



BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

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BAM Announces Its Fall 2026 Season and Next Wave

Featuring Okwui Okpokwasili, Saidiya Hartman, Cynthia Oliver, and Hanif Abdurraqib as Next Wave 2026 builds toward DanceAfrica 50

Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's *Einstein on the Beach* celebrated in concert for its 50th anniversary

June 11, 2026/Brooklyn, NY—BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) announces its Fall 2026 season and Next Wave, an expansive slate of dance, theater, music, film, and family events presenting artists at the leading edge of their practice alongside some of the most enduring names in the performing arts.

At the heart of the season is Next Wave 2026, which lays the groundwork for the 50th anniversary of DanceAfrica, the nation's largest festival dedicated to African diasporic dance and music, arriving in May 2027. By providing a platform for African and African diasporic artists to create and showcase work that holds both historical legacy and Afrofuturist possibility, BAM honors the vision that choreographer and DanceAfrica founder Chuck Davis bequeathed to the institution. His work underscored one of the world's most profound truths: Africa is a wellspring of ancestry and history, and a diverse continent at the epicenter of contemporary questions including migration, human rights, social justice, and climate. That understanding runs through this season.

Okwui Okpokwasili, one of the defining voices in contemporary performance, appears in two works: *adaku, part 2* with **Peter Born**, and the US premiere of *Minor Music at the End of the World*, written by **Saidiya Hartman** and featuring **André Holland**. Rwandan artists **Dorothée Munyaneza** and **Dorcy Rugamba** present works drawn from memory, loss, and survival. **Nehprii Amenii** makes her BAM debut with "*HUMAN*," and Bessie Award-winning choreographer **Cynthia Oliver** returns with, *Turn. Turning. TURNT.*, a three-part evening on Black girlhood, survival, and re-emergence. **Hanif Abdurraqib** continues his poetry series into a third year, gathering Black poets and thinkers from Brooklyn and across the African diaspora. Together they mark a convergence, a creative inheritance that is foundational and forward-looking at once, and whose influence has long shaped culture around the world.

The season also brings longtime collaborators and first-time artists to Next Wave: the **Philip Glass Ensemble** performs *Einstein on the Beach* in concert for the opera's 50th anniversary and anticipating Glass's 90th birthday; **Anne Bogart** and **Charles L. Mee** reunite for the world premiere of *PRELUDE*, a site-specific outdoor work produced by En Garde Arts; **Tiago**

Rodriguez returns to BAM for the third time with *La Distance*, the breakout hit of the 2025 Festival d'Avignon; and Guggenheim Fellows **Holland Andrews** and **yuniya edi kwon** make their BAM debuts. *I'mPossible Holiday Wonders*, **Omnium Circus's** radically inclusive holiday spectacular making its BAM debut in December.

The full fall season also includes *The Ford/Hill Project*, a verbatim theater work drawn from the Senate testimony of Anita Hill and Christine Blasey Ford, created by **Elizabeth Marvel** and **Lee Sunday Evans**; a conversation with bestselling author and organizational psychologist **Adam Grant**, in association with Greenlight Bookstore; plus *Unworlding, NYC*, a new series of public dialogues curated by BAM Artist-in-Residence and Curator **Helga Davis**, featuring conversations with renowned poet **Claudia Rankine** and critic **Jack Halberstam**.

Rounding out the season are BAM's fall film program across the Peter Jay Sharp and BAM KBH buildings, and BAMkids family programming.

"This is a season that embraces the complexities of history and the inevitability of geographies," says BAM's Artistic Director, **Amy Cassello**. "We are fostering connection, both in holistic ways amongst peer organizations as presenting partners, and in hopeful ways with our audiences who hold a multitude of experiences, curiosities, and opinions. It is our honor to provide a variety of platforms where the collective imagination and courage of artists can shine."

"We are proud to present a dynamic fall season that brings together global and local communities through inspiring artistic experiences that foster connection, curiosity, and dialogue," says BAM President **Tamara McCaw**. "As we continue to serve artists, audiences, cultural workers, and local residents through our work, I want to thank our incredible supporters. BAM is deeply grateful to our season sponsor, Bloomberg Philanthropies, as well as our donors, civic leaders, and elected officials for their continued partnership and support."

