

THE PUBLIC THEATER

OSKAR EUSTIS  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PATRICK WILLINGHAM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Presents

# PLAYS FOR THE PLAGUE YEAR

By **SUZAN-LORI PARKS**

Songs by **SUZAN-LORI PARKS**

Directed and Choreographed by **NIEGEL SMITH**

Featuring **EDWARD ASTOR CHIN, RONA FIGUEROA, LELAND FOWLER, DANYEL FULTON, GREG KELLER, ORVILLE MENDOZA, LAUREN MOLINA, JOE OSHEROFF, DANEA OSSENI, SUZAN-LORI PARKS, NATHAN M. RAMSEY, MARTÍN SOLÁ**

Scenic and Projection Design **PETER NIGRINI**

Costume Design **RODRIGO MUÑOZ**

Lighting Design **ANIA WASHINGTON**

Sound Design **DAN MOSES SCHREIER**

Prop Manager **ALEXANDER WYLIE**

Voice Coach **JULIE CONGRESS**

Music Director/Vocal and Instrumental Arrangements **RIC MOLINA**

Production Dramaturg **JESSE CAMERON ALICK**

Production Stage Manager **BUZZ COHEN**

Line Producer **AUDREY FRISCHMAN**

Company Manager **ARYSBELLS FIGUEREDO**

Production Manager **MIKE BEST**

Associate Artistic Director /  
Resident Director

**SAHEEM ALI**

Director of Producing &  
Artistic Planning

**CHIARA KLEIN**

Production Executive

**RUTH E. STERNBERG**

Associate Artistic Director /  
Director of Artistic Programs

**FREEDOME BRADLEY-BALLENTINE**

Managing Director

**JEREMY ADAMS**

Associate Artistic Director /  
Director of Public Theater Productions

**MANDY HACKETT**

Directors of Casting

**HEIDI GRIFFITHS,  
JORDAN THALER**

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**THE LUESTHER T. MERTZ LEGACY TRUST** provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

THE  
**PUBLIC.**

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## COMPANY

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Writer .....    | SUZAN-LORI PARKS                    |
| Actor 1 .....       | GREG KELLER                         |
| Actor 2 .....       | LELAND FOWLER                       |
| Actor 3 .....       | DANYEL FULTON                       |
| Actor 4 .....       | RONA FIGUEROA                       |
| Actor 5 .....       | ORVILLE MENDOZA                     |
| Actor 6 .....       | LAUREN MOLINA                       |
| Actor 7 .....       | MARTÍN SOLÁ                         |
| Stage Manager ..... | ADALHIA IVETTE HART, ELOIA PETERSON |
| Dance Captain ..... | ORVILLE MENDOZA                     |

### UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

For Actor 4 and 5—EDWARD ASTOR CHIN; for Actor 1, 6 and 7—JOE OSHEROFF; for Actor 3, 4 and 6—DANEA OSSENI; for Actor 2 and 5—NATHAN M. RAMSEY.

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## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

“I Play (Overture)”  
“Human Being Human”  
“Bob Needs a Job”  
“A Song for John Prine”  
“It’s Your Birthday”  
“Managing My Anger”  
“Who’s Gonna Pay for This?”  
“R.I.P. the King”  
“We Got It From Here”

### ACT II

“Praying Now”  
“Someone”  
“Shitstorm”  
“Ask Yourself”  
“Hurricane of Love”  
“Colored All My Life”  
“I Am Black”  
“Whichaway the World”  
“The Difficult Things”  
“Soul Song”  
“Better Than Today/R.I.P. the King (reprise)”  
“Sacred Agents”

### MUSICIANS

Music Director—RIC MOLINA  
Guitar—SUZAN-LORI PARKS, RIC MOLINA; Bass—GRAHAM KOZAK;  
Percussion—RAY MARCHICA



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers and watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited by New York City law.

