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Carlo Albán



Mayelah Barrera



Daniel Bravo Hernández



Hiram Delgado



Katherine George



Robert Marcelo Jiménez



Keren Lugo



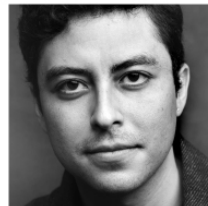
Cornelius McMoyler



Jonathan Gabriel  
Mousset



Sara Ornelas



Martín Ortiz



Nathan Ramsey

## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING HEADSHOTS

### THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING & SCHEDULE FOR MOBILE UNIT'S *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* MAY 29-JUNE 29

Mobile Unit Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary  
With a Free Tour Across All Five Boroughs  
As Part of SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY Summer Celebration

By William Shakespeare  
Original Songs and Music by Julian Mesri  
Additional Lyrics by Rebecca Martinez  
Directed by Rebecca Martinez

April 25, 2025 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today the full tour schedule and complete casting for **Mobile Unit's** adaptation of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. Director **Rebecca Martinez** and composer **Julian Mesri** reunite for their third consecutive year for this new take on the classic tale of love, deception, and misunderstandings, blending Latine influences, original music, and Shakespeare's timeless wit. Presented mostly in English, with some Spanish language incorporated, this 90-minute, family-friendly production is designed to be accessible to a wide range of audiences.

In its 15th year, this summer's Mobile Unit will first be performed at correctional facilities, followed by preview performances at Astor Place and a full tour stopping in all five boroughs. Performances are in

public plazas and parks in partnership with NYC Parks and other key Public Theater partners for a total of 25 performances. The tour begins Thursday, May 29, and continues through June 29. A complete list of tour dates and additional details follow below.

“Mobile Unit was founded by Joe Papp in 1957, and it is really the foundation of everything we do at the Public—from it sprang Free Shakespeare in the Park, The Delacorte, The Public Theater, Joe's Pub, and all the extraordinary shows and programs we have created over the past seven decades,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. “Fifteen years ago, we revived the Mobile Unit and re-established its position as central to our identity. Of all our programs, only Mobile Unit has an audience that exactly matches the demographics of New York City. It truly is a theater for the people.”

“Rebecca perfectly exemplifies the artistic innovation Mobile Unit brings forth, embracing the way theater can act as a town square for all New Yorkers,” said **Director of Civic Artistic Programs Pablo Hernandez Basulto**. “She and Julian understand the flexibility required for the same show to be transformative in a small community center and for a thousand people in a park. I can't wait to see once again neighbors gathering shoulder to shoulder, ready to be entertained.”

### **ABOUT SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY**

The Public Theater's summer celebration of free programming brings world-class theater to audiences throughout New York City. Mobile Unit's **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** kicks off The Public Theater's **SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY** annual summer celebration of free theater serving over 100,000 New Yorkers across all five boroughs. In August, The Delacorte Theater will reopen after an 18-month renovation with a dazzling production of **TWELFTH NIGHT**. Finally, over Labor Day weekend, Public Works will present a choral adaptation of **PERICLES** at the awe-inspiring Cathedral of St. John the Divine, featuring 100 New Yorkers from all five boroughs. Every performance is completely free and open to all. Join The Public in celebrating the joy, power, and transformative connection of live theater. Free. For all. Forever.

### **ABOUT MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Directed by **Rebecca Martinez** (Mobile Unit's *The Comedy of Errors*), this new take on the classic tale of love, deception, and misunderstandings blends Spanish, music, and Shakespeare's timeless wit. The complete cast of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** includes returning Mobile Unit and Public Theater alumni **Carlo Albán** (*Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*), **Hiram Delgado** (*Don Pedro/Verges*), **Robert Marcelo Jiménez** (*Leonato/Watch*), **Keren Lugo** (*Beatrice*), **Cornelius Mcmoyler** (*Dogberry*), **Sara Ornelas** (*Margaret/Sexton*), and **Nathan M. Ramsey** (*Benedick*). Cast members **Mayelah Barrera** (*Hero*), **Daniel Bravo Hernández** (*Claudio*), **Katherine George** (*Understudy Beatrice, Hero, Margaret/Sexton, Dogberry, Don Juan/Conrade*), **Jonathan Gabriel Mousset** (*Understudy: Benedick, Claudio, Leonato/Watch, Don Pedro/Verges, Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*), and **Martín Ortiz** (*Don Juan/Conrade*) are all making their Public Theater debuts.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** features scenic design by **Riw Rakkulchon**, costume design by **Christopher Vergara**, sound design by **Tye H. Fitzgerald**, music and lyrics by **Julian Mesri**, music direction by **Angela Ortiz**, prop management by **Aisha Hamida**, and intimacy direction by **Judi Lewis Ockler**. **Ada Zhang** serves as production stage manager, and **Bea Perez-Arche** is the assistant stage manager.

