

HOW TO GET TICKETS FOR SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

A Visual Guide

THE PUBLIC.



Photo by Rebecca J Michelson.

This guide is designed access tickets for Free Shakespeare in The Park at The Delacorte Theater.

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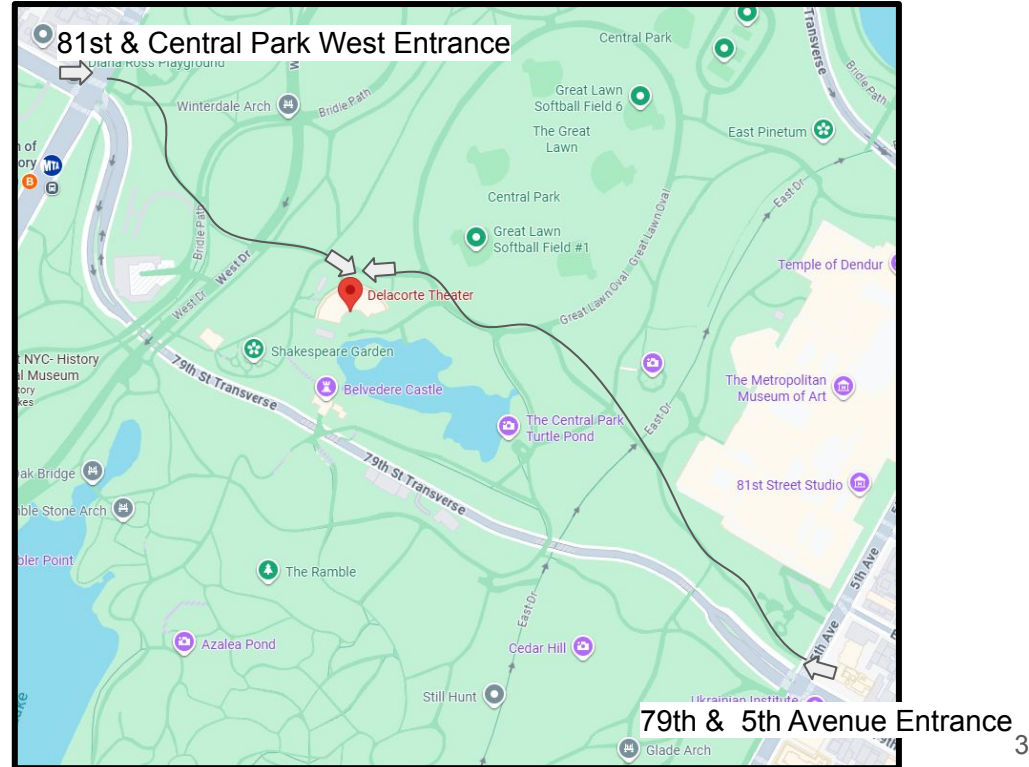
Illustration by David Regone

WELCOME TO FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK!

We are happy that you are joining us for a performance. The Delacorte Theater is the home for Free Shakespeare in the Park, The Public's oldest and most beloved programs. Tickets are free for all, but required for entry to The Delacorte.

The Delacorte Theater is located near The Belvedere Castle, you can enter Central Park at:

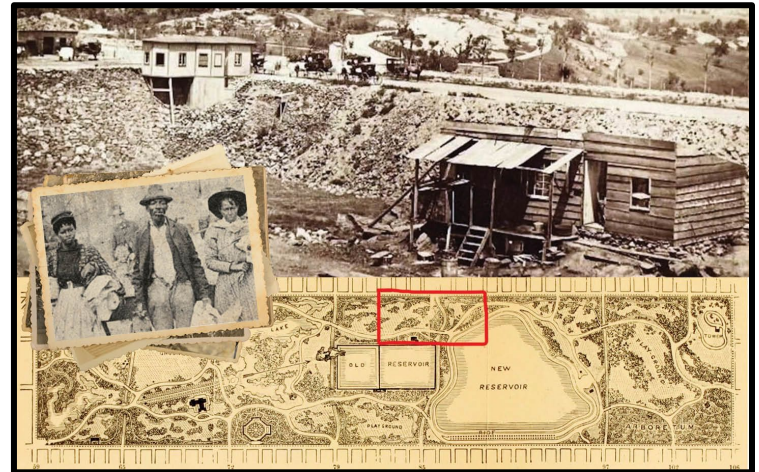
- 81st Street & Central Park West
- 79th Street & 5th Avenue



