

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
CELEBRATES
400th ANNIVERSARY OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH
WITH FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
AND OTHER PROGRAMMING**

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

**Cush Jumbo as Katherina & Janet McTeer as Petruchio
All-Female Version Directed by Phyllida Lloyd
May 24-June 26**

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

**Directed by Daniel Sullivan
July 19-August 14**

PUBLIC WORKS' *TWELFTH NIGHT*

September at the Delacorte

MOBILE UNIT'S *ROMEO & JULIET*

**Five-Borough Tour & Three-Week Downtown Run
April 11-May 1**

SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST FOLIO ON DISPLAY FOR FREE IN JUNE

**BANK OF AMERICA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS LEAD SPONSOR OF
THE PUBLIC THEATER'S FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK**

January 28, 2016 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will celebrate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death in 2016 with free Shakespeare in the Park beginning in May, along with other affordable Bard programming at Astor Place and the Delacorte Theater. As part of Oskar Eustis' 10th Anniversary season, free Shakespeare in the Park this summer will feature an all-female version of *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*, directed by **Phyllida Lloyd** and featuring Olivier Award nominee **Cush Jumbo** as Katherina and Tony Award winner **Janet McTeer** as Petruchio, followed in July by *TROILUS AND CRESSIDA*, directed by Tony Award winner **Daniel Sullivan**.

Now in its fourth year, Public Works' musical adaptation of *TWELFTH NIGHT* will play for free at the Delacorte in early September, and will be conceived by **Kwame Kwei-Armah** and **Shaina Taub**, with

music and lyrics by Taub and directed by Kwei-Armah. Downtown at Astor Place; the Mobile Unit's **ROMEO & JULIET**, directed by **Lear deBessonnet**, will play for three weeks from April 11-May 1 following a free tour of the five boroughs. On **Monday, June 6**, The Public's Annual Gala at the Delacorte will be a star-studded one-night-only celebration of Shakespeare's 400-year legacy.

In conjunction with the start of the Shakespeare in the Park summer season, The Public will be partnering with the **New-York Historical Society** and **92nd Street Y** to present **First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare**, published in 1623, as part of the Folger Shakespeare Library's nation-wide tour celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Containing the first published scripts of 36 of Shakespeare's most famous plays—including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *As You Like It*—the First Folio will be on display at the New-York Historical Society for six weeks for free, beginning June 7. To celebrate this magnificent book and the playwright who changed the world, there will be a series of events and conversations planned about the work and world of William Shakespeare.

"Four hundred years after Shakespeare's death, he continues to be central to our understanding of ourselves," said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. "Phyllida Lloyd's all-female version of *The Taming of the Shrew* and Dan Sullivan's modern take on Shakespeare's tale of perpetual war, *Troilus and Cressida*, are this summer's blazing contributions to our ongoing dialogue with the greatest writer in the English language."

Celebrating its tenth year as the lead sponsor of free Shakespeare in the Park, **Bank of America** continues its leadership sponsorship in support of The Public's mission and Shakespeare in the Park.

"At Bank of America, we believe that the arts have the ability to bring people together, and strengthen local economies," said **Bank of America Global Arts and Culture Executive Rena DeSisto**. "Free performances like Shakespeare in the Park that are open to the public ensure that everyone has access to the arts."

Since 1962, over five million people have enjoyed more than 150 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals at the Delacorte Theater. Conceived by Joe Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access and engage the community.

This summer, the Tony nominated director Phyllida Lloyd turns Shakespeare's zany comedy of the sexes **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** on its head, with an all-female cast and a bold new take. Lovely Bianca is the prize to be won by all the men looking to land themselves a wealthy wife. But the competitors will first have to marry off Bianca's clever, fiery older sister, Katherina played by Olivier nominee Cush Jumbo, who may just outsmart them all. Tony and Olivier winner Janet McTeer plays Petruchio, the wild outsider Katherina must outwit, in Shakespeare's original screwball comedy showing the lengths men will go to for their legacy, what women will do to break free and the outrageous things we all do for the human heart.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW was first staged at the Delacorte Theater in 1978, directed by Wilford Leach and featuring Meryl Streep as Katharine and Raúl Julia as Petruchio. It was again staged in 1990, directed by A.J. Antoon and featuring Tracy Ullman as Katherina, Morgan Freeman as Petruchio, and Helen Hunt as Bianca. It was last staged there in 1999, directed by Mel Shapiro and featuring Allison Janney as Katherina and Jay O. Sanders as Petruchio.

