



ARTIST HEADSHOTS

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
NEW CASTING FOR
2025-26 SEASON**

**Casts of THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS, INITIATIVE, and ULYSSES
Include 20 Public Theater Debuts**

THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS

Adaptation, Music, and Lyrics by Ethan Lipton

Based Upon the Play *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder

Choreography by Sunny Min-Sook Hitt

Directed by Leigh Silverman

Ben Beckley, Kelly Belarmino, Cole Burden, Micaela Diamond, Shuler Hensley, Michael Lepore, León Ramos Tak, Ruth E. Sternberg, and Angela Travino

Join Previously Announced Cast Members

Ally Bonino, Bill Buell, Damon Daunno, Amina Faye, Andy Grotelueschen,

Allison Ann Kelly, Nat Lopez, Ruthie Ann Miles, Geena Quintos, and David Ryan Smith

INITIATIVE

By Else Went

Directed by Emma Rosa Went

Cast Includes Olivia Rose Barresi, Marisa Brau-Reyes, Brandon Burk, Greg Cuellar, Harrison Densmore, Carson Higgins, Andrea Lopez Alvarez, Jamie Sanders, Jose Useche, and Christopher Dylan White

ULYSSES

Created by Elevator Repair Service

Text: *Ulysses* by James Joyce

Co-Direction and Dramaturgy by Scott Shepherd

Directed by John Collins

Cast Includes Dee Beasnael, Kate Benson, Maggie Hoffman, Vin Knight, Scott Shepherd, Christopher-Rashee Stevenson, and Stephanie Weeks

July 8, 2025 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today additional casting for the upcoming productions of **Ethan Lipton's** world premiere musical **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS**, **Else Went's** world premiere play **INITIATIVE**, and **Elevator Repair Service's ULYSSES**. The new cast members join the previously announced cast members of **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS**, for a total of 20 Public Theater debuts. Casting for The Public's other Fall 2025 productions will be announced at a later date.

Tickets for **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** and **INITIATIVE** are on sale now at publictheater.org. Tickets for **ULYSSES** will go on sale in October.

The Library at The Public serves food and drink Tuesday through Saturday, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays and Sundays this summer. For more information, visit publictheater.org.

Become a Partner or a Supporter of The Public Theater today at publictheater.org.

JOINING THE 2025-26 SEASON:

World Premiere

THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS

Adaptation, Music, and Lyrics by Ethan Lipton

Based Upon the Play *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder

Choreography by Sunny Min-Sook Hitt Directed by Leigh Silverman

October 24-November 30 (Opening: November 13)

Obie Award-winning playwright and songwriter **Ethan Lipton** and two-time Tony nominee director **Leigh Silverman** bring their irreverently funny new musical **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** to The Public this fall. A rollicking adaptation of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Skin of Our Teeth*, this new musical about age-old problems tells the twisting, often absurd story of the Antrobus family, who have been alive for 5,000 years but live in the same existential dread as the rest of us. Mired in the hot mess of their everyday worries, the Antrobuses survive all manner of catastrophes in an endless quest to begin again, and again, and again. Choreographed by **Sunny Min-Sook Hitt**, this bracingly original spectacle is a musical reminder that surviving is what we do best.

THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS will feature **Ben Beckley** (*Ensemble*), **Kelly Belarmino** (*Understudy*), **Ally Bonino** (*Fortune Teller*), **Bill Buell** (*Turkey/Ensemble*), **Cole Burden** (*Understudy*), **Damon Daunno** (*Henry Antrobus*), **Micaela Diamond** (*Sabina*), **Amina Faye** (*Glady Antrobus*), **Andy Grotelueschen** (*Announcer/Ensemble*), **Shuler Hensley** (*Mr. Antrobus*), **Allison Ann Kelly** (*Ensemble/Musician*), **Michael Lepore** (*Telegram Boy/Ensemble*), **Nat Lopez** (*Ensemble*), **Ruthie Ann Miles** (*Mrs. Antrobus*), **Geena Quintos** (*Mammoth/Ensemble*), **León Ramos Tak** (*Understudy*), **David Ryan Smith** (*Ensemble*), **Ruth E. Sternberg** (*Mr. Fitzpatrick*), and **Angela Travino** (*Understudy*).

Principal production support for **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** at The Public provided by **Teresa Tsai Productions**. Generous support is provided by **Steven & Benay Taub**. Special thanks to the **Laurents / Hatcher Foundation**.