The Public Theater & Shakespeare in the Park Land Acknowledgments

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first people and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people— and the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory.

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. Read our full [Land Acknowledgement](#).



HOW TO GET TICKETS

Tickets are free and distributed at noon the day of the performance. Typically, there is no option to reserve tickets in advance. For each distribution option, one person can receive 1-2 tickets.

We are excited to offer multiple in-person:

- [Lining up outside the Levin Ticket Window](#)
- [In person lottery in our lobby at 425 Lafayette](#)
- [Borough Distribution](#)

There is one virtual option:

- [A digital lottery through TodayTix](#)

Watch LaChanze explain the [5 Ways To Access Tickets](#).



WAITING IN LINE AT THE DELACORTE

Standing in line at The Delacorte is one of the most popular distribution methods, a tradition many people have each summer.

- The official line for tickets begins at 6:00am when Central Park opens. Public Theater arrives at 5:45am at the 81st entrance and walk into the park with any patrons who have lined up before Central Park's opening.
- The line begins across the path from the Levin Ticket Window.
- Ticket distribution begins at noon.
- You will need a Public Theater Patron ID. If you have seen a show at The Public or Shakespeare in the Park before, you will already have one. You can look yours up or register [here](#).



Photo by Rebecca J Michelson



Tree across from the theater where line begins.

View from the Levin Ticket Window

WHAT TO BRING AND EXPECT IN LINE AT THE DELACORTE



Photos by Rebecca J Michelson

- Bring a blanket, snacks, water, sunscreen, hat, maybe a book or headphones, or anything that might make you more comfortable while in line.
- Regardless of what time you arrive, expect to wait in line and know there is a possibility of the show being sold out before your turn at the box office.
- The Delacorte is in a public park, open to anyone. It is hard to predict what you might encounter, some days could be very busy with people playing in the fields or even dogs.
- Sometimes, people set-up their instruments and play during the line or the distribution. They are not part of The Public, but have the right to perform.

ACCESSIBILITY LINES AT THE DELACORTE

Beginning at 10:00am, Public Theater staff can book accessible seats on first come first serve basis, as soon as they are available. You do not have to wait in line.

If you require an accessible seat, you can go directly to the patio across from Gate 2 next to the Levin Ticket Window. Please let staff know the best way to accommodate your needs.

If it is not possible for you to arrive in person for the accessibility line, please email accessibility@publictheater.org.



SENIOR LINES AT THE DELACORTE

We offer a senior line for individuals 65 years and older on the benches directly outside of the Ticket Window.

This line allows patrons to sit on the bench while they wait and ticketing is for a section with fewer stairs.

These tickets are distributed at noon.



