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Jo Brook



Britney Coleman



Trevor Lindley Craft



Andrew Durand



Brandon J. Ellis



Katie Horner



Kelsee Kimmel



Casey Martin Klein



Sachiko Mae



Morgan Morse



Kris Saint-Louis



Claire-Frances Sullivan



Lauren Jeanne Thomas



Spiff Wiegand



Matt Wolpe

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM HEADSHOTS

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL *THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON*

Book and Lyrics by Jethro Compton

Music and Lyrics by Darren Clark

Based on the Short Story by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Choreographed by Chi-San Howard

Directed by Jethro Compton

Complete Cast Includes Jo Brook, Britney Coleman, Trevor Lindley Craft,

Andrew Durand, Brandon J. Ellis, Katie Horner, Kelsee Kimmel, Casey Martin Klein, Sachiko Mae, Morgan Morse, Kris Saint-Louis, Claire-Frances Sullivan, Lauren Jeanne Thomas, Spiff Wiegand, and Matt Wolpe

Thursday, July 23 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced casting today for the North American premiere production of **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**, with a book and lyrics by **Jethro Compton**, music and lyrics by **Darren Clark**, based on the short story by **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, choreographed by **Chi-San Howard**, and directed by Compton. After a successful run at London's Southwark Playhouse and on the West End, **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** will finally play to American audiences, with performances beginning in The Public's Newman Theater on Thursday, October 8 with a Joseph Papp Free Performance. The production runs through Sunday, November 15 with an official opening night on Wednesday, October 21.

Following a highly acclaimed production in London's West End, **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** makes its North American premiere at The Public this fall. Olivier Award-winning writing team **Jethro Compton** and **Darren Clark** reimagine **F. Scott Fitzgerald's** iconic story of an old man who is not at the end of his life, but at the beginning. Set in a Cornish fishing village on the coast of Great Britain, and brought to life by a company of 15 actor-musicians, this is the magical tale of a love that defies all odds.

The complete actor-musician ensemble of **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** includes **Jo Brook** (*Swing*), **Britney Coleman** (*Gwyns*), **Trevor Lindley Craft** (*Morlan/Understudy*), **Andrew Durand** (*Reverthi/Benjamin Button*), **Brandon J. Ellis** (*Tewes/Understudy*), **Katie Horner** (*Treth/Understudy*), **Kelsee Kimmel** (*Sterenow/Elowen Keene*), **Casey Martin Klein** (*Swing*), **Sachiko Mae** (*Avoryow/Understudy*), **Morgan Morse** (*Tonnow*), **Kris Saint-Louis** (*Lanow*), **Claire-Frances Sullivan** (*Ebron/Understudy*), **Lauren Jeanne Thomas** (*Swing*), **Spiff Wiegand** (*Swing*), and **Matt Wolpe** (*Tir*).

The Public's production of **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** will feature scenic design by **Jethro Compton**, costume design by **Anna Kelsey**, lighting design by **Zoe Spurr**, and sound design by **Luke Swaffield for Autograph Sound**. **Mark Aspinall** and **Darren Clark** will provide orchestrations and arrangements for the production and serve as the music supervisors. Aspinall will also be the production's music director. Additional production positions will be filled at a later date.

The Public's **2026-27 season** will begin in mid-September with Red Bull Theater's production of **HOW SHAKESPEARE SAVED MY LIFE**, a co-production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Folger Theatre, written and performed by **Jacob Ming-Trent** and directed by **Tony Taccone** in the Shiva Theater. The season will continue with the world premiere of **Ryan J. Haddad's** multigenerational ensemble play of gay men growing up, falling in love, and cherishing the arts, **GOOD TIME CHARLIE**, directed by **Danny Sharron**. In October, The Public will welcome **Richard Nelson** back with the latest offering from the Apple Family—**WE'LL SEE**, which will follow the beloved family on midterm election day, November 3, 2026. The fall season will close out with a presentation of Fiasco Theater's production of the deeply modern play **THE VERGE**, written by **Susan Glaspell** in 1921 and directed by **Jessie Austrian**.

BIOS:

JETHRO COMPTON (*Book & Lyrics; Direction*) is an Olivier Award-winning writer, director, designer, and producer. His most notable work includes his stage adaptation of the classic Western, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and the multi-Olivier Award-winning musical adaptation of *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Compton is the Production Associate of Southwark Playhouse, London, where he originally produced *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* in 2019.

DARREN CLARK (*Music & Lyrics*) is a multi-Olivier award winning composer & lyricist working exclusively for musical theatre. Amongst his many shows are the Olivier and Off-West End Award Winning *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, which played at The Ambassadors Theatre in London's West End, and the multi award-winning *The Wicker Husband* which won the inaugural MTI Stiles & Drewe Mentorship Award and was selected for the prestigious NAMT festival in New York.