World Premiere

INITIATIVE

By Else Went

Directed by Emma Rosa Went

November 4-30 (Opening: November 20)

Playwright **Else Went**, alumnus of The Public's acclaimed Emerging Writers Group, brings her transformative new play **INITIATIVE** to The Public this fall. A bittersweet reflection on adolescence at the dawn of the new millennium, **INITIATIVE** charts the intertwined lives of seven teens from 2000-2004, as they become friends and more than friends, wrestle with their potential, face incalculable loss, and struggle to find their way in (and get out of) "Coastal Podunk, California." **Emma Rosa Went** directs this epic world premiere guaranteed to make you remember the most difficult and beautiful things about growing up.

INITIATIVE will feature **Olivia Rose Barresi** (*Clara*), **Marisa Brau-Reyes** (*Understudy*), **Brandon Burk** (*Offstage Voice/Understudy*), **Greg Cuellar** (*Riley*), **Harrison Densmore** (*Ty*), **Carson Higgins** (*Lo*), **Andrea Lopez Alvarez** (*Kendall*), **Jamie Sanders** (*Tony*), **Jose Useche** (*Understudy*), and **Christopher Dylan White** (*Em*).

ULYSSES

Created by Elevator Repair Service

Text: *Ulysses* by James Joyce

Co-Direction and Dramaturgy by Scott Shepherd

Directed by John Collins

January 2026

Following last fall's sold-out encore of *Gatz*—"The most remarkable achievement in theater of the decade" (*New York Times*)—**Elevator Repair Service** (ERS) takes on the Mount Everest of twentieth-century literature. James Joyce's **ULYSSES** has fascinated, perplexed, scandalized, and/or defeated readers for over a century. In this New York City premiere, seven performers sit down for a sober reading but soon find themselves guzzling pints, getting in brawls, and committing debaucheries as they careen on a fast-forward tour through Joyce's funhouse of styles. With humor, pathos, and a richly layered design, ERS stitches together verbatim passages from Joyce's epic masterpiece into a two-and-a-half hour tour de force.

ULYSSES will feature **Dee Beasnael, Kate Benson, Maggie Hoffman, Vin Knight, Scott Shepherd, Christopher-Rashee Stevenson, and Stephanie Weeks.**

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Following a significant revitalization, The Delacorte Theater, home of Free Shakespeare in the Park, reopens in August 2025 with a production of Shakespeare's classic comedy **TWELFTH NIGHT**, also directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director, Tony Award nominee **Saheem Ali**, and featuring an all-star cast of Public Theater alumni and debuts, including **John Ellison Conlee, Khris Davis, Peter Dinklage, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Lupita and Junior Nyong'o, Sandra Oh, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Moses Sumney**, and more. A new Public Works adaptation of **PERICLES**, with music and lyrics by **Troy Anthony** and directed by **Carl Cofield**, will close out the summer at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The Public Works concert experience will feature community members from the five boroughs of New York in the Bard's epic about losing and re-discovering faith.

The Public's 2025-26 Season kicks off with Emmy Award winner **John Leguizamo's** return to The Public with the family drama **THE OTHER AMERICANS**, a gripping tale about the American dream directed by Tony Award winner **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**. The Tony Award-nominated writer and director duo **Jordan E. Cooper and Stevie Walker-Webb** also return to The Public with **OH HAPPY DAY!**, featuring original music by Grammy Award-winning gospel artist **Donald Lawrence** for this biting new play about confronting the divine. The Public's collaboration with **Ma-Yi Theater Company** continues with the first of two plays in this season's residency, **DID YOU EAT? (밥 먹었니?)**, featuring playwright and performer **Zoë Kim's** autobiographical journey through love's many forms, directed by **Chris Yejin**. **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS**, Obie Award winner **Ethan Lipton's** irreverently funny musical adaptation of **Thornton Wilder's** Pulitzer Prize-winning play *The Skin of Our Teeth*, makes its world premiere in a production directed by Tony nominee **Leigh Silverman**. The fall season closes out with **INITIATIVE**, a world premiere play by Emerging Writers Group alumnus **Else Went** and directed by **Emma Rosa Went** following the intertwined lives of seven teens from 2000-2004 in "Coastal Podunk, California."

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ELEVATOR REPAIR SERVICE (ERS) is a New York City-based company that creates original works for live theater with an ongoing ensemble. The company's shows are created from a wide range of texts that include found transcripts of trials and debates, literature, classical dramas, and new plays. Founded in 1991, ERS has created an extensive body of work that includes upwards of 20 original pieces. These have earned the company a loyal following and made it one of New York's most highly acclaimed experimental theater companies. ERS has received numerous awards and distinctions, including Lortel awards, a Bessie

award, and an OBIE award for Sustained Excellence, as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship and Doris Duke Performing Artist Award for Artistic Director John Collins.

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, 64 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.

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