[Download press images.](#)

Fall

Sep 8—20	<i>The Ford/Hill Project</i> by Elizabeth Marvel & Lee Sunday Evans (Theater)
Oct 13	<i>Vibe: The Secrets of Strong Connections in a Lonely World</i> by Adam Grant (Talk)
Oct 13—15	<i>PRELUDE</i> written by Charles L. Mee, directed by Anne Bogart (Theater)
Oct 14 & 27	<i>Unworlding, NYC</i> curated by Helga Davis, featuring Claudia Rankine and Jack Halberstam (Series)

Next Wave

Oct 7—11	Dorcy Rugamba's <i>Hewa Rwanda—Letter to the absent</i> (Theater/Music)
Oct 21—25	<i>How does it feel to look at nothing</i> by Holland Andrews & yuniya edi kwon (Music/Opera)
Oct 23—24	<i>Toi, moi, Tituba...</i> by Dorothee Munyaneza (Dance)
Oct 24—30	<i>I Guess It Was My Destiny to Live So Long</i> by Hanif Abdurraqib (Poetry)
Nov 4—7	<i>Turn. Turning. TURNT.</i> by Cynthia Oliver (Dance)
Nov 11—15	<i>adaku, part 2</i> by Okwui Okpokwasili & Peter Born (Dance)

Nov 18—29 *La Distance* by Tiago Rodrigues (Theater)
Nov 19—21 *Einstein on the Beach* 50th Anniversary Concert by Philip Glass & Robert Wilson (Music)
Dec 2—5 Nehprie Amenii's "*HUMAN*" music by Martha Redbone & Aaron Whitby (Theater/Puppetry)
Dec 4—6 *Minor Music at the End of the World* written by Saidiya Hartman, directed by Sarah Benson (Theater)

Holiday

Dec 10—13 *I'mPossible Holiday Wonders* by Omnium Circus (Circus/Kids/Holiday)

Kids and Families

Sep—Dec Best of BAMkids Film Festival 2026 (Film/Kids)
Oct 31 BAMboo! (Kids/Community)

Fall Engagements

The Ford/Hill Project

Waterwell (Theater)

Created by Elizabeth Marvel and Lee Sunday Evans

Directed by Lee Sunday Evans

Sep 8—20 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets from \$45

Thirty years apart, Anita Hill and Christine Blasey Ford recounted some of the most private moments of their lives in one of the most public settings imaginable: a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. In *The Ford/Hill Project*, an ensemble of four actors delivers lines taken directly from the verbatim transcripts of these pivotal hearings. Hill and Ford spoke out courageously against men who nonetheless ascended to positions of extraordinary prestige and power. Their testimony has echoed across the years, and speaks directly to our present political moment.

Two-time Obie Award winner **Lee Sunday Evans**, Artistic Director of Waterwell, is well known to BAM audiences for directing three provocative Next Wave presentations: *HOME* (2017), *Farmhouse/Whorehouse* (2017), and *FOOD* (2023).

Elizabeth Marvel, renowned for her work on stage and in film and television, previously appeared at BAM in *Medea & Phaedra: Tragedies of Passion, Betrayal, and Revenge* (2016).

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

BAM in association with Greenlight Bookstore

Presents

(Talk)

Vibe: The Secrets of Strong Connections in a Lonely World

Adam Grant

Oct 13 | BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave

Tickets start at \$52 (all tickets include a copy of the book)

What does it actually take to build a meaningful relationship in a world designed to keep us apart? *New York Times* bestselling author Adam Grant joins Malcolm Gladwell for a conversation around *Vibe*, his new book on the science of human connection. An organizational psychologist who has spent his career studying how people relate, collaborate, and trust, Grant illuminates the surprising science behind strong connections and reveals how we can forge faster, stronger, and longer bonds.

Adam Grant is an organizational psychologist and Wharton's top-rated professor for seven consecutive years. He is the bestselling author of *Think Again* and five other books translated into 45 languages.

Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Tipping Point* and *Outliers*, and co-founder of Pushkin Industries, an audio content company that produces the podcast *Revisionist History*, which reconsiders things both overlooked and misunderstood.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

PRELUDE

World Premiere

En Garde Arts

(Theater)

Written by Charles L. Mee

Original Songs by the Lazours

Adapted and Directed by Anne Bogart

Oct 13—15 | 300 Ashland Plaza, L10 Windows (offsite)

Free

For forty years, En Garde Arts has transformed New York City's streets, barges, and hidden corners into sites for theatrical discovery. This October, the company reunites director Anne Bogart and playwright Charles L. Mee for *PRELUDE*, a large-scale, free, site-specific outdoor performance, with original music by the Lazours and elaborate costume constructions by Machine Dazzle. *PRELUDE* invites audiences to witness fleeting encounters and moments of connection that illuminate what it means to be alive together in New York City.

Anne Bogart is one of the most influential theater directors working today, celebrated for her development of the Viewpoints technique and her decades of work at the forefront of American experimental theater.

Charles L. Mee is a playwright whose work draws on ancient sources and the fragments of a broken world to create pieces that feel utterly alive and of the moment. This marks another chapter in a long creative partnership: both Mee's *bobrauschenbergamerica* (2003) and *Hotel Cassiopeia* (2007) were directed by Bogart at BAM, who returned in 2022 to direct *The Medium*.