CHI-SAN HOWARD (*Choreography*). Theatre Includes: *Bird Grove* (Hampstead); *Double Indemnity* (UK Tour); *Dracula* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Hansel & Gretel* and *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (The Ambassadors, West End); *The Real Thing* (Old Vic); *The Earthworks* and *Chasing Hares* (Young Vic); *Grenfell: In the Words of Survivors* (National Theatre); *The Pillowman* (Duke of York, West End); *Private Lives* (Donmar Warehouse); *Les Miserables* (Sondheim Theatre, West End / UK Tour / Netherlands / Belgium Tour); *O, Island, Ivy Tiller: Vicar's Daughter, Squirrel Killer* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *That Is Not Who I Am/Rapture* (Royal Court).

JO BROOK (*Swing*) is a Montana native and NYC-based, Hard of Hearing actor, musician, writer & disabilities advocate. Acting credits include *Silent Sky* (Asolo Rep), *Once* (Cape Playhouse), *October Sky* (Universal Stages), *The Goree All-Girl String Band* (NYMF), *Wild Fire* (Denver Center), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Alabama Shakes), "What Would You Do?" (Hulu), and her solo show *Back Float* (Emerging Artists Theatre). Jo Brook and her sister Brittany co-founded the all-female folk/bluegrass collective The Snowy Mountain Sisters in 2015. jo-brook.com.

BRITNEY COLEMAN (*Gwyns*). Public debut! A native of Ann Arbor, MI, she has been seen on Broadway in *Company*, *Tootsie*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. National Tours: *Company*, *Beetlejuice*, *Beautiful*. TV: "CIA." BFA: The University of Michigan. A huge thank you to every voice, violin, mandolin, acting, choir, orchestra, dialect and dance teacher she's every had since the third grade. Big thanks to HCKR and my family as always. Hi Stanley. www.britneycoleman.com

TREVOR LINDLEY CRAFT he/him (*Morlan/Understudy*). Public Theater debut. Regional credits include *Once* (Fulton, Casa Mañana, Capital Rep.), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Milwaukee Rep, Marriott Theatre), and the world premiere of *The Craic* (Milwaukee Rep). Find his solo album, *When the Bellow Goes*, as well as music with his band The Upswing on all streaming platforms. Loads of gratitude to every artist who has made an impact on this show and brought it to this stage. @craft.trevor

ANDREW DURAND (*Reverthi/Benjamin Button*). Broadway: *The Rocky Horror Show* (OCC Nomination), *Dead Outlaw* (Tony Award & Drama League Nominations), *Shucked* (Grammy & Drama Desk nominations), *Ink*, *Head Over Heels*, *War Horse*, *Spring Awakening*. West End: *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Select Off Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Westside Theatre), *Dead Outlaw* (Audible) (Outer Critics Circle & Clarence Derwent Awards, Drama Desk & Lortel Nominations). Television: "Servant", "Law & Order: Organized Crime", "NCIS: New Orleans", "Madam Secretary" Film: *Here Today*, *One December Night*.

BRANDON J. ELLIS (*Tewes/Understudy*) is thrilled to be making his Public debut! Broadway: *Bandstand*, *Once*, *Company*. 1st National: *The Play that Goes Wrong*. West End: *Once*. Off-Broadway: *Mind Mangler*, *The Play that goes wrong*, *7 Deadly Sins* (Dir.Moises Kaufman), *Balls...the musical?*, *Of Mice and Men*. TV/Film: "House of Dynamite" (Netflix/Kathryn Bigelow), "Herd" (on all Streaming), "FBI: Most Wanted," "Iron Fist", "30 Rock," "Dietland," "The Crew," and others. Love and thanks to Jenn. Agent: CGF, Manager: Creative Talent.

KATIE HORNER she/her (*Treth/Understudy*) is thrilled to be making her Public debut! She is a Philadelphia-grown, NYC-based actor, musician, and composer. Regional credits include Paper Mill Playhouse, the Engeman Theater, Cape Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, and Florida Studio Theater. Composer: BMI MT Workshop; Music Director: RWS Global. Thank you to Brian, my love

Amanda, my parents, Susan, Mr. Daniel Drew, and my family who made this dream possible. I love you. IG: @katie.lady64; TikTok: @katiemusiclady @practicalmagicunofficial. www.Katie-Horner.com

KELSEE KIMMEL she/her (*Sterenow/Elowen Keene*). Public debut! Kimmel was most recently seen as Jersey in *Hell's Kitchen* on Broadway. Other Broadway: *SIX* (Standby Seymour, Parr). National Tours: *SIX* (1st and 2nd National), *Pretty Woman* (1st National), *RENT* 20th Anniversary (Maureen), *Kinky Boots* (Pat). Toronto: *SIX* (Jane Seymour). BFA Shenandoah Conservatory. Endless thanks to Stewart Talent, CLA Partners, The Public and the wondrous Benjamin Button team; endless love to Mom and Kaitlin. It takes a village, people! @kelseekimmel, www.kelseekimmel.com

CASEY MARTIN KLEIN he/him (*Swing*). Public debut! Off-B'way: *The Book of Merman*. Regional: *Waitress* (Olney Theatre Center); *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Escape to Margaritaville* (Forestburgh Playhouse); *Summer* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *Grease* (Royal Caribbean). Thank you to Mom, Dad, Pops' violins, his beautiful wife Jocelyn, Ryan at Suite Talent and the whole TCCOBB team! Glory to God! Follow along @caseymartinklein.