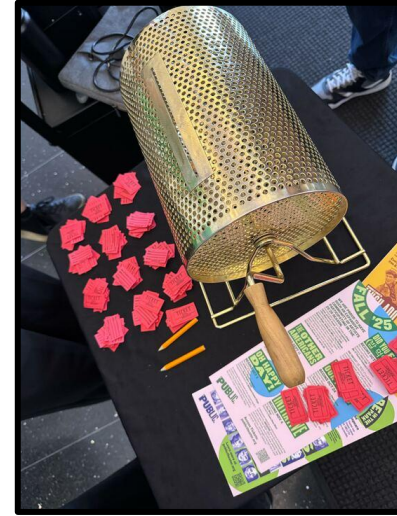
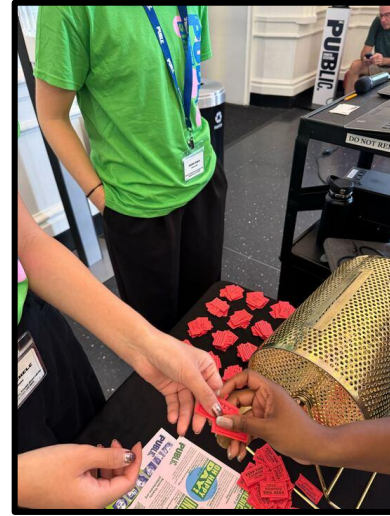
Photo by Rebecca J Michelson



IN-PERSON LOTTERY AT THE PUBLIC at 425 LAFAYETTE ST

Another in-person option for tickets is a lottery at The Public Theater on 425 Lafayette St at Astor Place.

- This option is fully indoors with our air-conditioning.
- Arrive at The Public between 11:00am-11:58am to enter the lottery with a Public Theater staff member.
- Winners will be drawn at 12pm. If your name is called, then you may receive up to 2 vouchers for that night's performance.
- Arrive at The Delacorte Ticket Window between 5:30pm-7:30pm to exchange the vouchers for tickets. After 7:30pm, they be released to the standby line.



BOROUGH DISTRIBUTION

If you don't live near Central Park, we offer Borough Distributions across the five boroughs to increase accessibility.

People may choose to go to a Borough Distribution since it might be closer to their neighborhood.

For each performance we partner with an organization in one of the boroughs to set up a distribution site. [You can check the schedule here and view the map here.](#)

Like The Delacorte distribution, the ticketing is for that evening's performance only. You may choose 1 or 2 tickets.



BOROUGH DISTRIBUTION

As with The Delacorte distributions, the ticket distribution begins at 12pm (noon).

It is difficult to predict when people start to line up for Borough Distributions, people typically are arriving between 6am-9am this year.

Public Theater staff arrives between 9:30am-10am. This is when they will begin to monitor the line.

- They may ask you to be in single file, or move slightly to not block the sidewalk or businesses.
- Public Theater staff will use this time to also ensure everyone has their Public Theater Patron ID number, or help you get one. You can look yours up or register [here](#).

If you require accessible seating, please let the staff know.



TODAYTIX LOTTERY

There is also one digital distribution option. You may enter the digital lottery via the TodayTix app.

- There is an option for the [Standard Lottery](#), [Senior Lottery](#), and [Accessible Lottery](#).
- You may enter the lottery beginning at 12:00am (midnight), and you can even set alerts to remind you to enter.
- You will be alerted at 12:00pm (noon) if your name has been drawn for that evening's performance.
- You must accept the lottery offer online by 3:00pm.

This option typically is harder to receive tickets, as more people enter each day than tickets are allotted.



STANDBY LINE

After all the day's tickets are given out, a standby line forms at The Delacorte in the same spot where tickets were distributed earlier.

Standby tickets become available because:

- People sometimes return tickets they can't use.
- Lottery winners don't pick up their tickets by 7:30pm lose them, and those tickets go to standby.
- Extra tickets may become available right before the show starts, or even a few minutes after it begins.



Photo by Rebecca J Michelson

The standby line is unpredictable - you never know how long it will be or how long you'll wait. It's smart to bring a blanket, snacks, and something to read while you wait in line.

EXCHANGING YOUR VOUCHER FOR A TICKET

If you received a voucher from either the Borough Distributions, In-Person lottery, or TodayTix Lottery, you must pick up your physical ticket no later than 7:30pm.

After 7:30pm, your voucher will expire and your ticket will be given to the standby line.

Be sure to allow extra time for navigating the crowds and waiting in line at the Levin Ticket Window. It can be very crowded.



