



THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER

“THE SKY IS NOT

2015–2016 SEASON



# THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

"My soul is in the sky." William Shakespeare

When I was a student and first went to theatre, I climbed many stairs high up into the balcony to the only seat I could afford. Though the actors were the size of postage stamps, and I saw only the tops of their heads, I could enter the imaginations of great authors such as Shakespeare through language. The sky, indeed, was not the limit, and the stories lifted me into worlds far away from the ordinary. The seat was cheap, but the experience priceless. For a few hours, I soared free. And, when the play was over, and I went back down, I sometimes left a different person than when I came in.

THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE began in 1979 as a modern classical theatre with one constant guide, William Shakespeare, whom we produce alongside other major playwrights from the world repertoire ... a dialogue spanning centuries.

INIMITABLE VOICES, this third season in our first permanent home, Polonsky Shakespeare Center, consists of four works by Shakespeare and major American and European authors:

RICHARD MAXWELL'S *ISOLDE*, a New York City Players production, written and directed by Richard Maxwell, a haunting and humorous exploration of what is real;

SHAKESPEARE'S *PERICLES*, with music composed by Shaun Davey and directed by Trevor Nunn, a fantastic adventure and story of redemption, reconciliation, and forgiveness; IBSEN'S *A DOLL'S HOUSE* adapted by Thornton Wilder and STRINDBERG'S *THE*

*FATHER*, in a new version in English by David Greig, alternating investigations of marriage and the battle of the sexes performed in repertory featuring John Douglas Thompson and directed by Arin Arbus.

These authors couldn't be more different; what connects them is the shaping of extraordinary theatrical worlds with singular language—all on the uniquely flexible Scripps Mainstage, an intimate theatrical space with superb sight lines, seats and acoustics.

POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER is in the vibrant Brooklyn Cultural District, adjacent to

BAM, Mark Morris and BRIC and accessible by car, bus, subway, and LIRR. Designed by Hugh Hardy, our building has won major architectural awards and been described as "not only an architectural gem, but a major cultural hub" (*Daily News*).

AFFORDABLE PRICES include custom ticket packages at substantial savings, plus \$20 New

Deal tickets for ages 30 and under or full-time students of any age. Benefits this year also include advance invitations to our Humanities programs, OPEN BOOKS and TFANA TALKS, and to special events from THE STUDIO, along with discounts at FOOD & DRINK and our popular BOOK KIOSK.

PLEASE JOIN US.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Jeffrey Horowitz in black ink.

Jeffrey Horowitz  
Founding Artistic Director





**DYNAMIC**

**INVITING**

**DIVERSE**

**VERSATILE**

**BOLD**

**EXQUISITE**

**BRAVE**

**“THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT”\***

**MODERN**

**INTIMATE**

**BEAUTIFUL**

**\*BEN BRANTLEY, THE NEW YORK TIMES  
REVIEWING A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM DIRECTED BY JULIE TAYMOR.**



# HIGHLIGHTS

OUR FIRST TWO SEASONS

"Breathtaking." *The New York Times*  
**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

"Powerful."  
*New York Daily News*  
**KING LEAR**



"Beguiling." *The New York Times*  
**FIASCO THEATER'S THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA**





"Vibrant." *The New York Times*  
**THE VALLEY OF ASTONISHMENT**

"Daring." *New York Post*  
**SOHO REP.'S AN OCTOROON**



"Extraordinary." *Time Out New York*

**THE KILLER**

"Dazzling." *The New York Times*

**TAMBURLAINE THE GREAT**

Pictured clockwise from left: **Zachary Fine**, **Andy Grotelueschen**, **Emily Young**, **Jessie Austrian**, **Paul L. Coffey**, and **Noah Brody**, photo by Gerry Goodstein; **Lilly Englert**, **Michael Pennington**, and **Graham Winton**, photo by Carol Rosegg; **Kathryn Hunter**, photo by Es Devlin; **Austin Smith** and **Amber Gray**, photo by Gerry Goodstein; **Kathryn Hunter**, photo by Pascal Victor; **Michael Shannon** and **Paul Sparks**, photo by Gerry Goodstein; **John Douglas Thompson** and **Chukwudi Iwuji**, photo by Gerry Goodstein.