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# A NOTE

## FROM OSKAR EUSTIS

**Dear Friends,**

**Suzan-Lori Parks is one of our greatest living playwrights,** and this theater season showcases her work in astonishing fashion. From the 20th anniversary revival of *Topdog/Underdog*, which played on Broadway in Kenny Leon's pitch-perfect production, to the world premiere of *Sally and Tom*, a co-production of the Guthrie and The Public Theater, which opened in Minneapolis this past fall, to the new musical adaptation of *The Harder They Come*, which just premiered here at The Public, SLP's work has been visible on a grand scale across the country.

But here, tonight, in Joe's Pub, we are privileged to present SLP's work in a way it has never been seen before. This is her journal of the first year of the pandemic, written as a disciplined writing practice of one play a day, **recording both her personal journey and the journey of our country.**

**And she performs in it as well, playing herself, The Writer.**

Never has she been more vulnerable and personal; **never have we had such an extraordinary gift into her creative brain.** Shakespeare called playwrights "the abstract and brief chronicles of the time." Suzan-Lori has shown the truth of that in an incandescent way.

Thanks to Niegel Smith, our old friend who has done such a beautiful job directing this; thanks to Mandy Hackett and Jesse Alick, who have lent dramaturgical expertise and vision to the show; thanks to Alex Knowlton and the Joe's Pub team, who have been indispensable partners; and thanks to this amazing group of actors who are, as Hamlet said, "showing the age its form and pressure."



**OSKAR EUSTIS**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THE PUBLIC THEATER

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**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 theatres, The Public has long operated on the principles that theatre 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 theatre 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, 56 Drama Desk Awards, 59 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 62 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonio Awards and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

**EDWARD ASTOR CHIN** (*Understudy Actor 4 and 5*). Off-Broadway: *The Headlands* (Lincoln Center), *Veil Widow Conspiracy*

(NYTW/NAATCO), *Small Mouth Sounds* (national tour, directed by Rachel Chavkin), Roundabout, Ars Nova, Ma-Yi. Regional: *Vietgone* (Alley Theatre), *Between Two Knees* (Yale Rep), A.C.T., Long Wharf, Barrington Stage, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Northern Stage. Film: Maria Schrader's *She Said* (AFI Movie of the Year). TV: "Manifest," "City on a Hill," "Elementary," "Lincoln Rhyme," "Jessica Jones," "Person of Interest," "Feed the Beast," "Mysteries of Laura," "Limitless."

**RONA FIGUEROA** (*Actor 4*). The Public: *Dogeaters*, Under the Radar Festival. Broadway: *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *Nine* (revival). Regional: *Rhinoceros* (A.C.T.), *The King and I* (Chicago Lyric), *Wild Goose Dreams* (La Jolla), *Jacques Brel Is...* (Two River Theater). Film: *Slow Jam King*. TV: "Madam Secretary," "Elementary," "The Mysteries of Laura." Original albums: *Quasilulu*, *Quasilulu2*. Thank you to KMR agents and mom for your steady love and support.

**LELAND FOWLER** (*Actor 2*). The Public: Mobile Unit's *Henry V* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Off-Broadway: *one in two* (The New Group), *Novenas for a Lost Hospital* (Rattlestick), *If Pretty Hurts...* (Playwrights Horizons), *Measure for Measure* (TFANA). Regional: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Westport Country Playhouse, McCarter Theatre Center, Yale Rep, Chautauqua Theatre Company, Alliance Theatre. TV: "City on a Hill." Education: BA, Morehouse College; MFA, Yale School of Drama.

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**DANYEL FULTON** (*Actor 3*) is a Brooklyn-born and bred storyteller. Favorite credits include Ruby in *Broadbend*, *Arkansas* (Transport Group), Auntie in *Show Way* (the Kennedy Center), Dorothy in *The Wiz* (The Muny), Dionne in *Hair* (second national tour), Aisha in *A Time to Love* (National Black Theatre), Sarah in *Ragtime* (The 5th, Asolo Rep and TUTS). Fulton received a Drama League Award nomination, an Antonyo Award nomination and a fourth AUDELCO Award nomination for Ruby. [danyelfulton.com](http://danyelfulton.com)

**GREG KELLER** (*Actor 1*) has originated roles in plays by Suzan-Lori Parks, Clare Barron, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Ayad Akhtar, Sarah Ruhl, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Amy Herzog, Richard Greenberg, Julia Cho, Moises Kauffman, Theresa Rebeck, Mara Nelson-Greenberg, Jordan Harrison, Jenny Schwartz, Daniel Goldfarb, Sheila Callaghan, Melissa Ross, Zayd Dohrn, David Grimm, Rachel Bonds and Robert O'Hara. Acting MFA: NYU. Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellow at The Juilliard School (two-time recipient of Lecomte Du Nouy prize).

