

THE **PUBLIC.**

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THE **PUBLIC.** + **ELEVATOR
REPAIR
SERVICE**



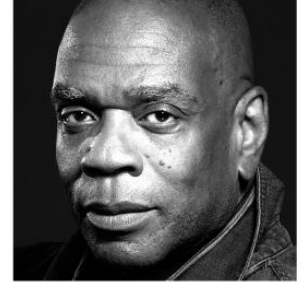
Daphne Gaines



Gavin Price



Matthew Russell



Greig Sargeant



Christopher-Rashee
Stevenson



Stephanie Weeks



Ben Jalosa Williams

CAST & CREATIVE HEADSHOTS

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
AND ELEVATOR REPAIR SERVICE'S
BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE
EXTENDS THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23;
PREVIEWS BEGIN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**Conceived by Greig Sargeant with Elevator Repair Service
Directed by John Collins**

**Cast Includes Daphne Gaines, Gavin Price, Matthew Russell,
Greig Sargeant, Christopher-Rashee Stevenson, and Ben Jalosa Williams.
Stephanie Weeks Joins The Cast for Performances October 18-23.**

**Performances Will Begin With Joseph Papp Free Performance
On Saturday, September 24 and Run Through Sunday, October 23;**

Official Press Opening on Sunday, October 2

September 20, 2022 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) and Elevator Repair Service (John Collins, Artistic Director) will begin previews for the New York premiere production of **BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE** with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Saturday, September 24 in the Anspacher Theater. The production was conceived by **Greig Sargeant with Elevator Repair Service** and is directed by Elevator Repair Service (ERS)'s Artistic Director **John Collins**. **BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE** has also extended and will now run through Sunday, October 23 with an official press opening on Sunday, October 2.

In 1965, two of America's intellectual giants were invited to debate whether "the American Dream is at the expense of the American Negro," bringing into sharp focus our country's deepest divisions. The renowned theater company **Elevator Repair Service** returns to The Public with **BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE**, a profoundly relevant presentation of the legendary debate between virtuosic writer James Baldwin and father of American conservatism William F. Buckley, Jr. The production concludes with an imagined scene between Baldwin and his close friend Lorraine Hansberry, researched and written by long-time ERS company members **April Matthis** and **Greig Sargeant**. Heralded by the *New York Times* as "one of the city's few truly essential theater companies," Elevator Repair Service applies their trademark approach of verbatim textual exploration and intensive collaboration to re-create Baldwin and Buckley's blistering dissection of race, racism, and human worth.

The cast of the New York premiere of **BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE** includes **Daphne Gaines** (*Lorraine Hansberry*), **Gavin Price** (*Mr. Heycock*), **Matthew Russell** (*Understudy*), **Greig Sargeant** (*James Baldwin*), **Christopher-Rashee Stevenson** (*Mr. Burford*), and **Ben Jalosa Williams** (*William F. Buckley, Jr.*).

Starting Tuesday, October 18, **Stephanie Weeks** will take over for the role of Lorraine Hansberry for all remaining performances. Additionally, during select performances, **Matthew Russell** will play Mr. Heycock. Visit publictheater.org for the performance calendar and more details.

The production features costume design by Jessica Jahn, lighting design by Alan C. Edwards, sound design by Ben Jalosa Williams, scenic consulting by dots, and wig design by Earon Chew Nealey. ERS Associate Artistic Director Maurina Lioce will serve as production stage manager.

The Public Theater and Elevator Repair Service have a long-standing history of creative collaboration. Their partnerships on *Gatz* (2010), *Arguendo* (2013), and *The Sound and the Fury* (2015) reimaged literary and found texts by bringing them to life onstage. The Public celebrates ERS' commitment to both honoring the integrity of these source texts while also revitalizing them through the company's unique devising process.

