

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES JONATHAN GROFF TO PLAY KING GEORGE BEGINNING MARCH 3

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Inspired By The Book “Alexander Hamilton” by Ron Chernow
Choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler
Directed by Thomas Kail

Critically Acclaimed Musical To Transfer To Broadway On July 13

February 25, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that Tony Award nominee **Jonathan Groff** will join the cast of **HAMILTON** as “King George” on Tuesday, March 3. Groff, who performed in The Public’s recent revival of *Hair* as well as *The Bacchae* and *The Singing Forest*, is replacing Brian d’Arcy James, who will be starring in *Something Rotten* on Broadway this spring. The world premiere musical **HAMILTON**, inspired by the book “Alexander Hamilton” by **Ron Chernow**, with book, music, and lyrics by **Lin-Manuel Miranda** and directed by **Thomas Kail**, has been extended three times at The Public due to sold-out demand and will close as scheduled on Sunday, May 3 prior to a Broadway transfer to the Richard Rodgers Theatre beginning July 13 and opening August 6.

HAMILTON is sold out at The Public Theater, but cancellations may become available so check the box office at **(212) 967-7555** or www.publictheater.org for last minute availability. Tickets for the Broadway engagement, to be produced by Jeffrey Seller, Sander Jacobs, Jill Furman and The Public Theater, will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 8 via Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000.

The Public and TodayTix will continue to offer “Hamilton for a Hamilton” (\$10), furthering the innovative new partnership with TodayTix and The Public’s ongoing commitment to making theater accessible to everyone. During the run of *Hamilton*, a pair of tickets will be available for each performance for \$10 per ticket. The lottery will begin each day at midnight for the performance that same day, and winners will be notified three to four hours before show time. Winners will make the payment in the TodayTix app and collect the tickets at the box office. A limited number of \$20 tickets, subject to availability, will be distributed via a lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater. For full details on the lottery, please visit publictheater.org. These tickets are \$20, cash only, with a limit of two tickets per person.

The complete cast features **Carleigh Bettiol** (*Ensemble*); **Andrew Chappelle** (*Swing*); **Ariana DeBose** (*Ensemble*); **Alysha Deslorieux** (*Swing*); **Daveed Diggs** (*Marquis De Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson*); **Renée Elise Goldsberry** (*Angelica Schuyler*); **Jonathan Groff** (*King George*); **Sydney James Harcourt** (*Ensemble*); **Sasha Hutchings** (*Ensemble*); **Christopher Jackson** (*George Washington*); **Thayne Jasperson** (*Ensemble*); **Jasmine Cephas Jones** (*Peggy Schuyler, Maria Reynolds*); **Stephanie Klemons** (*Swing*); **Lin-Manuel Miranda** (*Hamilton*); **Javier Muñoz** (*Hamilton Standby*); **Leslie Odom Jr.** (*Aaron Burr*); **Okieriete Onaodowan** (*Hercules Mulligan, James Madison*); **Anthony Ramos** (*John*

Laurens, Phillip Hamilton); **Jon Rua** (*Ensemble*); **Phillipa Soo** (*Eliza Hamilton*); **Seth Stewart** (*Ensemble*); **Betsy Struxness** (*Ensemble*); **Ephraim Sykes** (*Ensemble*); and **Voltaire Wade-Greene** (*Swing*).

From the creative team behind the Tony Award-winning *In The Heights* comes a wildly inventive new musical about the scrappy young immigrant who forever changed America: Alexander Hamilton. Tony and Grammy Award winner Lin-Manuel Miranda wields his pen and takes the stage as the unlikely founding father determined to make his mark on a new nation as hungry and ambitious as he is. From bastard orphan to Washington's right hand man, rebel to war hero, loving husband caught in the country's first sex scandal to Treasury head who made an untrusting world believe in the American economy, **HAMILTON** is an exploration of a political mastermind. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Eliza Hamilton, and lifelong Hamilton friend and foe, Aaron Burr, all attend this revolutionary tale of America's fiery past told through the sounds of the ever-changing nation we've become. Tony Award nominee Thomas Kail directs this new musical about taking your shot, speaking your mind, and turning the world upside down.

