

THE PUBLIC THEATER
EXTENDS
GROUND
WITH ANNE HATHAWAY
TO SUNDAY, MAY 24

Written by George Brant
Directed by Julie Taymor

Special Public Forum “Our Drone War”
Announced For May 19

Public Theater Partners With
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

April 15, 2015 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) announced a one-week extension today for George Brant’s ***GROUND***, directed by two-time Tony Award winner **Julie Taymor** and featuring Academy Award winner **Anne Hathaway**. ***GROUND*** began previews on Tuesday, April 7 and will now run an additional week through Sunday, May 24 in the Anspacher Theater, with an official press opening on Sunday, April 26.

A special Public Forum has also been announced to coincide with ***GROUND***, “Our Drone War,” on **May 19 at 7:00 p.m.** A devastating weapon that also keeps our soldiers out of harm’s way – the ultimate military dream. But the reality of drone warfare isn’t at all what we imagined. This topical evening will bring together a panel of experts, veterans, and thinkers including journalist **Andrew Cockburn** and former fighter pilot **Dr. Mary “Missy” Cummings** to discuss and debate the validity and morality of a war being fought out of the public eye but that is, unquestionably, Our Drone War.

The Public Theater is proud to partner with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) on this production. IAVA’s programs provide life-changing support to post-9/11 veterans. For more information, please visit iava.org.

Member tickets, starting at \$75, and single tickets, starting at \$90 for ***GROUND***, are available now and can be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street. The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drinks, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Joe’s Pub at The Public continues to offer some of the best music in the city.

In ***GROUND***, an ace fighter pilot reassigned to a remote-controlled drone faces 12-hour shifts hunting targets from her Air Force trailer followed by 12 hours in the suburbs with her family in this award-winning new play about the complicated consequences of waging war without leaving home. Named one of the Best Plays of the year by both London’s *The Evening Standard* and *The Guardian*, and winner of the Smith Prize for Political Theater.

GROUNDED features original music and soundscapes by Elliot Goldenthal; scenic design by Riccardo Hernandez, lighting design by Christopher Akerlind, sound design by Will Pickens, projection design by Peter Nigrini; and electronic music design by Richard Martinez.

GEORGE BRANT (*Playwright*). His plays include *Elephant's Graveyard*, *The Mourners' Bench*, *Any Other Name*, *Salvage*, *Grizzly Mama*, and *Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile*. A Core Writer at the Playwrights' Center, his scripts have been produced internationally by Trinity Repertory Company, the Studio Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Gate Theatre, Page 73, and the Traverse Theatre, among others. His plays have received the Smith Prize, a Fringe First Award, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, an Off-West End Theatre Award, an NNPN Rolling World Premiere and the Keene Prize for Literature. He is published by Samuel French, Oberon Books and Smith & Kraus.

JULIE TAYMOR (*Director*)'s most recent work is a cinematic version of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, filmed during her critically acclaimed, sold-out stage production that ran at Theatre for a New Audience's new home in downtown Brooklyn. The film was shown at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival as part of the Mavericks in Film Programme. In 1998, Taymor became the first woman to win the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, and won a Tony for Best Costumes, for her landmark production of *The Lion King*. The musical has gone on to become Broadway's highest grossing show and proclaimed the top grossing title of all time. Her 1996 Broadway debut, *Juan Darien: A Carnival Mass*, earned five Tony Award nominations. Other theatre credits include *The Green Bird*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Transposed Heads*, and *Liberty's Taken*. Taymor's feature films include *Titus*, starring Anthony Hopkins, Jessica Lange and Alan Cumming; the biographical film *Frida*, starring Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina, which earned six Academy Award nominations, winning two; the Beatles inspired *Across the Universe*, nominated for a Golden Globe nomination for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy; and her Helen Mirren-starring adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which had its North American premiere at the New York Film Festival following a world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival. Beyond the theatre and screen, Taymor has directed five operas internationally, including *Oedipus Rex* with Jessye Norman, for which she earned the International Classical Music Award for Best Opera Production and an Emmy for a subsequent film version; as well as *Salome*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Die Zauberflote* (in repertory at The Met), *The Magic Flute* (the abridged English version, which inaugurated a PBS series entitled "Great Performances at the MET"), and Elliot Goldenthal's *Grendel*. Taymor is a 1991 recipient of the MacArthur "genius" Fellowship.

