

THE PUBLIC.



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
press@publictheater.org

THE PUBLIC. + fiasco THEATER



Noah Brody



Paul L. Coffey



Devin E. Haqq



Amara Leonard



Miriam Silverman



Paco Tolson



Emily Young

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM HEADSHOTS

COMPLETE CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR FIASCO THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF *THE VERGE* AT THE PUBLIC THEATER

Written by Susan Glaspell
Directed by Jessie Austrian

Joining the previously announced Miriam Silverman are
Noah Brody, Paul L. Coffey, Devin E. Haqq, Amara Leonard, Paco Tolson,
and Emily Young

Monday, September 14 – Fiasco Theater (Co-Artistic Directors Jessie Austrian, Noah Brody, and Ben Steinfield; Managing Producer, Bonnie J. Evans) and The Public Theater (Artistic Director Oskar Eustis; Managing Director Patrick Willingham) announced casting today for their upcoming production of **THE VERGE**, written by Pulitzer Prize winner and founder of the Provincetown Players **Susan Glaspell** and directed by Fiasco Theater's **Jessie Austrian**. The 1921 rarely produced, ahead-of-its-time classic, will begin performances in The Public's **LuEsther Hall** on Tuesday, October 27 with a Joseph Papp Free Performance. The production runs through Sunday, November 22 with an official opening night on Thursday, November 5.

This fall, Fiasco Theater and The Public partner to celebrate a hidden American classic: **THE VERGE** by **Susan Glaspell**, Pulitzer Prize winner and founder of the Provincetown Players. In Glaspell's 1921 masterpiece, botanist Claire Archer is on a quest to create a new life: a plant unlike any that has ever come before. When her husband, lover, and soulmate each arrive in her greenhouse seeking heat in a snowstorm, chaos ensues. But as Claire pushes—sometimes violently—against the constraints of her own good breeding, she wonders if the only way to transcend boundaries is to destroy them. By turns witty farce, devastating philosophical debate, and scathing feminist cry, **THE VERGE** defies genre and pierces the bounds of theatrical realism. **Jessie Austrian** directs this new Fiasco production.

"I fell in love with **THE VERGE** when [EXPAND THE CANON](#), an organization that curates a collection of classic plays by women through history, sent the script my way in 2023 and then partnered with Fiasco on a reading of **THE VERGE** as part of their 2023-24 advocacy," shares director Jessie Austrian. "I was floored by Susan Glaspell's writing: the daring, the humor, the vast topography within the play—its refusal to conform to one style or genre. And I immediately thought of my colleague Miriam Silverman, who I knew would be tremendous in the role of Claire. Fiasco is thrilled to be partnering with The Public to revive this masterpiece, which feels deeply immediate despite being written a hundred years ago."

The complete ensemble-cast of **THE VERGE** includes **Noah Brody** (*Harry*), **Paul L. Coffey** (*Anthony/Dr. Emmons*), **Devin E. Haqq** (*Dick*), **Amara Leonard** (*Elizabeth*), **Miriam Silverman** (*Claire Archer*), **Paco Tolson** (*Tom*), and **Emily Young** (*Adelaide/Hattie*).

This production of **THE VERGE** will feature lighting design by **Amith Chandrashaker**, costume design by **Sarita P. Fellows**, sound design by **Bailey Trierweiler**, scenic design by **Lawrence E. Moten III**, music supervision by **Daniel Kluger**, and props direction by **Caitlyn Murphy**. **Caroline Englander** will be the production stage manager.

"While Expand the Canon started championing **THE VERGE** in 2023, we had read the script years before and were intimidated by its power and complexity," shares **Emily Lyon**, artistic director of **EXPAND THE CANON**. "Glaspell's gift for crafting messy women with empathy and complexity still challenges us today. Her indelible impact on the American theater—from *Trifles*, winning a Pulitzer Prize, starting the Provincetown Players, and more—is most strongly felt in her daring stories that refuse to look away from society's insidious assumptions about women."

