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## THE PUBLIC THEATER EXTENDS FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK *MERRY WIVES* THREE WEEKS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18

By William Shakespeare  
Adapted by Jocelyn Bioh  
Directed by Saheem Ali

The All-Black Cast to Feature Abena, Shola Adewusi, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Pascale Armand, MaYaa Boateng, Phillip James Brannon, Brandon E. Burton, Joshua Echebiri, Branden Lindsay, Ebony Marshall-Oliver, Jarvis D. Matthews, Jacob Ming-Trent, Jennifer Mogbock, Julian Rozzell Jr., Kyle Scatliffe, David Ryan Smith, and Susan Kelechi Watson

Extended Run to Begin July 6 with Opening Night on July 27 and Special Public Theater Gala Performance to Close Out the Summer on September 20

[Goldstar Joins as New Platform Partner for Entirely Virtual Free Ticket Lottery and Distribution](#)

[The Jerome L. Greene Foundation Jumpstarts Return of Free Shakespeare in the Park With \\$1M Gift](#)

June 3, 2021 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that Free Shakespeare in the Park will return this summer with the delightful comedy **MERRY WIVES**, adapted by award-winning **Jocelyn Bioh** and directed by Associate Artistic Director and Resident Director **Saheem Ali**. Continuing a 59-year tradition of free theater in Central Park that was interrupted for the first time ever in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, this fresh and joyous adaptation of Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* will invite the City to return and share in the celebration of Black joy and being together in community at The Delacorte Theater.

Performances will begin **Tuesday, July 6**, instead of the previously announced July 5 due to scheduling conflicts. **MERRY WIVES** was originally scheduled to close on Saturday, August 28, but will now run an additional three weeks through **Saturday, September 18**, with an official press opening on **Tuesday, July**

**27.** The Public will close out the summer with their Annual Gala as a special performance of **MERRY WIVES** on Monday, September 20, with a rain date of Tuesday, September 21.

"The New York theater is opening again at long last, and it belongs to everyone. Free Shakespeare in the Park is the most democratic of civic spaces, and for The Delacorte to launch the re-opening of New York's theater is a beautiful reminder of all the hopes we have for our city's future," said Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**. "*Merry Wives of Windsor* is Shakespeare's most purely light-hearted play; its comic targets are men's vanity, jealousy, and self-absorption, its heroines are women of wit, strength, and power. Our production is set in contemporary South Harlem among the African diasporic community in New York, and that's not an accident. We are returning with a celebration of our immigrant communities of color and our certainty that Shakespeare can belong to all people, no matter who you are. We are back. New York is back. Come to Central Park to celebrate!"

Set in South Harlem, amidst a vibrant and eclectic community of West African immigrants, **MERRY WIVES** is a New York story about tricks of the heart, performed in the heart of the City—Central Park's magical Delacorte Theater. A raucous spinoff featuring the Bard's most beloved comic characters, this hilarious farce tells the story of the trickster Falstaff and the wily wives who outwit him in a new celebration of Black joy, laughter, and vitality.

"After a year of separation and a historic dark season without Free Shakespeare in the Park, we are thrilled to be together once more in community at The Delacorte," said Executive Director **Patrick Willingham**. "Without the partnership of our unions, public health experts, and elected officials at the federal, State, and the City level, these performances would not be possible. We want to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to understand and prioritize the needs of non-profit performing arts organizations, create fair and effective guidelines, and develop new funding opportunities to get us to the other side of this pandemic."

The all-Black cast of **MERRY WIVES** will include **Abena** (*Anne Page*), **Shola Adewusi** (*Mama Quickly*), **Gbenga Akinnagbe** (*Mister Nduka Ford*), **Pascale Armand** (*Madam Ekua Page*), **MaYaa Boateng** (*Fenton/Simple*), **Phillip James Brannon** (*Pastor Evans*), **Brandon E. Burton** (*Ensemble*), **Joshua Echebiri** (*Slender/Pistol*), **Branden Lindsay** (*Ensemble*), **Ebony Marshall-Oliver** (*Ensemble*), **Jarvis D. Matthews** (*Ensemble*), **Jacob Ming-Trent** (*Falstaff*), **Jennifer Mogbock** (*Ensemble*), **Julian Rozzell Jr.** (*Shallow*), **Kyle Scatliffe** (*Mister Kwame Page*), **David Ryan Smith** (*Doctor Caius*), and **Susan Kelechi Watson** (*Madam Nkechi Ford*).

