

## THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF *EVE'S SONG*

Written by Patricia Ione Lloyd  
Directed by Jo Bonney

Performances begin October 21

September 12, 2018 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced complete casting today for the world premiere of *EVE'S SONG*, written by The Public's Emerging Writers Group alum and 2017-18 Tow Playwright-in-Residence, **Patricia Ione Lloyd**. Directed by Obie Award winner **Jo Bonney**, the genre-bending new drama examines America's present racial climate through the eyes of a regular American family. *EVE'S SONG*, which was originally scheduled to begin preview performances on October 23, will now begin previews in The Public's LuEsther Hall on Sunday, October 21 with a Free First Preview program performance. The play runs through Sunday, December 2, with an official press opening on Wednesday, November 7.

The complete cast of *EVE'S SONG* features **De'Adre Aziza** (*Deborah*), **Karl Green** (*Mark*), **Ashley D. Kelley** (*Upendo*), **Vernice Miller** (*Spirit Dancer*), **Kadijah Raquel** (*Lauren*), **Rachel Watson-Jih** (*Spirit Dancer*), and **Tamara M. Williams** (*Spirit Dancer*).

*EVE'S SONG* is a stunning new drama about the haunting of a black family in America. In the aftermath of a messy divorce and a daughter coming out as queer, Deborah is trying to keep things normal at home. But as black people continue to be killed beyond their four walls, the outside finds its way in, blurring the lines between family dynamics, politics, and the spirit world. How long can family dinners keep the dangers outside at bay? Filled with dark humor and boiling suspense, *EVE'S SONG* examines our present racial climate through the eyes of a regular American family.

*EVE'S SONG* features scenic design by Riccardo Hernandez, costume design by Emilio Sosa, lighting design by Lap Chi Chu, sound design by Elisheba Ittoop, projection design by Hana S. Kim, and movement direction by Stefanie Batten Bland.

Developed in residence as the Tow Emerging Playwright-in-Residence at The Public Theater.

**PATRICIA IONE LLOYD** (*Playwright*) is the 2017-18 Tow Playwright-in-Residence at The Public. She is a former Fellow at New York Theater Workshop, Playwrights Realm, Dramatists Guild, and the Sundance Theater Lab. She was a part of the 2015 Public Theater Emerging Writers Group. The play she wrote during her time there, *Pretty Hunger*, led to a Public Studio production at The Public. Lloyd's plays *Pretty Hunger* and *Eve's Song* have been included on the Kilroy's List in 2016 and 2017, respectively. She has written for the TV series "Hap & Leonard" on AMC, "The Sinner" on USA, and "Love Is \_" on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

**JO BONNEY** (*Director*). Public Theater credits include *Mlima's Tale; Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3); Some People; Stop Kiss; References to Salvador Dali...; House Arrest; Fever Chart; Men Inside;* and *funHouse*. Bonney has worked on premieres of plays by Suzan-Lori Parks, Lynn Nottage, Danny Hoch, Diana Son, Anna Deavere Smith, Naomi Wallace, Eric Bogosian, Alan Ball, Hammaad Chaudry, Culture Clash, Eve Ensler, Jessica Goldberg, Neil LaBute, Warren Leight, Martyna Majok, Dael Orlandersmith, Darci Picoult, Will Power, John Pollono, David Rabe, José Rivera, Universes, Michael Weller, and Lisa Loomer. Awards include an Obie for Sustained Excellence of Direction; Lortel for Best Revival and Musical; and AUDELCO, Lilly, and Alliance Awards. She is the author of *Extreme Exposure*, TCG.

**DE'ADRE AZIZA** (*Deborah*). Credits at The Public Theater include *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Privacy, The Comedy of Errors, Detroit '67,* and *Passing Strange*. Broadway credits include *A Night with Janis Joplin, Passing Strange,* and *Women on the Verge....* Off-Broadway credits include *Piece of My Heart* and *Doris to Darlene*. Regional credits include *Paradise Blue, Johnny Baseball,* and *Passing Strange*. Film and television credits include *In the Morning, Passing Strange, Red Hook Summer,* "She's Gotta Have It," "Elementary," "The Breaks," "Bull," and "Kevin Can Wait."

