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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING CAST HEADSHOTS
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING REHEARSAL PHOTOS

THE PUBLIC THEATER'S MOBILE UNIT BEGINS FREE PERFORMANCES OF *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* ACROSS ALL FIVE BOROUGHS ON THURSDAY, MAY 29

Bilingual Adaptation of Classic Romantic Comedy
Starts Free Outdoor Tour at Astor Place
As Part of SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY Summer Celebration

By William Shakespeare
Original Songs and Music by Julian Mesri
Additional Lyrics by Rebecca Martinez
Directed by Rebecca Martinez

May 28, 2025 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) begins performances this Thursday, May 29, for the 15th anniversary of **Mobile Unit** with the free, bilingual adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. Director **Rebecca Martinez** and composer **Julian Mesri** (Mobile Unit's *The Comedy of Errors*) reunite for their third consecutive year. This bilingual, 100-minute, family-friendly adaptation of the classic tale of love, deception, and misunderstandings blends Latine influences, original music, and Shakespeare's timeless wit.

After three performances at Astor Place starting on Thursday, May 29, the tour heads to The New York Public Library & Bryant Park for a week of performances. The tour continues through June 29, with stops in all five boroughs at partner locations including NYC Parks, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Queens Night Market, and more. A complete list of tour dates and additional details follow below.

"We are incredibly lucky to work with so many partners who serve and unite New Yorkers all over the city," said **Director of Civic Artistic Programs Pablo Hernandez Basulto**. "In a time of unprecedented isolation and limited spaces to find connection, it's an honor to have our theater partner with other civic institutions such as public parks, public libraries, community centers, and places of worship, demonstrating our art form must exist within our city's vital gathering forces. Next to Zumba classes, basketball lessons, and food vendors, Mobile Unit activates our theater's civic potential just as Joe Papp did many years ago."

FULL TOUR SCHEDULE:

May 29-31: Astor Place (Manhattan)
June 3-8: The New York Public Library & Bryant Park (Manhattan)
June 11: Wolfe's Pond Park (Staten Island)
June 12-14: J. Hood Wright Park (Manhattan)

June 15: The Cathedral of St. John The Divine (Manhattan)
June 17-18: Sunset Park (Brooklyn)
June 20: A.R.R.O.W. Field House (Queens)
June 21: Queens Night Market (Queens)
June 22: Roy Wilkins Park (Queens)
June 25: Maria Hernandez Park (Brooklyn)
June 26: St. Mary's Park (Bronx)
June 27: Travers Park (Queens)
June 28-29: The Peninsula in Prospect Park (Brooklyn)

More details, including performance times and how to RSVP, can be found at publictheater.org. A map of the entire tour can be found on [Google Maps](#).

ABOUT MOBILE UNIT PARTNERS:

Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private not-for-profit company, was founded in 1980 to renovate, finance, and operate Bryant Park in New York City. In addition to providing security, sanitation, and horticultural services, BPC offers restaurants, food kiosks, world-class restrooms, and a wide range of free events throughout the year. The Midtown Manhattan Park is visited by nearly 20 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world. Visit bryantpark.org for more information and a calendar of events.

Over 100 years ago, **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine** conceived its mission to be a house of prayer for all people, an instrument of church unity, and a center of intellectual light and leading in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Today, as the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of NY and seat of its bishop, the Cathedral serves the many diverse people of our diocese, city, and world through the worship of God; pastoral, educational, and community outreach activities; cultural and civic events; and the preservation of the great architectural and historic site that is its legacy.

Located in Queens, **The Fortune Society** is a nonprofit social service and advocacy organization, founded in 1967, whose mission is to support successful reentry from prison and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities. Learn more at fortunesociety.org.

For over 125 years, **The New York Public Library** has been a free provider of education and information for the people of New York and beyond. With over 90 locations—including research and branch libraries—throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, the Library offers free materials, computer access, classes, exhibitions, programming and more to everyone from toddlers to scholars. The New York Public Library receives approximately 16 million visits through its doors annually and millions more around the globe who use its resources at www.nypl.org.

NYC Parks is the steward of more than 30,000 acres of land—14 percent of New York City—including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Coney Island Beach and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds, 1,800 basketball courts, 550 tennis courts, 65 public pools, 51 recreational facilities, 15 nature centers, 14 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches. We care for 1,200 monuments and 23 historic house museums. We look after 666,000 street trees, and five million more in parks. We are New York City's principal providers of recreational and athletic facilities and programs. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals. nyc.gov/parks

Prospect Park Alliance is the non-profit organization that sustains, restores and advances Prospect Park, Brooklyn's Backyard, in partnership with the City of New York. The Alliance provides critical staff and resources that keep the park green and vibrant for the diverse communities that call Brooklyn home. The Alliance cares for the woodlands and natural areas; restores the park's buildings and landscapes; creates new park destinations; and provides free or low-cost volunteer, education and recreation programs.

