



PRESS KIT

## THE PUBLIC THEATER WELCOMES UKRAINE'S THEATER ON PODIL Театр на Подолі

### Playwright Richard Nelson Wrote and Directed “When The Hurlyburly's Done” for Kyiv-based Theater Company

July 24, 2025 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) announced today that Kyiv-based theater company **Theater on Podil** (Bohdan Benyuk, Artistic Director and Yevhen Syynov, Managing Director) will make their New York debut with a limited run of **WHEN THE HURLYBURLY'S DONE**, a new play written and directed by Tony Award winner **Richard Nelson** and translated by **Yulia Sosnovska**. Performances will begin in the Shiva Theater on Tuesday, September 16 and continue through Sunday, September 21. The production is performed in Ukrainian with English supertitles.

This marks the second play **Richard Nelson** has directed at Theater on Podil; the film of his Ukrainian-language production of *Conversations in Tusculum*, a play which first premiered at The Public, was screened at The Public last fall. Nelson's Public Theater premieres also include *The Apple Family* plays, *The Gabriels*, *The Michaels*, and *Illyria*.

Nelson shares, “My ambition has been to write a play about six young women putting on a play in the middle of a war to be performed by six young women putting on *this* play in the middle of a war.”

Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis** adds, “*When the Hurlyburly's Done* is a magnificent artistic response by Richard Nelson to the art of a brave and heroic nation, Ukraine. We are proud to celebrate Richard's astonishing artistic and humanitarian achievement, and humbled by the opportunity to express our undying solidarity with the theatermakers of Ukraine.”

In 1920, 32-year-old Les Kurbas, the founder of the modern Ukrainian theater, takes a group of young actors out of war-torn Kyiv into the countryside where they will perform plays, bartering tickets for food. One such play is *Macbeth*, the first Shakespeare production ever performed in Ukrainian. While Kurbas and most of the company attend a show by a local theater company performed in their honor, six young women—four actresses, a pianist, and a dancer—stay behind with their children. Over a meal which they cook using the proceeds of that evening's show, the young women talk, complain, joke, make fun of themselves, laugh, and rehearse dances from the show, all while in pain, heartbroken, lost, scared, and with a need to be together.

The cast includes **Yulia Brusentseva**, **Kateryna Chikina**, **Mariia Demenko**, **Natalka Kobizka**, **Olena Korzeniuk**, and **Maria Kos**. **WHEN THE HURLYBURLY'S DONE** features scenic and costume design by **Mariia Pohrebniak**, lighting design by **Sergey Nevgadovsky**, and sound design by **Sergey Shevchenko**. **Vladyslav Tsekhmeistruk** and **Milada Samoilova** will serve as stage managers.

Tickets for **WHEN THE HURLYBURLY'S DONE** are now available for all performances on [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org).

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."

The Library serves food and drink beginning at 6:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays and Sundays. For more information, visit [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org).

**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](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.

**THEATER ON PODIL Театр на Подолі** is one of the most renowned and innovative theater companies in Ukraine, combining deep respect for classical traditions with bold contemporary experimentation. It currently has thirty-nine active productions in the repertory of its two theaters, ranging from Sophocles and Shakespeare through Ukraine's national playwright, Lesya Ukrainka, to contemporary Ukrainian writers such as Andrey Kurkov. It has a company of sixty-four actors, which includes numerous national award-winning artists. The Theatre on Podil was officially established on August 19, 1987, under the initiative of director Vitaly Malakhov, who led the company until his death in 2021, leaving a lasting legacy in Ukrainian culture. The theatre became state-funded in 1994 and was granted academic status in 2006 for outstanding achievements. In 2017, the company moved into a new, modern building located at 20a. Andriivskyi Descent in Kyiv, in the center of the capital. The theatre has gained international recognition for its productions of Shakespearean plays such as *Iago* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as *Vertep*, an adaptation of a traditional 17th-century Ukrainian nativity play. Theatre on Podil has toured to over 15 countries, representing Ukraine on the global stage. It hosts inclusive events such as White Cane Day for people with disabilities, supports orphanages and senior artists, and creates socially impactful productions. One such performance, *Where Children Come From*, inspired the building of 28 orphanages and facilitated the adoption of 142 children. Today, the company is led by one of Ukraine's most honored and well-known stage and film actors Bohdan Benyuk, a People's Artist of Ukraine. Theater on Podil was the first theater in Kyiv to restart production after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Its lobby

serves as a bomb shelter for the community. Two of its actors have died in the war while serving in the armed forces.

Generous support for **WHEN THE HURLYBURLY'S DONE** is provided by **Barbara Broccoli and the Dana & Albert R. Broccoli Charitable Foundation** and the **Marquit-Grieser Fund**.

Special thanks to **Susan Hilferty** and **Susie Sainsbury**.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

**WHEN THE HURLYBURLY'S DONE** begins performances in The Public's Shiva Theater on Tuesday, September 16. The production will run through Sunday, September 21. Tickets are available now and can be accessed by visiting [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org), calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m., except for Saturday and Sunday performances which will take place at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The production is performed in Ukrainian with English supertitles.

The full performance calendar can be found at [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org).

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