**MERRY WIVES** will feature scenic design by **Beowulf Boritt**; costume design by **Dede Ayite**; lighting design by **Jiyoun Chang**; co-sound design by **Kai Harada** and **Palmer Hefferan**; original music by **Michael Thurber**; fight direction by **Rocío Mendez**; choreography by **Darrell Grand Moultrie**; hair, wigs, and make-up design by **Cookie Jordan**; and sound system design by **Jessica Paz**. **Narda E. Alcorn** will serve as Production Stage Manager.

Tickets to **MERRY WIVES** are free, continuing The Public Theater's long-standing tradition of free programming and community engagement. This year, free tickets will be distributed, two per person, entirely via an advanced digital lottery hosted by new partner **Goldstar**. The lottery will accept entries through the Goldstar app and [website](#) each Tuesday and Friday, until 12pm ET, one week prior to the next week's scheduled performances. The lottery will begin accepting entries on Tuesday, June 29 for the Tuesday, July 6 and Wednesday, July 7 performances, and then again on Friday July 2 for performances July 8 through July 10, and continue each Tuesday for Monday-Wednesday performances and Friday for Thursday-Saturday performances thereafter.

"Working with The Public Theater to help people safely return to this beloved tradition of outstanding theatre in Central Park is especially significant right now," said Goldstar CEO **Jim McCarthy**. "People miss theatre, the live experience and being together. Our digital lottery is a safe and efficient way to distribute access to what will make for many *merry* evenings for so many people."

**MERRY WIVES** will have an Open Caption performance on Tuesday, August 24; an Audio Described performance on Wednesday, August 25; and an ASL performance on Friday, August 27 and Thursday, September 9. Accessible tickets for these performances are available through their respective Goldstar lotteries.

At the heart of The Public's return to The Delacorte this summer is our commitment to health and safety protocols that ensure Free Shakespeare in the Park is a safe and celebratory experience for our staff, artists, and audiences. In accordance with the New York State guidelines for outdoor gatherings, the theater's capacity will be limited to 428 seats due to social distancing. The Public will also be implementing the following policies in accordance with current guidelines from New York State and the City of New York: all patrons over the age of two must wear an approved face mask at all times and present a negative PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the performance time; a negative rapid antigen test taken within 6 hours; or proof of full vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to performance date, along with a brief health questionnaire to be completed before arriving at the theater. Contactless temperature checks will be administered upon arrival and all patrons and staff must maintain physical distancing of six feet from others at all times. **MERRY WIVES** will be performed without an intermission. Policies may be updated at The Public's sole discretion, and subject to evolving New York State and City of New York guidelines. For more information on the health and safety protocols this season, please visit [thepublic.nyc/safeinthepark](https://thepublic.nyc/safeinthepark).

This season, **The Jerome L. Greene Foundation** is playing a pivotal role in bringing Free Shakespeare in the Park back to New York. With their leadership gift of \$1M making Free Shakespeare in the Park possible, **The Jerome L. Greene Foundation** is championing The Public's mission to create great theater, boldly conceived, and free for all.

"The Jerome L. Greene Foundation is thrilled to be the lead sponsor of this summer's Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater," said **Chris McInerney**, President and CEO. "The return of this iconic summer theater experience is a long-awaited and joyous reawakening of the arts, and a significant moment in the cultural life of New York City. This performance, live and under the stars, will bring audiences together to experience an inspired production of Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, free of charge."

Since 1962, over five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at The Delacorte Theater. Conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access and engage the community.

**MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** has appeared on The Delacorte stage only twice before in Free Shakespeare in the Park's 59-year history. It was last seen in 1994, directed by Daniel Sullivan and featuring Brian Murray as Falstaff, Tonya Pinkins as Mistress Ford, David Alan Grier as Master Frank Ford, and Andrea Martin as Mistress Quickly. The first production at The Delacorte was in 1974, directed by David Margulies and featuring Barnard Hughes as Sir John Falstaff, Cynthia Harris as Mistress Ford, and Danny DeVito as John Rugby.

Free Shakespeare in the Park's return to The Delacorte this summer is a moment of joy and connection after more than a year of not being able to gather in-person to experience theater together. As planning for a safe reopening in July moves ahead, The Public continues to navigate immense challenges because of the global coronavirus pandemic, and in response to the long overdue reckoning around racism in the country and in the theater community, The Public continues to interrogate its practices and systems to move closer to being an inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist organization. This is a moment of uncertainty, transformation, action, and accountability. There is much work to be done, but The Public's mission has not changed, and artists and their voices play a critical role in this moment too.

To support The Public Theater, become a Supporter or Partner by visiting [publictheater.org/supporttoday](https://publictheater.org/supporttoday). For more information about the Annual Gala performance on September 20, visit [publictheater.org/gala21](https://publictheater.org/gala21) or email [gala@publictheater.org](mailto:gala@publictheater.org).

## **BIOS**

**JOCELYN BIOH** (*Adaptation*) is an award-winning Ghanaian-American writer/performer from New York City. Her written works for theatre include *Nollywood Dreams* at MCC Theater, which is currently postponed due to COVID-19; *GODDESS* the musical, which will have its world premiere at Berkeley Rep in 2022; and the multi-award-winning *School Girls; Or The African Mean Girls Play*, which was originally produced at MCC Theater in 2017/2018 and has gone on to have over 20 regional productions. She is a former Tow Playwriting fellow (2017) and has been commissioned by MTC, Atlantic Theater Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Second Stage.

**SAHEEM ALI** (*Director*) is a proud immigrant from Kenya. He is the Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director of The Public Theater. Recent productions include *Romeo y Julieta* (The Public), *Shipwreck* (The Public, Woolly Mammoth), *Richard II* (The Public), *Fires in The Mirror* (Signature Theater), *The Rolling Stone* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The New Englanders* (MTC), *Passage* (Soho Rep), *Fireflies* (Atlantic Theater Company), *Dangerous House* (Williamstown Theater Festival), *Sugar in Our Wounds* (MTC), *Tartuffe* (Playmakers Rep), *Where Storms Are Born* (WTF), *Twelfth Night* (The Public), *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theater), *Nollywood Dreams* (Cherry Lane), and *Dot* (Detroit Public Theater). He has workshopped new plays at Playwrights Horizons, Playwrights Realm, MCC, New York Stage & Film, Page 73, and The Lark. He is a Usual Suspect at New York Theater Workshop, a Sir John Gielgud SDCF Fellow, and a Shubert Fellow.

**ABENA** (*Anne Page*). From New Jersey, Abena is an actor/vocalist of dual Ghanaian and African-American descent. She originated and reprised the role of Nana in *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (MCC Theater, Center Theatre Group; Drama Desk Special Award). She is vocalist of the Royalton Resorts theme song, "Royalton Life." AMDA graduate. Abena is also a former Disney Cruise mainstage vocalist. Additional NYC credits: *Goddess* (MCC SongLab/NYSAF), *Appointment With God* (The Playwrights Realm), *Ragtime* (Ellis Island), *How the Light Gets In - Water is Life* (NYMF). TV: "Orange is the New Black," "Daredevil," "The Other Two," "Celebs Have Issues," and "FBI." Instagram: @abenadryl

**SHOLA ADEWUSI** (*Mama Quickly*) is a British actress/singer/writer who currently stars on the CBS series "Bob Hearts Abishola." Her credits include British TV series, Netflix's "Turn Up Charlie" starring Idris Elba, "Chewing Gum" starring Michaela Coel, BBC's "The Kennedy's," and Netflix's "The Worst Witch," amongst many others. Her feature film credits include *Quartet*, *Paddington 2*, and *The Riot Club*. Adewusi is also a contemporary and traditional jazz singer and songwriter and performs under the pseudonym Misty Lee-Brown. Adewusi was born in London and grew up in Little Waltham, Essex, London, and Nigeria. She divides her time between Los Angeles and London.

