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FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

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## THE PUBLIC THEATER & CITIZENS ANNOUNCE EXPANDED BOROUGH TICKET DISTRIBUTION SITES FOR FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK'S *TWELFTH NIGHT*

May 29, 2025 – Throughout August and September, New Yorkers across all five-boroughs will have expanded access to Free Shakespeare in the Park tickets thanks to The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) and Citizens, the Presenting Partner of Shakespeare for the City. Ticket vouchers for that night's performance will be distributed at a record 31 locations, including nine Citizens branches, around New York City for performances of this summer's production of **TWELFTH NIGHT** at the newly reopened Delacorte Theater in Central Park.

"At Citizens, we value being part of the fabric of our local neighborhoods and see our branches as centers for trusted financial advice that allow for meaningful engagement within our communities," said **Yajaira Hafley, Tri-State Market Retail Executive at Citizens**. "We look forward to welcoming people across the five boroughs for this summer's distributions and helping expand access so more communities than ever can experience the magic of the iconic Free Shakespeare in the Park performances."

Following a significant revitalization, The Delacorte Theater, the legendary home of Free Shakespeare in the Park, will reopen in August for the 2025 production of Shakespeare's classic comedy **TWELFTH NIGHT**. The performance will be directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director, Tony Award nominee **Saheem Ali**, and feature Public Theater alumni **Khris Davis, Peter Dinklage, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Lupita Nyong'o, Sandra Oh**, and **Daphne Rubin-Vega** as well as Public debuts **b, Junior Nyong'o**, and **Moses Sumney**.

### **BOROUGH DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE:**

Throughout August and September, a limited number of vouchers for that night's performance will be distributed at a location in one of New York's five boroughs beginning at 12 p.m. Vouchers will be redeemed at The Delacorte Theater for tickets. Dates and locations are subject to change.

August 8: Citizens Branch, Williamsburg (Brooklyn)  
August 9: Macomb's Bridge Library (Manhattan)  
August 10: Bronx Community College  
August 12: Brooklyn College, Tow Performing Arts Building  
August 13: Citizens Branch, Crosby (Bronx)  
August 14: Citizens Branch, Pomonok (Queens)  
August 15: Stapleton Library (Staten Island)  
August 16: Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (Queens)  
August 17: Brownsville Recreation Center (Brooklyn)  
August 19: Queens Public Library - Flushing  
August 20: Citizens Branch, 86st (Brooklyn)

August 22: Clason's Point Library (Bronx)  
August 23: Queens Public Library - Elmhurst  
August 24: Lehman's College, Performing Arts Center (Bronx)  
August 26: Citizens Branch, Park Slope (Brooklyn)  
August 27: Citizens Branch, Woodside (Queens)  
August 28: Windsor Terrace Library (Brooklyn)  
August 29: The Point Community Development Corporation (Bronx)  
August 30: St. George Library Center (Staten Island)  
August 31: Brooklyn Children's Museum  
September 2: Citizens Branch, Montague (Brooklyn)  
September 4: Clinton Hill Library (Brooklyn)  
September 5: DreamYard (Bronx)  
September 6: Bay Ridge Library (Brooklyn)  
September 7: Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden (Staten Island)  
September 9: Citizens Branch, Grasmere (Staten Island)  
September 10: Citizens Branch, Tribeca (Manhattan)  
September 11: Kings Highway Library (Brooklyn)  
September 12: Central Library of Queens Public Library  
September 13: Macon Library (Brooklyn)  
September 14: New York Hall of Science (Queens)

In addition to the expanded borough locations, The Public Theater will continue to distribute tickets for Free Shakespeare in the Park's **TWELFTH NIGHT** through its popular in-person distributions in Central Park, in-person lottery at The Public Theater, and digital lottery with TodayTix.

- **In-person distribution in Central Park:** Tickets will be distributed via lines, including lines for seniors and patrons with ADA needs, at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park at 12 p.m. (noon) each day there is a public performance.
- **In-person lottery at The Public Theater:** On each performance date, a limited number of vouchers for that night's performance will be distributed via an in-person lottery downtown at The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street at Astor Place. Sign-up begins at 11:00 a.m., and the lottery will be drawn at 12 p.m. (noon).
- **Digital Lottery with TodayTix:** On each performance date, a limited number of free tickets will be distributed via random mobile lottery on the TodayTix app. A lottery is also available for accessible seating. Download the TodayTix app to enter.
- **In-person standby line in Central Park:** On each performance date, an in-person standby line for tickets will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets will be distributed when available until the performance begins.

For more information about the 2025 ticket distribution and performance calendars, visit [PublicTheater.org](https://PublicTheater.org).

### **ABOUT FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK:**

Since its inception, over six million people have enjoyed more than 160 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at The Delacorte Theater. Conceived by founder Joseph Papp to make great theater accessible to all, Free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of The Public's vision of artistic excellence and free access to culture.

The Public has launched "Forever Public," an ambitious, multi-year capital campaign with a goal of raising over \$175 million to secure the transformative mission of free theater for everyone. In addition to establishing the Fund for Free Theater endowment, Forever Public provided capital support to make the Delacorte revitalization possible.

Built in 1962, the theater had not undergone meaningful capital upgrades since 1999. The Public, in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy, NYC Parks, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Ennead Architects to create a design and construction plan that minimized impact on Central Park and foregrounded resilience and sustainability to ensure the longevity of Free Shakespeare in the Park for many years to come.

Following groundbreaking in October 2023, reconstruction of interior spaces and the grandstand layout began with subsequent installation of redesigned lighting towers and the new wood façade made from salvaged NYC water towers. Concurrently, the Central Park Conservancy is renovating the Delacorte Restroom, slated for completion alongside the theater renovation. Reopening to visitors this summer, the revitalized Delacorte offers a state-of-the-art experience for audiences, artists, and staff alike with improved access for people living with disabilities.

The Delacorte project is publicly and privately funded with \$42 million contributed by the New York City Mayor, City Council, and Manhattan Borough President, as well as \$1 million from New York Assembly Member O'Donnell. The Public also wishes to acknowledge State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and NYC Parks who have contributed funding to the Central Park Conservancy's Delacorte restroom renovation project.

### **ABOUT CITIZENS:**

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$220.1 billion in assets as of March 31, 2025. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs in order to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a full-service customer contact center and the convenience of approximately 3,100 ATMs and approximately 1,000 branches in 14 states and the District of Columbia. Consumer Banking products and services include a full range of banking, lending, savings, wealth management and small business offerings. In Commercial Banking, Citizens offers a broad complement of financial products and solutions, including lending and leasing, deposit and treasury management services, foreign exchange, interest rate and commodity risk management solutions, as well as loan syndication, corporate finance, merger and acquisition, and debt and equity capital markets capabilities. More information is available at [www.citizensbank.com](http://www.citizensbank.com) or visit us on [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#).

Since expanding into New York in 2022, Citizens has been dedicated to becoming part of the city's fabric, earning its place as a trusted partner to New Yorkers. Neighborhood by neighborhood, Citizens has built partnerships to expand economic opportunity, invest in workforce development, and celebrate New York's culture, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit. Through collaborations with organizations like New York Road Runners, Queens Night Market, LISC, Pursuit, and New York Restoration Project, Citizens is helping create a stronger, more vibrant future for the city. Citizens joins the Jerome L. Greene Foundation in support of Free Shakespeare in the Park.

### **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, 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](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.

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

**Jerome L. Greene Foundation** is the proud season sponsor of Free Shakespeare in the Park.

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