

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
COMPLETE CASTING
FOR NEW YORK PREMIERE
FIRE IN DREAMLAND
June 19-August 5**

**Written by Rinne Groff
Directed by Marissa Wolf**

**Complete Cast Features
Kyle Beltran, Enver Gjokaj & Rebecca Naomi Jones**

April 30, 2018 - The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the New York premiere of ***FIRE IN DREAMLAND***, written by **Rinne Groff**. Directed by **Marissa Wolf**, ***FIRE IN DREAMLAND*** continues The Public's Astor Anniversary Season at their landmark downtown home on Lafayette Street, celebrating 50 years of new work and the 50th Anniversary of *HAIR*. ***FIRE IN DREAMLAND*** begins performances on Tuesday, June 19 and runs through Sunday, August 5 in The Public's Anspacher Theater, with an official press opening on Monday, July 16.

The complete cast of ***FIRE IN DREAMLAND*** features **Kyle Beltran** (*Lance*), **Enver Gjokaj** (*Jaap Hoofft*), and **Rebecca Naomi Jones** (*Kate*).

Rinne Groff returns to The Public with a dynamic and poignantly funny new play directed by Marissa Wolf, Associate Artistic Director and New Works Director at Kansas City Repertory. In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, a disillusioned do-gooder named Kate, meets Jaap, a charismatic European making a film about the 1911 fire that burned Coney Island's Dreamland amusement park to ashes. Desperate for something to live for, Kate buys a ticket on the thrill ride of Jaap's passion. The only trick is to keep the roller coaster from running off the rails before it destroys them all. Breaking the boundaries of time and narrative, ***FIRE IN DREAMLAND*** is a vibrant new play that explores the astonishing things we create in the face of devastation. The work was originally commissioned by The Public Theater and Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

FIRE IN DREAMLAND features scenic and costume design by Susan Hilferty, lighting design by Amith Chandrashaker, and original music and sound design by Brendan Aanes.

RINNE GROFF (*Playwright*). Her plays and musicals include *The Ruby Sunrise* and *Compulsion* at The Public, directed by Oskar Eustis; *77%* at the San Francisco Playhouse, directed by Marissa Wolf; *What Then*; *Inky*, and *Jimmy Carter was a Democrat*. Her TV credits include "Weeds," season two as staff writer. Whiting Writers Award, Guggenheim Fellowship, Obie Award grant, New Dramatists alum, Dramatist Guild member, and associate Arts Professor at NYU, Tisch School of the Arts. Groff is a founding member of Elevator Repair Service, recently performing as Isabella in *Measure for Measure* at The Public.

MARISSA WOLF (*Director*) is in her third season as Associate Artistic Director/New Works Director at Kansas City Rep. Wolf directed the world premiere of *Fire in Dreamland* as part of the inaugural OriginKC: New Works Festival. She has directed numerous world and regional premiere productions including *77%* by Rinne Groff at the San Francisco Playhouse; *Man in Love* by Christina Anderson at KCRep; *Precious Little* by Madeleine George with the Shotgun Players; *The Late Wedding* by Christopher Chen and *The Taming* by Lauren Gunderson with Crowded Fire Theater, in addition to workshops at The New Group, and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor. Nominated Best Director by Broadway World San Francisco and the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, Wolf previously held the Harte Directing Fellowship at Berkeley Rep and served as Artistic Director of Crowded Fire Theater for six years.

KYLE BELTRAN (*Lance*) has appeared at The Public in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Head of Passes*, and *The Fortress of Solitude*. His Broadway credits include *The Cherry Orchard*, *In The Heights* (and first national tour). Off-Broadway he has appeared in *Tin Cat Shoes*, *The Amateurs*, *The Flick*, *Gloria*, *Choir Boy*, *The Netflix Plays*, and *10 Things To Do Before I Die*. Beltran has also appeared regionally at Center Theatre Group, Yale Rep, The Old Globe. His film and television credits include *Equity*, "Horace and Peter," "The Big C," "Unforgettable."

ENVER GJOKAJ (*Jaap Hoof*) has appeared at The Public in *As You Like It*, directed by Mark Lamos. His regional credits include *Future Thinking* at South Coast Rep, directed by Lila Neugebauer; *Arms And The Man* at the Old Globe, directed by Jessica Stone; and *The Cherry Orchard* at The Huntington Theatre, directed by Nicholas Martin. His film and television credits include *The Avengers*, *Come And Find Me*, *Would You Rather*, "Agent Carter," "Dollhouse," "The Walking Dead," and "Law & Order: SVU."

REBECCA NAOMI JONES (*Kate*) has appeared at The Public in *The Fortress of Solitude*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Passing Strange*, and Public Works' *As You Like It*. Her Broadway credits include *Significant Other*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *American Idiot*, and *Passing Strange*. Jones has also appeared Off-Broadway in *Describe the Night*, *Marie and Rosetta*; *Big Love* (Drama League nomination); *Murder Ballad* (Lortel nomination, Lilly Award). Her film credits include *Someone Great* (upcoming), *Most Likely to Murder*, *The Big Sick*, etc. Television credits include "High Maintenance," "Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll," "Strangers," "Inside Amy Schumer." She's performed solo concerts at both Lincoln Center and the Apollo Café.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC is theater of, by, and for the people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, 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 Studio, 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. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 169 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Desk Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

DATE AND TICKET INFORMATION

FIRE IN DREAMLAND begins performances in The Public's Anspacher Theater on Tuesday, June 19 and runs through Sunday, August 5 with an official press opening on Monday, July 16. The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*The performance on Thursday, June 28 is at 8:00 p.m. There is an added performance on Monday, July*

2 at 7:00 p.m. There are no performances on Saturday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 4 at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m.)

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and Member tickets are available now. Full price tickets, starting at \$60, can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe's Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org.

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