

PRESS CONTACT:

press@publictheater.org // 212-539-8624

**THE PUBLIC THEATER
ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR
WE ARE ONE PUBLIC
FREE ONE-NIGHT-ONLY VIRTUAL EVENT
MONDAY, JUNE 1**

**Hosted by Jesse Tyler Ferguson
Directed by Kenny Leon
Music Direction by Ted Sperling**

**Special Performances and Appearances by
Antonio Banderas, Laura Benanti, Kim Blanck,
Ally Bonino, Danielle Brooks, Glenn Close, Jenn Colella,
Elvis Costello, Claire Danes, Holly Gould, Danai Gurira,
Anne Hathaway, Stephanie Hsu, Oscar Isaac,
Nikki M. James, John Leguizamo, Audra McDonald,
Grace McLean, Sandra Oh, Mia Pak, David Hyde Pierce,
Phillipa Soo, Trudie Styler & Sting, Will Swenson,
Shaina Taub, Kuhoo Verma, Ada Westfall,
Kate Wetherhead, and More**

**Evening to Celebrate Honorees Audrey & Zygi Wilf
and Artistic Honoree Sam Waterston**

May 12, 2020 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced today that ***WE ARE ONE PUBLIC***, a one-night-only star-studded virtual event to support The Public Theater, will take place on **Monday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m. ET**. Hosted by Public alum **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**, the evening will feature special performances and appearances by Public artists through songs, stories, and more, along with a special tribute to this year's honorees **Sam Waterston** and **Audrey & Zygi Wilf**. Directed by Tony Award winner **Kenny Leon**, with music direction by Tony Award winner **Ted Sperling**, this year, the highly anticipated gala moves to a digital platform for the first time ever, inviting viewers from coast to coast and around the world to join. Free and open to all, the event will be livestreamed on The Public's website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

WE ARE ONE PUBLIC will include performances and appearances by **Antonio Banderas, Laura**

Benanti, Kim Blanck, Ally Bonino, Danielle Brooks, Glenn Close, Jenn Colella, Elvis Costello, Claire Danes, Holly Gould, Danai Gurira, Anne Hathaway, Stephanie Hsu, Oscar Isaac, Nikki M. James, John Leguizamo, Audra McDonald, Grace McLean, Sandra Oh, Mia Pak, David Hyde Pierce, Phillipa Soo, Trudie Styler & Sting, Will Swenson, Shaina Taub, Kuhoo Verma, Ada Westfall, Kate Wetherhead, and more. Anne McPherson will serve as production stage manager.

This one-night-only special event will honor **Audrey & Zygi Wilf**, valued members of The Public Theater community whose commitment to arts and culture, education, and humanitarian causes have created a lasting impact in New York City and beyond. Actor, advocate, and active member of the Board of Trustees **Sam Waterston** will be the artistic honoree. His longstanding support and partnership of The Public is unmatched, performing in 13 productions since 1963, including *Much Ado About Nothing* (1972), *Measure for Measure* featuring Meryl Streep (1976), *King Lear* (2011), *The Tempest* (2015), and more. The evening will be hosted by Co-Chairs **Kwame Anthony Appiah, Candia Fisher, Joanna Fisher, Laure Sudreau,** and **Lynne Wheat**.

The June 1 event is free for all, but there are many ways to support and receive access to pre-show benefits. The **WE ARE ONE PUBLIC** program will be complemented by an online auction which will open a week before the event. Auction items range from virtual artist meet-and-greets to master classes and private performances. To support, or for questions about the event, please go to publictheater.org, email gala@publictheater.org, or call (212) 539-8634.

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 *Girl From the North Country*. 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, 58 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

CONNECT WITH US

Facebook.com/PublicTheater

Twitter | @PublicTheaterNY

Instagram | @PublicTheaterNY

#