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DEEP HISTORY PRESS KIT

THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES TWO-WEEK EXTENSION FOR NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF *DEEP HISTORY*

Written and Performed by David Finnigan

Performances Begin with a Joseph Papp Free Preview Performance

On Saturday, October 5 and Run Through Sunday, November 10;

Official Press Opening on Thursday, October 10

September 26, 2024 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) will begin performances for the North American premiere of **DEEP HISTORY**, a solo show by Australian playwright and performer **David Finnigan**, with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Saturday, October 5. An urgent and personal retelling of how we've reached the brink of unthinkable climate disaster, **DEEP HISTORY** comes to New York following acclaimed runs at Edinburgh Fringe, London's Barbican Centre, and Canberra Theatre Centre. **DEEP HISTORY** will officially open in the Shiva Theater on Thursday, October 10. Originally scheduled to close on Sunday, October 27, the production has now been extended through Sunday, November 10.

At the end of 2019, in the English countryside, Australian playwright **David Finnigan** began writing a play about the six turning points that have brought us to this moment in time—our ecosystems transformed, our planet on the brink of unthinkable climate disaster. But then Finnigan's hometown of Canberra was hit by bushfires. As an area the size of England burned and one billion animals perished, he started to receive texts from loved ones racing to evacuate amid the devastation. In a performance that interweaves 75,000 years of humanity with the incredibly personal account of his best friend's escape, Finnigan calls on scientific research, phone footage, and a very personal story to illuminate the transforming planet and how we've arrived here. An extraordinary ride through human history, **DEEP HISTORY** is shot through with humor and glowing with hope.

The production includes video design by **Hayley Egan**, music by **Reuben Ingall**, and direction by **Annette Mees**. **Buzz Cohen** is the production stage manager.

The Public's 2024-2025 Season began with the North American premiere of **COUNTING AND CRACKING**, a **Belvoir St Theatre** and **Kurinji** co-production of the epic play written and associate directed by **S. Shakthidharan** and directed and associate written by **Eamon Flack**, which just completed its run at NYU Skirball. Currently running at The Public's home on Astor Place is the New York premiere of **GOOD BONES**, a sharp, funny new work about gentrification and the growing price of the American dream written by Pulitzer Prize winner **James Ijames** and directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director **Saheem Ali**. Next, Australian playwright **David Finnigan** brings his play **DEEP HISTORY**, an urgent and personal retelling of how we've reached the brink of unthinkable climate disaster, to New York. **Elevator Repair Service's GATZ** returns to The Public in November for a final New York

City encore of the acclaimed production, a thrilling enactment of *The Great Gatsby*.

Tied to the upcoming 2024 Election, The Public will also present a series of programming entitled **THE POLITICS OF NOW**, which will include week-long presentations of **THE FORD/HILL PROJECT** (a **Waterwell** production co-presented by The Public and **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**) and **GUAC**, written and performed by **Manuel Oliver**. There will also be a one-night-only free screening of **Theater on Podil's** production of **Richard Nelson's CONVERSATIONS IN TUSCULUM** in Kyiv, Ukraine.

With Ma-Yi Theater Company and La Jolla Playhouse, The Public kicks off 2025 with **SUMO**, a mesmerizing new drama set in the sacred world of Sumo wrestling by **Lisa Sanaye Dring**. The Astor Place season continues with **GLASS. KILL. WHAT IF IF ONLY. IMP.**, a quartet of inventive plays written by groundbreaking playwright **Caryl Churchill** and directed by **James Macdonald**. Finally, the season will conclude with the New York Premiere of **GODDESS**, a new musical and a rousing tale of romance, the supernatural, and the quest towards one's truest self. The production is conceived and directed by Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director **Saheem Ali**, features music and lyrics by **Michael Thurber**, a book by Tony Award nominee **Jocelyn Bioh**, and choreography by **Darrell Grand Moultrie**. The Public will also produce a world premiere audio play of **LET'S KEEP DANCING: A Death Row Story** by **John Purugganan** about two souls fighting to survive death row.

Following a significant revitalization, The Delacorte Theater, home of Free Shakespeare in the Park, will reopen in Summer 2025 with a production of Shakespeare's classic comedy **TWELFTH NIGHT**, also directed by The Public's Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director, Tony Award nominee **Saheem Ali**, and featuring an all-star cast of Public Theater alumni, including **Peter Dinklage**, **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**, **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Sandra Oh**, and more to be announced soon.

The Library serves food and drink beginning at 6:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays. For more information, visit publictheater.org.

BIOS:

DAVID FINNIGAN (*Playwright and Performer*) is a playwright and game designer from Ngunnawal country in Australia. He works with climate and earth scientists to create theater and games about complex systems and planetary transformation. In 2023, Finnigan's play *Scenes from the Climate Era* premiered at the Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney. His 2022 solo show *Deep History* was awarded a Scotsman Fringe First award. Finnigan was awarded Melbourne's Green Room Award for Best Writing for *Are You Ready to Take the Law Into Your Own Hands* in 2021. His playscript *Kill Climate Deniers* was awarded the 2017 Griffin Award. His play *44 Sex Acts In One Week* was nominated for the Soho Theatre's Verity Bargate Award, the Patrick White Award, and the Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award. Finnigan has worked with scientists from institutions including University College London, the Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Australian Academy of Science, the Wellcome Trust, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

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 Lab, 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 musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Suffs* by

Shaina Taub, and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 194 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 65 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Anthony Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards and we pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

The LuEsther T. Mertz Legacy Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

TICKET INFORMATION

DEEP HISTORY begins performances in the Shiva Theater on Saturday, October 5 and will officially open on Thursday, October 10. Originally scheduled to close on Sunday, October 27, the production has now been extended through Sunday, November 10.

Public Theater Partner, Supporter, and full-price single tickets can be accessed by visiting publictheater.org, calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will offer free tickets to the performance on Saturday, October 5 through TodayTix. The lottery will open for entries on Saturday, September 28 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on the day before the performance. Winners will be notified by email and push notification anytime from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and if selected, winners will have one hour to claim their tickets.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (*There will be no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 5.*)

The **Open Captioned** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. The performance on Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m. will **require patrons to wear masks**. There will be an **American Sign Language** interpreted performance on Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. The **Audio Described** performance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26.

The full performance calendar can be found at publictheater.org.

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