Tony-winning director Daniel Sullivan returns to the Park this summer to direct one of the Bard's most rarely produced plays, **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA**. Both warriors and lovers play hard to get in this surprisingly modern epic about the hot blood, hot thoughts and hot deeds of the ancient Greeks. In the seventh year of the Trojan War, Troilus, a young prince, pines for the affections of Cressida, a bright young woman who knows how to play it cool. Meanwhile, the heroes of the Iliad – Ajax, Ulysses, Achilles and the kings they serve – debate whether to return the dangerously beautiful captive Helen or continue to fight without end. Nations and lovers alike do battle in this sly, piercing drama about romance and revenge in a world at war.

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA was first staged at the Delacorte in 1965, directed by Joseph Papp, featuring Richard Jordan as Troilus, Flora Elkins as Cressida, and James Earl Jones as Ajax. It was last seen at the Delacorte in 1995, directed by Mark Wing-Davey, featuring Neil Huff as Troilus, Elizabeth Marvel as Cressida, Tamara Tunie as Helen, and Stephen Spinella as Pandarus.

Tickets to The Public Theater's FREE Shakespeare in the Park are distributed, two per person, at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park on the day of the show. The Public Theater will again offer free tickets through our Virtual Ticketing lottery on the day of the show at www.publictheater.org. The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is accessible by entering at 81st Street and Central Park West or at 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Summer Supporters will be available again this year for those who want to support free Shakespeare in the Park by making a tax-deduction contribution (starting at \$200) and receiving a reserved seat for one production during the summer. The Partners Program also offers insider access through invitations to private backstage events, talks with artists, priority reserved seating at the Delacorte, and complimentary tickets to the downtown season at The Public and Joe's Pub. To learn more, or to make a contribution call (212) 967-7555, or visit www.publictheater.org.

PHYLLIDA LLOYD (*Taming of the Shrew* Director) recently directed *Henry IV* at St. Ann's Warehouse and *Cush Jumbo* in *Josephine and I* at Joe's Pub at The Public. Her London theatre credits include *Julius Caesar* (Donmar Warehouse and St. Ann's Warehouse, NY); *Mary Stuart* (Donmar Warehouse, Apollo, and Broadway - Tony nomination); *The Threepenny Opera*, *Boston Marriage* (Donmar Warehouse); *Josephine and I* (Bush Theatre); *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Hysteria*, *Wild East* (Royal Court); *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* with Fiona Shaw (Old Vic Tunnels, BAM, Epidavros); *The Way of the World*, *Pericles*, *What the Butler Saw*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Duchess of Malfi* (Royal National Theatre); *Artists and Admirers*, *The Virtuoso* (RSC); *MAMMA MIA!* (London, Broadway, and worldwide). Her film credits include *The Iron Lady* (Pathe/DJ Films/ Film Four); *MAMMA MIA!* (Universal Pictures); *Gloriana a Film* (Illuminations Films). For the opera, she has directed *La Bohème*, *Medea*, *Carmen*, *L'Etoile*, *Gloriana*, *Albert Herring*, *Peter Grimes* (Opera North); *Macbeth* (Paris/ROH); *The Handmaid's Tale* (Copenhagen, ENO, and Toronto); *The Carmelites*, *Verdi Requiem*, *Rhinegold*, *Valkyrie*, *Siegfried* and *Twilight of the Gods* (ENO). For *Gloriana a Film*, she received an International Emmy, a F.I.P.A. d'Or, and the Royal Philharmonic Society Award. She won the South Bank Show Award for both *Mary Stuart* (2005) and *Peter Grimes* (2006). Lloyd was awarded a CBE in 2012.

DANIEL SULLIVAN (*Troilus and Cressida* Director). For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *Cymbeline*, *King Lear*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, The Delacorte Theater's 50th Anniversary reading of *Romeo and Juliet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Broadway/Shakespeare in the Park), *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Stuff Happens*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Among his Broadway credits are the recent production of *Sylvia*; *The Country House*; *Snow Geese*; *Orphans*; the revival of *Glengarry Glen Ross*; *The Columnist*; *Good People*; *Time Stands Still*; *Accent on Youth*; *The Homecoming*; *Prelude to a Kiss*; *Rabbit Hole*; *After the Night and the Music*; *Julius Caesar*; *Brooklyn Boy*; *Sight Unseen*; *I'm Not Rappaport*; *Morning's at Seven*; *Proof*; the 2000 production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; *The Sisters Rosensweig*; *Conversations With My Father*; and *The Heidi Chronicles*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Lost Lake*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Far East*, *Spinning into Butter*, *Third* at Lincoln Center, *Dinner With Friends*, and *The Substance of Fire*. From 1981 to 1997, he served as Artistic Director of Seattle Repertory Theatre. Sullivan is the Swanlund Professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

