



PRESS CONTACT:

press@publictheater.org // 212-539-8642

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES
ONE-WEEK EXTENSION FOR
NEW YORK PREMIERE OF
*SOFT POWER***

THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Play and Lyrics by David Henry Hwang
Music and Additional Lyrics by Jeanine Tesori
Choreography by Sam Pinkleton
Directed by Leigh Silverman**

Joseph Papp Free Preview Performance on Tuesday, September 24

September 11, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced a one-week extension of the New York premiere of ***SOFT POWER***, with play and lyrics by Tony Award winner **David Henry Hwang** and music and additional lyrics by Tony Award winner **Jeanine Tesori**, with choreography by Tony nominee **Sam Pinkleton**. A co-commission and co-production with Center Theatre Group, Tony nominee **Leigh Silverman** directs this groundbreaking new musical-within-a-play. ***SOFT POWER*** begins with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance on Tuesday, September 24 in The Public's Newman Theater and will now run through Sunday, November 10, with an official press opening on Tuesday, October 15.

The complete cast of ***SOFT POWER*** includes Billy Bustamante (*Xue Xing Standby*), Jon Hoche (*Chief Justice/Hāli Aòhālā/Ensemble*), Kendyl Ito (*Jing/Prof. Lǐ Bìyù/Ensemble*), Francis Jue (*DHH*), Austin Ku (*Bobby Bob/Jū Míng*), Raymond J. Lee (*Randy Ray/Yáo Tuō/Veep/Ensemble*), Alyse Alan Louis (*Zoe/Hillary*), Jaygee Macapugay (*Betsy/Lóng Lín Kūn/Ensemble*), Daniel May (*Ensemble*), Paul HeeSang Miller (*Ensemble*), Kristen Faith Oei (*Ensemble*), Geena Quintos (*Airport Greeter/Ensemble*), Conrad Ricamora (*Xue Xing*), Trevor Salter (*Ensemble*), Kyra Smith (*Ensemble*), Emily Stillings (*Swing*), Emily Trumble (*Zoe/Hillary Standby*), and John Yi (*Swing*).

Tony Award winners David Henry Hwang and Jeanine Tesori bring their groundbreaking new musical-within-a-play to The Public for its New York premiere. One of the most exciting theatrical collaborations in recent memory, ***SOFT POWER*** is an exploration of America's current place in the world, told through an East-West musical from China's point of view, in which a theater producer from Shanghai forges a powerful bond with Hillary Clinton. ***SOFT POWER*** is a fever dream of modern American politics amidst global conversations, asking us all—why do we love democracy? And should we?

SOFT POWER features orchestrations by Danny Troob; music direction and supervision by Chris Fenwick; dance arrangements by John Clancy; scenic design by Clint Ramos; costume design by Anita Yavich;

lighting design by Mark Barton; sound design by Kai Harada; sound effects design by Bart Fasbender; video design by Bryce Cutler; hair, wig, and makeup design by Tom Watson; special effects by Lillis Meeh; music contracting by Antoine Silverman; and additional orchestrations by Larry Hochman and John Clancy.

DAVID HENRY HWANG (*Play & Lyrics*)'s plays include *M. Butterfly*, *Yellow Face*, *Chinglish*, *Golden Child*, *The Dance and the Railroad*, and *FOB*. His Broadway musicals include the books for *Aida* (co-author), *Flower Drum Song* (2002 revival), and *Disney's Tarzan*. America's most-produced living opera librettist (two Grammy Awards), Hwang has worked since 2015 as a writer/producer for the Golden Globe-winning TV series, "The Affair." He serves on the board of the Lark, as Chair of the American Theatre Wing, and as Head of Playwriting at Columbia University. Hwang is a Tony Award winner and three-time nominee, a three-time Obie Award winner, and a two-time Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama.

JEANINE TESORI (*Music & Additional Lyrics*)'s Broadway credits include *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award winner, Pulitzer finalist); *Violet*, *Caroline, or Change*; *Shrek The Musical*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Twelfth Night* (Lincoln Center Theater); and John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. Tesori also collaborated with Tony Kushner on *Mother Courage* starring Meryl Streep at The Delacorte. Her opera credits include *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto by Tony Kushner, Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me* (libretto by J. D. McClatchy; Washington National Opera), as well as the upcoming *Blue* (libretto by Tazewell Thompson, Glimmerglass) and a commission from the Metropolitan Opera. Her songs are featured in the Netflix revival of "Gilmore Girls." She is the co-founder of A Broader Way, an arts empowerment program for girls from underserved communities; the founding artistic director of Encores! Off-Center; and a lecturer in music at Yale University and Columbia University.

SAM PINKLETON (*Choreographer*) directed Elizabeth Swados' *Runaways* at The Delacorte in 2018. As a choreographer, his work on Broadway includes *Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812* (Tony nomination), *Amélie*, *Significant Other*, *Machinal*, and *Heisenberg*. Sam has made new shows, parties, and dances at BAM, Soho Rep, The Dutch National Opera, Carnegie Hall, Playwrights Horizons, City Center Encores Off-Center, Center Theatre Group, American Repertory Theater, Arena Stage, McCarter Theater, Berkeley Rep, and The New Museum, and is a frequent collaborator with Pig Iron Theatre Company and The Dance Cartel. Artist in Residence at Pace University. Education: NYU. Former Public Theater Intern.

LEIGH SILVERMAN (*Director*) directed *Soft Power* by Jeanine Tesori/David Henry Hwang (CTG/Curran). Broadway credits include *Grand Horizons* (upcoming 2ST), *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Studio 54), *Violet* (Roundabout, Tony nomination), *Chinglish*, *Well*. Recent credits include *Grand Horizons* (WTF); *Harry Clarke* (Vineyard Theater/Audible/Minetta Lane, Lortel nomination); *Hurricane Diane* (NYTW/Two River), *Wild Goose Dreams* (The Public/La Jolla); *The Outer Space, No Place to Go* (The Public); *Sweet Charity* (New Group); *All The Ways To Say I Love You* (MCC); *The Way We Get By* (2ST); *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb); *Kung Fu, Golden Child* (Signature); *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* (Playwrights Horizons); *In The Wake* (CTG/Berkeley/Public; Obie, Lortel nomination); *Yellow Face* (CTG/The Public). 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

THE PUBLIC is theater of, by, and for all people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, 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 Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, 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 musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Simon Stephens and Nick Payne's *Sea Wall/A Life* featuring Jake Gyllenhaal and Tom Sturridge. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 178 Obie Awards, 53 Drama Desk Awards, 56 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. PublicTheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION

SOFT POWER will begin with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance on Tuesday, September 24 in The Public's Newman Theater. The New York premiere has been extended one week through Sunday, November 10, with an official press opening on Tuesday, October 15.

Public Theater Partner and Supporter, and full price tickets 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 The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (*There is no 2:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, September 28 and Saturday, November 2. There is no 8:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, November 3. The performance on Thursday, September 26 will be at 7:30 p.m. The performance on Tuesday, October 22 will be at 7:00 p.m.*)

The **open captioning** performance will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. The **audio described** performance will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26.

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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