# SEPTEMBER 6—27, 2015

## WHAT IS REAL?

# NEW YORK CITY PLAYERS' ISOLDE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICHARD MAXWELL

*Isolde* is a new American play about memory, identity, the ephemeral, and infidelity, written and directed by Richard Maxwell. In the play, inspired by the legend of Tristan and Isolde, the marriage of Patrick and Isolde appears to be happy. Patrick is the owner of a successful construction company and Isolde is a star actress. But Isolde finds herself increasingly unable to remember her lines. When she decides to build her dream house, her husband is eager to help. But the project is jeopardized by Massimo, an award-winning architect whom Isolde hires.

“Mr. Maxwell...is perhaps the greatest American experimental theater auteur of his generation.” Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*, Critic’s Pick

“The quartet works at an incredible, precise pitch.” Helen Shaw, *Time Out New York*

*Isolde* was developed in part at Theater Basel, where it received its first production in September 2013, and was later presented at La Filature in Mulhouse, France and at Abrons Arts Center in New York City.

Pictured: Tory Vazquez, Jim Fletcher, and Gary Wilmes, photo by New York City Players; Richard Maxwell, photo by Juri Junkov.



[WWW.TFANA.ORG/SEASON](http://WWW.TFANA.ORG/SEASON)



Richard Maxwell is a director and playwright and the artistic director of New York City Players. He is a Doris Duke Performing Artist. Maxwell has been selected for a Guggenheim Fellowship, two OBIE Awards, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant, and he was an invited artist in the Whitney Biennial (2012). He is the recipient of the 2014 Spalding Gray Award. His book, "Theater for Beginners," was published by TCG in 2014.





FEBRUARY 14—MARCH 27, 2016

WHAT IS POSSIBLE?

# PERICLES

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

MUSIC COMPOSED BY SHAUN DAVEY

DIRECTED BY TREVOR NUNN

*Pericles*, one of Shakespeare's late plays, combines a fantastic adventure (a hero wandering, Odysseus-like, the world of the Aegean) with a story of a miracle. Live music will help convey the play's mystery and magic. The Irish artist Shaun Davey (with whom Trevor Nunn worked on his film of *Twelfth Night*) will compose. This is the first time that Trevor Nunn will have directed *Pericles* and staged Shakespeare with a U.S. company.

