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**THE PUBLIC THEATER
BEGINS PREVIEWS FOR
WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL
THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS
WITH JOSEPH PAPP FREE PERFORMANCE
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24**

Adaptation, Music, and Lyrics by Ethan Lipton
Based Upon the Play *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder
Choreography by Sunny Min-Sook Hitt
Directed by Leigh Silverman

**Performances Run Through Sunday, November 30;
Official Press Opening on Thursday, November 13**

October 16, 2025 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) begins previews for the world premiere of **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS**, the irreverently funny musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Friday, October 24. Adapted by Obie Award winner **Ethan Lipton**, choreographed by **Sunny Min-Sook Hitt**, and directed by Tony Award nominee **Leigh Silverman**, this new musical about age-old problems tells the story of the Antrobus family, who have been alive for 5,000 years but live in the same existential dread as the rest of us. **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** officially opens in The Public's Newman Theater on Thursday, November 13 and runs through Sunday, November 30.

Obie Award-winning playwright and songwriter **Ethan Lipton** and two-time Tony nominee director **Leigh Silverman** bring their irreverently funny new musical **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** to The Public this fall. A rollicking adaptation of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Skin of Our Teeth*, this new musical about age-old problems tells the twisting, often absurd story of the Antrobus family, who have been alive for 5,000 years but live in the same existential dread as the rest of us. Mired in the hot mess of their everyday worries, the Antrobuses survive all manner of catastrophes in an endless quest to begin again, and again, and again. Choreographed by **Sunny Min-Sook Hitt**, this bracingly original spectacle is a musical reminder that surviving is what we do best.

The complete cast of **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** features **Ben Beckley** (*Doctor, Animal, Broadcast Official, Ensemble*), **Kelly Belarmino** (*Understudy*), **Ally Bonino** (*Fortune Teller, Miss E. Muse, Animal*), **Bill Buell** (*Moses, Turkey, Ensemble*), **Cole Burden** (*Understudy*), **Damon Daunno** (*Henry Antrobus*), **Micaela Diamond** (*Sabina*), **Amina Faye** (*Gladys Antrobus*), **Andy Grotelueschen** (*Announcer, Animal*), **Shuler Hensley** (*Mr. Antrobus*), **Allison Ann Kelly** (*Musician, Animal, Bingo Caller, Allison, Ensemble*), **Michael Lepore** (*Telegram Boy, Homer, Animal, Ensemble*), **Nat Lopez** (*Miss M. Muse, Animal, Sharon, Ensemble*), **Ruthie Ann Miles** (*Mrs. Antrobus*), **Geena Quintos** (*Mammoth, Miss T. Muse, Pelican*),

Animal, Ensemble), **León Ramos Tak** (*Understudy*), **David Ryan Smith** (*Dinosaur, Dolphin, Larry, Ensemble*), **Ruth E. Sternberg** (*Mr. Fitzpatrick*), and **Angela Travino** (*Understudy*).

THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS features scenic design by **Lee Jellinek**; costume design by **Kaye Voyce**; lighting design by **Lap Chi Chu**; sound design by **Drew Levy**; prop management by **Claire M. Kavanah**; fight direction by **Jordan Laroya**; orchestrations, arrangements, and co-music supervision by **Daniel Kluger**; music direction, co-music supervision, and additional vocal arrangements by **Nathan Koci**; music coordination by **Tomoko Akaboshi**; and dramaturgy by **Sarah Lunnie**. **Shelley Miles** serves as production stage manager and **Caroline Englander** and **Alex Luong** as stage managers.

The Public's 2025-26 Season is underway with Emmy Award winner **John Leguizamo**'s return to The Public with the family drama **THE OTHER AMERICANS**, a gripping tale about the American dream directed by Tony Award winner **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**. Tony Award-nominated writer and director duo **Jordan E. Cooper** and **Stevie Walker-Webb** have also returned to The Public with **OH HAPPY DAY!**, featuring original music by Grammy Award-winning gospel artist **Donald Lawrence** for this biting new play about confronting the divine. The Public's collaboration with **Ma-Yi Theater Company** continues with the first of two plays in this season's residency, **DID YOU EAT? (밥 먹었니?)**, featuring playwright and performer **Zoë Kim**'s autobiographical journey through love's many forms, directed by **Chris Yejin**. **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS**, Obie Award winner **Ethan Lipton**'s irreverently funny musical adaptation of **Thornton Wilder**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning play *The Skin of Our Teeth*, makes its world premiere in a production directed by Tony nominee **Leigh Silverman**. The fall season closes out with **INITIATIVE**, a world premiere play by Emerging Writers Group alumnus **Else Went** and directed by **Emma Rosa Went** following the intertwined lives of seven teens from 2000-2004 in "Coastal Podunk, California."

