

BAM

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Trisha Brown Dance Company Returns to BAM for a Landmark Program Honoring Robert Rauschenberg

A rare double bill of *Set and Reset* and *Travelogue* celebrates the visionary collaborations between Rauschenberg, Brown, and Merce Cunningham

BAM and Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival Present

Trisha Brown Dance Company

Dancing with Bob: Rauschenberg, Brown and Cunningham Onstage (NY Premiere)

Choreography by Trisha Brown and Merce Cunningham

Original Design and Costumes by Robert Rauschenberg

Set and Reset (1983)

Choreography by Trisha Brown

Music by Laurie Anderson

Original Design and Costumes by Robert Rauschenberg

Lighting Design by Beverly Emmons

Travelogue (1977)

Choreography by Merce Cunningham

Music by John Cage

Original Design and Costumes by Robert Rauschenberg

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY)

Thu, Feb 26 at 7:30 PM

Fri, Feb 27 at 7:30 PM

Sat, Feb 28 at 7:30 PM

Tickets start at \$35

February 2, 2026 / BROOKLYN, NY – Fifty years after its BAM debut, **Trisha Brown Dance Company** (TBDC) returns to the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House with *Dancing with Bob: Rauschenberg, Brown and Cunningham Onstage*, a historic double bill honoring the centennial of one of its most influential collaborators: visual artist **Robert Rauschenberg**.

This landmark program brings together two groundbreaking works that showcase Rauschenberg's iconic designs—*Set and Reset* (1983) by **Trisha Brown** and *Travelogue* (1977) by **Merce Cunningham**—offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience one of the most dynamic intersections of dance, music, and visual art.

Brown's *Set and Reset*, a defining work from the inaugural Next Wave Festival, stands as a testament to her decades-long creative partnership with Rauschenberg. Performed to **Laurie Anderson's** propulsive score, the work merges Brown's signature fluid, geometric movement with Rauschenberg's translucent, silk-screened costumes and sculptural set, animated by projections of archival newsreel footage. The result is a vibrant kinetic landscape that explores themes of visibility, invisibility, and collective memory. Hailed as "surely the most beloved and irresistible work of postmodern dance" (*The New York Times*), *Set and Reset* remains a milestone in Brown's radical and poetic choreography.

In *Travelogue*, Cunningham reunites with Rauschenberg and composer John Cage more than a decade after their initial collaborations.. The work—last performed by a professional company in 1979—features Rauschenberg's scenic elements titled *Tantric Geography*, which the dancers engage with through ballroom phrases, antic gestures, and deadpan physicality. Cage's score, *Telephones and Birds*, which has been adapted for mobile devices by Adam Tandler, blends recordings of bird calls with dialed live messages, creating an unpredictable sonic terrain that plays with time, technology, and chance.

Travelogue marks the first time that a Cunningham work was staged by the Trisha Brown Dance Company, underscoring the company's continued commitment to artistic experimentation and cross-disciplinary dialogue. Since 2022, TBDC has expanded its mission to include new commissions from artists inspired by Brown's legacy.

Produced in partnership with the Merce Cunningham Trust

Trisha Brown (1936–2017) was a pioneering choreographer who reshaped contemporary dance through her radical movement language and interdisciplinary collaborations. A founding member of Judson Dance Theater, she launched Trisha Brown Dance Company in 1970 and created over 100 works that moved fluidly between site-specific environments, museums, and the proscenium stage. Her groundbreaking career earned her the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, the National Medal of Arts, and numerous international honors. Today, TBDC continues to preserve and expand her legacy through performances, education, and new commissions.

Merce Cunningham (1919–2009) was one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, known for revolutionizing dance through chance operations, the separation of music and movement, and bold collaborations with artists like John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg. He founded the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in 1953 and created over 180 dances, presenting nearly 800 Events worldwide across museums, theaters, and public spaces. His work earned major honors including a MacArthur Fellowship, Kennedy Center Honor, and the Praemium Imperiale. Cunningham's technique and repertory continue to shape dancers globally.

Robert Rauschenberg (1925–2008) was a visionary visual artist whose boundary-breaking "Combines" transformed modern art by merging painting, sculpture, and everyday materials. A central figure at Black Mountain College and the Art Students League, he forged enduring collaborations with Merce Cunningham, John Cage, and Trisha Brown, designing iconic sets and costumes that reshaped the relationship between visual art and performance. His creative partnership with Brown included landmark works such as *Set and Reset*, where his photographic silkscreen designs became integral to the choreography. Rauschenberg's influence continues to define interdisciplinary artistic practice.

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Credits

Leadership support for Trisha Brown Dance Company provided by Dance Reflections by VCA

Leadership support for BAM's strategic initiatives provided by Mellon Foundation

Leadership support for BAM Access Programs provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

Leadership support for BAM programming provided by Howard Gilman Foundation

Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The SHS Foundation

Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by Harkness Foundation

Leadership support for Trisha Brown Dance Company provided by Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

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