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SUFFS PHOTOS BY JOAN MARCUS
CAST & CREATIVE TEAM HEADSHOTS

THE PUBLIC THEATER OPENS WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL **SUFFS** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Shaina Taub
Music Direction and Music Supervision by Andrea Grody
Choreography by Raja Feather Kelly
Directed by Leigh Silverman

Performances Run Through Sunday, May 29

April 8, 2022 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) officially opened the World Premiere of **SUFFS**, a new musical with book, music, and lyrics by Public Theater Artist-in-Residence **Shaina Taub**, music direction and music supervision by **Andrea Grody**, choreography by Obie Award winner **Raja Feather Kelly**, and direction by Tony Award nominee **Leigh Silverman** on Wednesday, April 6. **SUFFS** has been extended by two additional weeks and will run through Sunday, May 29.

The complete ensemble cast of **SUFFS** features **Jenna Bainbridge** (*Harry T. Burn/Ensemble*), **Ally Bonino** (*Lucy Burns*), **Tsilala Brock** (*Dudley Malone*), **Jenn Colella** (*Carrie Catt*), **Hannah Cruz** (*Ruza Wenclawska*), **Nadia Dandashi** (*Doris Stevens*), **Aisha de Haas** (*Alva Belmont/Phoebe Burn*), **Stephanie Everett** (*Understudy*), **Amina Faye** (*Robin/Ensemble*), **Holly Gould** (*Alice Paul Standby*), **Cassandra James** (*Mary Church Terrell*), **Nikki M. James** (*Ida B. Wells*), **Jaygee Macapugay** (*Mollie Hay/Ensemble*), **Grace McLean** (*Woodrow Wilson*), **Susan Oliveras** (*Nina Otero-Warren/Ensemble*), **Mia Pak** (*Mrs. Wu/Ensemble*), **Liz Pearce** (*Warden Whittaker/Ensemble*), **Monica Tulia Ramirez** (*Understudy*), **J. Riley Jr.** (*Phyllis Terrell/Ensemble*), **Phillipa Soo** (*Inez Milholland*), **Shaina Taub** (*Alice Paul*), **Angela Travino** (*Understudy*), **Ada Westfall** (*Mrs. Herndon/Ensemble*), and **Aurelia Williams** (*Understudy*).

A musical event one hundred years in the making, **SUFFS** brings to life a complicated chapter in the ongoing battle for the right to vote: the American women's suffrage movement. Written by and featuring one of the most exciting new voices in theater, Shaina Taub, this epic new musical takes an unflinching look at these unsung trailblazers. In the seven years leading up to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, an impassioned group of suffragists—"Suffs" as they called themselves—took to the streets, pioneering protest tactics that transformed the country. They risked their lives as they clashed with the president, the public, and each other. A thrilling story of brilliant, flawed women working against and across generational, racial, and class divides, **SUFFS** boldly explores the victories and failures of a fight for equality that is still far from over.

SUFFS features scenic design by Mimi Lien; costume design by Toni-Leslie James; lighting design by Natasha Katz; sound design by Sun Hee Kil; sound effects design by Daniel Kluger; hair, wigs, and makeup design by Matthew Armentrout; orchestrations by Mike Brun; and prop management by Corinne Gologursky. In addition to choreographer, Raja Feather Kelly is creative consultant and Ayanna Thompson is dramaturg. Melanie J. Lisby serves as production stage manager, and Amber Johnson and Jessie Moore serve as stage managers.

SUFFS, presented in L-ISA Hyperreal Sound technology by L-Acoustics, will be an immersive audio experience, enveloping the audience and providing a deeper connection to the performance. Sound designer **Sun Hee Kil** said, "I am thrilled to bring this innovative technology, with its expanded realm of creativity for our sound team, to the production of *Suffs*, and to The Public's audiences."

The Public's audience policy requires complete COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster dose (for those eligible according to CDC guidelines), by the date of attendance for access into the facility, theaters, and restaurant. For complete health and safety protocols, visit [Safe At The Public](#).

