

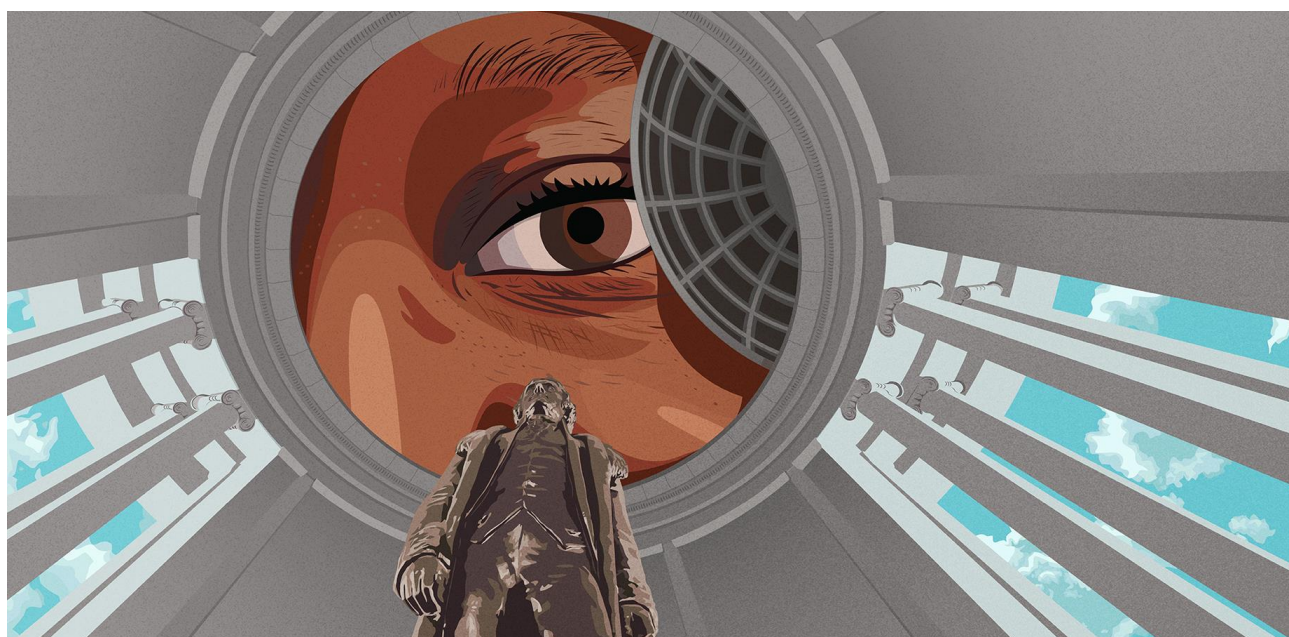


**PRESS CONTACT:**

**Amy Killion**

[AKillion@roundhousetheatre.org](mailto:AKillion@roundhousetheatre.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**ROUND HOUSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR  
THE REGIONAL PREMIERE OF**

**SALLY & TOM**

**By Suzan-Lori Parks**

**Directed by Timothy Douglas**

**May 27–June 28, 2026**

**BETHESDA, MD (April 22, 2026)** – Just weeks ahead of the United States’ 250th anniversary, Round House Theatre announces the timely regional premiere of *Sally & Tom*, a bold, funny, and deeply thought-provoking play by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks. Directed by Timothy Douglas and featuring a stellar cast—**Josiah Bania, Ro Boddie, Renea S. Brown, Kimberly**

**Gilbert, Jamar Jones, Charlotte Kim, Nicole Ruthmarie, and Colin Sphar**—the production will run May 27–June 28, 2026, and will close out the season. More information and tickets [here](#).

*Sally & Tom* is not a history play; it's a play about how history gets told. It's a dark and witty dramedy that alternates between 1790s Monticello and a present-day rehearsal room as a scrappy theatre company stages a play about Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson. But as the rehearsal process unfolds, the boundaries between past and present blur, exposing tensions, contradictions, and uncomfortable truths about race, power, and the act of storytelling itself.