**ORVILLE MENDOZA** (*Actor 5*). The Public: *Timon of Athens*, *Road Show*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Delacorte). Most recently, Mendoza was Grumio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (The Old Globe). Broadway: *Pacific Overtures*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Off-Broadway: *Adrift in Macao* (Drama Desk nomination, Barrymore Award); *Found* (Atlantic Theater); *Passion*, *Pacific Overtures* 2017 revival (Classic Stage Co.). TV: "Billions," "Dead Ringers" and "The Blacklist." Mendoza was also a vocalist for "The Marvelous Mrs.

Maisel" and "John Mulaney and the Sack Lunch Bunch." For Dad—Salamat po.

**LAUREN MOLINA** (*Actor 6*). Broadway: *Sweeney Todd*, *Rock of Ages*. Off-Broadway: *Goldie*, *Max & Milk*, *Desperate Measures* (Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), *Marry Me a Little*, *Nobody Loves You*. She is the co-creator of the acclaimed comedy-pop band The Skivvies. Regional: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Cincinnati Playhouse); *Candide* (Helen Hayes Award; Huntington, Goodman, Shakespeare Theatre); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Cleveland Playhouse); *Assassins* (Yale Rep); *A Little Night Music* (Huntington); *The Rocky Horror Show* (Bucks County Playhouse).

**JOE OSHEROFF** (*Understudy Actor 1, 6 and 7*) is making his Public Theater debut! National tours: *War Horse*. Off-Broadway: The Acting Company. Regional highlights: *Molly's Hammer*, *The Other Place*, *The Drawer Boy*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Proof*, *War of the Roses*, *As You Like It*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Television: "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Quantico," "The Blacklist," "East New York," "Blue Bloods." Thank you Roger Paul Inc.! Love to KLC and SP.

**DANEA OSSENI** (*Understudy Actor 3, 4 and 6*) is thrilled to be a part of this quick-witted piece at The Public. Past credits include *Sistas the Musical*, *The Color Purple*, *The Bodyguard*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and a Princess Tiana vocalist in Hong Kong Disneyland. She would like to thank God, her family, friends and her precious husband for their love and support.

**NATHAN M. RAMSEY** (*Understudy Actor 2 and 5*) is thrilled to make his debut at

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

The Public Theater! Regional: *The Tempest* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (People's Light). Love to Courtney for all her patience, support and love. Bronx, stand UP! Philippians 4:13. nathanmramsey.com

**MARTÍN SOLÁ** (*Actor 7*). Broadway: *On Your Feet!*, *The King and I*, *Coram Boy*, Baz Luhrmann's *La Bohème*. The Public Theater: *Miss You Like Hell*, *Giant*, *Shakespeare Lab*, *Pirates of Penzance*. Member of Broadway Inspirational Voices. TV: "Archive 81" (Netflix), "FBI" (CBS), "Law & Order: SVU" (NBC), "Hostages" (CBS). Film: *Benji's Hour*, *Ten Minutes Midnight*. Solá teaches singing at Yale University and has had a private voice and acting studio in NYC for many years. martinola.com.

**SUZAN-LORI PARKS** (*Playwright/Songs/The Writer*) is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Other awards: MacArthur Genius Grant, Gish Prize. Theatre includes *Topdog/Underdog* (Pulitzer), *The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess* (Tony Award), *The Harder They Come*, *Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*, *Fucking A*, *In the Blood*, *Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Musical*. Film: *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*, *Girl 6* (dir. Spike Lee), *Native Son*. Television: "Genius: Aretha" (Creator, Writer, Showrunner). Novel: *Getting Mother's Body* (Random House). Public Theater Writer-in-Residence. Former writing student of James Baldwin.