Photos by Rebecca J Michelson.

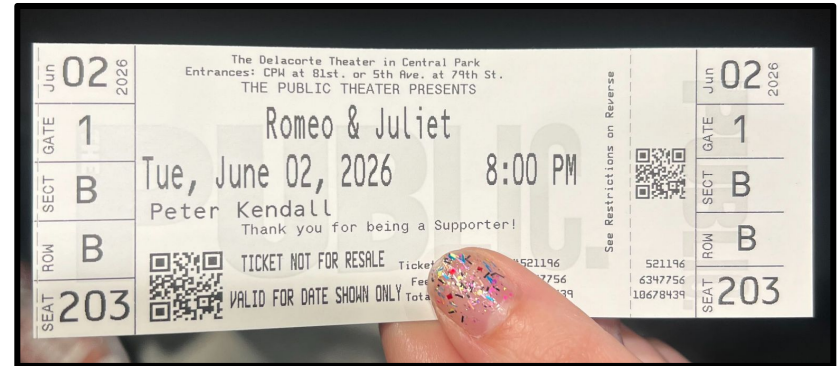
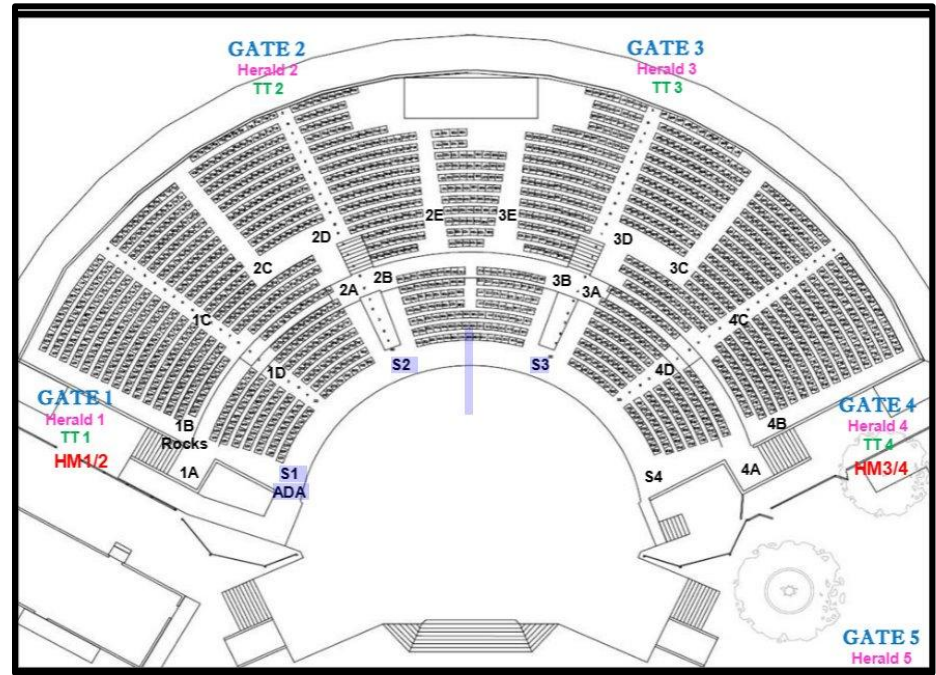
ASSIGNED SEATS OPTIONS

All tickets have an assigned seat. These seats are hard-plastic stadium-style seating without a cushion.