"I intentionally chose to program this play alongside the nation's 250th anniversary because it felt like the right moment to bring a story that poses timely and urgent questions to our audiences who have shown us they are eager to be challenged and to engage with bold, thought-provoking work," says **Round House Theatre Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. "*Sally & Tom* invites us to examine the past and interrogates both the narratives we've inherited and the ones we continue to tell. By drawing connections between 1790 and today, it explores whose stories are told, whose are left out, and what responsibility artists have when revisiting history."

The cast is joined by an impressive creative team, which includes Scenic Designer **Tony Cisek**, Costume Designer **Danielle Preston**, Wig Designer **LeShawn Melton**, Lighting Designer **Jeanette Oisuk Yew**, Sound Designer **Matthew M. Nielson**, Projection Designer **Delaney Bray**, Intimacy/Fight Director **Sierra Young**, Choreographer **Dane Figueroa Edidi**, Dramaturg **Naysan Mojgani**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Production Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**, and Production Assistant **Jay Dews**, Assistant Director, **Jasmine Bhagroo**, Second Deck Crew, **Carrie Edick**.

"This production isn't just a historical look-back; it's a necessary confrontation. The play interrogates the "pursuit of happiness" and asks us to look closely at who that promise was actually written for. It's a story told with incredible humor and a raw, biting ferocity that forces us to sit with the contradictions of our own history. I'm looking forward to inviting our audiences into that complexity and seeing where the conversation takes us," says **director Timothy Douglas**.

Tickets may be purchased by calling **240.644.1100** or by ordering online at **RoundHouseTheatre.org**. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro's Red Line.

*Sally & Tom* is sponsored by Susan Gilbert and Ronald Schechter, The GPS Fund, Rafael Hernandez Mayoral and Laura Roulet, and Judy and Leo Zickler. The 2025-2026 Season is sponsored by Linda J. Ravdin & Don Shapero and David & Sherry Smith.

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## ARTIST INFORMATION

**Suzan-Lori Parks (Playwright)** is a multi-award-winning American writer and musician. She is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Topdog/Underdog* which recently enjoyed its 20th anniversary Broadway revival and won the 2023 Tony Award. Other notable plays include *Sally & Tom* (2024), *Plays for the Plague* (Drama Desk Best Music, 2023), and *Father Comes Home from the Wars* (2014). Parks's first marathon writing "diary play" *365 Days/365 Plays*—in which she wrote a play a day for an entire year—was produced at more than 700 theatres worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theatre history. A MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, her novel *Getting Mother's Body* is published by Random House. She also writes extensively for the screen—most recently, as the showrunner/executive producer/head writer for the television show *Genius: Aretha*. She is an alumna of New Dramatists and of Mount Holyoke College where she studied creative writing with James Baldwin, who encouraged Parks to begin writing for the theatre. In her spare time, Parks also writes songs and fronts her band SLP & The Joyful Noise.

**Timothy Douglas (Director)** returns "home" to Round House, where he has staged the U.S. premiere of *Nine Night*, as well as *Gem of the Ocean*, *Father Comes Home From the Wars*, *Two Trains Running*, *Permanent Collection*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, and performed the role of Teacher in *Small Mouth Sounds*. DC-area credits include *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Richard III* at Folger Theatre; *The Color Purple* (Helen Hayes award for Best Musical), *Where the Mountains Meets the Sea*, and *Spunk* at Signature Theatre; *Nina Simone: Four Women*, *Disgraced*, and *King Hadley II* at Arena Stage; *Fences* at Ford's Theatre; *Long Way Down* at The Kennedy Center; *Proof* at Olney Theatre Center; and projects at Studio Theatre, Theatre Alliance, and Woolly Mammoth. Regional and international credits include productions for 24 Hour Plays/Broadway, Berkeley Rep, Boston Lyric Opera, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Classic Stage Company, Denver Center, Downstage (New Zealand), Great Theatre of China, Guthrie, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Mark Taper Forum,