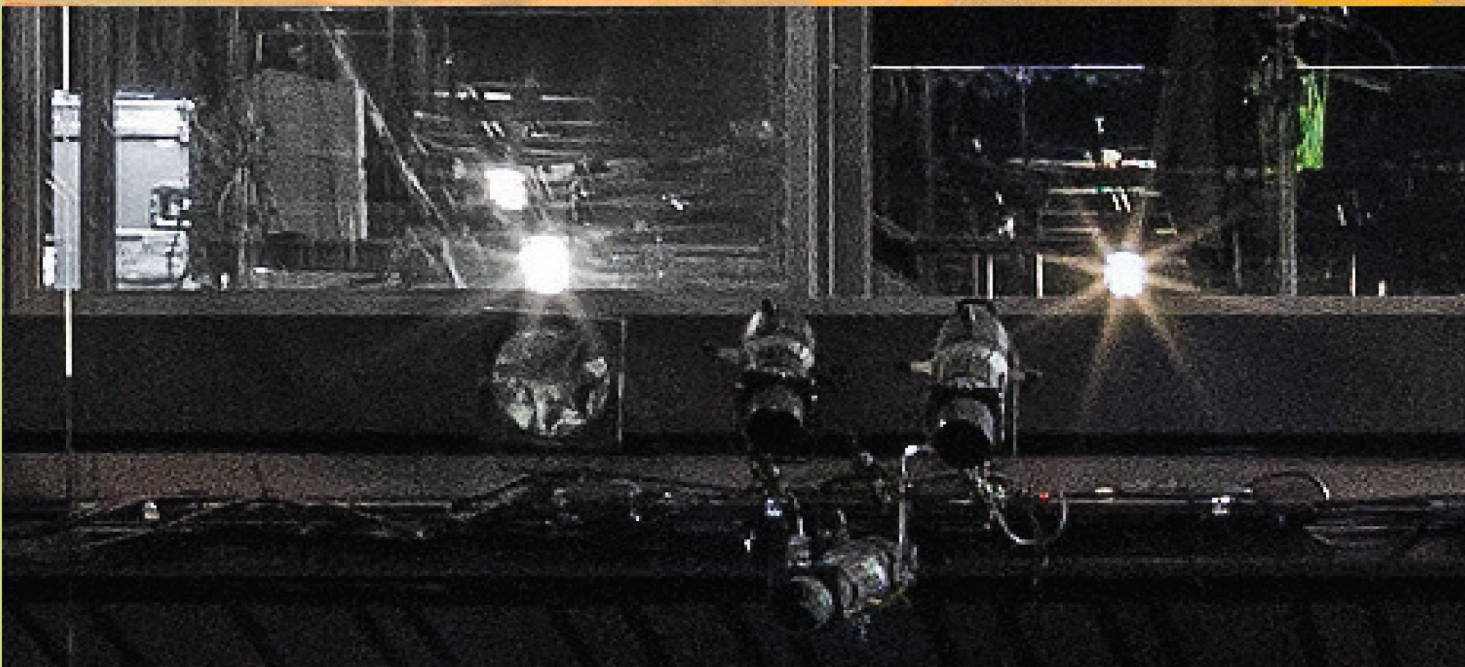
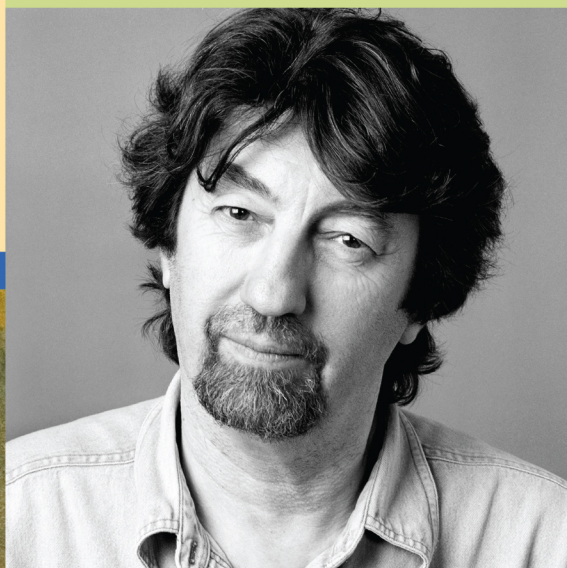
"Nunn is as celebrated for his staging of blockbuster musicals (*Cats*, *Les Misérables*) as for his revitalizing of classic texts."  
Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

This production is made possible, in part, by support from The Thompson Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Endowment funds for the production are provided by The Howard Gilman Foundation Fund for Classic Drama.



Trevor Nunn is a director of theatre, film, television, and opera. A four-time Tony and Olivier Award-winner, he is former Artistic Director of Great Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company (1968–1986) and Royal National Theatre (1996–2003). Trevor Nunn is renowned for productions of Shakespeare, authors from the world repertoire including *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, and contemporary drama, such as numerous plays by Tom Stoppard. He also staged some of the most successful musicals of our time, including *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Starlight Express*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Woman in White*, as well as films *Hedda*, *Lady Jane*, and *Twelfth Night*. Trevor Nunn's most recent production in New York was in 2013 – Samuel Beckett's *All That Fall*.

Trevor Nunn, photo by Geraint Lewis.





MAY 4—JUNE 12, 2016

# A DOLL'S HOUSE

BY HENRIK IBSEN

ADAPTED BY THORNTON WILDER

FEATURING JOHN DOUGLAS THOMPSON

DIRECTED BY ARIN ARBUS

Arin Arbus, TFANA Associate Artistic Director, will direct two provocative contemporary classics about marriage in rotating repertory - Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, in an adaptation by Thornton Wilder not seen in New York since its Broadway premiere in 1937, and August Strindberg's *The Father* in a new version in English by David Greig, commissioned by TFANA. Strindberg wrote *The Father* as a direct rebuttal to Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, fulminating against Ibsen's tale of a woman bravely escaping a stifling bourgeois marriage. This is the first time the two plays will be performed in repertory.

