



**NEWS RELEASE
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Pittsburgh Public Theater welcomes Jalina McClarin, kicks off Theater For All program

**Engagement Manager joins Pittsburgh's flagship regional theater,
helps launch free ticket initiative to increase exposure to the arts**

Jan. 4, 2023 • Pittsburgh, PA — Last fall, Pittsburgh Public Theater expanded and elevated its engagement offerings by welcoming theater artist and activist Jalina McClarin as the company's first Engagement Manager. In her first three months with the theater, McClarin has catalyzed several successful initiatives including a winter clothing drive that gathered hundreds of coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for families in need, as well as attracting major underwriting support for engagement activities over the next twelve months.

"Over the last several years, The Public has prioritized developing partnerships with civic and creative communities, and we are so lucky to have a dedicated position to steward these partnerships in a more sustainable and meaningful way," Director of Education and Engagement Parag S. Gohel said. "Jalina's activism, deep community engagement, and work on and off the stage makes her an ideal addition to our team."

In alignment with McClarin's guiding value of "solidarity rather than charity," Pittsburgh Public Theater announced its new Theater For All initiative, through which free tickets will be available for every 2023 Season 48 mainstage production. Theater For All is part of The Public's ongoing commitment to being a true public theater, one which invites the community in and reaches out.

Inspired by Bricolage Production Company's original model, there are no prerequisites or agency relationships required to access free tickets through Theater For All. Furthermore, tickets claimed through the program are indistinguishable from full-price tickets.

"The purpose of the model is to empower and trust our audience to decide whether they need access to a free ticket." Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski said. "This is truly about opening our doors and inviting people in on their own terms."

Free tickets through Theater For All will be released approximately four weeks before the opening date of each show during Free For All periods and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets can be claimed by using a promotional code online at www.ppt.org, in-person at the O'Reilly

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Theater Box Office, or via phone at 412.316.1600. Promotional codes for online use will be shared at the beginning of each Free For All on The Public's Facebook (@pittsburghpublictheater) and Instagram (@thepublicpgh) accounts and on The Public's website at www.ppt.org.



Marya Sea Kaminski, Parag S. Gohel, and Jalina McClarin announce Theater For All at opening night of *A CHRISTMAS STORY* on December 3, 2022.

"Theater For All is an exciting shift in engagement efforts that the theater industry has needed for a while," McClarin said. "No longer will we decide who can afford a ticket, or who deserves or would benefit from a free ticket. Instead, we invite anyone who experiences any barrier, financial or otherwise, to claim tickets to any show produced at The Public."

Resident Director Justin Emeka's adaptation and direction of *A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem* opens Feb. 1 and will be the inaugural production for Theater For All.

"Anybody who loves great theater is going to love this production, and particularly, Black and Brown communities who have struggled with the question 'Why Shakespeare?' will have the opportunity to see themselves in the work," Emeka said. "That is going to be very exciting and maybe open new doors in their minds, in their imaginations, and maybe in their lives."

The Free For All date for *A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem* is Thursday, Jan. 5, beginning at 3:00 p.m., when the promotional code for free Theater For All tickets will be released. Free For All times for the remainder of Season 48 are as follows:

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A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem – Thursday, Jan. 5, 3 – 7 p.m.

Steel Magnolias – Tuesday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Young Americans – Saturday, March 25, 1 – 5 p.m.

Frida... A Self Portrait – Sunday, May 14, 3 – 7 p.m.

Community members can sign up for email reminders for Free For All start times at www.ppt.org/tfa. Questions? Contact Pittsburgh Public Theater Community Engagement Manager Jalina McClarin via email at jmccclarin@ppt.org or by phone at 412.316.8200 ext. 721.

BIO



Jalina McClarin has been making her mark in Pittsburgh both on and off stage as an actor, producer, and community organizer for years. In the theater world, she has been both an actor and producer at Throughline Theatre Company, and an actor at City Theater in both their Young Playwrights Festival and the Momentum Festival of New Plays at Different Stages. She's worked with Bricolage co-devising and performing in immersive experiences for their Bazaar, and she's been on stage at Pittsburgh Classic Players, folkLAB, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, as well as in the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's International Festival of Firsts. She recently worked as Quantum Theatre's Community Engagement Manager for three years, where she built and sustained relationships across the city and oversaw all front of house operations. At Quantum she also co-produced and performed in audio-journeys during the height of the pandemic, as well as headed up their InQbator program, which sought to provide space and funding for underserved artists in various stages of their development processes. Outside of her professional and artistic work, Jalina spent much of 2020 and 2021 committing her time and effort to organizing against police brutality in her community, where she grew closer still to the city she's called home for more than a decade. She earned her BA in psychology at Carlow University in 2015, where she discovered her love of theater while performing with her college theater group.

ACCESSIBILITY

Pittsburgh Public Theater is dedicated to making its performances accessible to all audiences. It is proud to offer an American Sign Language Series, assistive listening, I-Caption®, and D-Scriptive® services at select performances. Tickets for these performances can be purchased online or by calling the Box Office at 412.316.1600. For more information on our accessibility offerings, please contact Director of Education and Engagement Parag S. Gohel at pgohel@ppt.org.

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Pittsburgh Public Theater is dedicated to serving as a true public theater to the Pittsburgh region, producing more than 120 performances each season and welcoming more than 70,000 guests through the O'Reilly Theater's doors every year. The theater is renowned for its exceptional mix of programming, featuring international classics, fresh new works, and favorite musicals. Its commitment to education and engagement initiatives is a hallmark, and includes the signature Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest and innovative community partnerships. The organization, under the leadership of Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski, celebrates its 48th season in 2022/2023.