McCarter, Nationaltheatret (Norway), New Orleans Opera, NIDA (Australia), Red Bull, South Coast Rep, Sundance Theatre Institute/MENA (Morocco), Yale Rep, and many others. MFA: Yale School of Drama. [timothydouglass.org](http://timothydouglass.org)

### **CAST INFORMATION (alphabetical)**

**Josiah Bania (Mike/Tom)** is thrilled to return to Round House for this production, having previously performed here in *Ironbound*. Select credits include: *The Oresteia* (Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Ironbound* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Geffen Playhouse); *Archduke* (Mark Taper Forum); *Fingersmith* (American Repertory Theatre); and *The Way of the World* (Dorset Theater Festival), among others. TV credits include *New Amsterdam*, *The Good Wife*, *The Mysteries of Laura*, and *Leverage*. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

**Ro Boddie (Kwame/James)** is thrilled to be returning to Round House. Previous Round House credits include *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Mountaintop*, *Radio Golf*, *The Tempest*, *A Boy and His Soul*, and "*Master Harold*" ... *and the Boys*. DC credits include *The World to Come* at Woolly Mammoth; *The American Five* at Ford's Theatre; *Paradise Blue*, *Pipeline*, *Three Sisters*, *No Sisters*, and *Dirt* at Studio Theatre; *Comedy of Errors* at STC; *Tempestuous Elements* at Arena Stage; and *The Agitators* at Mosaic Theater. Off-Broadway credits include *Socrates* at The Public and *Seize the King* at Classical Theatre of Harlem. Select TV credits include *Godfather of Harlem*, *Run the World*, and *The Good Wife*. Ro is a proud alum of UNCSA '09. On social media: @roboddieart

**Renea S. Brown (Luce/Sally)** is excited to return to Round House Theatre! Previous Round House credits include Moxie in *Sojourners*, Camae in *The Mountaintop*, Dede in *Nollywood Dreams*, and Assistant Director on *The Tempest*. DC credits include *Metamorphoses* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Folger Theatre; *Covenant* and *Furlough's Paradise* at Theatre Alliance; *The American Five* at Ford's Theatre; *Tempestuous Elements* and *Change Agent* at Arena Stage; *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; *Love Actually* at the Kennedy Center; *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Theatre; and *Macbeth* and *Cymbeline* at Theatre Prometheus. TV/Film: *Godfather of Harlem* (MGM+), *Law and Order* (NBC), *Water in a Broken Glass* and *Beauty's Keeper* (Amazon). MFA: Academy of Classical Acting. Instagram/TikTok: @Therealdarklady

**Kimberly Gilbert (Ginger/Patsy)** last appeared at Round House Theatre in *What the Constitution Means to Me* and *Jennifer Who Is Leaving*. Other Round House credits include *Oslo*, *The Book of Will*, *Angels in America*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lyons*, and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Recent credits include *Appropriate* at Olney Theatre Center, *Cyrano* at Taffety Punk, *Marjorie Prime* at Prologue, *POTUS* at The Arden (Philadelphia), and *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's. Kimberly has been in the DC Theatreverse since the year 2000, where she has been fortunate enough to play on the stage of Round House, as well as Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Kennedy Center, Folger Theatre, Studio Theatre, Theater J, Forum, Mosaic, Source, Metro Stage, Spooky Action, Prologue, and, most often, Woolly Mammoth and Taffety Punk Theatres, both of which she is a proud Company Member. Kimberly is a graduate of STC Academy.

**Jamar Jones (Devon/Nathan)** is returning to Round House Theatre after being seen in *The Inheritance, Parts One and Two*. DC credits include *Akira Kurosawa Explains His Movies and Yogurt...* at Woolly Mammoth. Regional credits include *Blues for an Alabama Sky* at Seattle Rep; *Fat Ham*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Emma*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Hamlet*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth* at PlayMakers Repertory Company; *Black Like Me* at Chautauqua Theater Company; *Toni Stone* at Playhouse on Park; *Fires in the Mirror* (2022 RTCC Award, Best Lead Performance/Play) and *Passing Strange* at Firehouse Theater; *An Octoroon* (2019 RTCC Award, Best Actor/Play) and *Topdog/Underdog* at TheatreLab; and *Fences* at Virginia Rep. Television includes *Law & Order*. MFA: UNC at Chapel Hill. [jamarjonesofficial.com](http://jamarjonesofficial.com)

