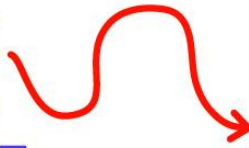


THE PUBLIC.



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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PRODUCTION PHOTOS & ARTIST HEADSHOTS

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
THE POLITICS OF NOW SERIES
ADDED TO FALL 2024 SEASON**

THE FORD/HILL PROJECT

NEW YORK PREMIERE

A WATERWELL PRODUCTION

PRESENTED BY WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY AND THE PUBLIC THEATER

CREATED BY LEE SUNDAY EVANS AND ELIZABETH MARVEL

DIRECTED BY LEE SUNDAY EVANS

FEATURING DYLAN BAKER, ERIC BERRYMAN, AMBER IMAN, AND ELIZABETH MARVEL

GUAC

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY MANUEL OLIVER

CO-WRITTEN BY JAMES CLEMENTS

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL COTEY

CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM

FREE SCREENING OF THE PRODUCTION BY THEATER ON PODIL IN KYIV, UKRAINE

BY RICHARD NELSON

UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION BY VALENTINA ZHIGALOVA AND LARISA

VOLOKHONSKAYA

PERFORMED IN UKRAINIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

September 9, 2024 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) announced today a series of programming called **THE POLITICS OF NOW** added to The Public's Fall 2024 Season to run around the 2024 Election.

The Supreme Court. School shootings. The abuse of power, past and present. Experience three presentations featuring work that speaks directly to our current politics and cultural conversation. **THE POLITICS OF NOW** features three riveting, compassionate theatrical works, including **THE FORD/HILL PROJECT**, **GUAC**, and a screening of **CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM**.

Following a special presentation at **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**, acclaimed theater group **Waterwell's** new play **THE FORD/HILL PROJECT**, created by Waterwell Artistic Director **Lee Sunday Evans** and Obie Award winner **Elizabeth Marvel**, comes to New York Tuesday, October 16-Sunday, October 20. **Manuel Oliver**, the father of Parkland shooting victim Joaquin Oliver, brings his story to the stage with **GUAC**, a one-man show running Wednesday, October 25-Sunday, November 3. Lastly, a

Ukrainian production of Tony Award winner **Richard Nelson's CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** will be presented in a free screening on Tuesday, November 12.

"America is facing the most consequential election in many decades this November, arguably the most consequential since 1860. This fall, The Public is offering up a series of performances that highlight core issues facing our country: the composition of the Supreme Court, the empowerment of women, gun violence, the war in Ukraine," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "We believe the theater has something essential to contribute to these fierce debates—the humanizing of the people who absorb the consequences of our choices. The theater is a training ground for democratic citizenship; we want you to vote, but also to remember that voting is only one part of a healthy democracy. Gathering together with fellow citizens to grapple with great issues is also vital to freedom, and it's the central task of The Public Theater."

Public Theater Partner, Supporter Plus, and Supporter tickets for **GUAC** and **THE FORD/HILL PROJECT** are on sale now. Full-price single tickets will be available on Tuesday, September 10. Free **CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** tickets can be reserved by Public Theater Partners and Supporters now; reservations will be open to all on Tuesday, September 10.

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.

Become a Partner or a Supporter of The Public Theater today at publictheater.org.

JOINING THE FALL 2024 SEASON:

New York Premiere

THE FORD/HILL PROJECT

A Waterwell Production

Presented by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and The Public Theater

Created by Lee Sunday Evans and Elizabeth Marvel

Directed by Lee Sunday Evans

Featuring Dylan Baker, Eric Berryman, Amber Iman, and Elizabeth Marvel

Tuesday, October 16-Sunday, October 20

Thirty years apart, Anita Hill and Christine Blasey Ford provoked a reckoning about who is given the power to shape the future of our country by telling the story of one of the most private moments of their lives in one of the most public settings imaginable. With an ensemble of four actors speaking verbatim from the transcripts of these pivotal hearings, these two women's stories and their consequential impact on our nation can be seen side by side in a new light in **Waterwell's** illuminating new production.

THE FORD/HILL PROJECT will first be presented at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company on Monday, October 7, the day the Supreme Court begins the 2024-25 term.

GUAC

Written and Performed by Manuel Oliver

Co-Written by James Clements

Directed by Michael Cotey

Wednesday, October 25-Sunday, November 3

What do you do when you lose a son? Take it from **Manuel Oliver**, the father of Parkland shooting victim Joaquin Oliver: you have to do what you do best. Fearless, funny, and pulling zero punches, **GUAC** is a one-man tour-de-force theatrical experience about a father turned activist, his undying love for his son, and the story of an immigrant family in search of the American Dream only instead to be confronted by a uniquely American Nightmare.

Free Screening of the Production by Theater on Podil in Kyiv, Ukraine

CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM

By Richard Nelson

Ukrainian Translation by Valentina Zhigalova and Larisa Volokhonskaya

Tuesday, November 12

Performed in Ukrainian with English subtitles

A riveting work about power—and the abuse of power—in ancient Rome that has startling resonance with our age, **CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** reimagines the intense interaction among Brutus, Cassius, and Cicero leading up to the assassination of Julius Caesar, the leader they had once followed into battle but whom they have come to despise. Passionate in their beliefs but torn by their sense of loyalty, they struggle to continue believing in him despite their fear that his actions may pose great dangers to the nation. **CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** was rehearsed and performed under wartime conditions in Kyiv, Ukraine, in May 2024. Sixteen years after the play's world premiere production at The Public Theater in 2008, the play returns to The Public with a special free screening of the **Theater on Podil** production, performed in Ukrainian with English subtitles.