John Douglas Thompson returns to TFANA to play Torvald in *A Doll's House* and the Captain in *The Father*.

"No-frills, shrewdly conceived, elegantly presented...Fans have learned to circle their calendars for Arin Arbus's Theatre for a New Audience productions." Eric Grode, *The New York Times*

"John Douglas Thompson staked his claim as one of the most compelling classical stage actors of his generation." Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

Pictured: Arin Arbus, photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen;  
John Douglas Thompson, photo by Ruth Sovronsky.

At TFANA, Arin Arbus has staged Shakespeare's *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Othello*. She staged Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at Houston Grand Opera and *La Traviata* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

John Douglas Thompson returns following acclaimed performances in TFANA's *Tamburlaine the Great* (Obie and Drama Desk Awards), *Macbeth*, and *Othello* (Obie, Lucille Lortel, and Joe A. Callaway Awards). Mr. Thompson has appeared on Broadway in *A Time To Kill*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *Julius Caesar*. Other off-Broadway credits include *The Iceman Cometh*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, and *The Emperor Jones*. Mr. Thompson is a recipient of the Scripps Award, Fox Fellowship, and Robert Brustein Award.

*A Doll's House* is sponsored by

**Deloitte.**

Endowment funds for the productions of *A Doll's House* and *The Father* are provided by The Howard Gilman Foundation Fund for Classic Drama.



PERFORMED IN ROTATING REPERTORY BY A SINGLE COMPANY

# THE FATHER

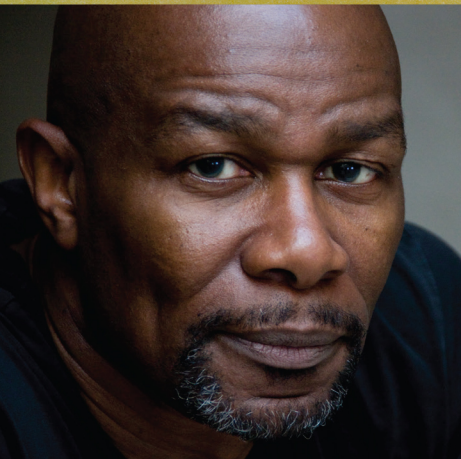
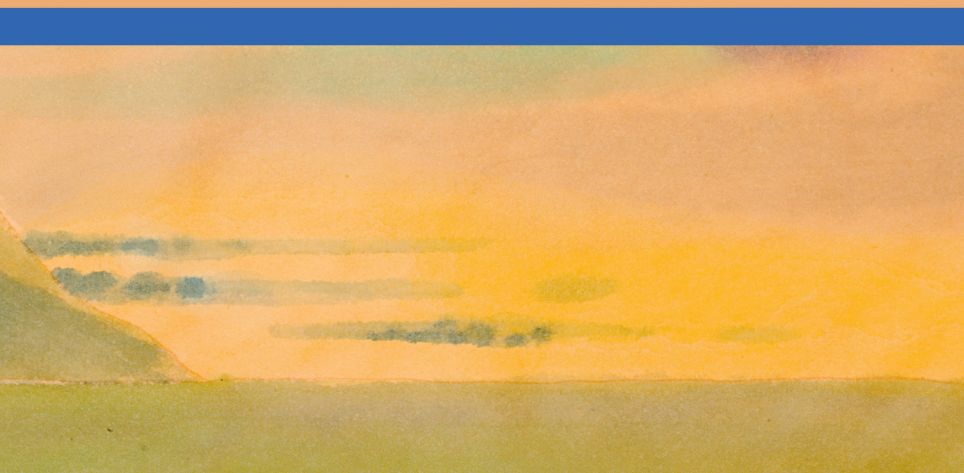
WHAT IS ENOUGH?