Following **BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE**, The Public's 55th anniversary season at Astor Place continues with Lorraine Hansberry's **A RAISIN IN THE SUN**, directed by Robert O'Hara, marking the legendary playwright's Public Theater debut and only the second time that this classic has been produced Off-Broadway. In October, **WHERE WE BELONG** begins in the LuEsther Hall—an intimate and exhilarating solo piece written and performed by Madeline Sayet and directed by Mei Ann Teo, co-produced with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in association with Folger Shakespeare Library. Sayet's story is a celebration of the indigenous community and an in-depth exploration of colonialism that asks us what it means to belong in an increasingly globalized world. The Public will close out the fall in Joe's Pub with the World Premiere of Suzan-Lori Parks' **PLAYS FOR THE PLAGUE YEAR**, both a personal story of one family's daily lives, as well as a sweeping account of all we faced as a city, a nation, and a global community. Working in collaboration with Niegel Smith as director, Parks' groundbreaking new work is brimming with humanity, bears witness to what we've experienced, and offers inspiration as we look ahead.

In keeping with guidance from city, state, and federal officials, proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and the use of face masks are no longer mandated for entry into The Public's theaters, restaurant, or the facility. The use of face masks is encouraged at all performances, but will only be required at Saturday and Sunday matinee performances, Tuesday evening performances, as well as Joseph Papp Free Performances. These mask required performances are to accommodate those who are immunocompromised or uncomfortable in an unmasked environment. Learn more at [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:

JOHN COLLINS (*Director*) founded Elevator Repair Service in 1991. Since then, he has directed or co-directed all of the company's productions while also serving as the company's Artistic Director. ERS productions directed by Collins include *Cab Legs*, *Room Tone*, *Gatz*, *The Select (The Sun Also Rises)*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *Arguendo*, *Measure for Measure*, and numerous others. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

GREIG SARGEANT (*Conceiver; James Baldwin*)'s Public Theater credits include *Measure for Measure* and *The Sound and the Fury*. Sargeant has performed at New York Theatre Workshop in *Bonnie's Last Flight*; *Fondly, Collette Richland*; and *The Little Foxes* (dir. Ivo van Hove). Other credits include *Strictly Dishonorable* at Vineyard Theatre/TMT, *The Parable Conference* at BAM/Next Wave, *Go Forth/Please Bury Me* at BAC, *Gatz* with ERS at REDCAT, and *Uncle Vanya* at HERE Arts Center/TMT. Sargeant's film credits include *Help Me Mary* and *The Bad Infinity*. Sargeant is an Associate Artist of Target Margin Theater and Company Member of ERS. He received his MFA from West Virginia University and is a graduate of the William Esper studio.

DAPHNE GAINES (*Lorraine Hansberry*)'s Public Theater credits include *The Sound and the Fury* and *Nightvision: A Vampyre Opera*. Gaines' ERS credits include *Ulysses*, *The Sound and the Fury*, and *The Select*. Other Off-Broadway credits include *Goethe's Faust*, *The Lily's Revenge*, *A Walk Across America...*, *Three Sisters*, *The Mystery of the Charity*, and *Yokasta's Redux*. Gaines has performed regionally at Denver Center, Geva Theater, Cleveland Playhouse, Hong Kong Fringe Theater, CATF, and Actors Theater of Louisville. Film/TV credits include "Ray Donovan," "Bull," "Orange is the New Black," "Deception," "God Friend Me," "Royal Pains," and *Love is Strange*.

GAVIN PRICE (*Mr. Heycock*) has performed and designed with Elevator Repair Service since 2013. Other projects include *Boccamazzo Construction*; *The Return of Adam* (Met Museum); *XX-ID* (New Museum); and *Common Time* (MCA). He is the co-founder of Saint Fortune. Price has also collaborated with Mabou Mines, Tectonic Theater, Cabin Fever, Face the Music, 7 Daughters of Eve, Pandora Boxx & Mrs. Kasha Davis, Theater in Quarantine, and with Emily Pacilio in *The Basics*. Price's work can be heard on Spotify and iTunes with The Witch Ones, The Tender Band, and CabinFever.

CHRISTOPHER-RASHEE STEVENSON (*Mr. Burford*) is a theater artist from Baltimore, Maryland. He was last seen in *Ile* at Mabou Mines, where he was also a SUITE/SPACE artist ('20-'21). He is also a graduate of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. His work as director and performer has been featured at The Performing Garage, The Tank, JACK, HERE, The Actor's Studio, A.R.T., Millennium Film Workshop, Lincoln Center Education, LaMaMa, and the Eubie Blake Jazz Institute. He will be joining the Barrow Group's Directing program in the fall.

