



[THE ALLY PRODUCTION PHOTOS BY JOAN MARCUS](#)

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES LINE-UP OF CONVERSATIONS FOR *THE ALLY*

Events to Take Place at The Public, Congregation Beth Elohim Chapel, and 92NY Throughout March

February 29, 2024 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) announced today a series of conversations connected to the world premiere play **THE ALLY**, written by Tony Award-winning playwright **Itamar Moses** (*The Band's Visit*) and directed by Drama Desk winner **Lila Neugebauer** (*Appropriate*). Building on the themes and ideas presented in **THE ALLY**, the upcoming events will provide audience members an opportunity to gather in community centered on the play's timeliness and themes. The production began previews in the Anspacher Theater on Thursday, February 15 and has now been extended a second time through Sunday, March 24.

On **Monday March 4 at 7:00 p.m.**, in association with the **Center for New Jewish Culture**, playwright **Itamar Moses** and actor **Josh Radnor** will be in conversation with journalist **Lonnie Firestone** at **Congregation Beth Elohim Chapel** (274 Garfield Place, Brooklyn, NY) about the play. Tickets, beginning at \$10, are available now online [here](#). Seating is general admission.

On **Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at The Public Theater, **Nikhil Pal Singh** and **Maya Wind** will join moderator **Alexa Smith** (Director of Anti-Racism, Equity, and Belonging at The Public) in conversation for **Speaking Up: The Role of Free Speech in College Life**. Singh is the Chair of Social and Cultural Analysis and History at New York University. His first book, *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*, published by Harvard University Press in 2004, was recognized as the best book on U.S. civil rights history by the Organization of American Historians. He joins his former student Wind, a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology at UBC and author of *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom*, in a discussion on the challenges of managing civil discourse on campuses. This event is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat, visit [publictheater.org](#).

On **Monday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m.**, 92NY and The Public Theater will co-present a conversation about **THE ALLY** for 92NY's Reacanati-Kaplan Talks series. Moses and Radnor will speak about the play and its themes. A moderator for this conversation will be announced at a later date. In-person and online tickets are available for this event starting at \$18. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

On **Saturday, March 23 at 4:30 p.m.** between the matinee and evening performances of **THE ALLY**, Dartmouth College professors **Tarek El-Ariss** and **Susannah Heschel** will lead a conversation entitled **Civil Dialogue in Action**. El-Ariss and Heschel will discuss effective strategies for fostering constructive dialogue on the Israel-Hamas conflict within the campus community, inspired by the course they co-teach at Dartmouth about the conflict. To reserve a seat, visit [publictheater.org](#).

The final event in the series will take place on **Monday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** featuring a conversation between **Rabbi Marc Schneier** and **Kwame Anthony Appiah** entitled **Culture Bridges: The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and The Public Theater**. Established in 1989 by Rabbi Marc Schneier and Joe Papp, founder of The Public Theater, **The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding** originally aimed to restore the historic Black-Jewish alliance in the U.S. It has since expanded to foster global Muslim-Jewish relations. Join Rabbi Schneier and Appiah, a writer for *The New York Times* and Trustee at The Public Theater, for an insightful discussion. This event is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat, visit publictheater.org.

THE ALLY is a fierce drama that gives voice to some of the most contentious and important questions of our time. When college professor Asaf (Josh Radnor) is asked by a student to sign a social justice manifesto, what seems at first like a simple choice instead embroils him in an increasingly complex web of conflicting agendas that challenge his allegiances as a progressive, a husband, an artist, an academic, an American, an atheist, and a Jew. With tensions at an all-time high, Asaf is forced to confront the age-old question: "If I am only for myself, what am I?" **THE ALLY** is a passionate, provocative, and unflinching new play about the vanishing line between the personal and the political.

THE ALLY features **Cherise Boothe** (*Nakia*), **Elijah Jones** (*Baron*), **Michael Khalid Karadsheh** (*Farid*), **Joy Osmanski** (*Gwen*), **Josh Radnor** (*Asaf*), **Ben Rosenfield** (*Reuven*), and **Madeline Weinstein** (*Rachel*).

The production includes scenic design by **Lael Jellinek**, costume design by **Sarita Fellows**, lighting design by **Reza Behjat**, sound design by **Bray Poor**, and prop management by **Claire M. Kavanah**. **Sarah Lunnie** is the production dramaturg. **Roxana Khan** serves as the production stage manager. **Jenn Elyse Jacobs** serves as the stage manager.

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.

