

# THE PUBLIC.

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RELEASE  
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\*NEW PHOTOS\* GOOD BONES Cast in Rehearsal  
REHEARSAL VIDEO MONTAGE  
CAST & CREATIVE HEADSHOTS

## JAMES IJAMES' *GOOD BONES* EXTENDS THROUGH OCTOBER 20; PREVIEWS BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT THE PUBLIC THEATER

By James Ijames  
Directed by Saheem Ali

Complete Cast Includes Aaron J. Anderson, Mamoudou Athie, Khris Davis,  
Téa Guarino, Sabrina K. Victor, and Susan Kelechi Watson

Performances Begin with a Joseph Papp Free Preview Performance  
On Thursday, September 19 and Will Now Run Through Sunday, October 20;  
Official Press Opening on Tuesday, October 1

September 12, 2024 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) will begin performances for the New York premiere of **GOOD BONES**, written by Pulitzer Prize winner **James Ijames** and directed by Public Theater Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director **Saheem Ali**, with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Thursday, September 19. From the team behind **FAT HAM**, Ijames and Ali return to The Public with **GOOD BONES** after its premiere last spring at Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C. **GOOD BONES** will officially open in the Martinson Hall on Tuesday, October 1. Originally scheduled to close on Sunday, October 13, the production has now been extended through Sunday, October 20.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **James Ijames** explores gentrification and the growing price of the American dream in his sharp, funny new play, **GOOD BONES**. A work opportunity to revitalize the blighted neighborhood she grew up in has led Aisha and her chef husband Travis to buy and renovate a charming old house. But as everyone knows, renovation is expensive and stressful—both for buildings and the communities that surround them. Aisha's young contractor Earl grew up in the area too, but his memories are of more than just dangerous streets and hollowed-out homes. When their purely professional relationship gives way to heated debate about who gets to stay and who must go, Aisha is forced to reckon with the choices she's made to get ahead and the painful, joyful, complicated ghosts that haunt her dreams... and her dream house. The Public's Associate Artistic Director **Saheem Ali** directs this New York premiere play about community, change, and the soul of our cities.

The cast of **GOOD BONES** includes **Aaron J. Anderson** (*Understudy Earl/Travis*), **Mamoudou Athie** (*Travis*), **Khris Davis** (*Earl*), **Téa Guarino** (*Carmen*), **Sabrina K. Victor** (*Understudy Aisha/Carmen*), and **Susan Kelechi Watson** (*Aisha*).

The production includes scenic design by **Maruti Evans**; costume design by **Oana Botez**; lighting design by **Barbara Samuels**; sound design by **Fan Zhang**; hair, makeup, and wig design by **Krystal Balleza**; and prop management by **Claire M. Kavanah**. **Darrell Grand Moultrie** provides drill choreography for the production and **Jack Phillips Moore** serves as the dramaturg. **Norman Anthony Small** is the production stage manager and **Giselle Andrea Raphaela** is the stage manager.

The Public's 2024-2025 Season is fully underway 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** currently running 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 production will run through Sunday, September 22. In October, 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*.

Tied to the upcoming 2024 Election, The Public will also present a series of programming entitled **THE POLITICS OF NOW**, which will include week-long presentations of **THE FORD/HILL PROJECT** (a **Waterwell** production co-presented by The Public and **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**) and **GUAC**, written and performed by **Manuel Oliver**. There will also be a one-night-only free screening of **Theater on Podil's** production of **Richard Nelson's CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** in Kyiv, Ukraine.

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.

The Library serves food and drink beginning at 6:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org).

## **BIOS:**

**JAMES IJAMES** (*Playwright*) is a playwright and educator. Ijames is the recipient of the 2022 Pulitzer in Drama for *Fat Ham*, a Pew Fellow for Playwriting, the Terrance McNally New Play Award for *White*, the Kesselring Honorable Mention Prize for *...Miz Martha*, a Whiting Award, a Kesselring Prize for *Kill Move Paradise*, and a 2020 and 2022 Steinberg Prize. The 2023 Broadway production of *Fat Ham* received 5 Tony nominations including Best Play. Ijames is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Villanova University.

**SAHEEM ALI** (*Director*) is a proud immigrant from Kenya, currently serving as the Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director of New York's Public Theater. He received Tony, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel nominations, as well as the Joe A. Callaway award for his direction of *Fat Ham*. He most recently developed the *Buena Vista Social Club* musical at Atlantic Theater Company (Drama Desk nom). His production of *Merry Wives* (Free Shakespeare in the Park) was recorded for PBS' "Great Performances" and was the subject of the HBO documentary *Reopening Night*. Other productions include *Goddess* (Berkeley Rep);

*Nollywood Dreams* (MCC); *Romeo y Julieta*, *Shipwreck*, and *Richard II* (radio plays); *Fires in the Mirror* (Signature Theater); *The Rolling Stone* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Passage* (Soho Rep); *Sugar in Our Wounds* (MTC); *Tartuffe* (Playmakers Rep); *Where Storms Are Born* (Williamstown); and *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theater). He is a Usual Suspect at New York Theater Workshop, a Sir John Gielgud SDCF Fellow, a Shubert Fellow and the recipient of an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Directing.

## **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 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 Antonio Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes.

[publictheater.org](http://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**

**GOOD BONES** begins performances in the Martinson Hall on Thursday, September 19 and, following a one-week extension, will run through Sunday, October 20, with an official press opening on Tuesday, October 1.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and full-price single tickets can be accessed by visiting [publictheater.org](http://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 Thursday, September 19 through TodayTix. The lottery will open for entries on Thursday, September 12 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on the day before 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 21 and Sunday, September 22. The performance on Wednesday, September 25 will be at 7:00 p.m.*)

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 5. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 6. There will be an **American Sign Language** interpreted performance on Friday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. The performance on Sunday, October 13 at 1:30 p.m. will **require patrons to wear masks**.

The community performance on Friday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. will be a **Black Theater Night**. After the performance, there will be a panel featuring **Saheem Ali, James Ijames**, and moderated by **Xochitl Gonzalez** (author of *The Atlantic's* "Brooklyn, Everywhere" newsletter). Additional panelists will be announced at a later date. There will also be a reception held on the mezzanine of The Public.

The full performance calendar can be found at [publictheater.org](https://publictheater.org).

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