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The Public's 2024-2025 Season began this month with the North American premiere of **COUNTING AND CRACKING**, a **Belvoir St Theatre** and **Kurinji** co-production of the epic play written and associate directed by **S. Shakthidharan** and directed and associate written by **Eamon Flack**, performed in partnership with and at **NYU Skirball**. A multilingual play staged in English, Tamil, and Sinhalese, **COUNTING AND CRACKING** features 19 performers in a multigenerational story of a Sri –Lankan-Australian family from 1956-2004. The Fall season continues with the New York premiere of **GOOD BONES**, a sharp, funny new work about gentrification and the growing price of the American dream written by Pulitzer Prize winner **James Ijames** and directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director **Saheem Ali**. Next, Australian playwright **David Finnigan** brings his play **DEEP HISTORY**, an urgent and personal retelling of how we've reached the brink of unthinkable climate disaster, to New York. **Elevator Repair Service's GATZ** returns to The Public in November for a thrilling and final New York City encore of the acclaimed production, a thrilling enactment of *The Great Gatsby*.

With **Ma-Yi Theater Company** and **La Jolla Playhouse**, The Public kicks off 2025 with **SUMO**, a mesmerizing new drama set in the sacred world of Sumo wrestling by **Lisa Sanaye Dring**. The Astor Place season concludes with **GLASS. KILL. WHAT IF IF ONLY. IMP.**, a quartet of inventive plays written by groundbreaking playwright **Caryl Churchill** and directed by **James Macdonald**. The Public will also produce a world premiere audio play of **LET'S KEEP DANCING: A Death Row Story** by John Purugganan about two souls fighting to survive death row.

Following a significant revitalization, The Delacorte Theater, home of Free Shakespeare in the Park, will reopen in Summer 2025 with a production of Shakespeare's classic comedy **TWELFTH NIGHT**, also directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director, Tony Award nominee **Saheem Ali**, and featuring an all-star cast of Public Theater alumni, including **Peter Dinklage**, **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**, **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Sandra Oh**, and more to be announced soon.

###

Waterwell (**Lee Sunday Evans**, Artistic Director; **Sarah Scafidi**, Managing Director; **Arian Moayed**, co-founder and Board Chair) is a group of artists, educators and producers dedicated to telling engrossing stories in unexpected ways that deliberately wrestle with complex civic questions. We create productions that are creatively daring and emotionally potent to cultivate connections across real and perceived divides. We produce our projects using an evolving set of best practices that are influenced by the principles of community organizing. This is part of an investigation about how storytelling can have the most relevance

and impact in efforts to create a more just and humane society. Waterwell's most recent production was the critically acclaimed world-premiere of Lameece Issaq's *A Good Day to Me Not to You* at The Connelly Theater in partnership with Plate Spinner Productions, and received a commission from the influential Council on Foreign Relations to create a new site-specific project about Refugees & Resettlement in the United States. Waterwell also commissioned and produced [Edufe Okporo's autobiographical play](#) about the six months he spent in immigration detention and put this poignant story in front of legislators in Albany and grassroots audiences around NYC, using theater to build momentum for a current, active Bill that would end immigration detention in New York State through a collaboration with the Dignity Not Detention coalition. In 2019, Waterwell premiered *The Courtroom*, a verbatim re-enactment of one woman's deportation proceedings. Called "theater as civic meditation" and named "Best Theater of 2019" by *The New York Times*, it was performed in active legal spaces, including the seat of the Second Circuit at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse and then adapted into a feature-length film (www.thecourtroomfilm.com) that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The Tony Award®-winning **WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY** creates badass theatre that highlights the stunning, challenging, and tremendous complexity of our world. For over 40 years, Woolly has maintained a high standard of artistic rigor while simultaneously daring to take risks, innovate, and push beyond perceived boundaries. One of the few remaining theatres in the country to maintain a company of artists, Woolly serves an essential research and development role within the American theatre. Plays premiered here have gone on to productions at hundreds of theatres all over the world and have had lasting impacts on the field. Currently co-led by Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes and Managing Director Kimberly E. Douglas, Woolly is located in Washington, DC, equidistant from the Capitol and the White House. This unique location influences Woolly's investment in actively working towards an equitable, participatory, and creative democracy. woollymammoth.net

THEATER ON PODIL was founded in 1987 and is located in the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, on a picturesque historic street in the center of the city. Theater on Podil is an example of European theater, where minimalism combines with new technologies, and features the most modern and technically equipped stage in Ukraine. Today it is the first and only completed project of the modern theater of independent Ukraine. With a regular troupe of 50 actors and 40 plays in active repertoire, Theater on Podil produces more than 400 performances per year and welcomes about 55,000 spectators per season. theatreonpodol.com

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 musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Suffs* by Shaina Taub, and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 62 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 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.

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