**Charlotte Kim (Scout/Polly)** is thrilled to be back at Round House after making her debut in the reading of *Marble Rooftop* earlier this year. Other DC credits include *Young Americans* at 1st Stage, *The Figs* and *Klecksography* at Rorschach Theatre, and *Cake Eaters* with The Welders. Other regional credits include *The Wolves* at Southampton Cultural Center. Charlotte is also a member of The Moon Girls, a creative trio performing their original irreverent comedies around the DMV. BA: George Washington University. Instagram: [@charred.latte](https://www.instagram.com/charred.latte)

**Nicole Ruthmarie (Maggie/Mary)** is thrilled to return to Round House Theatre! Round House credits include *A Jumping Off Point* (Understudy). Other DC-area credits include *Bell Wringer* (Capital Fringe Best Musical Winner), *Use All Available Doors*, and *The H Twins* with Pinky Swear Productions; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *46 Plays for America's First Ladies*, and *School Girls: Or,*

*The African Mean Girls Play* at NextStop Theatre Company *Heartland* and *Unprotected* with Pipeline Playwrights; *Oleanna* at Perisphere Theater; *Cracking Zeus* and *Can't Complain, I've Seen It All* at Spooky Action; *A Comedy of Errors* with PG Shakespeare in the Parks; and *The Trojan Women Project*, *Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2*, and *Henry V* with Brave Spirits Theatre. Instagram: @nicoleruthmarie. [www.nicoleruthmarie.com](http://www.nicoleruthmarie.com)

**Colin Sphar (Geoff; Mike understudy)** is making his Round House Theatre debut with *Sally & Tom*. Colin lives in Chicago, where he appeared in U.S. premiere of *Posh* at Steep Theatre as well as the world premiere of *Luna Gale* at Goodman Theatre and its west coast premiere at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. Other regional theatre includes *We Are Proud to Present...* at Theater Emory; *Dial M for Murder* at Theatre Squared; *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* at Capital Stage; *Romeo and Juliet* at Southwest Shakespeare; and work with Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Teatro Vista, Red Orchid, TimeLine, Primary Stages, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. TV credits include *Chicago P.D.* and *Chicago Med*. Colin trained at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

#### **UNDERSTUDIES (alphabetical)**

**Janine Baumgardner (Scout/Polly and Ginger/Patsy understudy)** is excited to join the company of *Sally & Tom*! Favorite D.C. credits include *The Queen's Ball: A Bridgerton Experience* with Netflix/Shondaland/Fever; *Twelfth Night* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *Romeo and Juliet*, and many other productions at Synetic Theater; *Fiddler on the Roof* at Olney Theatre Center; *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* (Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Ensemble and Production) and *Monstress* at Flying V Theatre; *Jardín salvaje (Native Gardens)* at GALA Hispanic Theatre; *Squeakers and Mr. Gumdrop* at Arts on the Horizon; and *The Rite of Spring* at Pointless Theatre Co. Janine is also a personal trainer, choreographer, and mom. Instagram: @janinebaumgardner

**Rakell Foye (Luce/Sally and Maggie/Mary understudy)** is excited to make her Round House debut! Recent credits include: *Galatea* at Theatre Prometheus, *Chicken and Biscuits* at NextStop Theatre Company, *Honey Bee Baby* at Rapid Lemons Productions, and *Macbeth* at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. BA: Bowie State University, Acting/Directing

**John Geoffrion (Geoff/Cooper understudy)** is delighted to make his Round House Theatre debut. DC credits include *Arabian Nights* and *Good Woman of Setzuan* at Constellation Theatre; *Cherry Orchard*, *Edward III*, and *Kafka's Dick* at WSC/Avant Bard; *Sink the Belgrano!*, *Guilt*, and *War of the*

