

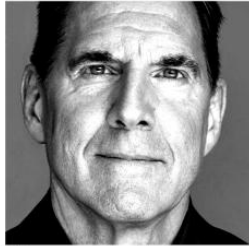
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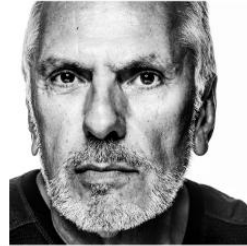
Sherz Aletaha



Timothy Bagley



Nicholas Barrón



Michael Cristofer



Ryan J. Haddad



Beth Malone



Nael Nacer



Artemis Pebdani



Jonathan Raviv



Doug Shapiro

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM HEADSHOTS

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF RYAN J. HADDAD'S *GOOD TIME CHARLIE*

Written by Ryan J. Haddad
Directed by Danny Sharron

Complete Cast Includes Sherz Aletaha, Timothy Bagley, Nicholas Barrón, Michael Cristofer, Ryan J. Haddad, Beth Malone, Nael Nacer, Artemis Pebdani, Jonathan Raviv, and Doug Shapiro

Thursday, August 6 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced casting today for world premiere production of **GOOD TIME CHARLIE**, written by Obie Award-winning **Ryan J. Haddad** and directed by **Danny Sharron**. The duo reunites after their Lortel and Drama Desk-nominated production of *Hold Me in the Water* at Playwrights Horizons. Haddad is also an alumnus of The Public's Emerging Writers Group, where he began to develop **GOOD TIME CHARLIE**. He returns to The Public following the successful and groundbreaking production of **DARK DISABLED STORIES**, which received an Obie Award for Best American New Play. Performances will begin in The Public's Martinson Hall on Thursday, September 24 with a Joseph Papp Free Performance. The production runs through Sunday, October 18 with an official opening night on Friday, October 9.

Ryan J. Haddad returns to The Public with his joyous, moving new play **GOOD TIME CHARLIE**. As a young man, Charlie dreamt of a life on the stage, but his parents thought dentistry sounded better, so he

channeled his passion for culture into his nephew Ryan—a fellow theater-loving gay kid with Broadway ambitions. Spanning more than three decades, **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** is a multigenerational story of gay men growing up, falling in love, and cherishing the arts. Directed by **Danny Sharron**, this comedic, theatrical love letter celebrates the people who teach us how to dream.

"I wrote **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** for my application to the Emerging Writers Group at The Public and continued to develop it for two years in that program," says playwright **Ryan J. Haddad**. "After many, many more years of development, with director **Danny Sharron** by my side the whole time, I am honored, overjoyed, overwhelmed, and appropriately terrified to mount this world premiere production in the place where it all began. This play is a tribute to families, gay elders, and those who love and revere theater with fervent passion. I am gobsmacked with gratitude for this gorgeous cast and creative team, and we can't wait to introduce my delicious family to all of you."

The complete ensemble-cast of **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** includes **Sherz Aletaha** (*Understudy*), **Timothy Bagley** (*Lou*), **Nicholas Barrón** (*Understudy*), **Michael Cristofer** (*Sheldon*), **Ryan J. Haddad** (*Ryan*), **Beth Malone** (*Janice*), **Nael Nacer** (*Charlie Sr./Bob*), **Artemis Pebdani** (*Joan/Judy*), **Jonathan Raviv** (*Charlie*), and **Doug Shapiro** (*Understudy*).

The Public's production of **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** will feature scenic design by **Afsoon Pajoufar**, costume design by **Enver Chakartash**, lighting design by **Barbara Samuels**, sound design and composition by **Ryan Gamblin**, and hair, wig, and makeup design by **Robert Pickens**. **Tom Schall** will be the fight director. **Andrea Grody** will be the music consultant. **Sarah Lunn** will be the production's dramaturg. **Katie Ailinger** will be the production stage manager and **Rico Froehlich** will be the stage manager.

"It is a true privilege to bring Ryan's gorgeous, funny, and deeply moving play to life with this extraordinary group of actors, after many years of rigorous development," shares director **Danny Sharron**. "To do so at The Public—the theater that raised me as an artist, and that has been my most consistent theatrical home since I moved to New York—feels spiritually correct in every way. We're following in the footsteps of so many incredible artists who have made magic in The Martinson, and I can't wait to invite people into the fabulous, gay world of this play, and all the love contained within it."