BY AUGUST STRINDBERG

A NEW VERSION IN ENGLISH BY DAVID GREIG

FEATURING JOHN DOUGLAS THOMPSON

DIRECTED BY ARIN ARBUS





# EXTRA OFFERINGS

## THE STUDIO

THE STUDIO, under the direction of Arin Arbus, investigates the connection between classics and our contemporary world.

A diverse range of playwrights, directors, actors, and theatre artists develop projects that support risk-taking, professional development, and experimentation. Authors explore new plays and translations; directors new productions; actors work with master teachers on performing Shakespeare.

THE STUDIO is supported by a leadership grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and by matching funds from the Booth Ferris Foundation.

## HUMANITIES

The foundation of our Humanities Program is TFANA's Council of Scholars: Jonathan Kalb, Richard C. McCoy (Chair), Gail Kern Paster, Tanya Pollard, Alisa Solomon, and Ayanna Thompson.

In 360° VIEWFINDER, our online publication, they provide background and insights for each of our productions and lead conversations about language and ideas.

Pictured left to right from top: Jonathan Kalb and John Lahr, photo by Gerry Goodstein; Michael Boyd and John Douglas Thompson, photo by Gerry Goodstein; Julie Taymor and Jeffrey Horowitz, photo by Gerry Goodstein; Darko Tresnjak and Michael Shannon, photo by Gerry Goodstein; Amber Gray and Austin Smith, photo by Gerry Goodstein; Calvin Trillin, photo by Richard Stamelman.

In TFANA TALKS, our post-performance discussion series, for example, Michael Boyd, former Artistic Director, Royal Shakespeare Company, spoke about Marlowe and Shakespeare with author James Shapiro and moderator Rich McCoy; and playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and director Sarah Benson discussed mixed race identity with Ayanna Thompson.

In OPEN BOOKS, Jonathan Kalb presents authors of some of American theatre's most acclaimed new histories, biographies, and critical works—most recently John Lahr on Tennessee Williams.

Subscribers are the first to be invited to book free or low price tickets to THE STUDIO Projects, TFANA TALKS, and OPEN BOOKS.

TFANA's Humanities programs are supported in part by a Humanities Endowment established by a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Leadership matching gifts were provided by Joan and Robert Arnow, Perry and Marty Granoff, John J. Kerr and Nora Wren Kerr, and Theodore C. Rogers.









# MONICA & ALI WAMBOLD FOOD & DRINK

## DANIEL AND JOANNA S. ROSE BOOK KIOSK



©David Sundberg/Esto

Food & Drink, located in the lobby of Polonsky Shakespeare Center, is brought to you by Union Square Events, the catering and venue hospitality business from Danny Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group. The menu features an array of local and seasonal fare, including soups, sandwiches, salads, and sweets, in addition to wine, beer, and cocktails. Items can be pre-ordered for quick service during intermission.

Our Book Kiosk, in cooperation with BookCourt, is open in our lobby before performances and during intermission. Books, films, and music related to current and past productions, Shakespeare, and topics in theatre are available for purchase.



# SEASON TICKETS

ONLINE: [WWW.TFANA.ORG/SEASON](http://WWW.TFANA.ORG/SEASON)

BY PHONE: 212-229-2819, EXT. 10

By mail: Fill out the order form on the following page and mail to:  
Theatre for a New Audience Subscriptions, 262 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217

## BENEFITS

- Up to 42% discount off the full ticket price
- Priority booking for choice locations
- Flexible exchange policy
- No booking or exchange fees
- Priority reservations for other TFANA programming, including TFANA Talks, Studio Programs, Open Books series, and more.
- Discounted guest tickets and New Deal tickets (for members in your household who are 30 or under or full-time students)
- Discounts at Food & Drink and the Book Kiosk in our lobby
- Discounts to neighborhood partner restaurants
- Subscriber hotline
- Online reservations system to book your seats online
- Invitations to the Annual Gala and other special events

## CHOOSE FROM OUR FLEXIBLE SEASON TICKET PLANS

### THREE PLAYS \$156

One ticket each to PERICLES and two other 2015–2016 Season productions of your choosing at just \$52 per play. Savings of up to 38% plus all above benefits.