**GBENGA AKINNAGBE** (*Mister Nduka Ford*) starred as Tom Robinson in the original cast of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway. Additional theater credits include *Fulfillment* and *Lower Ninth* (The Flea), *The Thin Place* (Intiman), and *A View from 151st Street* (The Public). TV: "The Old Man" (upcoming), "Wu-Tang: An American Saga," "The Deuce," "The Following," "24," "The Good Wife," "Damages," "Nurse Jackie," and "The Wire." Film: *The Sun Is Also A Star*, *All the Devil's Men*, *Crown Heights*, *Detroit*, *Independence Day 2*, *Edge of Darkness*, and *The Taking of Pelham 123*. Akinnagbe is the founder of Liberated People, a social justice lifestyle brand, and he recently sold his original pilot "Lewisburg" to NBC.

**PASCALE ARMAND** (*Madam Ekuia Page*) has appeared on Broadway in *Eclipsed* by Danai Gurira (2016 Tony nominee, Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play) and *The Trip to Bountiful* with the late great Cicely Tyson. Film and TV credits include "Prodigal Son," "The Blacklist," "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Core member of Quick Silver Theater Company (QSTC). NYU Graduate Acting Program alumna. As of 2018, Armand expanded her artistry into writing. During the pandemic, her passion project—developing her one-woman show, *\$\$!thole Country Clapback*—resulted in a virtual reading available on YouTube. [www.pascalearmand.com](http://www.pascalearmand.com)

**MAYAA BOATENG** (*Fenton/Simple*) is a proud daughter of West African immigrants. She returns to Shakespeare in the Park after being featured in The Public's *Julius Caesar*, directed by Oskar Eustis.

Boateng was last seen starring in Jackie Sibblies Drury's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Fairview* (Theatre for a New Audience). Other notable theatre credits include Lynn Nottage's *Fabulation, Or the Reeducation of Undine* (Signature Theatre); *Fairview* (Soho Rep); *Good Men Wanted* (New York Stage & Film). TV credits include "Orange is the New Black" (Netflix), "City on a Hill" (Showtime), and the culminating episode of Season 4 of "High Maintenance" (HBO). Education: NYU Graduate Acting, MFA.

**PHILLIP JAMES BRANNON** (*Pastor Evans*). The Public: *Shipwreck* audio play, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *ToasT*. Broadway: *JUNK* (Lincoln Center). Off-Broadway: *Toni Stone* (Roundabout); *Log Cabin*, *BootyCandy* (Playwright's Horizons, Obie Award); *The Antipodes* (Signature Theatre); *The City of Conversation* (Lincoln Center); *Nat Turner in Jerusalem*, *Love and Information*, *Belleville* (NYTW); *We Are Proud...* (SoHo Rep). Regional: Williamstown, Steppenwolf, Huntington, Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman, Kansas City Rep, Woolly Mammoth, The Wilma, Court Theatre. TV/Film: Roscoe on "Servant," "The Sinner," "The Blacklist," "The Good Fight," "Elementary," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Law & Order: SVU," *Contagion*. Training: DePaul University.

**BRANDON E. BURTON** (*Ensemble*) is a Saint Louis, Missouri native, and a recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama, where he won the prestigious Herschel Williams Prize awarded to the top actor of the class. Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival: *Macbeth*, *Richard II*, *Antony and Cleopatra*. Yale Theater: *Othello* (Othello), *Henry VI Part 3* (York, George, Bona), *Marty and the Hands That Could* (Mike Money). Yale Rep: *A Raisin in the Sun* (Bobo).