HAMILTON features scenic design by David Korins; costume design by Paul Tazewell; lighting design by Howell Binkley; sound design by Nevin Steinberg; hair and wig design by Charles G. LaPointe; music direction and orchestrator Alex Lacamoire; and choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler.

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA (*Book, Music, and Lyrics/Alexander Hamilton*) is the Tony and Grammy award-winning composer-lyricist-star of Broadway's *In the Heights*. *In the Heights* received four 2008 Tony Awards (including Best Musical, Best Orchestrations, Best Choreography), with Miranda receiving a Tony Award for Best Score, as well as a nomination for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. *In the Heights* was also recognized as a Finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Miranda is the co-composer (with Tom Kitt), and co-lyricist (with Amanda Green) of Broadway's *Bring it On: The Musical* (2013 Tony nom., Best Musical, 2013 Drama Desk nom., Best Lyrics in a Musical). Miranda contributed new songs to the revival of Stephen Schwartz' *Working* and provided Spanish translations for the 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story*. Miranda, along with Kitt, won the 2014 Creative Arts Emmy for Best Original Music and Lyrics for their work on the 67th Annual Tony Awards. As an actor, Miranda appeared in the City Center *Encores!* productions of *Merrily We Roll Along* (Charley Kringas), and *tick, tick... BOOM!* (Jonathan). He is a co-founder and member of *Freestyle Love Supreme*, an improvisational hip-hop group that will launch a self-titled television series in October 2014 on Pivot TV. Additional TV and film credits include "The Electric Company," "Sesame Street," "The Sopranos," "House," "Modern Family," "Do No Harm," "Smash," "How I Met Your Mother," *The Sex and the City Movie*, *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*, and *200 Cartas*.

THOMAS KAIL (*Director*). His Broadway credits include *In the Heights* (Tony nomination for Best Director); and two new plays, *Lombardi* and *Magic/Bird*. His Off-Broadway credits include *In the Heights* (Callaway Award, Drama Desk nom., Outer Critics nom.); at New York City Center Randy Newman's *Faust* and *The Wiz*; Lincoln Center Theater's *Broke-ology* and *When I Come to Die*; The Flea Theater's *Family Furniture* (Drama Desk Nom.); and Second Stage Uptown's *The Tutors*. Other credits include Williamstown Theater Festival's *Broke-ology*; Paper Mill Playhouse's *Once on this Island*; and the National Tour of *In the Heights*. He is the co-creator and director of the hip-hop improv group *Freestyle Love Supreme*, which played the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, US Comedy Arts Festival, Montreal Comedy Festival and Melbourne Comedy Festival. He served as the Creative Director of the 2012, 2013 & 2014 Webby Awards. For television he directed episodes of "2 Broke Girls"; "Oprah Winfrey's 2010 Primetime Oscar Special" for ABC; the pilot episode of "Storymakers" for AMC; and he served as Co-Music Director and consulting producer on first season of PBS show "The Electric Company". He is the Executive Producer and Co-Creator of new TV Series "Freestyle Love Supreme" for Pivot; and he is the recipient of the Martin E. Segal Award from Lincoln Center and is a graduate of Wesleyan University, CT.

ANDY BLAKENBUEHLER (*Choreography*)'s Broadway credits include *In The Heights* (Tony, Outer Critics, Drama Desk Awards), *Bring It On*, *9 To 5*, *The People In The Picture*, *The Apple Tree*, *Annie*, *The Wiz* (City Center Encores). Regionally his credits include *FLY* (Dallas Theatre Center), *Desperately Seeking Susan* (West End), *A Little Princess* (Andrew Lippa), *Joseph* (National tour). Upcoming projects include *Only Gold* with British singer/songwriter Kate Nash.

CARLEIGH BETTIOL (*Ensemble*) has performed in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *A Chorus Line*, and the tours of *Flashdance The Musical*, *In The Heights*, *A Chorus Line*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and the *Virtuosity!* Tour.