**KARL GREEN** (*Mark*). Regional credits include *Anne & Emmett, Revolution, Hero Worship, Un-American,* and *Veni-Vidi-Vici* (Signature Theatre, Washington D.C.). International credits include *Sacred Sky* and *Sacred Earth* (NYU Villa La Pietra, Italy). Green is a graduate of NYU Tisch.

**ASHLEY D. KELLEY** (*Upendo*) has appeared Off-Broadway in *Bella: An American Tall Tale* (Playwrights Horizons, director Robert O'Hara). Regional credits include *Bella: An American Tall Tale* (Dallas Theater Center) and *Dorothy* in *The Wiz* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Television credits include a recurring role on "Insatiable" (Netflix) and "Luke Cage" (Netflix). Kelley received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for *Bella*.

**VERNICE MILLER** (*Spirit Dancer*) appeared on Broadway in *Brave New World: American Theater Responds to 9/11*. Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Fast Blood* by Judy Tate, *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (dir. Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr.), and *The Trial...* (dir. Paul Carter Harrison). European credits include *Subpoetics International* (Slovenia, Poland, Ukraine, and France) and *Old Dreams New Hope* (Odin Teatret). Film and television credits include "Law & Order," "Flaming Armadillo" (National Swiss TV), *The Golden Boat* (dir. Raoul Ruiz), and *Leo Sonnyboy* (Switzerland). Miller received the London New Play Festival's Best Actress Award for *Medea*.

**KADIJAH RAQUEL** (*Lauren*) is a recent graduate from The SUNY Purchase BFA Acting Conservatory. She was previously featured in Purchase Rep shows such as *Hot L Baltimore, Blacktop Sky, A Midsummer Night's Dream,* and many more.

**RACHEL WATSON-JIH** (*Spirit Dancer*). Television and film credits include "Manhattan Love Story" and *Her*. Commercials include P.C. Richard & Son and Skype. Music videos include *Vanity Fair*, "Decade Full of Booms," VICE/Black Coffee, and "Wild Enough." Concert dance includes NYFW Desigual Couture Line (Ryan Heffington), *And Other Stories* (Celia Rowson Hall), *Holden C* (Eric Oberdorff), *Ritual Cyclical* (Lincoln Center Outdoors and Joe's Pub), and *Metamorphosis* (Blue Morph Collective). Watson-Jih received a BFA in Contemporary Dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**TAMARA M. WILLIAMS** (*Spirit Dancer*) is an actress, dancer, and writer best known for the guest starring role of Summer on FX's "Pose," Carol in *The Garden Left Behind*, and an ensemble and choreographer in *Street Children*.

## **ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:**

**THE PUBLIC** is theater of, by, and for all 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, 170 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 54 Lortel Awards, 32 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

**EVE'S SONG**, which was originally scheduled to begin performances on October 23, will now begin performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall on Sunday, October 21, and will run through Sunday, December 2, with an official press opening on Wednesday, November 7.

Public Theater Partner, Public Supporter, and Member tickets are available now. Full price tickets, starting at \$50, can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org), or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Free First Previews program will continue this fall; free tickets to the first preview on Sunday, October 21 will be available beginning October 14 via TodayTix mobile lottery, and on October 21 via the lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater at Astor Place, with entries starting at 11 a.m. and winners drawn at 12 p.m. (Noon).

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (*There is no 2:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, October 21 and Saturday, October 27. There is no 8:00 p.m. performance on Thursday, November 22 and Sunday, December 2. There is an added performance on Wednesday, November 21 at 2:00 p.m.*)

On **Thursday, November 1**, following the **8:00 p.m.** performance of **EVE'S SONG**, Public Forum will host a Speaker Series conversation titled "The Virgin, The Monster, and The Victim". Patricia Lone Lloyd and other experts will participate in a 20-to-30 minute intimate panel conversation about women horror writers, the stereotypes they face on the page and in the world, and more things that go bump in the night. Audio of this Speaker Series conversation will also be available on the Public Forum's website one week after the event. As a part of ongoing post-show programming at The Public, additional Public Forum programming includes events include Artist Talkbacks, Audience Conversations, and the online resource Digiturgy.

The open captioning performance will be at **2:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, November 10**. The audio described performance will be at **2:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, November 17**.

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](http://www.publictheater.org).

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