



THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Partnership includes Arts Administration Fellowships at The Public and More, Made Possible with Generous Support from the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation and The Tow Foundation

October 23, 2023 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) and The City University of New York (CUNY) announced today an expanded partnership, further strengthening both institutions' deep commitment to fostering the professional development of talented emerging artists and arts administrators. The partnership, which invests in nurturing generations of arts leaders whose presence will help diversify the field, is made possible with the generous support of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation and the Tow Foundation.

"The Public Theater's mission is centered on the goal to serve every corner of New York City, and our expanded partnership with The City University of New York helps us do just that," said Public Theater Executive Director **Patrick Willingham**. "CUNY is an ideal educational partner to help us develop a new, highly trained and highly skilled workforce, which is a key component of our institutional Cultural Transformation Plan, and I am thrilled welcome in the new class of fellows for The Public's upcoming season. We are incredibly grateful to the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation and the Tow Foundation for their incredible support in making this endeavor possible, helping us foster new voices in the American theater."

The partnership, which focuses specifically on Hunter and Brooklyn College's undergraduate theater training programs, includes a suite of activities aiming to build a robust workforce development program. **Karla De Leon, Jay Savana, and Madison Tamayo** have been chosen as 2023-24 season's Brooklyn College Carl and Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel and Tow Fellows. As part of their six-month paid fellowships, each fellow will be engrained within specific Public Theater departments in each student's chosen discipline, providing them with robust professional development and network building opportunities to help launch their careers, and offer resources to fellows to build a portfolio of work. Hunter Fellows

"The Brooklyn College Department of Theater counts this impactful partnership with The Public Theater as one of our most successful initiatives," said **Laura L. Tesman, Chairperson of Brooklyn College's Undergraduate Theater Department**. The ability to connect students to high impact professionalization opportunities upon graduation is invaluable to our students and has become a cornerstone in realizing our expressed commitment to training the next generation of theater artists and leaders. We are ever grateful to the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation and the Tow Foundation for championing this innovative and transformative experience for our deserving graduates!"

"The Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation has had long-term interest in providing opportunities in the humanities, including the theatrical arts, while enhancing educational experiences for widely diverse communities." said **Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel**. "We are pleased to make it possible for these committed students to learn more about arts administration, through coursework, mentoring, and hands-on, real-life experience. The intention of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation's Innovation Grants program is to offer organizations the opportunity to create new programs and launch ideas that they would not normally

pursue. This progressive initiative brings together two ideas that are important to all of us – educating young people and providing work-force opportunities; we are pleased to support this important arts initiative.”

“The Tow Foundation is thrilled to have played a catalytic role in the creation of this CUNY partnership. We look forward to the many ventures that will flow from it,” said Leonard Tow, Chairman of The Tow Foundation. Emily Tow Jackson, Executive Director and President of The Tow Foundation said, “We are excited to be bringing together two leading institutions in their respective fields. Nurturing this collaboration furthers the impact of two organizations in which we invest, and all those they touch.”

CARL AND BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEN-SPIELVOGEL AND TOW FOUNDATION FELLOWS

KARLA DE LEON was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and is a recent graduate from Brooklyn College with a BA in Theater. She is an up-and-coming stage manager and hopes to be producing quality theater. At Brooklyn College, Karla stage managed productions of *Taming of the Shrew* and *The Motherf*cker with the Hat*; and assistant stage managed productions of *Concord Floral*, *L'incoronazione Di Poppea* (for the Conservatory of Music) and *Everybody*. She loves astrology, the color red, and stationary supplies. She is also interested in playwriting and hoping to share her work with world.

JAY SAVANA is a recent 2023 graduate with a BA in Theater from Brooklyn College. Although focusing primarily on scenery and stage management, he's excited to discover and experience all aspects of theater to the best of his ability. His most recent credits include *Young Frankenstein* (Automations Board Op., Suffolk County Community College); *F*cking A* (Assistant Stage Manager, Brooklyn College); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Light Board Op., Brooklyn College); and One Act Festival (Production Stage Manager, Brooklyn College). He's grateful to be collaborating and working with everyone at The Public Theater during this 2023-2024 Fellowship.

MADISON TAMAYO began producing and directing at 17 when she started her a cappella group, "Sunday Serenade." She went on to direct, produce, and choreograph a production of *Be More Chill* for the Northport Theatre Troupe at 18. At Brooklyn College, she acted in plays such as *Antigone*, *The Motherf*cker with the Hat*, and *Everybody*. As a student, she also independently produced and directed a production of *Criminal Hearts* by Jane Martin. She also had the opportunity to assistant stage manage and understudy the debut production of *My Cousin Nelu Is Not Gay* for ANTfest at Ars Nova.

THE PUBLIC THEATER 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 Lab, 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 60 Tony Awards, 190 Obie Awards, 57 Drama Desk Awards, 61 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critics Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 62 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonio Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. publictheater.org

The Public Theater stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The Public and its theaters stand—the original homeland of the Lenape people. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards and we pay our respects to the many diverse indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

The Public also gives our respect to the people of Seneca Village, a community of Black property owners who were removed from their land and whose village was destroyed in the creation of Central Park. We recognize the sacrifice that these ancestors made and honor Seneca Village's legacy.

The LuEsther T. Mertz Legacy Trust provides leadership support for The Public Theater's year-round activities.

The **Jerome L. Greene Foundation** is the proud season sponsor of Free Shakespeare in the Park.

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