**NIEGEL SMITH** (*Director and Choreographer*) is a Bessie Award-winning theatre director and performance artist and executive artistic director of The Flea. Recent: *The Ritual of Breath Is the Rite to Resist*, *The Hang* (Drama League nomination). Select credits include *The Fre* (The Flea), *How to Catch Creation* (The Goodman), Taylor Mac's *Holiday Sauce* (Town Hall, world tour), *Scraps* (The Flea), *Father Comes Home From the Wars...* (The Goodman), *Syncing Ink* (The Alley, The Flea), *Hir* (Magic Theatre, Mixed Blood, Playwrights Horizons), *Seed* (Classical Theatre of Harlem, National Black Theatre). Co-director: *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*; associate director: *Fela!* niegelsmith.com

**PETER NIGRINI** (*Scenic and Projection Design*) is one of Broadway's pioneering projection designers. His work includes *MJ: Ain't Too Proud*; *Beetlejuice*; *SpongeBob*

*Squarepants the Musical*; *Dear Evan Hansen*; *A Doll's House, Part 2*; and *Fela!* In other venues, *Here Lies Love* and *Grounded* (The Public); *Hans Zimmer Live* (2022); *Lucia de Lammermoor* and *Don Giovanni* (Santa Fe Opera); The Grace Jones Hurricane Tour; *Deep Blue Sea* (Bill T. Jones/Park Avenue Armory); *Real Enemies* (BAM); and this spring, the revival of *The Who's Tommy*.

**RODRIGO MUÑOZ** (*Costume Design*). Off-Broadway: *Notes From Now* (Prospect Theater Company), *Preparedness* (Bushwick Starr), *Volpone* (Red Bull Theater). Regional: *The Bluest Eye* (Huntington Theatre), *Red Velvet* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Somewhere* (Geva), *How to Make an American Son* (ATC), *Mushroom* (People's Light), *Fall of the House of Usher* (Boston Lyric Opera), *Bad Dates* (Portland Stage). Upcoming: *Rent* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *Sorry for Your Loss* (Minetta Lane Theatre), *Bernarda's Daughters* (The New Group), *Cabaret* (Barrington Stage Company), *Torera* (Alley Theatre).

**ANIA WASHINGTON** (*Lighting Design*). The Public: director of production (Joe's Pub). *Venus Smiles Not in the House of Tears* (NY Voices), *Black Light* (NY Voices), *Kiki & Herb: Seeking Asylum!* (NY Voices), *Triple Threat* (Under the Radar). Regional: *Samora Pinderhughes: Grief* (The Kitchen), *The Learned Ladies* (Cake Productions and The New Ateh Theater Group), *For Risk of Safety* (The Workshop Theatre), *The Last Five Years* (Manhattan School of Music), *Les Misérables* (Random Farms Kids' Theatre).

**DAN MOSES SCHREIER** (*Sound Design*). With SLP: *Death of the Last Black Man...*; *Topdog/Underdog*; *Book of Grace*; *Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*; and *White Noise*. Broadway: *Flying Over Sunset*, *A Soldier's Play*, *The Iceman Cometh*, *American Psycho*, *Falsettos*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *A Little Night Music*, *Gypsy* (with Patti LuPone), *Radio Golf*, John Doyle's *Sweeney Todd*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*, *Noise/Funk*. Awards: five Tony nominations, four Drama Desk Awards, MacDowell fellow. danmosesschreier.com

**ALEXANDER WYLIE** (*Prop Manager*). The Public: *Richard III*, *The Vagrant Trilogy*, *The Chinese Lady* (with Ma-Yi), *Merry Wives*, *Soft Power*, *Ain't No Mo'*. Broadway: *Fat*

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*Ham, Into the Woods, Broadway Backwards* (2019-2023). Off-Broadway: *Black Odyssey, A Man of No Importance* (Classic Stage Company); *I'm Revolting* (The Atlantic); *Once Upon a (Korean) Time* (Ma-Yi); *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Audible); *Selling Kabul* (Playwrights Horizons); *72 Miles to Go* (Roundabout). Film: *Troy*. MFA: UNC School of the Arts. alexanderwylie.com

