



FORWARD

TOGETHER

THE PUBLIC.

**A look back at The Public
March 2020–December 2021**

Pictured: Joshua Echebiri in MERRY WIVES, photo by Joan Marcus

COVID-19 closed The Public's doors on March 12, 2020. From that moment through the end of 2021, The Public Theater devoted itself to:

MAKING ART

CIVIC ORGANIZING

SUPPORTING



**ARTISTS &
COMMUNITIES**

**EMPOWERING
EQUITY**

**BRINGING SAFE,
LIVE
PERFORMANCES BACK TO NYC**

Throughout this time, The Public:

EMPLOYED MORE THAN

1,700 ARTISTS

PRODUCED MORE THAN

50 SHOWS

& EVENTS

VIEWED BY

500K

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

FROM

65 COUNTRIES



**The Public produced one
of the first digital plays:**

RICHARD NELSON'S

**WHAT DO WE
NEED**

**WHAT DO WE
NEED TO TALK ABOUT?**

**Written & Directed
by Richard Nelson**

THE APPLE FAMILY: CONVERSATIONS ON ZOOM

**Streamed April 29–
June 28, 2020
Reached over
100,000 people
in 36 countries**

Pictured: Sally Murphy, Jay O. Sanders, Maryann Plunkett, Lalia Robins, and Stephen Kunken
in WHAT DO WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT, photos courtesy of The Public Theater

We banded together with

THE PUBLIC. **WNYC** **ALL★ARTS**



PUBLIC

THEATER,

RADIO &

TELEVISION



**TO MAKE NEW WORK
AND CONNECT
ARTISTS TO AUDIENCES
AROUND THE WORLD.**

**Radio play broadcast on
WNYC from July 13–16,
2020 and streamed
nationwide on hundreds
of public radio channels**

**FREE SHAKESPEARE
ON THE RADIO**

RICHARD

**By William Shakespeare
Conceived for the Radio and
Directed by Saheem Ali
Produced in partnership with WNYC**



Pictured: Miriam Hyman, photo by The Riker Brothers; André Holland, photo by Dylan Coulter

MORE INFO

PUBLIC WORKS'

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Documentary film tracking the creation of Public Works' AS YOU LIKE IT

NY Premiere on October 7, 2020, aired nationwide on hundreds of public television channels and streamed on All Arts



Pictured: Naomi Pierre and Shaina Taub in Public Works' AS YOU LIKE IT, photos by Tam Shell and Joan Marcus

MORE INFO

In March 2020, The Public created a

FREELANCE THEATER- MAKER RELIEF FUND



WE DISTRIBUTED

\$1.2M

IN RELIEF
GRANTS

TO

1,200+

INDEPENDENT
THEATER-
MAKERS

ROMEO



**A bilingual Spanish/
English radio play
presented in partnership
with WNYC Studios.
Premiered March 18, 2021**

**By William Shakespeare
Adapted by Saheem Ali
& Ricardo Pérez González
Based on the Spanish Translation
by Alfredo Michel Modenessi
Directed by Saheem Ali,
Featuring Lupita Nyong'o**

JULIETA

MORE INFO

**A world-premiere docu-play crafted
from firsthand interviews with NYC
medical first responders during the
COVID-19 pandemic**

**Premiered
July 8, 2020**

L THE M E



**Written by
Jessica Blank
and Erik Jensen
Directed by
Jessica Blank
Original Composition
by Aimee Mann &
Jonathan Coulton
Produced by
Michael Penn**

MORE INFO

**In June 2020,
The Public
created a
Public Works**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

WE DISTRIBUTED NEARLY

\$400K

TO

300⁺

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS**

4

**COMMUNITY
ARTS
ORGANIZATIONS**

8

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMUNITY
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**

10

**PUBLIC WORKS
NATIONAL
PARTNERS**

&

**WE KEPT MAKING
ART TOGETHER**

A national public visual art project that asked Public Works community members to finish the sentence: “Today I am planting a seed of...”