### **FULL TOUR SCHEDULE:**

May 29-31: Astor Place (Manhattan)

June 3-8: The New York Public Library & Bryant Park (Manhattan)

June 11: Wolfe's Pond Park (Staten Island)

June 12-14: J. Hood Wright Park (Manhattan)

June 15: The Cathedral of St. John The Divine (Manhattan)

June 17-18: Sunset Park (Brooklyn)  
June 20: A.R.R.O.W. Field House (Queens)  
June 21: Queens Night Market (Queens)  
June 22: Roy Wilkins Park (Queens)  
June 25: Maria Hernandez Park (Brooklyn)  
June 26: St. Mary's Park (Bronx)  
June 27: Travers Park (Queens)  
June 28-29: The Peninsula in Prospect Park (Brooklyn)

More details, including performance times and how to RSVP, can be found at [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org). A map of the entire tour can be found on [Google Maps](#).

### **VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY ON THE PUBLIC'S MOBILE UNIT**

*"Seeing so much talent, such strong voices, and beautiful costumes while sitting in front of one of the city's most beautiful buildings is **the ultimate New York experience.**"*  
— The New York Public Library & Bryant Park Audience Member

*"This was so much fun. My favorite Shakespeare adaptation ever.  
**So vibrant, so joyful, so beautiful.**"*  
—Wolfe's Pond Park Audience Member

*"It was amazing! Such a moving experience and a **great way to bring New Yorkers together.**"*  
— A.R.R.O.W. Field House Audience Member

### **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING BIOS:**

**REBECCA MARTINEZ** she/her (*Director, Additional Lyrics*) co-adapted and directed the Mobile Unit's 2023 & 2024 bilingual musical production of *The Comedy of Errors* (Drama Desk nomination, Outstanding Adaptation; LATA Awards for Outstanding Adaptation and Theatrical Concept). Recent projects: *In Her Bones* (Colo Springs Fine Arts Center), *Dirty Laundry* (WP/Spark Theatrical), *Bite Me* (WP Theater/Colt Coeur), *It Happened in Key West* (Fulton Theatre), *Sancocho* (WP Theater / Latinx Playwrights Circle / Sol Project), *Living and Breathing* (Two River), *Randy's Dandy Coaster Castle* (Egg & Spoon Collective), *Songs About Trains* (Working Theater/Radical Evolution), *Somewhere Over the Border* (Syracuse Stage/Geva Theatre). Martinez has developed new work with the O'Neill, Latinx Playwrights Circle, the Sol Project, NAMT, INTAR, Working Theater, The Playwrights Realm, among others. Affiliations: member of the Obie Award-winning Sol Project Collective, WP Directors Lab Alum, 2021 TCG Rising Leaders of Color, Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, INTAR's Unit52, New Georges Affiliated Artist, Drama League Directing Fellow, member of SDC. Awards: Colorado Henry Award for Directing; four Portland, Oregon Drammy Awards; Lilla Jewel Award for Women Artists. Martinez is originally from Colorado with deep ancestral roots in the Southwest. [rebeccamartinez.org](https://rebeccamartinez.org)

**JULIAN MESRI** (*Composer*) is a New York-based Argentinean-American playwright and composer who makes multilingual plays and musicals in the US and around the world. He is the co-adaptor and composer/lyricist for the Mobile Unit bilingual production of the Drama Desk-nominated and LATA award-winning *Comedy of Errors* at the Public. His play, *The Irrepressible Magic of the Tropics* premiered as part of Intar's 2025 season. He is currently the Judith Champion Musical Theater Launchpad Resident at Signature Theater and a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center. Other work includes composing the live score of *Henry 6* at The Old Globe, directing/arranging *Songs About Trains* with Radical Evolution, music directing, and co-orchestrating Brian Quijada's *Somewhere Over the Border* (Syracuse Stage, Geva Theater). He has been a member of the Public Theater Emerging Writer's Group, a Dramatist Guild Fellow, an Emerging Artist of Color Fellow and Usual Suspect at NYTW, and a Van Lier fellow at Repertorio Español. He received his MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University.