SACHIKO MAE (*Avoryow/Understudy*) is overjoyed to be making her Off-Broadway debut with the Benjamin Button family! As a recent graduate and brand-new resident of NYC, she is excited for the opportunity to share her musical passions through this heartfelt story. She is incredibly grateful for all the love and support from her family, friends, mentors, and Benjamin! Special thanks to Dave at Daniel Hoff Agency. Proud Belmont MT alum '26! IG: @sachikomae_

MORGAN MORSE he/him (*Tonnow*) is an actor/musician/writer who has performed regionally everywhere from Houston, TX to Vienna, Austria, and is a Drama Desk winner for Outstanding Orchestrations for *The Porch on Windy Hill*, a new play that he co-wrote and starred in Off-Broadway (also nominated for Outstanding Play!). In his infrequent spare time he likes cooking, dancing, and working on his lifelong goal of doing an impression of every single Muppet. He's so excited to be part of this amazing show!

KRIS SAINT-LOUIS (*Lanow*). Off-Broadway: *Night Side Songs* (LCT3 - Lucille Lortel Winner - Outstanding Ensemble), *Animal Wisdom* (Signature Theater), *Mexodus* (Audible's Minetta Lane Theater). National Tour: *A Christmas Carol*. Other fun stuff: *Once* (Pioneer Theater Company, Geva Theater); *Almost Heaven* (Weston Theater Company, Riverside Theater); *Violet* (Oguma Playhouse), *HAIR* (Berkshire Theatre Group).

CLAIRE-FRANCES SULLIVAN she/her (*Ebron/Understudy*) is a performer and writer. You may have seen her around NYC in Sophie Blanchard's...*Extravaganza*, *Songs for Hands on a Thursday*, or in *Ceilidh*. She's a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, Maestra, the Dramatists Guild, the Ring of Keys, and the BMI Lehman Engel Advanced Musical Theater Writing Workshop. Stream her music under her name or her band, The Upswing. Big hugs to Broad Talent, her friends, and her family. "Anything's possible!!" www.clairefrancesullivan.com.

LAUREN JEANNE THOMAS (*Swing*) is thrilled to be back at The Public, playing more instruments! Off-Bway: *Girl, Interrupted* (The Public), *Beau* (OOTB), *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* (Stage 42, Drama Desk Best Revival). Select Credits: *Once* (Nat'l Tour), *Richard III* (The Curtain), *Comedy of Errors* (STC), *Hester Street* (Theater J, world premiere). Training: Boston University BFA Acting; LAMDA. Instagram: @taurenIthomas. LaurenJThomas.com. Love to Mert!

SPIFF WIEGAND (*Swing*) was born in Kentucky with 2 thumbs on his right hand and plays over 20 instruments. He has yodeled for Jimmy Fallon and Disney's *Snow White*, and played accordion on John Oliver. He was caught doing the right thing on "What Would You Do?" NATIONAL TOURS: *War Horse*, *Fame*. NEW YORK: *Red Roses*, *Green Gold*, *New York Animals* by Steven Sater (Bedlam), *Much Ado About Nothing* (TFANA).

MATT WOLPE (*Tir*). Broadway/Off B'way/Tours: *Rock of Ages*, *Finding NeAges*, *Finding A Wonderful World*, *Beau, Pygmalion*. Regional: Alabama Shakespeare, Cape Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Weston, Ogunquit, La Mirada, Ensemble Theatre SB, Gulfshore Playhouse, Sacramento Music Circus. TV: "We Crashed" (Apple), "SNL," "The Intermission Talk Show." Wolpe is also an award-winning songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Love and Thanks to Leah, The Wolpe's, The Read's, BRS Gage, The Public, and the whole Benjamin Button Team. MattWolpe.com @MattWolpe

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 Works, 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 64 Tony Awards, 197 Obie Awards, 63 Drama Desk Awards, 66 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 70 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. 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.

Special thanks to the **Anna L. Weissberger Foundation**.

TICKET INFORMATION

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON begins performances in The Public's Newman Theater with the Joseph Papp Free Performance on Thursday, October 8. The production officially opens on Wednesday, October 21 and runs through Sunday, November 15.

Tickets are available now and can be accessed by visiting publictheater.org, calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will offer free tickets to the performance on Wednesday, October 8 through TodayTix. The Lottery will open for entries on Wednesday, September 30 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7. Winners will be notified by email and push notification anytime from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and if selected, winners will have one hour to claim their tickets.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (*There will be no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 10 or Sunday, October 11. The performances on Thursday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 21 will start at 7:30 p.m.*)

The **Open Captioned** performance will be on Saturday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. The **Audio Described** performance will be on Sunday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m. On Sunday, November 15, the performance will be **ASL-interpreted**.

The full performance calendar can be found at publictheater.org.

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