ANNE HATHAWAY (*The Pilot*)'s theatrical credits include The Public's free Shakespeare in the Park's 2009 production of *Twelfth Night* (Drama Desk nomination) and *Carnival* at City Center Encores! (Clarence Derwent Award). Hathaway studied at The Barrow Group, NYU's Collaborative Arts Projects "CAP 21" and at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. Hathaway most recently starred in Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* alongside Matthew McConaughey, Jessica Chastain and Michael Caine. Other film credits include *Song One*, Tom Hooper's *Les Misérables* (Academy, BAFTA, SAG and Golden Globe Awards), Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises*, *One Day*, *Rio 1&2*, Ed Zwick's *Love and Other Drugs* (Golden Globe nomination), Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, Jonathan Demme's *Rachel Getting Married* (Academy Award, SAG, Golden Globe, and Independent Spirit Award nominations, NBR Best Actress); *Get Smart*; *Becoming Jane*; *The Devil Wears Prada* opposite Meryl Streep; Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* (SAG nomination Best Ensemble) and Garry Marshall's beloved *The Princess Diaries* alongside Julie Andrews. Television credits include voice work on "The Simpsons" (Emmy Award) and "Family Guy," and on the FOX series "Get Real" with Jesse Eisenberg. She recently starred opposite Robert DeNiro in Nancy Meyers' *The Intern*, and 2016 will appear in *Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass*. Hathaway is a Public Theater Board Member.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public Theater is the only theater in New York that produces Shakespeare, the classics, musicals, contemporary and experimental pieces in equal measure. The Public continues the work of its visionary founder, Joe Papp, by acting as an advocate for the theater as an essential cultural force, and leading and framing dialogue on some of the most important issues of our day. Creating theater for one of the largest and most diverse audience bases in New York City for nearly 60 years, today the Company engages

audiences in a variety of venues—including its landmark downtown home at Astor Place, which houses five theaters and Joe’s Pub; the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, home to its beloved, free Shakespeare in the Park; and the Mobile Unit, which tours Shakespearean productions for underserved audiences throughout New York City’s five boroughs. The Public’s wide range of programming includes free Shakespeare in the Park, the bedrock of the Company’s dedication to making theater accessible to all; Public Works, a new initiative that is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year; new and experimental stagings at The Public at Astor Place, including Public Lab; and a range of artist and audience development initiatives including its Public Forum series, which brings together theater artists and professionals from a variety of disciplines for discussions that shed light on social issues explored in Public productions. The Public Theater is located on property owned by the City of New York and receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and in October 2012 the landmark building downtown at Astor Place was revitalized to physically manifest the Company’s core mission of sparking new dialogues and increasing accessibility for artists and audiences, by dramatically opening up the building to the street and community, and transforming the lobby into a public piazza for artists, students, and audiences. Key elements of the revitalization included infrastructure updates to the 158-year old building, as well as construction of new exterior entry stair and glass canopy; installation of ramps for improved accessibility; an expanded and refurbished lobby; the addition of a mezzanine level with a new restaurant lounge, The Library at The Public, designed by the Rockwell Group. www.publictheater.org

The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater’s year-round activities; Bank of America, Proud Season Sponsor of Shakespeare in the Park; The Harold & Mimi Steinberg New Play Development Fund at The Public Theater Supports the Creation and Development of New Plays; The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation - Lead Supporter of The Public’s Access and Engagement Programming; The Time Warner Foundation, Founding Sponsor of The Emerging Writers Group; Delta Air Lines, Official Airline of The Public Theater; *New York Magazine* is the official print sponsor of The Public Theater’s 2014-2015 downtown season; Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency.

TICKET INFORMATION

GROUND*ED* began performances on Tuesday, April 7 in The Public’s Anspacher Theater and will now run through Sunday, May 24, with an official press opening on Sunday, April 26.

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The performance schedule is Tuesdays through Sundays at 8:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (There is no performance on Tuesday, May 19 at 8:00 p.m. There is an additional performance on Wednesday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. and the performance on Thursday, May 21 will be at 7:00 p.m.).

Tickets for the **Public Forum: Our Drone War**, priced at \$30 for Member tickets and \$40 for single tickets, are available now and can also be accessed by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.publictheater.org, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street.

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