

THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
TRACEY SCOTT WILSON'S
BUZZER
DIRECTED BY ANNE KAUFFMAN
ADDED TO 2014-15 SEASON

The Total Bent Postponed
Until 2015-16 Season

October 7, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that *BUZZER*, by Tracey Scott Wilson, has been added to The Public's 2014-15 spring line-up. Directed by Obie Award-winner Anne Kauffman, the New York premiere of *BUZZER* marks the return of Wilson to The Public following her acclaimed *The Good Negro* in 2009 and *The Story* in 2003.

BUZZER replaces the previously announced world premiere musical *The Total Bent*, which has been rescheduled due to director Joanna Settle's recent diagnosis with breast cancer. The show is being postponed to the 2015-16 season to accommodate Settle's treatment and recovery.

BUZZER is a darkly funny, intensely gripping new play about love, fear and the high costs of choosing who we make a home with, and where. Jackson left his tough Brooklyn neighborhood by winning a scholarship to Exeter, where he met Don, a play-hard rich boy who became his unlikely best friend. Now a Harvard-educated lawyer, Jackson's bought a place in the newly gentrifying area he grew up in. But Jackson's white girlfriend, Suzy, isn't so sure she belongs in a community "on the verge." When Don comes to crash with his old buddy and stay clean, his stories of the neighborhood's dangerous past collide with the growing disconnect between Jackson and Suzy, and the treacherous sexual and racial tensions waiting just beyond the door and demanding to be let in.

ANNE KAUFFMAN (*Director*) is an Obie Award-winning director whose production highlights include *Somewhere Fun* and *God's Ear* at Vineyard Theatre; *Detroit* and *Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra* at Playwrights Horizons; *Belleville* at New York Theatre Workshop, Yale Repertory Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre Company; *Tales from My Parents' Divorce* with the Civilians; *This Wide Night* at Naked Angels; *The Thugs* at Soho Rep. Kauffman is a recipient of the Joan and Joseph F. Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, the Alan Schneider Director Award and a Lilly Award.

TRACEY SCOTT WILSON (*Playwright*) currently writes for "The Americans" on FX. Recent productions include *Buzzer* at the Goodman Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, and The Guthrie, as well as *The Good Negro* and *The Story* at The Public Theater and the Goodman Theater. Additional productions include *Order My Steps* for Cornerstone Theater's Black Faith/AIDS project in Los Angeles; and *Exhibit #9*, which was produced in New York City by New Perspectives Theatre and Theatre Outrageous; *Leader of the People* produced at New Georges Theatre; two ten-minute plays produced at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis; a ten minute play produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Tracey has had readings at the New York Theatre Workshop, Second Stage Theatre, The Public Theater, Williamstown Theater Festival and Soho Theatre Writers Centre in London. Ms. Wilson holds a Master's degree in English Literature from Temple University.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER AT ASTOR PLACE

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public Theater is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces in equal measure. 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 its beloved, 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; Free “First Preview Free For All” tickets; Public Works, an ongoing initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; new, developmental and experimental stagings at The Public, including Emerging Writers Group, Public Lab and Public Studio; and a range of artist and audience development initiatives including its Public Forum series, which brings together theater artists and professionals from a variety of disciplines for discussions that shed light on social issues explored in Public productions. The Public Theater 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. Key elements of the revitalization included the construction of new exterior entry stair and glass canopy; installation of ramps for improved accessibility; an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library at The Public, designed by the Rockwell Group. The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater’s year-round activities. www.publictheater.org

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