Accessible performance offerings are integral to the ethos of The Public and this production. The Public is pleased to offer an increased number of accessible performances for **GOOD TIME CHARLIE**. **Open Captioned** performances of **GOOD TIME CHARLIE** will be held on Friday, September 25, Tuesday, September 29, and Thursday, October 8. An **Audio Described** performance is available on Sunday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m. The performance on Thursday, October 15 and Saturday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. will be **ASL Interpreted**. On Wednesday, October 14, the performance will include **Audio Description and Open Captions**. The performance on Saturday, October 10 will **require patrons to wear masks** during the performance. The performance on Saturday, October 17 at 1:00 p.m. will be a **combined Open Captioned and Sensory Adapted** performance.

The Public's **2026-27 season** will begin 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 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. The fall season will close out with a presentation of Fiasco Theater's production of the deeply modern play **THE VERGE**, written by **Susan Glaspell** in 1921 and directed by **Jessie Austrian**.

BIOS:

RYAN J. HADDAD he/him (*Ryan, Playwright*) is an actor and playwright. He returns to The Public following his Obie Award-winning *Dark Disabled Stories*, co-produced with The Bushwick Starr in 2023. Haddad is an alum of the Emerging Writers Group, Devised Theater Working Group, and Under the Radar, and has performed at Joe's Pub with his cabaret *Falling for Make Believe*. His autobiographical plays include *Hold Me in the Water* (Playwrights Horizons and upcoming at Berkeley Rep - Lortel, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations) and *Hi, Are You Single?* (Woolly Mammoth/IAMA - Helen Hayes nomination). Additional stage credits: *Tartuffe* (New York Theatre Workshop), *La Cage aux Folles* (Pasadena Playhouse), *american (tele)visions* (New York Theatre Workshop/Theater Mitu - Lortel nomination), and *The Watering Hole* (Signature). TV: "A Murder at the End of the World" (Hulu) and "The Politician" (Netflix). Haddad received the Drama Desk's 2023 Sam Norkin Off-Broadway Award, Vineyard Theatre's 2021 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, and a 2020 Disability Futures Fellowship. His writing has been published in the *New York Times*, *Out Magazine*, and Alice Wong's anthology *Disability Intimacy*. He is a former Queer|Art Performance and Playwriting Fellow, under the mentorship of Moe Angelos. @ryanjhaddad

DANNY SHARRON he/him (*Director*) is a Brooklyn-based theater director with a focus on developing new plays and musicals, dedicated to elevating the stories of the LGBTQ+ and Middle Eastern communities. He recently directed the world premiere of *Hold Me in the Water* by Ryan J. Haddad at Playwrights Horizons (Lortel & Drama Desk nominee, Outstanding Solo Show). Broadway: *Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club* (Associate Director), *Dear Evan Hansen* (Associate Director; also West End, Toronto, and 1st National Tour). Regional: *The Model American* (Williamstown). He has developed and directed work at many off-Broadway and regional theaters, including The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, Roundabout, Manhattan Theatre Club, Berkeley Rep, Denver Center, and Woolly Mammoth. Sharron is a recipient of NYTW's 2050 Fellowship, Williamstown's Foeller Fellowship, and The Drama League's New York & TV/Film Directing Fellowships. SDC member. Proud husband and father. dannysharron.com

SHERZ ALETAHA she/her (*Understudy*). Broadway: the Tony-winning revival of *Merrily We Roll Along* as Scotty/Mrs. Spencer/Auditionee and understudying Mary Flynn. Off Broadway/Regional: *Frozen* (Papermill Playhouse), *Smart* (Ensemble Studio Theater), *Merrily...* (NYTW), *Kismet* (Santa Barbara Symphony), *Man of La Mancha* (Triad Stage), *MENASAfied* (Ars Nova). TV/Film: *Next Year*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, "Powerbook III: Raising Kanaan," "The Detour," "The First Wives Club," "Three Trembling Cities," "Insomnia" and voice over work for Netflix and Age of Learning.

TIMOTHY BAGLEY (*Lou*) is thrilled to be making his NY and Public Theater debut. Theater: *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* (SCR); *Stage Kiss* (Geffen Playhouse); *Under My Skin* (Pasadena Playhouse); *The Groundlings* (Main Company). Solo shows: *No Actors Allowed*; *Clean Boy*, *Dirty Stories*; *Happy Hour* (Aspen Comedy Festival Jury Award-Winner). Television: "Carrie," "The Comeback," "Somebody, Somewhere," "Hacks," "Grace and Frankie," "Will & Grace," "Monk." Film: *This is 40*, *Knocked Up*, *Employee of the Month*. @iamtimbagley

