

The Public Theater | Public Square Relaunch | The Public Theater

PARTICIPANT 1: A place that has embraced every nationality.

PARTICIPANT 2: The space that can be filled by real people.

PARTICIPANT 3: An institution of cultural and artistic significance.

PARTICIPANT 4: This is where I can see bold and experimental theater.

PARTICIPANT 5: Revolutionary.

PARTICIPANT 6: Is us.

NARRATOR: Over 60 years ago, Joseph Papp began bringing free Shakespeare performances to communities all over New York. Hello, and welcome to the relaunch of the Public square. Get to know the artists and staff making the productions you know and love come to life.

GARLIA Hey, everybody. It's Garlia here at The Public. I am the director of innovation and new media at the Public
CORNELIA Theater.

JONES:

Hey, Ruth Sternberg, I'm really excited to be here with you, just thrilled that you are here.

RUTH And I am honored that you chose me to do this with you on the first one. I'm honored that you chose me to do it
STERNBERG: at all. I'm really honored that you chose me to do the first one, so thank you.

GARLIA Of course, of course, of course.

CORNELIA

JONES:

RUTH One of the big differences here is because of the volume of work that we do and the different kinds of programs.
STERNBERG: Whether they be sending tours to correctional facilities or doing a public works pageant on the stage in Central Park with 200 people, We have to be able to-- there's no one set way to do the projects that we do. Doing hair in the park? I loved the album. My parents wouldn't let me see the play when it came out. but we had the album and I listened to it all the time. So that was just a nostalgia. Oh, my goodness, I'm getting to work on this. That's so exciting.

SUZAN LORI I'm Suzan Lori Parks, also known as SLP, and I am a writer person.

PARKS:

[GUITAR PLAYING]

I got my life so far so good. I got things happening more or less like they should. I got my butter--

GARLIA We are here. This is how we really doing a podcast? This is a great thing.

CORNELIA

JONES:

SUZAN LORI I'm so proud of you. So proud of you.

PARKS:

GARLIA That means a lot. That means a lot.

CORNELIA

JONES:

SUZAN LORI The experience making top dog this time around is so beautiful. Those brothers are so-- they get it. They get the mission. So the last day of that year long festival where we did the plays all over the world, Oscar and I were sitting on the floor watching some production or something and he goes, "Do you want to come home?" I was living in Los Angeles at the time running calarts and working with Oprah--

PARKS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SUZAN LORI I'd gone out to Los Angeles. And I said, OK, not knowing really what that would mean.

PARKS:

GARLIA Yeah.

CORNELIA

JONES:

SUZAN LORI Maybe it gives me a chance to be a lighthouse because that being my home I can stand there and help other people get there.

PARKS:

GARLIA Yes. I've been thinking about with plays for the play here because I have seen that and I think I saw-- I've seen part one.

CORNELIA

JONES:

SUZAN LORI You were there.

PARKS:

GARLIA I saw part two and then I saw a part--

CORNELIA

JONES:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

GARLIA I've seen all of that. I've seen all three and I think something I've noted in just that show in general is that we're seeing a different side to you we're seeing you mom, wife partner, show runner. We're seeing all of these different sides and I'm curious what you are interested in sharing with the world through this. Yes with plays for the play here. It's very open hearted and what I find is the fearlessness of my love. I'm just putting that together right now.

CORNELIA

JONES:

Public Theater is--

The Public Theater is--

RUTH The Public Theater is a gift.

STERNBERG:

PARTICIPANT 2: To me, the Public Theater is it's like a neighborhood. When you live in a neighborhood or on a block, you can go to each other's house.

GARLIA us for the Public Theater relaunch of our podcast check us out on our website or wherever you find podcasts.

CORNELIA

JONES:

SUZAN LORI We were talking a little bit earlier. but what is the Public to the Public Theater is-- and for me, it would be the

PARKS: Public Theater is home. Welcome home to Public square 2.0, we can't wait to have you back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]