



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Candi Adams 212-539-8680 cadams@publictheater.org

THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
“ONE THRILLING COMBINATION”
A GALA EVENT CELEBRATING
MARVIN HAMLISCH, THE PUBLIC THEATER,
& THE CREATION OF *A CHORUS LINE*
DIRECTED BY TED SPERLING
MONDAY, JUNE 23
AT THE DELACORTE THEATER

April 28, 2014 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that the 2014 Public Theater Annual Gala will present **ONE THRILLING COMBINATION**, a gala event directed by Ted Sperling celebrating Marvin Hamlisch, The Public Theater and the creation of *A Chorus Line* on **Monday, June 23** at the Delacorte Theater. This unforgettable summer evening will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the creation of The Public’s groundbreaking musical, *A Chorus Line*, and the legendary man behind the music, Marvin Hamlisch, in a one-night-only, star-studded gala to support The Public Theater. Renée Beaumont and Lizanne Rosenstein will serve as Gala Co-Chairs for this memorable evening in Central Park.

“Marvin Hamlisch was one of the great spirits of American music, and *A Chorus Line* was a show that changed everything about how musicals were made,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. “It also created The Public Theater we cherish today. This gala will honor that amazing show and thank Marvin Hamlisch for his extraordinary gifts to us all.”

For nearly 60 years, The Public has developed and produced groundbreaking new works while nurturing the careers of artists and providing access for audiences with thousands of free and low-cost tickets. Though Marvin Hamlisch passed away in 2012 the spirit of his original collaboration with The Public lives on. His contributions to *A Chorus Line* changed musical theater history and changed the trajectory of The Public Theater. The Public is thrilled to be honoring Hamlisch as this year’s 2014 Artistic Honoree, in an evening that will also include songs from throughout his theatrical career.

The gala evening at the Delacorte will begin with cocktails at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner alfresco in Central Park. The performance of **ONE THRILLING COMBINATION** at 8:00 p.m. will be followed by a dessert reception under the stars. The gala rain date is Tuesday, June 24.

Tickets to The Public Theater’s Annual Gala **ONE THRILLING COMBINATION** start at \$650 and are available for purchase by calling (212) 539-8634, on-line at www.publictheater.org, or via email at gala@publictheater.org. Proceeds from the gala will help support The Public’s mission of providing a home for artists who give voice to the pressing issues of our time, provide affordable access to thousands of New Yorkers with free Shakespeare in the Park and other groundbreaking works, and strengthen the vital relationship between our artists and audiences.

A CHORUS LINE, first staged in The Public's Newman Theater in 1975, features a book by Nicholas Dante and James Kirkwood, lyrics by Edward Kleban, and music by Marvin Hamlisch. The show was conceived and originally directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett and later transferred to Broadway to win the 1976 Tony Award for Best Musical, as well as eight other Tony Awards. The original Public Theater cast featured Kelly Bishop as Sheila, Robert LuPone as Zach, and Donna McKechnie as Cassie Ferguson.

TED SPERLING (*Director*) is The Public's Musical Theater Initiative consultant, and is a director, music director, arranger, orchestrator, conductor, singer, pianist, and violinist. For The Public he directed the 2013 Gala Concert of *The Pirates of Penzance*, as well as *See What I Wanna See* and did the musical direction for *Saturn Returns*. In 2005, he won Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his orchestrations of *The Light In The Piazza* (also music director). His other Broadway credits as music director/conductor/pianist include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Full Monty*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, *Angels In America*, *My Favorite Year*, *Falsettos*, *Drood*, *Les Misérables*, *Roza*, and *Sunday In The Park With George*.

THE DELACORTE THEATER, home of free Shakespeare in the Park, was conceived as a way to make great theater accessible to all. It officially opened in Central Park on June 18, 1962, with *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Joseph Papp and Gladys Vaughan and featuring George C. Scott as Shylock. *The Merchant of Venice* was followed that summer by a production of *The Tempest*, directed by Gerald Freedman and featuring Paul Stevens as Prospero and James Earl Jones as Caliban. The first Delacorte summer season concluded with *King Lear*, directed by Joseph Papp and Gladys Vaughan and featuring Frank Silvera as Lear. Since then more than 150 productions have been presented for free at the Delcorte Theater. Highlights of past Delacorte productions include *Othello* in 1964 with James Earl Jones; *Hamlet* in 1975 with Sam Waterston; *The Taming of the Shrew* in 1978 with Raul Julia and Meryl Streep; *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1980 with Kevin Kline and Linda Ronstadt; *Henry V* in 1984 with Kevin Kline; *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1988 with Kevin Kline and Blythe Danner; *Richard III* in 1990 with Denzel Washington; *Othello* in 1991 with Raul Julia and Christopher Walken; *The Tempest* in 1995 with Patrick Stewart; *The Seagull* in 2001 with Natalie Portman, Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Philip Seymour Hoffman; *Mother Courage* in 2006 with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline; *Macbeth* in 2006 with Liev Schreiber; *HAIR* in 2008 with Jonathan Groff and Will Swenson; *Twelfth Night* in 2009 with Anne Hathaway; *The Merchant of Venice* in 2010 with Al Pacino and Lily Rabe; the 2011 acclaimed productions of *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*; *As You Like It* with Lily Rabe and Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* with Amy Adams, Denis O'Hare, and Donna Murphy in 2012; and most recently, last summer's acclaimed production of *The Comedy of Errors* with Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Hamish Linklater, and Alex Timbers and Michael Friedman's world premiere musical adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost*. This summer The Public Theater will stage *Much Ado About Nothing* and *King Lear* as part of the 2014 free Shakespeare in the Park summer season.

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; Public Works, a new initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including 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 of the day. The

Public also serves as a home for other New York City cultural programs that include The Shakespeare Society, The PEN World Voice Festival and City Center's Fall For Dance. 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. In October 2012 the landmark building 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby and the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, 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

#