ANDREW CHAPPELLE (*Male Swing*) has performed on Broadway in *Mamma Mia!* His regional credits include *Annie*, *Cinderella*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Once on this Island*, *Dreamgirls*, and *West Side Story*.

ARIANA DEBOSE (*Ensemble*) has performed on Broadway as the Leading Player in *Pippin*, *Motown the Musical*, and *Bring It On the Musical*. She appeared in Stephen Sondheim's *Company* with the New York Philharmonic and was a Top 20 finalist on Season 6 of "So You Think You Can Dance."

ALYSHA DESLORIEUX (*Swing*) has appeared on Broadway in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and *Sister Act*. She appeared in the first National Tour of *Sister Act* and in the regional productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Bye Bye Birdie!* And *Once on this Island*.

DAVEED DIGGS (*Marquis De Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson*). His theater credits include *Nobody Move*, *Fabulation*, *In The Red and Brown Water*, *Mirrors in Every Corner*, *Red Light Winter*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and many others. His film credits include *The Industry*, *Rockstar*, *One Hot Run*, *Grand Café*, and *Infants of Spring*.

RENÉE ELISE GOLDSBERRY (*Angelica Schuyler*) has performed in The Public Theater productions of *As You Like It*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Two Gentleman of Verona*. She has appeared on Broadway in *Good People*, *The Color Purple* as the original Nettie, *Rent*, and *The Lion King*. Her film and television credits include *Every Secret Thing*, "Masters of Sex," "The Good Wife," "The Following," "Royal Pains," "One Life To Live," and "Ally McBeal."

JONATHAN GROFF (*King George*) was most recently seen starring in the second season of the hit HBO television series, "Looking." Created by Michael Lannan and directed by Andrew Haigh, the series revolves around three friends as they navigate life in modern-day San Francisco. Additionally, Groff will also star in the Encores! Off-Center production of William Finn's *A New Brain* at New York City Center this coming June. His Broadway credits include *Spring Awakening* (Theatre World Award, Tony, Drama Desk, and Drama League Award nominations). His Off-Broadway credits include *The Submission* (MCC Theater), *The Bacchae* (The Public Theater), Craig Lucas' *The Singing Forest* and *Prayer for My Enemy* (Obie Award) and The Public Theater's revival of *Hair*. On the West End he has been seen in *Deathtrap* (Noel Coward Theatre). Regionally his credits include *Red* (Mark Taper Forum). His additional film and television credits include "Boss," "Glee," "The Good Wife," "One Life to Live," *American Sniper*, HBO's *The Normal Heart*, *Frozen*, *C.O.G.*, *The Conspirator*, *Twelve-Thirty* and *Taking Woodstock*.

SYDNEY JAMES HARCOURT (*Ensemble*) has performed on Broadway in *The Lion King*, *American Idiot*, and *Bells are Ringing*. Off-Broadway he has performed in *Piece Of My Heart*, and his additional theater credits include Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Old Globe, *The Wiz*, *West Side Story*, *Showboat*, *Camelot*, and *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. His television credits include "The Good Wife"; "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"; and "Person of Interest."

SASHA HUTCHINGS (*Ensemble*) has appeared on Broadway in *Rocky*, *Motown The Musical*, and *Memphis*. Additionally she appeared on NBC's "SMASH."

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON (*George Washington*) has appeared on Broadway in *Holler If Ya Hear Me*, *Bronx Bombers*, *After Midnight*, *Memphis*, *In the Heights*, and *The Lion King*. His Off-Broadway credits include *Bronx Bombers*; *The Jammer*; *Lonely, I'm Not*; *In the Heights*; and *Cotton Club Parade*. His film and television credits include *Tracers*, *Afterlife*, "Freestyle Love Supreme" on the Pivot Network, "Person of Interest," "A Gifted Man," and "Fringe." He is the co-music supervisor and writer for "The Electric Company" and he has composed and written songs for "Sesame Street," and received six Emmy nominations and one win for his song with will.i.am, "What I Am."