**JULIE CONGRESS** (*Voice Coach*) proudly serves as the voice associate for The Public Theater. The Public: 30-plus shows, including *The Harder They Come, Dark Disabled Stories, A Raisin in the Sun, Fat Ham, Suff's* and various Shakespeare in the Park productions. Broadway: *Ain't No Mo', Company*. National tours: *Motown, American Girl Live*. Congress frequently collaborates with Andrew Wade as voice associate, including *King Lear* (Broadway), *Matilda* (Broadway, national tour), *Othello* (NYTW). Co-artistic director of No.11 Productions.

**RIC MOLINA** (*Music Director/Vocal and Instrumental Arrangements*), born in NYC of

Colombian parents, began playing the guitar at the age of 6. Molina studied music with Del Staton, Joe Pass, John Abercrombie, Dr. Asher Zlotnick and Edgar Grana. Molina was the underscore composer for "The Electric Company" for Sesame Workshop, appears in Spielberg's *West Side Story* and toured the world as MD for 98 Degrees. He celebrates 19 years as guitar 1 and assistant conductor at *Wicked* on Broadway.

**BUZZ COHEN** (*Production Stage Manager*). The Public: 79 productions since 1986, including *A Bright Room Called Day, Mojada, White Noise, Fire in Dreamland, Oedipus El Rey, Julius Caesar, Plenty, Southern Comfort, Barbecue, Buzzer*, 29 more Shakespeare productions, *Durango, Compulsion, The Ruby Sunrise, Lackawanna Blues, Stop Kiss, A Language of Their Own* and many more. Broadway: *The Tempest, Secret Rapture, The Queen and the Rebels, Ned and Jack*. Obie Award for Distinguished Stage Management and the SMA's 2017 Del Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award for Stage Management.

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**ADALHIA IVETTE HART** she/her (*Stage Manager*). The Public: *Suffs, Cullud Wattah, As You Like It, Plays for the Plague Year*. Broadway: *Parade*. Off-Broadway: *The Search for Signs*.... Thank you Buzz, Eloia, Spector, Kailah, Arianna, Mr. Wagner. :) aihart.com

**ELOIA PETERSON** (*Stage Manager*). The Public: *Fat Ham, The Low Road, White Noise, Mojada, A Bright Room Called Day, The Visitor*. Off-Broadway: *Endlings* (NYTW). Regional: *The Folks at Home* (Baltimore Center Stage). BA in theatre from Northwestern University.

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*Information in "Who's Who in the Cast" is provided by the production. Where opinions are expressed, they are those of the players, not necessarily those of PLAYBILL Magazine.*

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## STAFF FOR PLAYS FOR THE PLAGUE YEAR

Assistant Movement Director ..... Amanda Castro  
Copyists ..... Graham Kozak, Ric Molina  
Music Assistant ..... Paul Loesel  
Assistant Costume Designers ..... Audrey Peterson,  
Hannah Mattingly  
Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Jeane Ann Carter  
Associate Sound Designer ..... Tosin Olufolabi  
Associate Projections Designer ..... Dan Vatsky  
Associate Company Manager ..... Andreas Huang  
Assistant Production Manager ..... Jessica Nekritz  
Script Supervisor ..... Lynn Spector  
A1 ..... Nora Simonson  
A2/Sub A1 ..... Natalie Soto  
A2 Alternate ..... Kyra McNeil  
Production Audio ..... Andrew Heinz  
Audio Crew ... Kwamina Biney, Samy Ravs, Bryson Ezell,  
Joseph Codella, Rob McGarrity  
Video Programmer ..... Art Kopischke  
Video Operator ..... Art Kopischke  
Costume Coordinator ..... Jules DeSchryver  
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... Amanda Stutzman  
Wardrobe Crew ..... Max Kelly  
Wardrobe Swing ..... Jaclyn Mercer  
Crafts Artisan ..... LA Clevenson  
Light Board Operator ..... Jeanne Ann Carter  
Props Coordinator ..... Rachel Kenner  
Prop Runner ..... Jaclyn Kanter  
Prop Artisans ..... Milo Robinson, Jennings Leonard  
General Production Crew ..... Maxwell Carlson,  
Kaycie Sweeney, Hannah McGrath, Lee Melillo,  
Joanie Tripodi-Kaminsky

## CREDITS

Sound equipment provided by PRG.

