



**THE PUBLIC THEATER
BEGINS PERFORMANCES FOR
WORLD PREMIERE OF
THE MICHAELS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**Written and Directed by Richard Nelson
As a Part of the Acclaimed Rhinebeck Panorama**

Joseph Papp Free Preview Performance on Saturday, October 19

October 3, 2019 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) will begin performances for the world premiere of ***THE MICHAELS***, written and directed by Tony Award winner Richard Nelson, on Saturday, October 19 in The Public’s LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance. ***THE MICHAELS***, originally scheduled to close on November 17, has been extended one week, and will now run through Sunday, November 24, with an official press opening on Sunday, October 27.

The complete cast of ***THE MICHAELS*** features **Charlotte Bydwell** (*Lucy Michael*), **Haviland Morris** (*Irenie Walker*), **Maryann Plunkett** (*Kate Harris*), **Matilda Sakamoto** (*May Smith*), **Jay O. Sanders** (*David Michael*), **Brenda Wehle** (*Rose Michael*), and **Rita Wolf** (*Sally Michael*).

Part of Nelson’s critically acclaimed RHINEBECK PANORAMA, which includes *The Apple Family Plays* and *The Gabriels*, this new drama places the audience directly into the kitchen of Rose Michael, a celebrated choreographer. Dinner is cooked, modern dances are rehearsed, and the meal is eaten—all amidst conversations about art, death, family, dance, politics, the state of America, and how the world sees our country, and a host of everyday questions that make up the richness of ordinary life. With grace and depth, Nelson once again creates an intricate, moving snapshot of modern-day America. Laced with humor and heartbreak, ***THE MICHAELS*** is a beautiful new play, illustrating the rich humanity within the incidental moments of one day.

THE MICHAELS will feature scenic design by Jason Ardizzone-West, co-costume design by Susan Hilferty and Mark Koss, lighting design by Jennifer Tipton, sound design by Scott Lehrer, dance coaching by Sara Rudner based on original choreography by Dan Wagoner, and choreography consulting by Gwyneth Jones.

RICHARD NELSON (*Playwright and Director*)’s plays include *Illyria*, *The Gabriels*, *The Apple Family Plays*, *Nikolai And The Others*, *Farewell To The Theatre*, *Conversations In Tusculum*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere* (Olivier Award Best Play), *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony nomination, Best Play), *Some Americans Abroad* (Olivier nomination, Best Comedy), and others. His musicals include James Joyce’s *The Dead* (with Shaun Davey, Tony Award Best Book of a Musical); his screenplays include *Hyde Park on Hudson* (Roger Michell, director). With Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, he has co-

translated plays by Chekhov, Gogol, Turgenev and Bulgakov. He is an honorary associate artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company and recipient of the PEN/Laura Pels "Master Playwright" Award.

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. 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

THE MICHAELS will begin performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall on Saturday, October 19 with a Joseph Papp Free Preview performance. **THE MICHAELS** has been extended one week and will now run through Sunday, November 24, with an official press opening on Sunday, October 27.

Continuing The Public's mission to make great theater accessible to all, the Joseph Papp Free Preview Initiative continues this fall; free tickets to the preview on Saturday, October 19 will be available beginning October 13 via TodayTix mobile lottery, and on October 19 via the lottery in the lobby of The Public Theater, with entries starting at 11 a.m. and winners drawn at 12 p.m. (noon).

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 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (*There are no matinee performances in October. There is no 1:30 p.m. performance on Sunday, November 17.*)

The **open captioning** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 9. The **audio described** performance will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 16.

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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