RETURNS WITH FREE TOUR TO ALL FIVE BOROUGHES  
MAY 28 – JUNE 30, 2024**

**FREE OUTDOOR SCREENINGS OF  
THIRTEEN’S *GREAT PERFORMANCES* ON PBS CAPTURE OF 2019’S  
*MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*  
DIRECTED BY KENNY LEON**

**FREE AT-HOME STREAMING OF THIRTEEN’S *GREAT PERFORMANCES*  
SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK PRODUCTIONS**

**BLOCK PARTY AT THE PUBLIC’S DOWNTOWN HOME ON JULY 28**

February 13, 2024 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today **GO PUBLIC! A Festival of Free Shakespeare in the Park**, featuring a suite of free summer programming taking place across all five boroughs. From the return of The Mobile Unit’s joyful, bilingual musical adaptation of **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** to outdoor screenings of the acclaimed 2019 production of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**, and opportunities to enjoy encore performances at home, **GO PUBLIC!** offers an array of free programming for all as Free Shakespeare in the Park’s home at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park undergoes its most significant revitalization in its 62-year history.

“While we wait for our beautifully refurbished Delacorte to reopen in the summer of 2025, we’ll keep bringing free Shakespeare to the people of New York,” said Public Theater Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**. “Our brilliant, bilingual Mobile Unit production of *The Comedy of Errors* will be playing across the boroughs, including extended runs at Hudson Yards and in front of The New York Public Library’s Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in collaboration with Bryant Park. Kenny Leon’s magnificent 2019 production of *Much Ado About Nothing* was exquisitely captured by The WNET Group, and we’ll be showing it on screens across the city. We’re all eager to get back to The Delacorte, but the summer of 2024 is going to provide Shakespeare everywhere. Come and enjoy, come and celebrate!”

Beginning in May, The Public’s acclaimed 2023 Mobile Unit bilingual Spanish and English production of **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** returns with an encore tour across the five boroughs. The joyously fast-paced, 90-minute, musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s play, conceived by director **Rebecca Martinez**

and composer **Julian Mesri**, features contemporary rhythms from across Latin America in a tale of separation and reunion, bringing vibrant energy to an age-old tale of two sets of twins separated by stormy seas as they overcome a baffling case of mistaken identity—and the mayhem and hilarious confusion that follows.

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** will be performed at outdoor sites in collaboration with The New York Public Library and Bryant Park and as part of the “Backyard at Hudson Yards presented by Wells Fargo” series at Hudson Yards. The Mobile Unit will also pop up at public plazas and parks across the five boroughs in partnership with NYC Parks as well as other key Public Theater partners. Performances begin Tuesday, May 28 and continue through Sunday, June 30 as part of The Public’s commitment to bringing free theater to all and deepening its engagement with communities around NYC. An initial tour schedule follows below, with additional details to be announced.

“We’re thrilled to help bring Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors* to the vibrant plaza in front of The New York Public Library. In addition to having Public Theater founder Joseph Papp’s papers from the very first years of the New York Shakespeare Festival in our collections, The Library proudly holds six copies of Shakespeare’s First Folio—including one currently on display in the Polonsky Exhibition of The New York Public Library’s Treasures—so it’s exciting to be able to make a seamless connection between the timeless words within our walls and the exciting contemporary live performance just steps away. This collaboration effortlessly blends literature and theater, encouraging playgoers to immerse themselves in the world of Shakespeare both inside and outside the Library,” said **Brent Reidy**, Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries at The New York Public Library.

“Bryant Park aims to create a rich and dynamic visual, cultural, and intellectual outdoor experience for New Yorkers and visitors alike. I can think of few things more fitting than extraordinary free productions of Shakespeare in partnership with The Public Theater,” said **Dan Biederman**, President of Bryant Park Corporation. “It is a joy to help continue this great tradition.”

“Hudson Yards is proud to partner with The Public Theater, one of New York City’s most beloved cultural institutions, to bring theater and the arts to our community, as we host performances of Shakespeare in the Park as part of Backyard at Hudson Yards throughout the month of June,” said **Stephanie Fink**, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Partnerships & Events for Hudson Yards. “This new series is a testament to the vibrant public outdoor space that New Yorkers have created at Hudson Yards and a perfect addition to the expansive free programming we host all summer long. We are honored to welcome Shakespeare lovers to what is sure to be another spectacular performance of *The Comedy of Errors*.”