PUBLIC WORKS'

THE SEED PROJECT

**NYC Premiere
October 29, 2020**

**Projections featuring
164 members of the
New York Public
Works community**

Pictured: Bianca Edwards in Public Works' THE SEED PROJECT, photo by Peter Cooper

MORE INFO

**Performed by the Hunts
Point Children's
Shakespeare Ensemble**

**Featuring the 4th, 5th & 6th
graders of the Hunts Point
Alliance for Children**

A M M I D



SUMMER

**NIGHT'S
DREAM**

Digital Premiere June 30, 2021

**The Public is a civic pillar of
NYC. In 2020, we worked to:**

**GET
OUT
THE**

WVOTE,

DRIVE

CENSUS

PARTICIPATION,

**AND SUPPORT
OUR CITY'S
DEMANDS FOR**

JUSTICE



**A VOTER REGISTRATION
& CENSUS INFO POP UP**

September 26, 2020

RUCMIS

**Featuring live performances by
Laurie Anderson, Arto Lindsay,
and Ryuichi Sakamoto**



Pictured: Laurie Anderson, photo by Alaric Campbell

MORE INFO

We joined a city-wide call for theaters to open their lobbies as safe spaces during summer 2020 demonstrations for justice in NYC.

June–July 2020



OPEN YOUR LOBBY

OPEN FOR
50 DAYS

SERVED
5,000 PEOPLE

SHARED
1,000 FREE MEALS

**In 2020, The Public
joined our field in
demanding greater
justice and equity
in theater.**

THE PUBLIC THEATER

ANTI-RACISM

&

CULTURAL

TRANSFORMATION

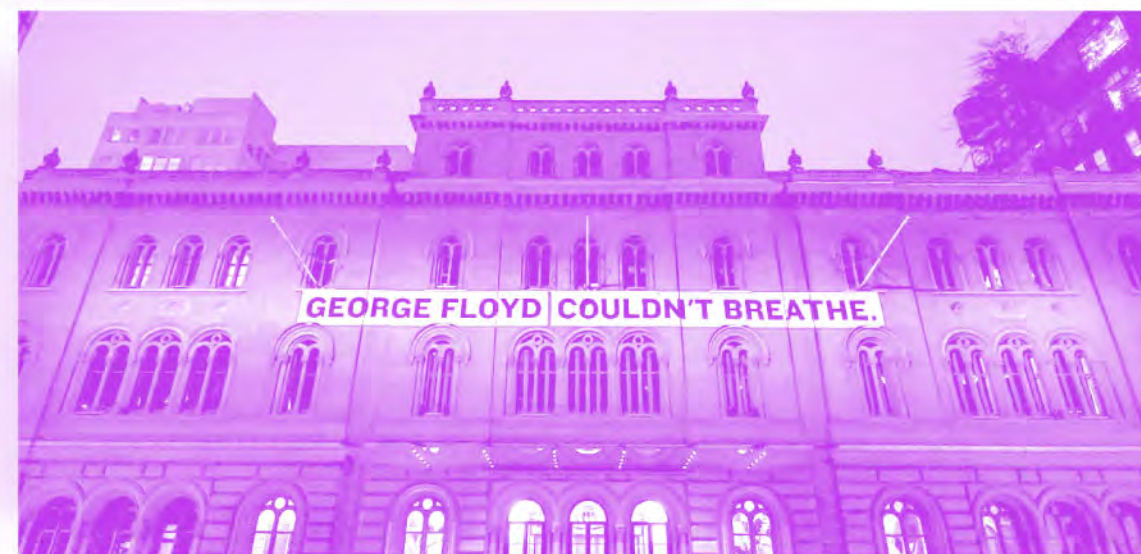
PLAN

MORE INFO

**A visual installation on The Public's
façade dedicated to the Black lives lost
to police brutality and white violence**

SAY THEIR NAMES

**Curated by Garlia Cornelia Jones
Designed by Lucy Mackinnon
Premiered October 26, 2020**



SAY THEIR NAMES



In the summer of 2021, The Public helped lead New York's return to large-scale, live performances with

THE RETURN OF

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK



Pictured: The path to FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK, photo by Tam Shell

MORE INFO

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

64 free performances
& more than 80,000
tickets distributed

July 6-September 18, 2021

MERRY WIVES

By William
Shakespeare
Adapted by
Jocelyn Bioh
Directed by
Saheem Ali

MORE INFO



**The Public partnered
with Downtown
Community Television
Center Inc. to document
the journey of Free
Shakespeare in the Park**

REOPENING

HBO Premiere December 20, 2021

NIGHT



Pictured: Cast members in MERRY WIVES, photo by Joan Marcus

MORE INFO

★ In September 2021, The Public's celebratory **Gala** honored founder **Joe Papp** and presented our first annual

COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP
★ AWARD



★ Inaugural Community Leadership Award Winner
Ms. Vivian Jett Brown,
Recreation Director at
Brownsville Recreation Center

The Mobile Unit toured with the NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE's Stage for Healing and Resilience, Malik Work's VERSES @ WORK—THE ABRIDGED MIX, Patricia McGregor's SHAKESPEARE: CALL AND RESPONSE & the PEOPLE'S BUS.