The Library serves food and drink beginning at 5:00 p.m. and closing at midnight. The Library is closed on Mondays and Sundays. For more information, visit publictheater.org.

BIOS:

ETHAN LIPTON (*Adaptation, Music, Lyrics*). Off-Broadway credits include *We Are Your Robots*, *Tumacho*, *The Outer Space*, *Red-Handed Otter*, *No Place to Go*, *Luther*, and *100 Aspects of the Moon*. Lipton's awards and fellowships include the Kleban Prize, Creative Capital, Guggenheim, NYFA, Obie, MacDowell, Playwrights Realm, Ryder Farm. Lipton is a Clubbed Thumb associate and alumnus of The Public's inaugural Emerging Writers Group. Plays published by Concord. His quartet Ethan Lipton & His Orchestra has released five albums and toured the US and UK. ethanlipton.com

THORNTON WILDER (*Playwright*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*) (1897-1975) was a novelist and playwright whose work celebrates the connection between the commonplace and the cosmic dimensions of human experience. He is the only writer to win Pulitzer Prizes for both drama (*Our Town* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*) and fiction (*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*). He collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on *Shadow of a Doubt*, hiked the Alps with the heavyweight boxing champion Gene Tunney, received a Bronze Star for his service in World War II, and was credited with discovering Orson Welles. He was also a much-loved teacher, letter-writer (especially with Gertrude Stein), and public speaker—in four languages. *Hello, Dolly!* is based on his play *The Matchmaker*. Learn more about his extraordinary life at thorntonwilder.com.

SUNNY MIN-HOOK SITT (*Choreography*). The Public credits include *Soft Power* and *The Tempest*. Hitt's Broadway credits include *Oh, Mary!* and Off-Broadway credits include *Ghost of John McCain* (Soho Playhouse), *The Best We Could* (MTC), and *Snow in Midsummer* (CSC). Regional work includes *Ceilidh* (US Premiere), *As You Like It* (OSF), and *The Great Leap* (Portland Center Stage). Opera credits include *Lysistrata*, *The Magic Flute*, and *In the Green* (Mannes Opera). Commercial work includes *Untitled DanceShowPartyThing* (Virgin Voyages). In 2026, Hitt will choreograph *Come From Away* (OSF). sunnyhitt.com @sunnyminsookhitt

LEIGH SILVERMAN (*Director*). Public credits include *Well*, *Yellow Face*, *In the Wake*, *Wild Goose Dreams*, *Soft Power*, and *Suffs*; and with Ethan Lipton, *No Place to Go* and *The Outer Space*. Other work

with Ethan Lipton includes *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb) and *We Are Your Robots* (Rattlestick/TFANA). On Broadway, Silverman directed *Yellow Face* (Roundabout, Best Revival Tony nomination), *Suffs* (Tony nomination), *Grand Horizons*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Violet* (Tony nomination), *Chinglish*, and *Well*. West End credits include *Harry Clarke* (Berkeley Rep; Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nomination). Encores! credits include *Violet*, *The Wild Party*, and *Really Rosie*. Silverman received a 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence. Silverman directed *Harry Clarke*, *Yellow Face*, and *Dykes to Watch Out For* (Best of Year) for Audible.

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 Antony 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.

Principal production support for **THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS** at The Public provided by Teresa Tsai Productions.

Generous support is provided by **Red Crane Foundation** and **Steven & Benay Taub**.

Special thanks to **Gordon J. Davis & Peggy Cooper Davis** and the **Laurents / Hatcher Foundation**.

TICKET INFORMATION

THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS begins performances in The Public's Newman Theater with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Friday, October 24. The production officially opens on Thursday, November 13 and runs through Sunday, November 30.

Tickets are available now and can be accessed by visiting publictheater.org, calling **212.967.7555**, or in person at the Taub Box Office at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street.

The Public's Joseph Papp Free Performance initiative will offer free tickets to the performance on Friday, October 24 through TodayTix. The Lottery will open for entries on Friday, October 17 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23. Winners will be notified by email and push notification anytime from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and if selected, winners will have one hour to claim their tickets.

The performance schedule is Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (*There will be no 1:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, October 25 or Sunday, October 26. The performance on Tuesday, November 4 will be at 7:30 p.m. There will be a 1:00 p.m. performance on Tuesday, November 25 and Wednesday, November 27. There will be no 7:00 p.m. performance on Thursday, November 27.*)

The **Audio Described** performance will be on Saturday, November 15 at 1:00 p.m. The performance on Sunday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. will **require patrons to wear masks**. The **American Sign Language Interpreted** performance will be on Friday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. The **Open Captioned** performance will be on Saturday, November 22 at 1:00 p.m.

The full performance calendar can be found at publictheater.org.

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