The Public continues its relationship with THIRTEEN’s *Great Performances* on PBS this summer, providing free access to stream Free Shakespeare in the Park productions at home, as well as the premiere of 2023’s **HAMLET**. In addition to **HAMLET**, throughout the month of May, viewers will have access to the 2019 production of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**, 2021’s **MERRY WIVES**, and 2022’s **RICHARD III**. Details on how to access productions will be available at a later date. Each will be available free of charge throughout May and June. Additional details follow below.

Throughout June, July, and August 2024, in partnership with NYC Parks’ and The Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment’s Movies Under the Stars program, and The WNET Group, The Public will offer free screenings of THIRTEEN’s *Great Performances* on PBS recorded performances of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** across all five boroughs.

“NYC Parks is proud to have been a champion and partner of The Public Theater and Free Shakespeare in the Park since its inception. NYC Parks programming would not be complete without the joyous Mobile Unit productions that visit our rec centers and parks each year,” said **New York City Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue**. “This year, in addition to the Mobile Unit partnership, we are thrilled that even more New Yorkers will be able to experience Free Shakespeare in the Park through our Movies Under the Stars program. Those attending this free program will be able to experience the magic of visiting The Delacorte

Theater from the comfort of their local park and have the chance to witness first-class presentations of recent Free Shakespeare in the Park productions."

On Sunday, July 28, The Public will celebrate the season and Shakespeare with a Summer Block Party outside its home at 425 Lafayette Street. Featuring live performances, activities for all ages, and more, additional details will be announced in the coming months.

### **ABOUT THE DELACORTE THEATER REVITALIZATION**

In 2018, The Public Theater, in partnership with Central Park Conservancy and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, began embarking on a much-needed revitalization of the 62-year-old Delacorte Theater in Central Park. The plan—a major investment in outdoor cultural space as part of New York’s economic recovery—will dramatically improve the home of Free Shakespeare in the Park, addressing critical infrastructure, accessibility, and theatrical needs. The key approved design includes accessible and comfortable space for audiences and artists with disabilities, streamlined backstage operations and improved comfort for cast and crew, a revitalized exterior for a more dynamic aesthetic experience, a focus on resilience and sustainability, and lighting improvements, among other benefits. For more information on The Delacorte’s revitalization, visit [thepublic.nyc/Delacorte-Revitalization](http://thepublic.nyc/Delacorte-Revitalization).

To support The Public Theater, become a Supporter or Partner by visiting [publictheater.org/supporttoday](http://publictheater.org/supporttoday)

### **MOBILE UNIT’S THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**

Bilingual Musical Adaptation

By William Shakespeare

Adaptation by Rebecca Martinez and Julian Mesri

Music, Music Direction, and Spanish Translations by Julian Mesri

Lyrics by Julian Mesri and Rebecca Martinez

Directed by Rebecca Martínez

Tuesday, May 28 through Sunday, June 30

Conceived by director Rebecca Martinez and composer Julian Mesri, **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** adaptation embraces contemporary music styles from Latin America in a tale of separation and reunion. Featuring live actor-musicians, this modern musical adaptation brings a vibrant energy to an age-old tale of two sets of twins separated by stormy seas as they overcome a baffling case of mistaken identity—and the mayhem and hilarious confusion that follows.

The initial cast for **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** includes **Varin Ayala** (*Egeon, Pinch*); **Danaya Esperanza** (*Adriana*); **Rebecca Jimenez** (*Understudy*); **Keren Lugo** (*Luciana*); **Alan Mendez** (*Understudy*); **Sara Ornelas** (*Troubadour*); **Gían Pérez** (*Dromio*); and **Desireé Rodriguez** (*Courtesan, Emilia*). Additional casting to be announced.