Accessible performance offerings are integral to the ethos of Fiasco Theater, The Public, and this production. Fiasco Theater and The Public are pleased to offer an increased number of accessible performances for **THE VERGE**. An **Open Captioned and Audio Described** performance of **THE VERGE** will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. A **Sensory Adapted** performance will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 1:30 p.m. through [TDF](#). An **ASL Interpreted performance** will be held on Friday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. **Closed Captioning**, made possible by GlobeTitles, is available at all performances on any personal smart device. Patrons will receive a URL and access to free Wi-Fi to follow along on their own devices. Captions can be turned on or off at the viewer's discretion. Additionally, in order to support caregivers who may wish to attend **THE VERGE**, complimentary childcare will be made available for the performance on Saturday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m. Advance sign-up is required via [Broadway Babysitters](#).

The Public's **2026-27 season** begins 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** and the much-anticipated North American premiere **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**, a musical reimagining of the iconic story of an old man who is not at the end of his life, but at the beginning. 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.

Fiasco Theater gratefully acknowledges production support for **THE VERGE** from **Teresa Tsai, Annie Weisman and Bill Macomber, Howard Gilman Foundation, The Tiger Baron Foundation, and Robie Livingstone.**

Sensory Adapted Performance and Access Initiative support underwritten by **Thomas M. Neff.**

Fiasco Theater is deeply grateful to their partners at **Expand the Canon** and **The International Susan Glaspell Society.**

For more than 60 years, The Public Theater has championed the belief that culture belongs to everyone. From groundbreaking productions on its Astor Place stages to Free Shakespeare in the Park, Public Works, Mobile Unit, and Joe's Pub, The Public continues to create spaces where artistic expression and civic engagement intersect. **The Astor and Bar Torino are now open inside The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street, New York, NY.**

BIOS:

JESSIE AUSTRIAN *she/her (Director)* is one of Fiasco Theater's founders and co-artistic directors. Directing credits include the world premiere musical *My Antonia*, Latte Da; Fiasco's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Helen Hayes nominee for Best Direction), The Folger Theater and TFANA; Fiasco's *The Imaginary Invalid*, The Old Globe; *Ken Ludwig's Sherwood* at Playmakers Rep. As an actor she has appeared on and off Broadway, in London, at theaters across the US and occasionally on your TV. MFA: Brown/Trinity. Proudest roles: partner to Noah and mom to Asher and Tabitha.

SUSAN KEATING GLASPELL *(Playwright)* (1876-1947) was an American actress, playwright, novelist, and journalist who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her 1930 play *Alison's House*. She directed the Midwest bureau for the Federal Theatre Project. With her husband George Cram Cook, she founded the Provincetown Players, which launched the career of Eugene O'Neill. Her one-act play *Trifles* (1916) is frequently cited as one of the greatest works of American theater. In total she published 50 short stories, nine novels, 15 plays, and a biography.

NOAH BRODY *(Harry)* is a founding co-artistic director of Fiasco Theater. He has directed or co-directed many of Fiasco's productions. Acting: *The Stand In, Pericles, Imogen Says Nothing, The Imaginary Invalid, Into the Woods, Measure for Measure, Twelfth Night, Cymbeline*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Writing: credits include *Bartleby* (with Paul L. Coffey) and *My Antonia* which both premiered in 2026. Lucky husband of Jessie Austrian and silly father of Asher and Tabitha.

PAUL L. COFFEY *(Anthony/Dr. Emmons)*. The Public: *365 Days/365 Plays*. Off-Broadway: *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Red Bull), *Pericles* (Classic Stage Co.), *Into the Woods* (Roundabout Theatre Co.), *Cymbeline* (TFANA/Barrow Street Theatre) and others. Recent: North American premiere of *Ceilidh* (Sam Pinkleton, director) and co-authoring Fiasco's *Bartleby* (with Noah Brody) at the Old Globe. Coffey is a Fiasco company member and a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Acting Program.

