

**THE PUBLIC THEATER'S
MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT
RETURNS THIS FALL TO TOUR
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
DIRECTED BY KWAME KWEI-ARMAH**

**Three-Week Free Tour Visits
Correctional Facilities, Homeless Shelters,
Social Service Organizations, and
Community Centers**

Complete Casting Announced

**The Comedy of Errors To Have Limited Run
at The Public Theater (November 1-22)
Following Tour of Five Boroughs**

September 10, 2015 – Continuing its commitment to bringing free Shakespeare to the community and strengthening audience engagement with the arts, The Public Theater will mount its **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT** again this October with a free three-week tour to the five boroughs of Shakespeare's ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS***, directed by **Kwame Kwei-Armah**. The free Mobile Unit tour (October 9–29) will bring free Shakespeare to audiences who have limited or no access to the arts by visiting correctional facilities, homeless shelters, social service organizations, and other community venues, including stops at our Public Works community partner venues: Brownsville Recreation Center in Brooklyn and DreamYard Project in the Bronx. Following the Mobile tour, ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** will have a sit-down run at The Public Theater from Sunday, November 1 to Sunday, November 22, with an official press opening on Thursday, November 5.

“The Mobile Unit is at the heart of The Public Theater,” said **Artistic Director Oskar Eustis**. “After Kwame Kwei-Armah’s wonderful production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, we’re thrilled to welcome him back with the most youthful and joyous of Shakespeare’s comedies, *The Comedy of Errors*.”

The complete cast of ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** features **Matthew Citron** (*Officer, Musician*); **Bernardo Cubria** (*Antiphoulus of Syracuse, Antiphoulus of Ephesus*); **Flor De Liz Perez** (*Luciana, Second Merchant*); **Christina Pumariega** (*Adriana*); **Lucas Caleb Rooney** (*Dromio of Syracuse, Dromio of Ephesus*); **David Ryan Smith** (*Egeon*); and **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (*Solina*).

Tickets priced at \$20 for ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** at The Public are available now. Tickets can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at 425 Lafayette Street. All tour performances are free, but performances at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Highbridge Recreation Center, Brownsville Recreation Center, Faber Park Field House, and Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center are also open to the general public via RSVP at www.publictheater.org. To further the mission and reach of the **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT**, tickets for each performance of the limited run at The Public Theater will be given to community organizations that cannot host a visit from the tour.

The Public Theater’s **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT**, part of The Public Theater’s long-standing commitment to making Shakespeare accessible to all, returns for its sixth year with ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS***. Mistaken

identity leads to delightful mayhem in the Bard's classic play about two sets of twins separated by stormy seas. When one pair dares to trespass into a foreign city to find the other, the comedy of errors begins and the long-lost brothers must overcome wrongful imprisonment, angry wives, and hilarious confusion on their journey to a joyful reunion.

"I've seen almost 75 community tour performances with the Mobile Unit and never tire of watching audiences who start out skeptical of Shakespeare then erupt in laughter and applause throughout the show," said **Director of Special Artistic Projects Stephanie Ybarra**. "This is what the Mobile Unit was designed to do – offer up all of the joy and wonderment of world-class theater to underserved audiences throughout New York."

MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT, now in its sixth year, is a reinvention of Joseph Papp's Mobile Shakespeare program, which began in 1957 to bring Shakespeare to the masses, evolving into the New York Shakespeare Festival and ultimately becoming The Public Theater. Recent Mobile Shakespeare Unit productions include *Measure for Measure*; *Richard III*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*; and *Macbeth*. **MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT** will also present educational workshops at selected tour venues, expanding The Public's existing community outreach and education program. This program continues the expansion of The Public's Shakespeare Initiative, which includes the recent Public Works productions of *The Odyssey*, *The Tempest*, and *The Winter's Tale* staged at the Delacorte Theater for free; Free Shakespeare in the Park; and The Public's other affordable productions at its downtown home at Astor Place, all reinforcing the Company's commitment to the ongoing exploration of Shakespeare's canon.

MOBILE SHAKESPEARE UNIT is made possible with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Tow Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Additional generous support provided by Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP. Special thanks to The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation's lead support for The Public's access and engagement programming.

TOUR DATES WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING VENUES (October 9 - 29):

Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Manhattan, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in Harlem (October 9).

Highbridge Recreation Center, Manhattan, a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in Washington Heights (October 10).