### **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS INITIAL TOUR SCHEDULE**

*Please note additional dates, locations, and times to be announced*

May 28-June 2 – The New York Public Library and Bryant Park on the Fifth Avenue Terrace (Manhattan)

June 6-9, June 13-14, June 20-21 – Hudson Yards (Manhattan)

A.R.R.O.W. Field House (Queens)

J. Hood Wright Park (Manhattan)

Maria Hernandez Park (Brooklyn)

Roy Wilkins Park (Queens)

St. John the Divine (Manhattan)

St. Mary’s Park (Bronx)

Sunset Park (Brooklyn)

Wolfe's Pond Park (Staten Island)

**FREE AT-HOME STREAMING OF THIRTEEN'S GREAT PERFORMANCES ON PBS OF SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK PRODUCTIONS**

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

**Available May 3-June 30**

2019 production directed by Kenny Leon with choreography by Camille A. Brown

The complete cast of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** includes **Jamar Brathwaite** (*Ensemble*), **Danielle Brooks** (*Beatrice*), **Grantham Coleman** (*Benedick*), **Chuck Cooper** (*Leonato*), **Javen K. Crosby** (*Ensemble*), **Denzel DeAngelo Fields** (*Ensemble*), **Jeremie Harris** (*Claudio*), **Taylor Harris** (*Ensemble*), **Erik Laray Harvey** (*Antonio/Verges*), **Kai Heath** (*Messenger*), **Daniel Croix Henderson** (*Balthasar*), **Tyrone Mitchell Henderson** (*Friar Francis/Sexton*), **Tiffany Denise Hobbs** (*Ursula*), **Lateefah Holder** (*Dogberry*), **LaWanda Hopkins** (*Dancer*), **Billy Eugene Jones** (*Don Pedro*), **Margaret Odette** (*Hero*), **Hubert Point-Du Jour** (*Don John*), **William Roberson** (*Ensemble*), **Jaime Lincoln Smith** (*Borachio*), **Jazmine Stewart** (*Ensemble*), **Khiry Walker** (*Conrade/Ensemble*), **Olivia Washington** (*Margaret*), and **Latra A. Wilson** (*Dancer*).

World Premiere of Live Recording

**HAMLET**

**Available May 10-June 30**

2023 production directed by Kenny Leon with choreography by Camille A. Brown

The complete cast of **HAMLET** includes **Ato Blankson-Wood** (*Hamlet*), **Mikhail Calliste** (*Player*), **Liam Craig** (*Understudy*), **Brandon Gill** (*Guildenstern/Opening Vocalist*), **Safiya Harris** (*Gentlewoman/Ensemble*), **Lauryn Hayes** (*Player*), **Tyrone Mitchell Henderson** (*Osric/Priest*), **Greg Hildreth** (*Gravedigger*), **LaWanda Hopkins** (*Player*), **Jaylon Jamal** (*Ensemble*), **Trí Lê** (*Barnardo/Ensemble*), **Colby Lewis** (*First Player/Opening Vocalist*), **Cornelius McMoyler** (*Gravedigger's Assistant/Ensemble*), **Warner Miller** (*Horatio*), **Daniel Pearce** (*Polonius*), **Solea Pfeiffer** (*Ophelia*), **Nick Rehberger** (*Laertes*), **Laughton Royce** (*Messenger/Ensemble*), **Lance Alexander Smith** (*Marcellus/Opening Vocalist/Ensemble*), **John Douglas Thompson** (*Claudius*), **Lorraine Toussaint** (*Gertrude*), **Myxolydia Tyler** (*Understudy*), **William Oliver Watkins** (*Understudy*), **Lark White** (*Sailor/Ensemble*), **Mitchell Winter** (*Rosencrantz*), and **Bryce Michael Wood** (*Understudy*).

**MERRY WIVES**

**Available May 17-June 30**

2021 production adapted by Jocelyn Bioh and directed by Saheem Ali

The complete cast of **MERRY WIVES** includes **Abena** (*Anne Page*), **Shola Adewusi** (*Mama Quickly*), **Gbenga Akinragbe** (*Mister Nduka Ford*), **Pascale Armand** (*Madam Ekua Page*), **MaYaa Boateng** (*Fenton/Simple*), **Phillip James Brannon** (*Pastor Evans*), **Brandon E. Burton** (*Ensemble*), **Joshua Echebiri** (*Slender/Pistol*), **Branden Lindsay** (*Ensemble*), **Ebony Marshall-Oliver** (*Ensemble*), **Jarvis D. Matthews** (*Ensemble*), **Jacob Ming-Trent** (*Falstaff*), **Jennifer Mogbock** (*Ensemble*), **Julian Rozzell Jr.** (*Shallow*), **Kyle Scatliffe** (*Mister Kwame Page*), **David Ryan Smith** (*Doctor Caius*), and **Susan Kelechi Watson** (*Madam Nkechi Ford*).