18 free performances at 8 community venues

SUMMER OF JOY

July 6–September 18, 2021

MORE INFO

Pictured: Sofia Jean Gomez, Teresa Avia Lim, Reza Salazar, and Malik Work in Mobile Unit's SUMMER OF JOY, photo by Tam Shell

**In the Fall of 2021,
Joe's Pub welcomed
back live audiences
to its one-of-a-kind
performance venue.**



Pictured: Justin Vivian Bond, photo by Raven Afanador; The Illustrious Blacks, photo by Charles Meacham; Bridget Everett, photo by Tam Shell

MORE INFO

In October 2021, The Public kicked off a Fall season of live, performances with two world premieres:

A NEW MUSICAL

THE VISITOR

October 14–December 5, 2021

**Music by Tom Kitt, Lyrics by Brian Yorkey
Book by Kwame Kwei-Armah & Brian Yorkey
Choreography by Lorin Latarro
Directed by Daniel Sullivan**

**Based on the Groundswell Productions and Participant
Mediamotion picture written by Thomas McCarthy**

MORE INFO



A NEW PLAY

CULLUD WATTAH

November 2–December 12, 2021

**By Erika Dickerson-Despenza
Directed by Candis C. Jones**



MORE INFO

NO ONE **OF THIS**
WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!



Pictured: Jacob Ming-Trent and Susan Kelechi Watson in MERRY WIVES, photo by Joan Marcus

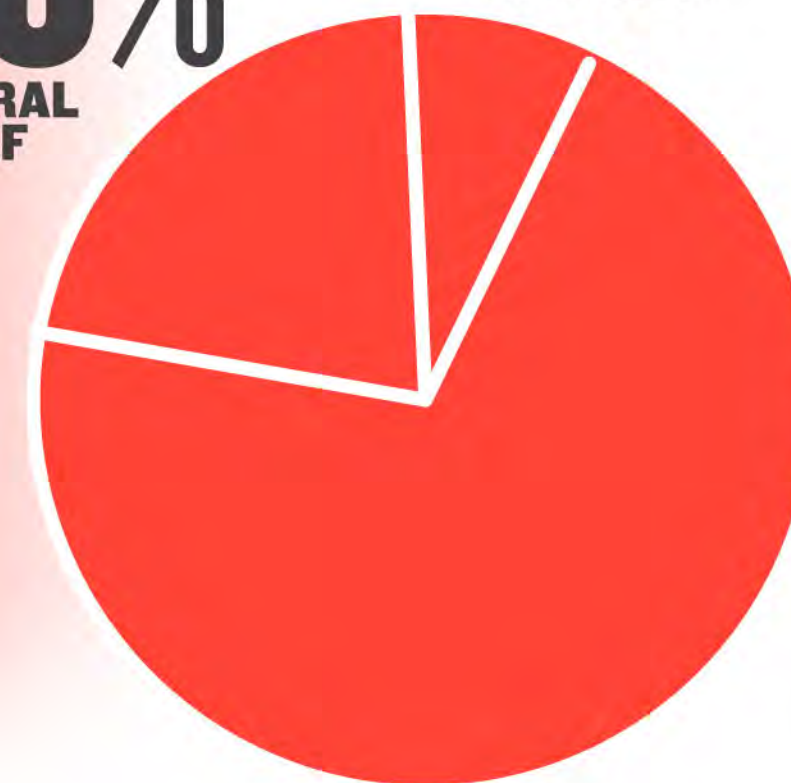
Over the past 2 years,
The Public's activities
and operations cost
more than 68M.
Funding for our work
came overwhelmingly
FROM

SUPPORTERS

LIKE YOU

20%
FEDERAL
RELIEF

10%
EARNED
REVENUE



70%
DONATIONS
FROM
SUPPORTERS
LIKE YOU

**THE PUBLIC
THEATER**

BELONGS TO

**THE PEOPLE OF
NEW YORK.**

**MEET OUR
DONORS** here



Pictured: David Hyde Pierce and Ahmad Makhsoud in THE VISITOR, photo by Joan Marcus

**Throughout every challenge
of the past two years,
one thing has remained true:
we moved forward, together.**

THANK

YOU

**FOR BEING
A PART OF
THE PUBLIC!**

