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## THE PUBLIC THEATER ANNOUNCES ***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY*** ADDED TO SPRING 2026 SEASON

**Produced by MART Foundation**  
**Written by Eli Rarey**  
**Created and Directed by Alexander Molochnikov**

November 12, 2025 – The Public Theater (Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director and Patrick Willingham, Executive Director) announced today that **MART Foundation's** production of ***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY***, written by **Eli Rarey** and created and directed by **Alexander Molochnikov**, has been added to The Public's 2025-2026 season. Following sold-out runs at La MaMa and London's Marylebone Theatre, the production begins performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Sunday, March 22 and officially opens on Monday, March 30. ***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY*** will run through Sunday, April 26.

Written by **Eli Rarey** and created and directed by **Alexander Molochnikov**, an internationally acclaimed director from the Moscow Art Theatre, ***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY*** fuses autobiographical drama and biting political satire with classic Chekhovian themes. This politically charged retelling of Molochnikov's attempt to stage Chekhov's *The Seagull* unfolds as a whirlwind of comedic mayhem, artistic rebellion, and deeply personal reflection on displacement, censorship, and the pursuit of creative freedom. Featuring an extraordinary ensemble of international artists, ***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY*** offers a provocative and poignant exploration of artistic survival, resistance to censorship, and the transformative power of live theater.

MART Foundation Executive Producer **Sofia Kapkov** shares, "***SEAGULL: TRUE STORY*** is a play about empathy, betrayal, and the choices that shape our lives long after we make them. There is no better home for it than The Public Theater—a place where human truth, community, and bold voices come together on stage."

"Raises vital questions about the cost and creativity of exile ...  
Powerfully reflects on the role and responsibility of theatre to voice protest." – *The Guardian*

"It's Chekhov with teeth, for anyone who believes theatre should still matter." – *Stage and Cinema*

"A sharply acidic commentary on the true nature of artistic freedom." – *WhatsOnStage*

Public Theater Partner and Supporter Plus tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, December 3 and Supporter tickets on Friday, December 5. Full-price single tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, December 17.

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**. 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](http://publictheater.org).

## **BIOS**

**ELI RAREY** (*Writer*) is an independent filmmaker, playwright, performance artist, and poet. His feature film *The Famous Joe Project* premiered at Outfest in 2012. Rarey was a founding member of SCIENCE PROJECT performance collective and has written, directed, and performed on stage with Planet Ant Theater in Detroit. He holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in Theater Arts and an MFA degree from USC School of Cinematic Arts, where he later taught in the Interactive Media Division. He is overwhelmed with gratitude to be part of the creative team bringing this unique play to life.

**ALEXANDER MOLOCHNIKOV** (*Creator and Director*) is a theater director, writer, and filmmaker. He worked for over 10 years in Moscow where he directed five major productions in drama, a ballet, an opera, two feature films, and a TV show. In 2022, he spoke out against the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and then moved to New York. He is now unable to return home to Russia. Since 2014, his first play, *19.14 Cabaret*, an antiwar manifest about World War I, has been running in repertoire for over 11 years at the Moscow Art Theatre of Chekov. However, the theater has removed his name from all materials. The billing now says "Directed by Director." Molochnikov's production of the opera *The Telephone. Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre, along with his ballet *The Seagull*, which was honored with the "Golden Mask" (the Russian equivalent of the Tony Awards) for best ballet of the year. His feature film, *Tell Her*, about moving to the U.S. as a child, premiered in 2020 at the 47th SIFF. He has created and directed over 10 shows and films in Moscow including the most viewed six-episode TV series "Monastery" in 2022. He premiered a *Crime and Punishment* show at the Tel Aviv Gesher Theatre in December 2024. He is working now on a feature film related to the novel. His short film *Extremist* is long-listed for the 2025 BAFTA awards and premiered in Telluride; he is now turning it into a feature.

**MART FOUNDATION**, run by Sofia Kapkov, is an American nonprofit organization that produces and supports contemporary performing arts programs globally. With a special focus on co-productions, MART co-produced the New York premiere of *Our Class* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which was named one of the best productions of 2024 by the *Wall Street Journal* and more recently, won four Lucille Lortel Awards. Most recently, MART co-produced Sharon Eyal's *Into The Hairy* for Nederlands Dans Theater and supported *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* at the Marylebone Theater. MART has collaborated with renowned artists, institutions, and festivals, including Akram Khan, Sharon Eyal, Gibney Company, Carnegie Hall, Sadler's Wells, the Barbican Centre, Holland Dance Festival, and Festival d'Avignon, among others. By curating an inventive and varied arts program, MART strives to showcase the very best of contemporary theater, music, and dance. [martfdn.org](http://martfdn.org)

**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, Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Works, 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](http://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.

**SEAGULL: TRUE STORY** was developed, in part, through **En Garde Arts' Uncommon Voices** program.

Support provided by **Koum Family Foundation, Blavatnik Family Foundation, Timashev Family Foundation**, and **Venturous Theater Fund**, a fund of Tides Foundation.

Special thanks to **Debby and Rocco Landesman**.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

**SEAGULL: TRUE STORY** begins performances in The Public's LuEsther Hall with a Joseph Papp Free Performance on Sunday, March 22 and officially opens on Monday, March 30. **SEAGULL: TRUE STORY** will run through Sunday, April 26.

Public Theater Partner and Supporter Plus tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, December 3 and Supporter tickets on Friday, December 5. Full-price single tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, December 17.

Tickets can be accessed by visiting [publictheater.org](http://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 Sunday, March 22 through TodayTix. The Lottery will open for entries on Sunday, March 15 and will close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. 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 at 1:00 p.m. (*There will be no performance on Tuesday, March 31.*)

There will be an **Open Captioned** and **Audio Described** performance on Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.

The full performance calendar can be found at [publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org).

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