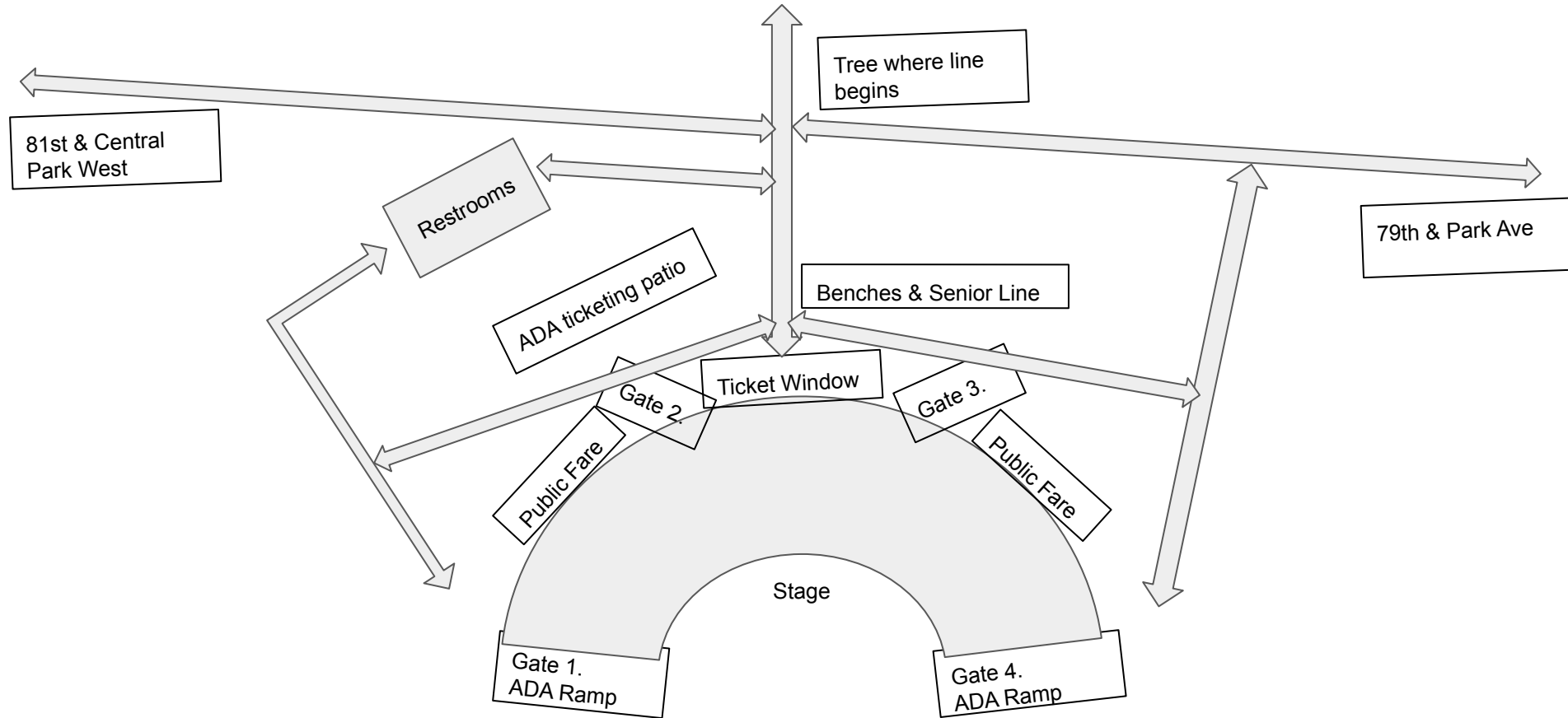
Unlike purchasing tickets for our shows downtown, seating is typically assigned randomly and it is not possible to choose where you sit, except if booking ADA seating.

Please talk to the Public Theater staff if you have additional questions or concerns about your seat.

You may also purchase a seat cushion at merchandise, or bring your own.



You can refer to this map to understand where important spaces are at The Delacorte.





No matter your journey to The Public Theater—whether you're a first-time attendee, new to our theaters, or a frequent patron—you are warmly welcome.

Feel free to engage with the show genuinely: react, vocalize, laugh, or cry. If you need to make some noise, take breaths, stim, or move about a little bit, that is OK.

We hope to see you again at Free Shakespeare in the Park or at [The Public Theater](#).