MATTHEW RUSSELL (*Understudy*). Russell previously performed in The Public's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Russell also performed on Broadway in *The Inheritance* and Off-Broadway in *Help*. Regional credits include *Hand to God*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Cymbeline*, and *The Seagull*. Film credits include *Working Man*, *Some Freaks*, *Twist, Man & Witch*, and *The Spine of Night*. Russell has

performed on television in “Westworld.” He is the creator of *Love in NY*, a series of one-minute shorts. Russell received his MFA from Brown/Trinity Rep.

STEPHANIE WEEKS (*Lorraine Hansberry*) has performed at renowned theaters including Lincoln Center, Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep, and La Jolla Playhouse. Weeks was awarded an OBIE for Recognition of Artistic Achievement and Commitment to Excellence in Theater with Target Margin Theater. Weeks’ film credits include *Confessionsofa Ex-Doofus-ItchyFooted Mutha* (Tribeca Film Festival). Television credits include “Tales of The City” (Netflix), “The Good Fight” (CBS), and “Law and Order” (NBC).

BEN JALOSA WILLIAMS (*Sound Designer, William F. Buckley Jr.*) is an actor and sound designer. He produces and curates category : other (category-other.com), an award-winning platform for experimental audio. Collaborators include minor theater, Christina Masciotti, Suzanne Bocanegra, and many others. Awards for sound design include OBIE, Lortel, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and Third Coast International Audio Festival's inaugural Audio Unbound Award (for *Songs of Speculation*, co-produced with Jillian Walker). Benwilliamsdotcom.com

ABOUT ELEVATOR REPAIR SERVICE:

ELEVATOR REPAIR SERVICE (ERS) is a New York City-based company that creates original works for live theater with an ongoing ensemble. The company’s shows are created from a wide range of texts that include found transcripts of trials and debates, literature, classical dramas, and new plays. Founded in 1991, ERS has authored an extensive body of work that includes upwards of 20 original theatrical productions. These have earned the company a loyal following and made it one of New York’s most highly acclaimed experimental theater companies. *Gatz* (a production of the entire text of *The Great Gatsby*), along with *The Sound and the Fury* (from Faulkner’s novel) and *The Select* (an adaptation of *The Sun Also Rises*) are among the company’s best known works. The company’s body of work also includes plays by Kate Scelsa and Sibyl Kempson, as well as Shakespeare and Chekhov. ERS productions share a commitment to risk-taking and reinvention, blending unusual texts with innovations in theatrical form. They feature the company’s signature dynamic performance style coupled with a rigorous commitment to psychologically complex performances. ERS has received numerous awards and distinctions.

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 and the upcoming production of *Ain’t No Mo’* by Jordan E. Cooper. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 60 Tony Awards, 184 Obie Awards, 56 Drama Desk Awards, 59 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. 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

BALDWIN AND BUCKLEY AT CAMBRIDGE begins performances in The Public's Anspacher Theater on Saturday, September 24 and will run through Sunday, October 23, with an official press opening on Sunday, October 2.

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 Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will offer free tickets to the performance on Saturday, September 24 through TodayTix. The lottery opened for entries on Saturday, September 17 and will close at 12:00 p.m. noon on the day of the performance. 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 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. (*There will be no 1:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, September 24. The performance on Thursday, October 6 will be at 8:00 p.m.*) For performances through Sunday, October 16, **Daphne Gaines** will play Lorraine Hansberry. For performances starting Tuesday, October 18, **Stephanie Weeks** will play Lorraine Hansberry. **Matthew Russell** will play Mr. Heycock on Tuesday, September 27 at 8:00 p.m. For performances after Sunday, October 2, **Matthew Russell** will play Mr. Heycock for performances Tuesday through Thursday and **Gavin Price** will play Mr. Heycock on performances Friday through Sunday.

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 8. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 15.

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

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