**JOSHUA ECHEBIRI** (*Slender/Pistol*). Pittsburgh Public Theatre: *Romeo N Juliet* (virtual). Williamstown Theatre Festival: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Something Happens for Joe*, *Soft*. TV: He will next be seen recurring on season 5 of "The Good Fight" on Paramount+. BA: Dartmouth College. MFA: NYU Graduate Acting. @joshuaechebiri. [www.joshuaechebiri.com](http://www.joshuaechebiri.com)

**BRANDEN LINDSAY** (*Ensemble*) is a southern gentleman born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. He received his BA from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and recently completed his MFA at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Lindsay has worked with some incredible directors such as Brandon Dirden, Tazewell Thompson, and Stevie Walker-Webb. He was also a part of the Nate Parker Film institute where their film *Baggage* was screened at The Pan African Film Festival. Lindsay is looking forward to celebrating Black joy, and being a part of a historical return to the Park.

**EBONY MARSHALL-OLIVER** (*Ensemble*). The Public: *Ain't No Mo'*. Off Broadway: *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo, TheatreWorksUSA, Director Marcia Milgrom Dodge). Regional: *Chicken & Biscuits* (Beverly Jenkins, Queens Theatre, Director Zhailon Levingston); *Sister Act* (Delores, EverBlue Arts, Director Joseph Spieldener); *Dreamgirls* (Ensemble, Dallas Theater Center, Director Joel Ferrell); *Memphis* (Felicia, Theatre 3 Dallas, Director Bruce Coleman); *Raisin* (Lena Younger, Astoria PAC, Director Dev Bondarin); *The Color Purple* (Celie, Director Akin Babatunde); *In Real Life*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Neat, Pretty Fire* (Jubilee Theatre). Film: *Sunday Brunch* (Evie Paige, Director Joseph Craig), *One Week In Heaven* (Deb, Director Joseph Craig), *A Tangled Web* (Georgie Kane, Director Joseph Craig).

**JARVIS D. MATTHEWS** (*Ensemble*). Regional credits include *Soft*, *Tempo* (Williamstown); *uber everywhere* (National Black Theatre); *Fences* (Jamaica PAC); and *The Flying Dutchman* (McCarter). Film credits include *A Cakewalk* (GARAGE Magazine & GUCCI), *Gabriela*, and *En Route*.

**JACOB MING-TRENT** (*Falstaff*). Most recently seen in *The Forty-Year-Old Version* (Netflix) and *R#J* (Sundance). Starred in the series "White Famous" (Showtime). Played Panda in "Watchmen" (HBO). Starred in the reboot of *SuperFly* (Sony). Other TV/film credits include "Ray Donovan" season six (Showtime), "Feed the Beast" (AMC), *The Possession of Hannah Grace* (Screen Gems). Upcoming: "Only Murders in the Building" opposite Steve Martin and Martin Short (Hulu) and "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" (Hulu). Broadway: *Hands on a Hardbody* and *Shrek The Musical*. Several Off-Broadway productions, including *Father Comes Home From the Wars...*, for which he earned a Lortel Award for Best Supporting Actor.

**JENNIFER MOGBOCK** (*Ensemble*). Regional credits include *As You Like It* (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ); *Love's Labours Lost*, *Antony And Cleopatra*, and *Hamlet* (Stratford Festival). Recent film credits include *Sultana's Dream* (Magic Spell Studios), *Stratford HD* (Melbar Entertainment Group ). TV credits include "Designated Survivor" (ABC) and "Conviction" (ABC). MFA from NYU Graduate Acting.  
[www.jennifermogbock.com](http://www.jennifermogbock.com)

**JULIAN ROZZELL JR.** (*Shallow*). Theater includes: Hagrid in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*; *Father Comes Home from the Wars...* (*The Public/Mark Taper Forum*); *The Piano Lesson* (Arden Theater); *The Total Bent* (The Public); *Death of the Last Black Man...*, *Venus* (Signature Theater); *Measure for Measure* (Hipgnosis Theater). Television includes: "Luke Cage," "The Blacklist," "Law & Order," "Broad City," "Boardwalk Empire," "High Maintenance," "Bull," "Person of Interest." Film includes: *Otherhood*, *The Breaks*, *The Price of Silence*, *Peter Grass is Dead*, and as Samson Finch in *Red Dead Redemption II*. Rozzell has performed voice-overs and commercials, notably in the "Rhythm is a Dancer" TD Bank commercial.