## STAFF FOR THE PUBLIC THEATER

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Executive Assistant to  
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Artistic Office Coordinator ..... Carla Perez  
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Public Theater Productions ..... Leah Matthes  
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Resident Artists ... Tarell Alvin McCraney, Daniel Sullivan,  
Shaina Taub  
Director of Voice ..... Andrew Wade  
Voice Associate ..... Julie Congress  
Shakespeare Scholars in Residence ..... James Shapiro,  
Ayanna Thompson

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Producing Department Manager ..... Amy Lau Croyle  
Associate Line Producers ..... Emma McSharry,  
Citlali Pizarro

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Casting Associate ..... Chalin Tulyathan  
Casting Assistant ..... Elizabeth Hay

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Company Managers ..... Jillian Brinberg,  
Arysbells Figueredo  
Associate Company Manager ..... Andreas Huang  
Assistant Company Managers ..... Autumn Knight,  
Nate Shelton  
House Seat Coordinator ..... Carlos Serrano  
General Management Associate ..... Sabrina Aziz

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Associate Director  
of New Work Development ..... Jack Phillips Moore  
New Work Development Manager ..... Zoë Kim  
Senior Dramaturg ..... Sarah Lunnie  
Ntozake Shange Social Justice  
Playwright in Residence ..... Erika Dickerson-Despenza  
Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY)  
Resident Artists ..... Ryan J. Haddad, Ife Olujobi  
Emerging Writers Group ..... Nissy Aya, Aya Aziz,  
Francisca da Silveira, Katie Do, UGBA, Ying Ying Li,  
Julian Mesri, AriDy Nox, Else C. Went

## JOE'S PUB

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Associate Director ..... Isabel Kim  
Marketing & Communications Director ..... Sacha Wynne  
Director of Production ..... Ania Washington



Audio Manager & Head Engineer..... Jon Shriver  
 Artist Relations & Operations Manager..... Jessie Moore  
 Ticketing & Communications Assistant..... Ashley Meeks  
 Performance Coordinators ..... Charlie Baker, Jake Stiel,  
 Jordi Coats, Marky Hinojosa, Tanner Williams  
 Audio Engineers.....Don Fierro, Gaines Legare, Jake Cheriff,  
 Kenien Spann, Reya Harris, Steve Ha  
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 Jeanne Anne Carter, Tyler Learned  
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 David Andracko, Kelly Cook, Lawrence Sumulong,  
 Sachyn Mital, Yekaterina Gyadu  
 Joe's Pub Vanguard Resident  
 (in memorium)..... Barbara Maier Gustern  
 Joe's Pub Working Group ..... J. Hoard,  
 Lama El Homaissi, LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs,  
 Olivia K., Roshni Samlal, Sita Chay

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 Director of Production..... Peter Dean  
 Associate Director, Production..... Caity Joy  
 Production Managers.....Cristina Ayón-Viesca,  
 Michael Best, Haley Miller, Lico Whitfield  
 Associate Production Managers ..... Courtney Banks,  
 Autumn Mitchell  
 Assistant Production Managers ..... Jessica Nekritz,  
 Joanna Shapiro  
 Production Logistics Manager ..... Samuel Arencibia  
 Lead Logistics Technician ..... Robert Vesce  
 Logistics Technician ..... Martin Rios  
 Production Administrator ..... Kelly Moore  
 Manager of Designer Relations..... Maxwell Friedman  
 Assistant to the Production Executive..... Chris Guzmán  
 Production Office Assistant..... Caroli Nolasco  
 Technical Director ..... Nick Moody  
 Assistant Technical Directors ..... Carson Bishop,  
 Fiona Malone, Carrie Zollinger  
 Scenery Office Administrator ..... Shelley Little  
 Charge Artist..... Hugh Morris-Stan  
 Associate Charge Artist..... Tacy L. Flaherty  
 Scenery Shop Manager ..... James Sater  
 Scene Show Foreperson ..... Allison Spanyer  
 Lead Show Carpenter..... Luis Torres  
 Draftsperson..... Calvin Stara  
 Costume Director..... Vanessa Watters  
 Associate Costume Director ..... Melinda Basaca  
 Costume Shop Administrator ..... Declan McDermott  
 Draper ..... Marie Stair  
 First Hand..... Audrey Pallmeyer  
 Audio Supervisor ..... Malachy Kronberg  
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A NOTE FROM