### FOUR PLAYS \$196

One ticket to each of the four productions in our 2015–2016 Season at just \$49 per play. Savings of up to 42% plus all above benefits.

### FLEX PASS \$216

A four-ticket package for just \$54 per ticket. Use them in any combination for any of our plays throughout the 2015–2016 Season. Savings of up to 36%.

Please note, all season ticket packages expire at the end of the season and cannot be carried over to following seasons.



## THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER

262 Ashland Place between Fulton St and Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY

Situated in the burgeoning Brooklyn Cultural District, a new magnet for the performing and visual arts, just steps away from BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House and around the corner from the Mark Morris Dance Center, near all major transportation hubs.

Directions by subway, bus, LIRR, Citi Bike, and car, plus listings for nearby restaurants, parking facilities, and other amenities at [www.tfana.org/visit](http://www.tfana.org/visit).





# JOIN US

You will be notified by email several weeks before the general public on-sale date and be able to choose your seats online from the dates listed below. A DOLL’S HOUSE and THE FATHER will be performed in rotating repertory.

- ISOLDE September 6 – 27, 2015
- PERICLES February 14 – March 27, 2016
- A DOLL’S HOUSE May 4 – June 12, 2016
- THE FATHER May 4 – June 12, 2016

TO BOOK YOUR SEASON TICKETS BY MAIL,  
FILL OUT THE ORDER FORM BELOW AND SEND TO:

Theatre for a New Audience Subscriptions, 262 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217



## ORDER FORM

SELECT A PACKAGE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
THREE-PLAY PACKAGE OPTION A: ISOLDE, PERICLES, AND THE FATHER	\$156		
THREE-PLAY PACKAGE OPTION B: ISOLDE, PERICLES, AND A DOLL’S HOUSE	\$156		
THREE-PLAY PACKAGE OPTION C: PERICLES, A DOLL’S HOUSE, AND THE FATHER	\$156		
FOUR-PLAY PACKAGE	\$196		
FLEX PASS PACKAGE	\$216		

### ADD-ONS

2015–2016 SUBSCRIBER GUEST TICKETS	\$50		
2015–2016 NEW DEAL TICKETS*	\$20		
TICKET ORDER TOTAL			
HANDLING FEE PER PACKAGE	\$10		
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION (100% TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)			

### TOTAL

### BILLING ADDRESS

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

PAYMENT METHOD ☐ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE ☐ PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Security Code

Theatre for a New Audience's New Deal Ticket Program is supported by macy's

\*New Deal tickets will be held at the box office. One ID per ticket must be shown to pick up tickets. All New Deal holders should be 30 and under or full time students. All productions, artists, and dates are subject to change. All packages are non-refundable.





Public support for Theatre for a New Audience's Capital Campaign was provided by the City of New York through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Council, and the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President. Leadership private support for Polonsky Shakespeare Center and Theatre for a New Audience's endowed programs has been provided by a naming gift from The Polonsky Foundation. Additional major support has been provided by Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP, The Irving Harris Foundation, Theodore C. Rogers, and the SHS Foundation. Major endowment gifts have been provided by the Elayne P. Bernstein Education Fund and The Howard Gilman Foundation.

Principal support for Theatre for a New Audience's season and programs is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Booth Ferris Foundation, the Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The SHS Foundation, The Thompson Family Foundation, and The Winston Foundation.

Major support is provided by A.D. Philanthropic Fund, Robert H. Arnow, Bank of America, Robert E. Buckholz and Lizanne Fontaine, Marlène Brody, Sally Brody, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Christensen III, Deloitte LLP, Sidney E. Frank Foundation, Paul Ford and Nancy Young, The Hearst Corporation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, John J. Kerr and Nora Wren Kerr, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, Seymour H. Lesser, Donna Mae Litowitz, William and Diane Lloyd, Larry and Maria-Luisa Loeb, Wendy and Robert Macdonald, Audrey Heffernan Meyer and Danny Meyer, Caroline Niemczyk, Janet C. Olshansky and Jeffrey Morris, Theodore C. Rogers, Michael Rothfeld and Ella Foshay, Fiona and Eric Rudin/May and Samuel Rudin Foundation Inc., The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Robert T. and Cynthia V.A. Schaffner, The Shubert Foundation, Sidley Austin LLP, Sol Schwartz, Starry Night Fund, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, Susan Stockel, Rosalind P. Walter, Monica and Ali Wambold, and Jane and Jonathan Wells.