**KYLE SCATLIFFE** (*Mister Kwame Page*) is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Broadway: *The Color Purple*, *Les Misérables*, *Hamilton*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. West End: *The Scottsboro Boys* (Olivier Award nomination). Tour: *Hamilton*. Off-Broadway: *As You Like It*, *Big River* (City Center Encores!). Regional: *Ragtime* (ZACH Theatre), *Oklahoma!* (5th Avenue Theatre). Television credits include "Bull," "Chicago P.D.," and "A Christmas Carol: The Concert" with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

**DAVID RYAN SMITH** (*Doctor Caius*). Broadway: *One Man, Two Guvnors*; *Passing Strange*. Off-Broadway: *Where We Stand* (Women's Project); *Passage* (Soho Rep); *The Death of the Last Black Man...* (Signature); *Mankind* (Playwrights Horizons); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pericles* (Public Theater); *Gone Missing* (Encores); *The Glory of the World* (BAM); *Marat/Sade* (Classical Theater of Harlem). Regional: Repertory Theater of Saint Louis, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Barrington Stage, American Conservatory Theater, Dallas Theater Center, California Shakespeare Theater, among others. Film: *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Medal of Victory*, *Bee Season*.

**SUSAN KELECHI WATSON** (*Madam Nkechi Ford*). The Public: *Marley*, *The Story*. Broadway: *A Naked Girl on the Appian Way*. Off-Broadway: *Core Values*. Regional: *Twelfth Night*, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Watson currently stars as Beth Pearson on the SAG and AFI Award-winning NBC drama, "This Is Us" (multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations). She is a Critics Choice and multiple NAACP Image Award nominee for "This Is Us." She has had recurring roles on "The Blacklist," "The Following," "Louie," "NCIS," and many guest appearances. She recently starred in and Executive Produced HBO's *Between the World and Me*. Other film: Sony's *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, *Small, Beautifully Moving Parts*, *Blackout*, and Executive Producer of *Premature*.

### **ABOUT GOLDSTAR:**

Since 2002, Goldstar has been on a mission to make it easy and affordable for both its 10 million members to discover live entertainment events, and for its 6,000 venue partners to sell out their shows. Loaded with one-of-a-kind features, Goldstar's apps and site are designed to help people experience more local live events, including theater, comedy, concerts, dance, cabaret, food tours, and everything in between—all at prices that are typically half-off or better. For event organizers, producers, performing arts centers, and promoters across the nation, Goldstar is an essential marketing tool that builds new audiences, increases overall revenue, and reaches members who are only interested in one thing: live entertainment. To learn more, please visit Goldstar at [www.goldstar.com](http://www.goldstar.com).

### **ABOUT THE JEROME L. GREENE FOUNDATION:**

The Jerome L. Greene Foundation supports select programs that make a significant impact on the lives of all New Yorkers in the arts, education, medicine and social justice. Its 40-year history is grounded in the vision of its founder, Jerry Greene, to give back to the city he loved. Today, the Foundation honors this commitment by continuing to fund quality programs and by identifying new ways to increase access to the arts and to education, create opportunities for ground-breaking medical research, and help ensure social justice for all. [www.jlgreene.org](http://www.jlgreene.org)

### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:**

**THE PUBLIC** is theater of, by, and for all people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, 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 Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, 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 musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and *Girl From the North Country*. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 184 Obie Awards, 55 Drama Desk Awards, 58 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 56 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

The Public stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public Theater stands—the original homeland of the Lenape people. We acknowledge 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 eradicated from their land, where The Delacorte Theater now makes its home. We recognize the sacrifice that these ancestors made. We honor the generations of stewards and we pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

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

The **LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust** provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

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