Through the work of the Alliance, Prospect Park is an international model for the care of urban parks. Learn more at www.prospectpark.org.

Queens Night Market is an open-air night market featuring over 100 independent vendors selling merchandise, art, and food and featuring small-scale cultural performances, all celebrating the rich cultural diversity and heritage of NYC and Queens. Now in its tenth season, the wildly popular and uniquely affordable event has launched approximately 450 brand new businesses in NYC and represented over 95 countries through its vendors and their food. It averages around 20,000 visitors on Saturday evenings and has welcomed nearly 4 million visitors since its inception. Queens Night Market has received numerous accolades over the last decade, including being named #1 Best City Food Festival by USA Today (2024, 2025).

The **Village Alliance** supports clean, safe, and vibrant commercial corridors within Greenwich Village through supplemental sanitation and public safety services, public space improvements, and creative marketing and community-building initiatives. The Village Alliance proudly maintains and activates Astor Place—a distinct and iconic intersection of commerce and culture—in partnership with the City of New York. For more information, visit www.greenwichvillage.nyc.

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY:

The Public Theater's summer celebration of free programming brings world-class theater to audiences throughout New York City, presented by **Citizens**. Mobile Unit's **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** kicks off The Public Theater's **SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY** annual summer celebration of free theater serving over 100,000 New Yorkers across all five boroughs. In August, The Delacorte Theater will reopen after an 18-month renovation with a dazzling production of **TWELFTH NIGHT**. Finally, over Labor Day weekend, Public Works will present a choral adaptation of **PERICLES** at the awe-inspiring Cathedral of St. John the Divine, featuring 100 New Yorkers from all five boroughs. Every performance is completely free and open to all. Join The Public in celebrating the joy, power, and transformative connection of live theater. Free. For all. Forever.

ABOUT MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING:

Directed by **Rebecca Martinez** (Mobile Unit's *The Comedy of Errors*), this new take on the classic tale of love, deception, and misunderstandings blends Spanish, music, and Shakespeare's timeless wit. The complete cast of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** includes **Carlo Albán** (*Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*), **Mayelah Barrera** (*Hero*), **Daniel Bravo Hernández** (*Claudio*), **Hiram Delgado** (*Don Pedro/Verges*), **Katherine George** (*Understudy Beatrice, Hero, Margaret/Sexton, Dogberry, Don Juan/Conrade*), **Robert Marcelo Jiménez** (*Leonato/Watch*), **Keren Lugo** (*Beatrice*), **Cornelius McMoyler** (*Dogberry*), **Jonathan Gabriel Mousset** (*Understudy: Benedick, Claudio, Leonato/Watch, Don Pedro/Verges, Borachio/Friar Francis/Musician*), **Sara Ornelas** (*Margaret/Sexton*), **Martín Ortiz** (*Don Juan/Conrade*), and **Nathan M. Ramsey** (*Benedick*).

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING features scenic design by **Riw Rakkulchon**, costume design by **Christopher Vergara**, sound design by **Tye H. Fitzgerald**, music and lyrics by **Julian Mesri**, music direction by **Angela Ortiz**, prop management by **Aisha Hamida**, and intimacy and fight direction by **Judi Lewis Ockler**. **Ada Zhang** serves as production stage manager, and **Bea Perez-Arche** is the assistant stage manager.

ABOUT MOBILE UNIT:

Civic Artistic Programs is The Public Theater's hub for furthering access, civic engagement, and community focused artistic innovation, focused on building connections with community organization and their members.

Now in its 15th season, The Public Theater's **MOBILE UNIT** is a modern reimagining of Joseph Papp's Mobile Theater. Mobile Unit reaches across economic and geographic barriers to the arts by meeting our communities where they are—staging free professional theater productions and programs in local neighborhood venues such as libraries, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and community centers across all five New York City boroughs. Mobile Unit has served thousands of audiences with critically acclaimed productions, including a 2018 National tour of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat*. In 2020, Mobile Unit received a Special Drama Desk Award for its program. During the pandemic, Mobile Unit launched a digital workshop inside the NYC Department of Corrections called *Hip-Hop vs. Shakespeare*, where participants were encouraged to write their own stories. In summer 2021, Mobile Unit returned in-person with *Mobile Unit's Summer of Joy*, co-produced with National Black Theatre, popping up at public plazas in neighborhoods hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. Mobile Unit believes theater is its most powerful when it reflects and connects to the lives of our community.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER:

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 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 musicals *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and *Hell's Kitchen* by Alicia Keys and Kristoffer Diaz. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 64 Tony Awards, 195 Obie Awards, 62 Drama Desk Awards, 64 Lortel Awards, 36 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 70 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo 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.

Citizens is the presenting partner for **SHAKESPEARE FOR THE CITY**.

Leadership support for Mobile Unit is provided by the **Abrams Foundation**, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, **JetBlue Airways**, and **The Tow Foundation**.

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