Theatre for a New Audience's season and programs are also made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the National Endowment for the Arts; Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

Administrative offices:

154 Christopher Street, Suite 3D  
New York, NY 10014

2015-2016 SEASON

POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER

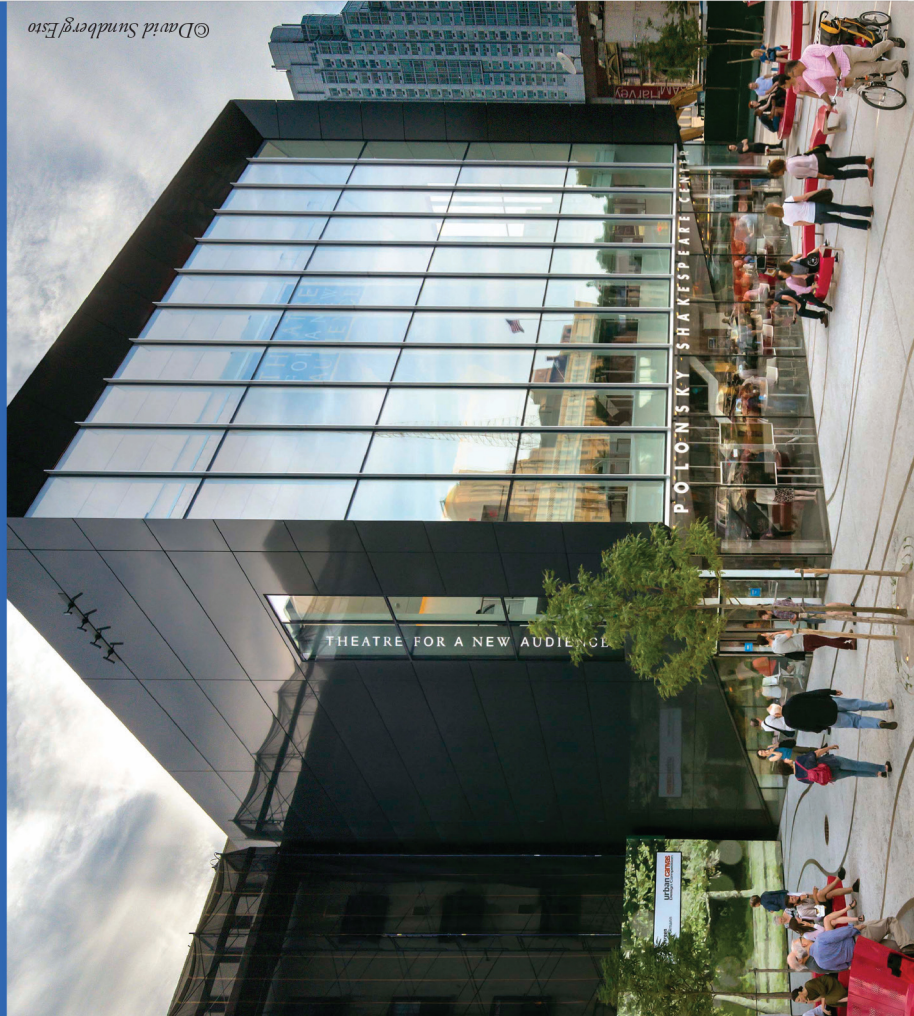
FOUR PLAYS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$49 EACH

*Isolde*

*Pericles*

*A Doll's House*

*The Fetter*



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Pictured on front cover: Samuel H. Scripps Mainstage at Polonsky Shakespeare Center, photo ©David Sundberg/Esto.

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