**CARLO ALBÁN** (*Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*) appeared on Broadway in *Sweat* (Theatre World Award). Off-Broadway credits include *Romeo y Julieta*, *References to Salvador Dalí* (The Public Theater); *Tamburlaine* (TFANA); *A Small, Melodramatic Story*, and *Intrínquilis* (Labyrinth). Regional credits include *The Odyssey* (A.R.T.), *Fandango* (La Jolla), *Whitelisted* (CATF), *The River Bride*, *Much Ado*, and *Timon of Athens* (OSF). Albán performed in London in *Rare Earth Mettle* (Royal Court). Film/TV credits include *Mile 22*, *Hurricane Streets*, *21 Grams*, *Whip It*, *Margaret*, “Sesame Street,” “Thicker Than Blood,” “Prison Break,” “and Black Bird.” Member of Labyrinth Theater Company.

**MAYELAH BARRERA** (*Hero*) is an actress, singer, and dancer from Monterrey, Mexico. A proud graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts NY, she debuted in New York with *El Otro Oz* at TheaterWorks, including its national tour. Barrera's standout performances include co-starring as 'Fátima' in the sold-out run of *Desaparecidas* and singing with Jaime Lozano & La Familia at Lincoln Center. Additional credits: *In Her Bones* (Regional). She's thrilled to make her debut at The Public! IG: @mayelahbarreram

**DANIEL BRAVO HERNÁNDEZ** (*Claudio*) is a NYC actor, born and raised. He believes Shakespeare wrote for the common people and is excited to participate in a production that will be accessible to all, including the Spanish speakers of NYC. Finalmente algo para mi gente! After closing Sam Gold's *Romeo + Juliet* on Broadway, he's honored to continue working on Shakespeare and hopes to keep doing it. Gracias a mis padres, Brian D. Hills, Clara Bello, y a Dios.

**HIRAM DELGADO** (*Don Pedros/Verges*) is a Puerto Rican Cuban actor and writer. Delgado appeared on Broadway in Tony-winning revival of *Take Me Out* (Second Stage/Schoenfeld Theatre). Off-Broadway credits include *The Hours are Feminine* (INTAR), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Romeo y Julieta* (Public Theater), and *Agnes* (59E59). Regional credits include *Two Sisters and a Piano* (Two River Theatre) and *The Model American* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). TV/Film credits include “Colapso,” “Undercard,” “Homesick,” “New Amsterdam,” “Prodigal Son,” “Madam Secretary,” “The Code.” Training: MFA, NYU Graduate Acting. [www.hiramdelgado.com](http://www.hiramdelgado.com)

**KATHERINE GEORGE** (*Understudy Beatrice, Hero, Margaret/Sexton, Dogberry, Don Juan/Conrade*) is an Afro-Latina multi-hyphenate artist and educator from the Bronx, NY, by way of the Dominican Republic. Recent acting credits include *House of Blue Robes* (LAByrnth Theater Company), *blood work* (National Black Theater), *Bees & Honey* (Marin Theater Company), and *Clyde's* (Denver Center for Performing Arts). She served as a background vocalist for Jennifer Lopez at her NBC Fourth of July performance and Live Spotify Studio Session. Proud member of the Dominican Artist Collective. MFA: Columbia University.

**ROBERT MARCELO JIMÉNEZ** (*Leonato/Watch*) counts originating the role of Martinez in Richard Greenberg's Tony Award winning play, *Take Me Out*, directed by Joe Mantello, as one of his favorite Public Theater experiences. It was a unique opportunity to perform with a show from The Donmar Warehouse in London's West End to The Public Theater in NYC, and then to the Walter Kerr on Broadway. Originating the role of Eddie in *The Block* by Dan Hoyle; Dir. Tamilla Woodard for Mark Plesent's *Working Theater Five Boroughs/One City Initiative* (Urban Stages).