Lenox Hill Women's Mental Health Shelter at the Park Avenue Armory, Manhattan, provides short-term, safe, and supportive environments to address immediate needs for mentally ill homeless women (October 12).

Brownsville Recreation Center, Brooklyn, a Public Works community partner, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in the Brownsville Playground with extensive resources for youth and seniors. The center offers a vibrant space to tap into pursuits artistic and athletic alike (October 14).

ICL Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services, Brooklyn, is a comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation program for adults with serious mental illness (October 15).

Queensboro Correctional Facility, Queens, is a minimum security prison in Long Island City (October 16).

Faber Park Field House, Staten Island, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in Staten Island (October 17).

DreamYard Arts Project, Bronx, a Public Works community partner, uses project-based arts learning to ignite the transformative spirit (October 19).

Eric M. Taylor Center, Rikers Island – Built in 1964, EMTC houses nearly 2,000 adult and adolescent males sentenced to one year or less (October 20).

Rose M. Singer Center, Rikers Island – Built in 1988, RMSC houses more than 1,700 adult and adolescent females (October 21).

Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn, is a U.S. federal administrative detention facility, which holds male and female prisoners of all security levels (October 22 and October 26).

Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, Bronx, is a NYC Parks and Recreation center located in the Bronx (October 24).

Taconic Correctional Facility, Westchester, is the largest maximum security prison for women in New York (October 28).

ARTISTIC TEAM:

KWAME KWEI-ARMAH OBE (*Director*) is an award-winning British playwright, director, actor, and broadcaster. At The Public, he has directed the Mobile Shakespeare Unit production of *Much Ado About Nothing* and the Public Lab production of *Detroit '67*. He is currently the Artistic Director of Baltimore's Center Stage and most recently he wrote and directed the World Premiere of *Marley*, a musical based on the life and legacy of Bob Marley. At Center Stage he also directed *One Night in Miami*, *Amadeus*, *dance of the holy ghosts* (City Paper Top Ten Productions, 2013); *The Mountaintop*; *An Enemy of the People*; *The Whipping Man*, for which he was named Best Director; and Naomi Wallace's *Things of Dry Hours*. In 2014, he was named Best Director in City Paper's Best of Baltimore, and was a finalist for SDC's Zelda Fichandler Award for Best Theater Director. Among his works as playwright are *Elmina's Kitchen* and *Let There Be Love* as well as *A Bitter Herb*, *Statement of Regret*, and *Seize the Day*. *Beneatha's Place* debuted at Center Stage in 2013 as part of the groundbreaking *Raisin Cycle*. His other directorial credits include Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew* at the Lark Play Development Center and the World Premiere of *The Liquid Plain* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and its New York Premiere at Signature Theater. He has served on the boards of The National Theatre and The Tricycle Theatre, both in London, and as Artistic Director for the World Arts Festival in Senegal. He was named the Chancellor of the University of the Arts London, and in 2012 was named an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS features scenic and costume design by Moria Sine Clinton; music composition by Shane Rettig; movement direction by Christopher Windom; and fight direction by Lisa Kopitsky.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

The Public Theater, under the leadership of 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 Shakespeare 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 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 year; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including Public Lab; 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, designed by the Rockwell Group. The Public Theater 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

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities; Bank of America, Proud Season Sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg New Play Development Fund at The Public Theater supports the creation and development of new plays; The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation - Lead Supporter of The Public's Access and Engagement Programming; The Time Warner Foundation, Founding Sponsor of The Emerging Writers Group; Delta Air Lines, Official Airline of The Public Theater; *New York Magazine* is the official print sponsor of The Public Theater's 2014-2015 downtown season; Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency.

TICKET INFO

All tour performances for ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** are free, but performances at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Highbridge Recreation Center, Brownsville Recreation Center, Faber Park Field House, and Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center are also open to the general public via RSVP at www.publictheater.org. Please check The Public's website for the most up-to-date performance times. Following the free Mobile Shakespeare Unit tour of the five boroughs, ***THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*** will run at The Public Theater from Sunday, November 1 through Sunday, November 22 in the Shiva Theater, with an official press opening on Thursday, November 5.

The performance schedule will be Tuesday through Fridays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*There is an added performance on Monday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. There is no performance on Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 p.m. or Friday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m.*)

Tickets priced at \$20 are available now and can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, visiting www.publictheater.org; or in person at the Taub Box Office 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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