CUSH JUMBO (*Katherina* in *Taming of the Shrew*) can currently be seen in her series regular role of "Lucca Quinn" in the seventh season of the acclaimed CBS series "The Good Wife." On stage, she last appeared at Joe's Pub at The Public in *Josephine and I*, a one-woman show which she also wrote that was directed by Phyllida Lloyd. Jumbo was presented with the "Emerging Talent Award" at last year's Evening Standard Awards for this self-penned show (which originated at The Bush Theatre in July 2013) and she was also nominated for "Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre" at the Olivier Awards for her performance. Prior to that she made her Broadway debut opposite Hugh Jackman in *The River*. Other theatre accolades include an Olivier nomination for her role as Marc Antony in an all-female

version of *Julius Caesar*; "Best Actress" at The Manchester Awards for *A Doll's House* (Royal Exchange); "Ian Charleson Award" for *As You Like It* (Royal Exchange). Her film roles include leads in the upcoming BBC Film's *City of Tiny Lights* and *Remainder* (based on the Tom K. McCarthy novel). Other TV credits include the lead in "Vera" opposite Brenda Blethyn and the UK version of "Getting On."

JANET McTEER (*Petruchio in Taming of the Shrew*) is a two-time Oscar nominee, and a Tony, Olivier, and Golden Globe winner. Her Broadway credits include *God of Carnage*, *Mary Stuart*, and *A Doll's House* (Tony, Olivier, Drama Desk, OCC, Theatre World Award for Best Actress). Her UK Theatre credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; *Mary Stuart* at Donmar Warehouse; *Simpatico*, *Greenland*, *The Grace of Mary*, at The Royal Court; *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Uncle Vanya* at the National Theatre; *The Storm*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Worlds Apart* for the RSC; *Much Ado About Nothing* and *God of Carnage* on the West End. Her film credits include *Tumbleweeds* (Oscar nom., Golden Globe for Best Actress); *Albert Nobbs* (Oscar, Golden Globe nom.); *Maleficent*; the upcoming *Paint It Black*; *Me Before You*; *The Kaiser's Last Kiss*. Television credits include "Into the Storm"; "The White Queen" (Golden Globe nom.); "The Honorable Woman"; "Battle Creek"; "Parade's End"; "Sense and Sensibility"; "Five Days"; and "Hunter."

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

The Public Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces in equal measure. Celebrating his 10th anniversary season at The Public, Eustis has created new community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences like Public Lab, Public Studio, Public Forum, Public Works, and a remount of the Mobile Unit. The Public continues the work of its visionary founder, Joe Papp, by acting as an advocate for the theater as an essential cultural force, and leading and framing dialogue on some of the most important issues of our day. Creating theater for one of the largest and most diverse audience bases in New York City for nearly 60 years, today the Company engages audiences in a variety of venues—including its landmark downtown home at Astor Place, which houses five theaters and Joe's Pub; the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, home to free Shakespeare in the Park; and the Mobile Unit, which tours Shakespearean productions for underserved audiences throughout New York City's five boroughs. The Public's wide range of programming includes free Shakespeare in the Park, the bedrock of the Company's dedication to making theater accessible to all; Public Works, an expanding initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; and audience and artist development initiatives that range from Emerging Writers Group and to the Public Forum series. The Public is located on property owned by the City of New York and receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and in October 2012 the landmark building downtown at Astor Place was revitalized to physically manifest the Company's core mission of sparking new dialogues and increasing accessibility for artists and audiences, by dramatically opening up the building to the street and community, and transforming the lobby into a public piazza for artists, students, and audiences. The Public is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning *Fun Home* and Lin-Manuel Miranda's acclaimed American musical *Hamilton*. The Public has received 47 Tony Awards, 167 Obie Awards, 52 Drama Desk Awards, 48 Lortel Awards, 31 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics Awards, and four Pulitzer Prizes. www.publictheater.org

ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA

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