PANELIST BIOS:

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH is Professor of Philosophy and Law at NYU. He took BA and PhD degrees in philosophy at Cambridge and has taught philosophy in Ghana, France, Britain, and the United States, with professorships at Yale, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, and Princeton. He explored questions of African and African-American identity in *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*. He has been President of the PEN American Center, the Modern Language Association, the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and serves on the Board of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the World Monuments Fund, the New York Public Library and New York's Public Theater. In 2012 he received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama. His most recent book is *The Lies that Bind: Rethinking Identity*.

TAREK EL-ARISS is the James Wright Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College. Born and raised in Beirut during the Civil War (1975-1990), El-Ariss trained in philosophy and literary and cultural studies at the American University of Beirut, Rochester, and Cornell. He is the author of *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* (Fordham, 2013) and *Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age* (Princeton, 2019), and editor of *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda* (MLA, 2018). His work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Times Literary Supplement*, and *Choice*.

LONNIE FIRESTONE is an interviewer, educator, and writer. She has conducted interviews for live events, print articles, and her podcast "Places Everyone." Firestone has written about theater and television for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Glamour*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Forward*, *Tablet*, *JTA*, *American Theatre*, *Playbill*,

Departures, and *Michigan Alumnus*. Firestone is the founder and co-director of Exploring Black Narratives, a curricular theater program in Jewish schools.

SUSANNAH HESCHEL is the Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, chair of the Jewish Studies Program, and a faculty member of the Religion Department. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish and Protestant thought during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the history of biblical scholarship, Jewish scholarship on Islam, and the history of anti-Semitism.

ITAMAR MOSES is a Tony Award-winning author of the plays *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *The Four of Us*, *Celebrity Row*, *Back Back Back*, *Yellowjackets*, *Completeness*, *The Whistleblower*, and the short play collection *Love/Stories* and the musicals *Nobody Loves You*, *The Fortress of Solitude*, *The Band's Visit*, *Dead Outlaw*, and *An American Tail*. Awards for his work include Tony, Lortel, Drama Critics Circle, Outer Critics Circle, Obie, Portland, San Diego, Dallas, and Bay Area Theatre Critics Circles. Television work includes "Men of a Certain Age," "Boardwalk Empire," and "The Affair." He holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, has taught playwriting at Yale and NYU, and is a proud member of the Dramatists' Guild and the Writer's Guild of America. Born in Berkeley, CA, he now lives in Brooklyn, NY.

JOSH RADNOR's Broadway credits include *Disgraced* and *The Graduate*. Off-Broadway credits include Richard Greenberg's *The Babylon Line* at Lincoln Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Vineyard Theatre. Radnor wrote, directed, and starred in *Liberal Arts* (Sundance 2012) opposite Elizabeth Olsen, Richard Jenkins, and Allison Janney and *happythankyoumoreplease* (Sundance Audience Award 2010). He was also featured in *Social Animals* and *Afternoon Delight*. Upcoming film credits include *All Happy Families* and *3 Birthdays*. Radnor's TV credits include "Fleishman Is in Trouble," "Hunters," "Centaurworld," "Rise," "Mercy Street," "How I Met Your Mother," "Grey's Anatomy," "Six Feet Under," and "ER." He has released two albums: *Eulogy: Volumes 1 & 2* and *One More Then I'll Let You Go*.

RABBI MARC SCHNEIER is an American rabbi and president of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. For 30 years, Rabbi Marc Schneier has led efforts to improve intergroup and interfaith relations. Alongside Joseph Papp, he founded the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding in 1989 to rebuild the Black-Jewish alliance and, for the last 15 years, has focused on fostering global Muslim-Jewish relations. He has also previously served as vice-president of the World Jewish Congress.

NIKHIL PAL SINGH is an Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and History at New York University and the founding faculty director of the NYU Prison Education Program. Singh is the editor of *Climbin' Jacob's Ladder: The Black Freedom Movement Writings of Jack O'Dell* and the author of *Black Is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*, winner of the Liberty Legacy Foundation Award from the Organization of American Historians and the Norris and Carol Hundley Prize from the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

MAYA WIND is a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Her scholarship broadly investigates how settler societies and global systems of militarism and policing are sustained, with a particular focus on the reproduction and export of Israeli security expertise. She has received support for her research from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Killam Laureates Trust. Her first book, *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (Verso 2024), investigates the complicity of Israeli universities in Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid.

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 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 and the upcoming spring 2024 productions of *Suffs* and *Hell's Kitchen*. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 65 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first people 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.

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

TICKET INFORMATION FOR THE ALLY:

THE ALLY began performances in the Anspacher Theater on Thursday, February 15 and has been extended a second week through Sunday, March 24, with an official press opening on Tuesday, February 27.

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 Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 2. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9. The **American Sign Language Interpreted** performance will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14. The **Masked Required** performance will be on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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