

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER'S
PLATFORM SERIES
OF FREE-TO-THE-PUBLIC PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS
CONTINUES THIS FALL WITH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, AT 6 PM
JEFFREY LANE, DAVID YAZBEK AND BARTLETT SHER
CO-CREATORS OF THE NEW MUSICAL
*WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS
BREAKDOWN*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, AT 6 PM
JOHN GUARE AND GEORGE C. WOLFE
THE PLAYWRIGHT AND DIRECTOR OF
A FREE MAN OF COLOR

IN THE LOBBY OF THE VIVIAN BEAUMONT THEATER

Lincoln Center Theater's Platform Series, a forum for public discussion between Lincoln Center Theater artists and interested theatergoers, opens its 12th season with two pre-performance talks with the creators of its two new productions - *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *A Free Man of Color*.

Platform Series events take place in the early evening in the lobby of the Vivian Beaumont Theater (150 West 65th Street). Admission is free and open to all; however, seating in the lobby is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis only, beginning at a half hour before the talk. (Speakers and schedules are subject to change. Call 212-362-7600 to confirm on the day of the event.)

The first Platform of the season will be on Thursday, October 28, at 6 pm with JEFFREY LANE (book), DAVID YAZBEK (music) and BARTLETT SHER (director), the co-creators of the new musical, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Based on Pedro Almodóvar's internationally acclaimed 1988 film, the musical is set in late 20th-century Madrid and tells the story of the intertwining lives of a group of women (Sherie Rene Scott, de'Adre Aziza, Laura Benanti, Nikka Graff Lanzarone, Patti LuPone) whose

relationships with men lead to a tumultuous 48 hours of love, confusion and passion. Book writer **Jeffrey Lane** collaborated with David Yazbek on the musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. The winner of five Emmy Awards, three Writers Guild Awards, two Peabody Awards and a Golden Globe Award, he is best known for his work on such television programs as *Mad About You*, *Ryan's Hope*, *Lou Grant* and *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd*. Composer-lyricist **David Yazbek** made his Broadway and musical theater debuts with *The Full Monty*, for which he earned Tony and Grammy nominations and a Drama Desk Award. Director **Bartlett Sher**, Resident Director of Lincoln Center Theater, won the Tony Award for his direction of LCT's production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's SOUTH PACIFIC*. He was nominated for Tony Awards for the LCT productions of *The Light in the Piazza*, *Awake and Sing!* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. His other recent New York credits include *A Prayer for My Enemy* at Playwrights Horizons and the Metropolitan Opera productions of *The Barber of Seville* and *The Tales of Hoffman*.

On Wednesday, November 10, at 6 pm, the playwright JOHN GUARE and the director GEORGE C. WOLFE will discuss their work on the new play, A Free Man of Color. *A Free Man of Color* is a freewheeling epic set in 1801 New Orleans. Jacques Cornet, the title character (to be played by Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor Jeffrey Wright), is a new world Don Juan and the wealthiest inhabitant of this sexually charged and racially progressive city. Jacques thinks all is well in his paradise until history intervenes, setting off a chain of events which no one, much less this free man of color, realizes is about to splinter the world. *A Free Man of Color* marks **John Guare's** return to Lincoln Center Theater where his plays *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Four Baboons Adoring the Sun* (all three nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play) and *Chaucer in Rome*, were produced. His other plays include *Rich and Famous*, *Landscape of the Body*, *Marco Polo Sings A Solo*, *Bosoms and Neglect*, *Lydie Breeze*, *Women and Water*, *A Few Stout Individuals* and *His Girl Friday*. He won a Tony Award for the book of the musical *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and also wrote the book for the musical *Sweet Smell of Success*. Director **George C. Wolfe** will make his LCT debut with this production. Former Producer of the Public Theater, his Broadway directorial credits include *Caroline or Change*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, *Bring in 'Da Noise*, *Bring in 'Da Funk*, *The Tempest*, *On the Town*, *The Wild Party*, *Jelly's Last Jam* and *Angels in America*. His film credits include *Lackawanna Blues* and *Nights in Rodanthe*.

Upcoming Platforms are scheduled for Thursday, December 2 at 5:30 pm with several cast members of *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and on the

following Thursday, December 9, at 6:00 pm with several cast members of *A Free Man of Color*. (Participants for both will be announced at a later date.)

Lincoln Center Theater's Platform series was introduced in the summer of 1998. Transcripts of the previous talks are available on-line at www.lct.org.

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