NICHOLAS BARRÓN he/him (*Understudy*) is thrilled to be making his Public Theater debut with Ryan J. Haddad's beautiful play. Broadway: *Ragtime* (LCT, Younger Brother), Off-Broadway: *Ragtime* (Encores!, Ensemble). Regional: *A Wrinkle In Time* (Arena Stage, Calvin). Winner of Best Lead Actor at the 2022 Jimmy Awards. Education: Mannes School of Music. Thanks to Ryan, Danny, Sam, Taylor, and the amazing team at The Public. @nickiebarron

MICHAEL CRISTOFER (*Sheldon*). Playwright: *The Shadow Box*, Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award. Screenwriter: *Falling in Love* with Meryl Streep, Robert DeNiro; *Witches of Eastwick* with Jack Nicholson; *Casanova* with Heath Ledger; *Georgia O'Keeffe* (Writers Guild Award). Director: *Gia* (Director's Guild Award), *Original Sin* with Angelina Jolie; *The Great Lillian Hall* with Jessica Lange. Actor: *A View from the Bridge* with Liev Schreiber, Scarlet Johansson; *Romeo & Juliet* (Free Shakespeare in the Park). TV: "Mr. Robot" as Philip Price; "Fallout" as Quintus; *Head of the Brotherhood of Steel*.

BETH MALONE (*Janice*) earned a Tony Award nomination for originating the role of Alison Bechdel in *Fun Home*. She played The Angel in the Tony Award-winning revival of *Angels in America* and received Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel nominations for *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. Her screen credits include *Song Sung Blue*, "City on Fire," "Gaslit," and *The Comedian*. Malone is the co-creator of *Starstruck*, with Mary Ann Stratton and Emily Saliers, opening Off-Broadway in fall 2027 following its record-breaking premiere at Bucks County Playhouse.

NAEL NACER he/him (*Charlie Sr./Bob*). Broadway: *Prayer for the French Republic* (MTC). Off-Broadway: *Meet the Cartozians*, *The Receptionist* (Second Stage), *The Orchard* (BAC/Arlekin!). Regional: *Leopoldstadt* (STC); *Triumph of Love*, *A Doll's House*, *Our Town* (The Huntington); *Angels in America* (Bedlam/CST); *Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest* (Comm Shakes); *People, Places & Things*, *Small Mouth Sounds* (SpeakEasy Stage); *The Merchant of Venice* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *The Ding Dongs* (Kitchen Theatre); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Gloucester Stage). Awards: Elliot Norton, IRNE. @naelnacer

ARTEMIS PEBDANI she/her (*Joan/Judy*) started out at Southern Methodist University, continued on to The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre where she is currently Board President, and later hit just about every improv/sketch house in LA you can name. If you recognize her face, it's likely from playing Artemis on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" or Vice President Susan Ross on "Scandal". If you recognize her voice, it's probably "Big City Greens" or "The Croods: Family Tree." She co-wrote, produced, and starred in Adult Swim's *Mother May I Dance with Mary Jane's Fist?* and made her off-Broadway debut in *Wish You Were Here* at Playwrights Horizons. She's so glad to be here, and so glad you are too!

JONATHAN RAVIV (*Charlie*) is an Emmy Award winner and original cast member of the 10-time Tony Award winner, *The Band's Visit*. Selected Off-Broadway: *Night Side Songs* (LCT3), *Here there are Blueberries* (NYTW), *Monsoon Wedding* (St. Ann's), *Hound Dog* (Ars Nova), *Lightning Thief* (Lucille Lortel), *Band's Visit* (Atlantic). Selected regional: *Night Side Songs* (ART), *Kismet* (Granada), *Fun Home* (KC Rep), *Into the Woods* (Barrington). Film/TV: *The Friend*, *Minyan*, "Law & Order," "NCIS: New Orleans," "The Blacklist," "Zero Hour," "Pan Am." @jonathanraviv

DOUG SHAPIRO he/him (*Understudy*) really loves breakfast. He is also an actor. Off Broadway: *Once Upon a Mattress* (u/s Dauntless, Transport Group) and *Di Kishefmakherin* (u/s four roles, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene). Aside from being a company member of The Barnstormers Theatre (NH) for over a quarter-century, he role-plays with corporate executives and medical students, sings a regular church gig and a regular Broadway gig, voices learning modules, and sings for emerging composers and lyricists all over the place. Come visit at www.dougshapiro.com and thank you for supporting New Work! @fearless-mensch

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

GOOD TIME CHARLIE begins performances in The Public's Martinson Hall with the Joseph Papp Free Performance on Thursday, September 24. The production officially opens on Friday, October 9 and runs through Sunday, October 18.

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 Thursday, September 24 through TodayTix. The Lottery will open for entries on Thursday, September 17 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24. 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 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (*There will be no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, September 26, Sunday, September 27, and Saturday, October 3.*)

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

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