The Library at The Public serves food and drink Tuesday through Sunday, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit [publictheater.org](#).

BIOS:

SHAINA TAUB (*Book, Music, and Lyrics*) is an Emmy and Drama Desk-nominated songwriter and performer. She is a winner of the Kleban Prize, the Fred Ebb Award, and the Jonathan Larson Grant. She is a signed artist with Atlantic Records, and an artist-in-residence at The Public Theater, where she has a regular concert residency at Joe's Pub. She's currently writing lyrics for the upcoming Broadway musical *The Devil Wears Prada*, with music by Sir Elton John. She created and starred in musical adaptations of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* that were commissioned and produced by The Public Theater at The Delacorte in Central Park as part of their groundbreaking community-based program, Public Works. Those adaptations have now been produced in London, Seattle, Dallas, and beyond.

ANDREA GRODY (*Music Director and Music Supervisor*). Productions at The Public include *As You Like It* (Public Works), *The Fortress of Solitude*, *The Great Immensity*, *Venice*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Timbers/Friedman). Broadway credits include *The Band's Visit* and *Tootsie*. Off-Broadway and regional credits include *The Band's Visit* (Atlantic), *Assassins* (Yale Rep), and *Robin Hood* and *Unknown Soldier* (Williamstown). Grody wrote and composed *Strange Faces* and is the creator of WordWaves (www.singwordwaves.com). She has a BA from Princeton University and a MA from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

RAJA FEATHER KELLY (*Choreographer and Creative Consultant*) is a choreographer, a director, and the artistic director of the feath3r theory. In 2020, he was an Obie Award winner and Outer Critics Circle Award honoree for choreography for the Pulitzer-winning musical *A Strange Loop*. In 2019, he was an SDCF Joe A. Callaway Award finalist for both *A Strange Loop* and the Pulitzer-winning play *Fairview*. He is a three-time Princess Grace Award winner (2017, 2018, 2019) and two-time Lucille Lortel Award nominee (2019, 2020). Kelly was also the 2019–2020 Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist

at New York Live Arts, an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, a 2019 Creative Capital award recipient, and a resident artist of HERE and Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU.

LEIGH SILVERMAN (*Director*). Broadway credits include *Grand Horizons* (2ST; Williamstown Theater Festival), *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Studio 54), *Violet* (Roundabout; Tony nomination), *Chinglish* (Goodman Theatre; Longacre), and *Well* (Public Theater; ACT; Longacre). Other Public Theater productions include *Soft Power* (co-production with Ahmanson Theater/Curran Theater; Drama Desk nomination), *Wild Goose Dreams* (co-production with La Jolla Playhouse), *The Outer Space*, *In the Wake* (co-production with BRT and CTG), *No Place to Go*, and *Yellow Face*. Recent Off-Broadway credits include *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (The Shed), *Harry Clarke* (Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nomination), *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb), *Hurricane Diane* (New York Theatre Workshop; Two River Theater), *Sweet Charity* (New Group), and *On The Exhale* (Roundabout). Encores! productions include *Bring Me to Light*, *Violet*, *The Wild Party*, and *Really Rosie*. 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC 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 Forum, Under the Radar, 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 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 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, 58 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—and 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.

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

Support for **SUFFS** provided by an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, the CLAWS Foundation, the Laurents / Hatcher Foundation, The Kors Le Pere Foundation, and Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel.

SUFFS is presented in L-ISA Hyperreal Sound technology by L-Acoustics.

TICKET INFORMATION

SUFFS began performances in The Public's Newman Theater on Sunday, March 13. The world premiere musical has been extended two additional weeks through Sunday, May 29, and officially opened on Wednesday, April 6.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and full-price single tickets 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 performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Holly Gould will perform as Alice Paul for all Sunday matinee performances.

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. The **American Sign Language Interpreted** performance will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

The full performance calendar and complete ticket distribution details can be found at publictheater.org.

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