DEVIN E. HAQQ *(Dick)*, a proud Drama League Directing Project Fellow, is also an [Emmy-nominated producer](#), a member of the [Roundabout Directors Group Cohort 4](#), a member of the [Fiasco Theater Acting Company](#), and a Finalist for the [2020 HBOAccess Directing Fellowship](#). He has appeared Off-Broadway at Fiasco Theater, The Barrow Group, Epic Theatre Ensemble, HERE Arts Center, BRIC Arts Media, and in the New York premiere of David Harrower's *Knives in Hens* at 59E59 Theaters (*New York Times* Critic's Pick). He's appeared in numerous regional theatre productions, including Fiasco's *Bartleby* (The Old Globe), *Master Harold and The Boys* (Schoolhouse Theatre), and *Measure for Measure* (Actors Theatre

of Louisville). Haqq has narrated documentaries for Lion TV, History Channel, Netflix, Disney Studios, and the PBS series "NOVA."

AMARA LEONARD (*Elizabeth*) is thrilled to be making her Off-Broadway and Public Theater debuts. Select credits: *Birthday Candles* (Chautauqua Theater Company), *Falcon Girls* (Chautauqua Theater Company), *The Incubators* (Westport Country Playhouse), *The Night Before Christmas* (National Public Radio), *The Peony Lantern* (Fiasco). Film: A24's *Peaked*. BA: Northwestern University. MFA: NYU Grad Acting, Class of 2026.

MIRIAM SILVERMAN (*Claire Archer*) won the 2023 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play for her critically acclaimed performance as 'Mavis' in the Broadway production of *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, and won the 2023 Drama Desk Award for the same role at BAM. Silverman can currently be seen recurring on the Apple+ hit series "Your Friends and Neighbors," "Landman" on Paramount+, and the Netflix limited series "Vladimir" opposite Rachel Weisz. Other television and film: "The Night Agent" (Netflix), "Dead Ringers" (Amazon), "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (Amazon), "Fleishman is in Trouble" (Hulu), "The Blacklist" (NBC), "Blue Bloods" (CBS), the independent feature *Motherland, Breaking* and the upcoming *Sacrifice* for Romain Gavras. Silverman recently starred in *The Disappear* for Audible Theater at Minetta Lane Theatre. Silverman's other Broadway/New York Theater credits include *Junk* (Lincoln Center), *Anatomy of a Suicide* (Atlantic Theater Company), *You Got Older* (Page 73) as well as Clubbed Thumb productions of *Deep Blue Sound*, *Plano* and *Find Me Here*. BA and MFA: Brown University.

PACO TOLSON (*Tom*) is a member of Fiasco Theater, Ensemble Studio Theater, and the Actors Center and has worked extensively on both heightened language texts and new American plays Off-Broadway. He received Lucille Lortel Award nominations for Fiasco's *Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Outstanding Lead Performance) and for Manhattan Theater Club's *Vietgone* (Outstanding Featured Performer). Recent credits include *SUMO* (Ma-Yi Theater/The Public Theater), *The Wind and The Rain* (Vineyard Theater/En Garden Arts), *Poor Yella Rednecks* (MTC), *Bull* (The Bridge), *to the yellow house* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Winter's Tale* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Twelfth Night*, *Pericles*, and *Measure for Measure* (Fiasco). Select Film & TV: "Cupertino," "Billions," "Law & Order: Organized Crime," "Prodigal Son," "Search Party," "The Good Fight," "Madam Secretary," and *7 Day Gig*.

EMILY YOUNG (*Adalaide/Hattie*) is an actor, director, and founding company member of Fiasco Theater. Broadway credits include *How I Learned to Drive* (understudy) and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Off-Broadway: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Orlando*, *Pericles*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Twelfth Night*, *Into the Woods*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Cymbeline*. Film/television: "Living with Yourself," "The Knick," *God of Love*. Directing: *The Stand In* (upcoming with WP & Fiasco), *Bartleby* (The Old Globe/Fiasco), *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (co-director, Fiasco/Red Bull), *Palimpsest* (In the Works, In the Woods/Forestburgh Playhouse), *Spring Awakening* (Ohio Northern University).