**RICHARD III**

**Available May 24-June 30**

2022 production directed by Robert O'Hara

The complete cast of **RICHARD III** includes **Maleni Chaitoo** (*Ensemble*), **Wyatt Cirbus** (*Prince of Wales*), **Thomas DellaMonica** (*Understudy Ensemble*), **Sanjit De Silva** (*Buckingham*), **Sam Duncan** (*Duke of York*), **Thaddeus S. Fitzpatrick** (*Ensemble*), **Skyler Gallun** (*Ensemble*), **Danai Gurira** (*Richard III*), **Sarah Nina Hayon** (*Ensemble*), **Monique Holt** (*Duchess of York*), **Matthew August Jeffers** (*Ensemble*), **Matt Monaco** (*Ensemble*), **Gregg Mozgala** (*King Edward IV/Richmond*), **Joe Mucciolo** (*Ensemble*), **Paul Niebanck** (*George*), **Xavier Pacheco** (*Ensemble*), **Marcus Raye Pérez** (*Ensemble*), **Grace Porter**

(*Ensemble*), **Michael Potts** (*Lord Stanley*), **Ariel Shafir** (*Lord Hastings*), **Heather Alicia Simms** (*Queen Elizabeth*), **N'yomi Stewart** (*Ensemble*), **Ali Stroker** (*Anne*), **Sharon Washington** (*Queen Margaret*), and **Daniel J. Watts** (*Catesby Ratcliffe*).

### **THIRTEEN'S GREAT PERFORMANCES ON PBS SCREENINGS OF MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Directed by Kenny Leon

Choreography by Camille A. Brown

All screenings are free and open to the public and will begin at dusk

July 11 – J. Hood Wright Park (Manhattan)

July 17 – McCarren Park (Brooklyn)

July 24 – Brooklyn War Memorial (Brooklyn)

August 2 – Faber Park (Staten Island)

August 20 – Washington Square Park (Manhattan)

August 29 – Baisley Park (Queens)

September 6 – Loreto Park (Bronx)

Tony Award winner Kenny Leon directs this bold new take on Shakespeare's cherished comedy of romantic retribution and miscommunication, **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. In this modern production, we find the community of Messina celebrating a break from an ongoing war. But not all is peaceful amid the revelry, as old rivals engage in a battle of wits, unexpected foes plot revenge, and young lovers are caught in a tumultuous courtship—until love proves the ultimate trickster and undoes them all.

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### **ABOUT HUDSON YARDS**

Hudson Yards is the newest neighborhood on Manhattan's West Side developed by Related Companies and Oxford Properties Group. A template for the future of cities, Hudson Yards is Manhattan's first LEED Gold Certified Neighborhood; home to leading retail brands in every category from luxury to fast fashion, and first-ever stores from popular online retailers; restaurants and food experiences by world-renowned chefs and restaurateurs; dynamic cultural institutions and attractions including Edge, Vessel and The Shed; modern residences offering unparalleled amenities; more than five acres of public plazas, gardens, and groves; the world's first Equinox Hotel; state-of-the-art commercial office space for industry leaders including KKR, Tapestry, BlackRock and more; and eventually a new 750-seat public school. For more information on Hudson Yards, please visit <https://www.hudsonyardsnewyork.com>

**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 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 upcoming productions of *Suffs* by Shaina Taub and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 65 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antony Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people. 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.

Mobile Unit is made possible by leadership support from the **Abrams Foundation** and **The Tow Foundation**. Generous support for The Mobile Unit is provided by **Gina Maria Leonetti**, **The McLaughlin Children's Trust**, and an anonymous donor.

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