*Worlds* at Scena Theatre; and *The African Company Presents Richard III* at Howard University. Regional credits include *Our Town* at Everyman Theatre; *Amadeus* at New Rep; *I Capture the Castle* at Greater Boston Stage; *Gross Indecency* (Best Actor, IRNE & BWW Boston) and *Arcadia* at Bad Habit; *Art, Loot*, and *Three Days of Rain* at Hub Theatre Boston; *Our Town* at Peterborough Players; and *Stones In His Pockets* and *Candida* at Acadia Rep. MFA: Catholic University.  
johngeoffrion.com

**Tyler “T” Lang (Kwame/James and Devon/Nathan understudy)** is thrilled to make his Round House Theatre debut. T is a Chicago-born actor, playwright, producer, and singer currently based in the DMV and studying at Howard University. He has worked with La MaMa ETC, VOCA, Cara Mia Theatre Co., Kitchen Dog Theater, Shakespeare Dallas, Junior Players, Echo Theatre, and Soul Rep Theatre. Most recently, his original play *Changes* played Off-Broadway in NYC with Howard and CUA collaborators. He was also the first Howard playwright selected for La MaMa’s International Umbria in Spoleto, Italy, and will soon appear on HBO Max’s *Evil Lives Here*. Instagram: @Eazyt2002

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

*Sally & Tom*  
By Suzan Lori-Parks  
Directed by Timothy Douglas  
May 27-June 28, 2026 | Regional Premiere

### **ABOUT THE PLAY**

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks (*Topdog/Underdog*) delivers a “hilarious and harrowing nesting doll of a play” (*The New York Times*) in *Sally & Tom*, a bold, whip-smart theatrical rollercoaster. A scrappy theatre group is staging a play about Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson, with the playwright playing Sally and her partner directing and playing Tom. What could possibly go wrong? As art and life collide, rehearsals spiral into chaos, unearthing powerful truths about race, power, and art. By turns funny, gut-wrenching, and unflinchingly honest, *Sally & Tom* is a bold and entertaining explosion of the stories we tell about America’s not-so-distant past that will stay with you long after the final bow.

**WHERE:** Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro’s Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit [RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/](https://RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/).

## **DATES AND TIMES**

*Sally & Tom* runs from May 27–June 28, 2026. Performances are:

- Tuesday through Friday at 7:30pm
- Saturday at 8:00pm
- Saturday and Sunday at 2:00pm

## ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

- **Audio-described performances:** June 6 (matinee)
- **Open-captioned performances:** June 7 (matinee), June 13 (matinee)
- **Relaxed performance:** June 20 (matinee)
- **Masks are required at the following performances:** June 27 (matinee)

## COMMUNITY NIGHTS

- **Pride Night:** June 12
- **HBCU Night:** June 16

## POST AND PRE-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

- **Post-Show Discussions:** May 27, May 28, June 7, June 14
- **Designer Discussion:** May 27 at 6:45pm
- **Director Discussion:** May 29 at 6:45pm
- **Teen Night:** May 29: Join us for dinner followed by a pre-show discussion before the show and attend a performance of the play followed by a post-show activity.

**TICKETS:** From \$50 with ticket discounts available. Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office.

Available ticket discounts include:

- **Pay-What-You-Can performances:** PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning three weeks before the first performance of each show. The patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are available for performances on Wednesday, May 27 (7:30pm) and Saturday, May 30 (2:00pm) and are subject to availability.
- **2-For-1 Tuesday:** For all Tuesday performances of *Sally & Tom*, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (240.644.1100) with

promo code TWOFORONE. Discounts may not be combined. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.

- **Free Play:** Free tickets for students ages 13 through college. Round House Theatre's Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit [RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay) or email [Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org).
- **On the House community ticket access program:** Round House's next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit [RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-TheHouse](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-TheHouse) or email [Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org).
- **Blue Star Theatre Program:** Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at [RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets).
- **Group Sales:** Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing [GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org).

## **ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE**

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, D.C. area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 50,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 252 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 54, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students age 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

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