EXPAND THE CANON champions classic plays by global women and gender-expansive writers — and is a call to action to produce them. Through partnerships, podcasts, research, and publications, we ensure women's legacies are an essential, permanent part of our cultural history. Our curated collection of 50+ plays spans 1600-1990 — including, of course, *The Verge*. Partners include: American Shakespeare Center, Folger Theater, Roundabout, Classic Stage Company, Repertorio Español, Ma-Yi Theater Company, Classical Theatre of Harlem, Island Shakespeare Festival, Midsommer Flight, Fiasco, and more. We've helped shape curricula across the country, including at Brown, NYU, MBU, Adelphi, Milliken, and beyond. They recently published their first book, *110 Standout Classic Monologues for Any Actor*, which John Douglas Thompson called "a monologue book of staggering consequence," and produce an acclaimed podcast about each of their curated titles, *This Is A Classic: the Expand the Canon Theatre Podcast*. expandthecanon.com @etcclassics

FIASCO THEATER is an ensemble theater company based in NYC that offers dynamic, joyful, actor-driven productions, and the highest quality, accessible, and affordable training for emerging artists. Fiasco produces annual programming by developing shows through GroundWork, our internal development

series, as well as year-round readings and workshops that are open to the public; including the workshop production initiative Without A Net (WAN), which bravely stages a production for audiences with brief rehearsal and minimal resources. Partner theaters in NYC have included Classic Stage Co, TFANA, New Victory, and Roundabout Theatre where Fiasco served as the first-ever Company in Residence. Fiasco training programs offer emerging artists the chance to train in Fiasco's joy-based, actor-centered approach to theater-making. Fiasco's first production, *Cymbeline*, staged in a downtown NYC loft in 2009, was a runaway success: it was presented Off-Broadway twice, for nearly 200 performances and honored with the 2012 Off-Broadway Alliance Award for best revival. Fiasco's *Into the Woods* garnered another Off-Broadway Alliance Award, as well as the 2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Revival. The national tour of *Into the Woods* received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Visiting Production and LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Direction and Best Ensemble. *Cymbeline*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Measure for Measure* and *Into the Woods* have all been *New York Times* Critics' Picks. *Merrily We Roll Along* (2019), *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (2023) and *Pericles* (2024) were collectively nominated for four Drama Desk awards, two Off-Broadway Alliance awards, and a Lucille Lortel Award. Fiasco's work has been experienced by over 200,000 audience members in New York City and around the country. The *New York Times* has called Fiasco "a force to reckon with in the American theater." Fiasco has been commissioned by the Old Globe and created a podcast of Aditi Brennan Kapil's *Measure for Measure* in collaboration with Next Chapter Podcasts. They have been in residence with NYU-Gallatin, TFANA, Roundabout Theatre New Victory Labworks, Duke University, Marquette University and LSU and developed work with the Colorado New Play Festival, Sundance Theatre Lab, the Orchard Project, SPACE on Ryder Farm and the Shakespeare Society. Connect with us online at fiascotheater.com or on Instagram @fiasco_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 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.

TICKET INFORMATION

THE VERGE begins performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Tuesday, October 27. The production officially opens on Thursday, November 5 and runs through Sunday, November 22.

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 Tuesday, October 27 through TodayTix. The Lottery will open for entries on Tuesday, October 20 and will close at

12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27. 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 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. (*There will be no 1:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1.*)

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

CONNECT WITH US

Facebook.com/PublicTheater

Instagram | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.instagram.com/PublicTheaterNY)

Threads | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.threads.net/@PublicTheaterNY)

TikTok | [@PublicTheaterNY](https://www.tiktok.com/@PublicTheaterNY)

#