THAYNE JASPERSON (*Ensemble*) has performed on Broadway in *Matilda The Musical* and *Newsies The Musical*. His film and television credits include *High School Musical*, "SMASH," "Submissions Only," and he was featured on Season 4 of "So You Think You Can Dance."

JASMINE CEPHAS JONES (*Peggy Schuyler, Maria Reynolds*) went to Berklee College of Music for vocal performance and The Neighborhood Playhouse for Theater. She is a member of the LAByrnth Theater Company. Her theater credits include *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (Atlantic Theater). Her film and television credits include *Untitled Noah Baumbach*, *Titus* (Dakus Films UK), "Blue Bloods" (CBS), "Unforgettable" (CBS), "The Blacklist" (NBC).

STEPHANIE KLEMONS (*Swing*) has appeared on Broadway in *If/Then*; *Bring It On: The Musical*; and *In the Heights*. She has also appeared Off-Broadway in *In the Heights*. She has toured nationally in *Bombay Dreams* and *Tea with Chachaji*, and appeared regionally in *Fly: A Peter Pan Musical*, *Automatic Superstar*, and *Zelda: An American Musical*. Her film credits include *Jaaneman* and *Pa Rum Pum*.

JAVIER MUÑOZ (*Hamilton Standby*) has performed on Broadway in *In The Heights*. His Off-Broadway credits include *In The Heights*, *The Porch*, and NYMF 2006 *All Is Love*. His television credits include Nickelodeon's "Umizumis."

OKIERIETE ONAODOWAN (*Hercules Mulligan, James Madison*) has performed on Broadway in *Rocky* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and Off-Broadway as Luce in *Luce*. His film and television credits include *Thanks for Sharing*, "Gravity," and "Blue Bloods."

LESLIE ODOM JR. (*Aaron Burr*) was last seen in City Center Encores' *Tick Tick...Boom!* this past summer alongside Lin-Manuel Miranda. He has previously appeared at The Public in *Venice*. Broadway credits include *Leap of Faith* and *Rent*. His select film and television credits include *Red Tails*; "SMASH"; "Person of Interest"; "Supernatural"; "Grey's Anatomy"; and "Law & Order: SVU."

ANTHONY RAMOS (*John Laurens, Philip Hamilton*) has performed in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* and in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Philadelphia, as well as in Play Pen's *Mr. Wheeler's*. His film credits include *Smile*.

JON RUA (*Ensemble*) has appeared on Broadway in *Hands on a Hardbody* and *In the Heights*. He has appeared Off-Broadway in *Kung Fu* and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. His film and television credits include *Fall to Rise* and "Law & Order."

PHILLIPA SOO (*Eliza Hamilton*) recently appeared Off-Broadway in *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812* and has appeared regionally in *School For Wives*. Her television credits include "SMASH" and "Keep the Change."

SETH STEWART (*Ensemble*) has appeared on Broadway in *In the Heights* and *Sweet Charity*. He has also appeared Off-Broadway in *In the Heights*. His film and television credits include *Friends with Benefits*, *Inside a Change*, *Music and Lyrics*, "SMASH," and "Saturday Night Live."

BETSY STRUXNESS (*Ensemble*) has appeared on Broadway in *Wicked*, *Memphis*, *Leap of Faith*, *Scandalous*, and *Matilda the Musical*. She has toured nationally in *Wicked*, *All Shook Up*, and *Oklahoma!* She has appeared on television in "Louie" and "Law & Order: SVU."

EPHRAIM SYKES (*Ensemble*) has appeared on Broadway in *Motown the Musical*, *Newsies the Musical*, *Memphis*, and *The Little Mermaid*. His film and television credits include *Leave It on the Floor*, *Dance Flick*, "30 Rock," "SMASH," "It Could Be Worse," and "NYC 22."

VOLTAIRE WADE-GREENE (*Swing*) has appeared regionally with the Charlottesville Ballet Ensemble; Circus Nexus' "Rites and Rituals" and "Sugar Plum Dreams"; Contrast Dance Theater; and the Taj Mahal New Year's Ball. He has appeared on television in "SMASH."

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

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 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 an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library, designed by the Rockwell Group. 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.

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