**KEREN LUGO** she/her (*Beatrice*) has performed at The Public in *Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo y Julieta* (radio play), and *Privacy* (with The Donmar Warehouse). Off-Broadway credits include *The Irrepressible Magic of the Tropics* (INTAR), *Give me Carmelita Tropicana!* (Soho Rep), *Stargazers* (Page 73), *At the Wedding* (LCT3), and *Actually, We're F\*cked* (Cherry Lane). Regional credits include Yale Rep, Mark Taper Forum, Baltimore Center Stage, Two River Theater, and Chautauqua Theater Festival. TV credits include “New Amsterdam,” “Orange is the New Black,” and “The Americans.” Education: University of Puerto Rico, NYU Graduate Acting.

**CORNELIUS MCMOYLER** (*Dogberry*) is thrilled to be back with The Public. So many thanks to Jordan & Kate. Gratitude always to Ben, Ashley, Remy, and Alice at A&R. Broadway: *Stereophonic*. Off-Broadway: *Hamlet* (Free Shakespeare in the Park), *Not My Monster* (Flea Theater). New play development with NYTW. Juilliard MFA.



**JONATHAN GABRIEL MOUSSET** (*Understudy: Benedick, Claudio, Leonato/Watch, Don Pedro/Verges, Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*) starred as Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys* (Ogunquit PH) and debuted at Carnegie Hall in *Mozart: Her Story*. Credits include *In the Heights*; *tick, tick... BOOM!*; *Cinderella*; *Newsies*; and *It Happened in Key West*. Born to Venezuelan immigrants, Mousset began performing at age six. Florida State University, BM in Music Theatre. His debut album *One Take: A Jazz Album* is available on all streaming platforms. IG: @jonathangabrielnyc

**SARA ORNELAS** (*Margaret/Sexton*) was born and raised deep in the heart of Texas and wears her Mexican roots proudly. Her favorite credits include Frida Kahlo in *A Ribbon About A Bomb*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and Boli in *American Mariachi*. She was most recently seen in last year's Mobile Unit's *Comedy of Errors* and is excited to return! If she's not substituting water with iced oat lattes, she's boxing, and sending TikToks at 3am. IG: Saravornelas

**MARTÍN ORTIZ** (*Don Juan/Conrade*) is a Mexican American artist based in New York City. Off-Broadway credits include *The Greatest Hits Down Route 66* (59E59). Select credits include *Manning* (Portland Stage), *Passionate Geometries* (Symphony Space), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (NYU Grad Acting). MFA from NYU Graduate Acting.

**NATHAN M. RAMSEY** (*Benedick*) is thrilled to be returning to The Public! As a proud Afro-Latino, U.S. Air Force war veteran, and Bronx, NY native he couldn't be more excited for this production. Theater credits include *Shane* (Dallas Theater Center), *Plays for the Plague Year* (The Public Theater), and *The Tempest* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Training: MFA in Acting, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Thank you, Donna, and my GTG family! To my beautiful wife Courtney...WE HERE!! [www.nathanmramsey.com](http://www.nathanmramsey.com)

### **ABOUT THE MOBILE UNIT:**

Civic Artistic Programs is The Public Theater's hub for furthering access, civic engagement, and community focused artistic innovation, focused on building connections with community organization and their members.

Now in its 15th season, The Public Theater's **MOBILE UNIT** is a modern reimagining of Joseph Papp's Mobile Theater. Mobile Unit reaches across economic and geographic barriers to the arts by meeting our communities where they are—staging free professional theater productions and programs in local neighborhood venues such as libraries, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and community centers across all five New York City boroughs. Mobile Unit has served thousands of audiences with critically acclaimed productions, including a 2018 National tour of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat*. In 2020, Mobile Unit received a Special Drama Desk Award for its program. During the pandemic, Mobile Unit launched a digital workshop inside the NYC Department of Corrections called *Hip-Hop vs. Shakespeare*, where participants were encouraged to write their own stories. In summer 2021, Mobile Unit returned in-person with *Mobile Unit's Summer of Joy*, co-produced with National Black Theatre, popping up at public plazas in neighborhoods hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. Mobile Unit believes theater is its most powerful when it reflects and connects to the lives of our community.

### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:**

**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 musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda 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 64 Tony Awards, 195 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 63 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 70 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antony Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](https://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.

**Citizens** is the presenting partner for **SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY**.

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