SUZAN-  
LORI PARKS

In March 2020, as most of the world was shutting down because of the pandemic, I set out to write a play a day. Much like my project *365 Days/365 Plays* or *100 Plays for the First 100 Days*, **my PLAYS FOR THE PLAGUE YEAR is an effort to bear witness.** When I started writing the project, on Day One, I wanted to create something that we could experience together, whenever it was safe for us to be physically together again. While I could have just written down my thoughts in a journal, I decided to write plays instead, because plays are meant to be done with others, in the company of friends and strangers—and, for me, plays, and the resulting act of theater-making, celebrate our humanity and demonstrate the process of community. During lockdown, I feel like we all longed for that. And I also wrote songs, to accompany the plays, because singing with others creates magic. **These plays and songs are meant to give us some tools we need to process both what we've been through and what we're still going through now.**



**SUZAN-LORI PARKS**  
WRITER & COMPOSER

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# Shucked's Small-Town Sweetheart

Caroline Innerbichler is making her Broadway debut playing an atypical ingénue in *Shucked*.

By Molly Higgins



Caroline Innerbichler knows how to let the sunshine in, lyrically and energetically. As the young actor prepares to make her Broadway debut in *Shucked*, she tells Playbill that she wants those who attend the show to experience joy. The musical comedy is sure to lift audiences' spirits with a collection of corny jokes (and we don't mean that figuratively).

*Shucked* follows Maizy (Innerbichler), a resident of Cobb County, where growing corn is the townspeople's livelihood. When farming troubles threaten their way of life, Maizy must travel outside the town's limits and find help. After having played Anna on the *Frozen* national tour, Innerbichler knows something about feel-good musicals, and she says *Shucked* is exactly the joyful piece audiences need right now.

"Maizy is not your typical young ingénue," Innerbichler says. "The thing I love about her is that she is flawed. She's not perfect. And I find that a lot of her quirks are some of the things that end up helping her in the end. It feels really good to play [Maizy] because everybody could use a little looking on the bright side."

*Shucked* began previews March 8 at the Nederlander Theatre, with opening night on April 4. The company includes Alex Newell, John Behlmann, and Grey Henson. *Shucked* features music and lyrics by songwriters Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally, a book by Robert Horn, and direction by Jack O'Brien.

Innerbichler visited the Playbill team for an exclusive performance of her "I want" song in the show: "Walls." The number takes place toward the beginning of the musical, when the corn crops are threatened by disease and Maizy recognizes her community's livelihood is at stake. In order to save the town, she realizes that they will have to change their ways.

"[During 'Walls'], Maizy is thinking about why it's so hard for them to ask for help, and why it is so hard to ask for help in general. Why does our pride get in the way of us improving our lives, or solving our problems? It shows what a small-town mentality can do on the negative end," Innerbichler says.

The song's lyrics echo her sentiment: "Why build walls around our homes, around our hearts?...With a little hope and a little help, maybe we just might save ourselves." The score's country twang and Innerbichler's radiant presence as Maizy create a hopeful ballad that will charm audiences, and maybe inspire them to ask for help in their own lives.

"I want people to laugh again. There's a lot of negativity in the world," Innerbichler says. "We need a moment to relax and laugh together as a community. I think theatre serves us so well as people that need to heal."

To view Innerbichler performing "Walls" as part of our Spring Preview video series, scan this QR code or visit [playbill.com/springpreview](http://playbill.com/springpreview)."