En Garde Arts produced both Anne Bogart and Charles L. Mee on multiple occasions. They collaborated on the production of *Another Person is a Foreign Country*, an original site-specific production in the courtyard of the former Towers Nursing Home. En Garde also worked with Anne Bogart on *Marathon Dancing* in the Masonic Hall Ballroom and with Chuck on *Orestes* staged by the Hudson River at the Penn Yards and *Trojan Women* at the East River Park Amphitheatre.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

BAM in association with The Racial Imaginary Institute and Greenlight Bookstore
Presents (Series)

Unworlding, NYC

Curated by BAM Artist-in-Residence and Curator Helga Davis

Oct 14 & 27 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Go to [BAM.org](https://bam.org) for programming updates and ticket prices.

Unworlding, NYC is a new series of public dialogues that brings together artists and writers across disciplines to reimagine structures and relationships in a moment of profound social and institutional change. Rooted in conversation and community, the series examines these changes as a condition for collective invention.

The series opens October 14 with *Triage*, a conversation between genre-defying poet and MacArthur Fellow Claudia Rankine and Pulitzer Prize-winning essayist Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah. Rankine will discuss her new book *Triage*, her most personal work yet, which collides lyric, memoir, image, and essay to make an argument for grieving and action in a time of relentless loss. On October 27, the series continues with *Anarchitecture After Everything*, a conversation between Columbia University professor and Guggenheim Fellow Jack Halberstam and psychoanalyst and scholar Avgi Saketopoulou, exploring how the radical aesthetic practice of *Anarchitecture* and the destabilizing power of transness can unite to transform how we see bodies and built environments.

A multifaceted singer, actress, composer, and communicator, **Helga Davis** has appeared on the world's most prestigious stages while maintaining deep roots in the realities and concerns of her local community. She has been performing at BAM for over two decades, including six Next Wave collaborations with Robert Wilson and Philip Glass, Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon, Craig Harris and Sekou Sundiata, Carl Hancock Rux, Maya Beiser and Missy Mazzoli, Shara Nova and Andrew Ondrejcek. Davis is currently BAM's Artist-in-Residence and Curator.

Claudia Rankine is the author of eight books including her celebrated *Citizen, An American Lyric* and the co-founder of The Racial Imaginary Institute. She is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and fellowships from the Guggenheim and Lannan foundations, among many other honors.

Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah is an essayist and cultural critic whose longform profiles of Kendrick Lamar, Toni Morrison, and others have been widely acclaimed. Her profile of Dylann Roof was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 2018.

Jack Halberstam is David Feinson Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University and the author of seven books including *The Queer Art of Failure* and *Female Masculinity*. He is a 2024 Guggenheim Fellow.

Avgi Saketopoulou is a psychoanalyst, scholar, and faculty member in the Postdoctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis at NYU, and the author of *Sexuality Beyond Consent: Risk, Race, Traumatophilia*.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

Next Wave Engagements

Hewa Rwanda—Letter to the absent

Created by Dorcy Rugamba

Oct 7—11 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets start at \$40

BAM Debut

(Theater/Music)

Dorcy Rugamba's magnetic BAM debut is drawn from his memoir, a dedication to his family killed on the first day of the Rwandan Genocide. Accompanied onstage by guitarist and collaborator Majnun, Rugamba performs as a powerful actor and orator, weaving poetry, song, and storytelling into what he describes as a hymn to life. He remembers the departed while simultaneously honoring the living, holding the weight of absence alongside a fierce insistence on beauty. A breathtaking ode to memory, culture, and the search for spirituality in the face of unfathomable loss, *Hewa Rwanda* ultimately prescribes two paths through dark times: love and creativity.

Author, actor, dancer, and Rwandan stage director **Dorcy Rugamba** trained at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Liège and was first introduced to the performing arts by his father, Cyprien Rugamba, a writer, choreographer, and composer. Based between Brussels and Kigali, he co-wrote *Rwanda 94*, founded Les Ateliers Urwintore in Kigali, and in 2012 established Rwanda Arts Initiative. His memoir *Hewa Rwanda: Lettre aux absents* was published in 2024.

Majnun, born in Senegal and based between Europe and West Africa, is a multi-instrumentalist whose eclectic practice spans Afrobeat, jazz, funk, and trance. He has collaborated with Rugamba on a world tour of *Hewa Rwanda* since 2024.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

How does it feel to look at nothing

By Holland Andrews & yuniya edi kwon

NY Premiere
(Music/Opera)

Oct 21—25 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets start at \$45

How does life emerge from disintegration? Visionary composer-performers Holland Andrews and yuniya edi kwon make their BAM debuts with the New York premiere of an electrifying interdisciplinary work that fuses sound, movement, and ritual. Voices, instruments, and bodies layer into an ecstatic meditation on nothingness and becoming. Both 2025 Guggenheim Fellows, Andrews and kwon bring global acclaim and rich collaborative histories into a singular, immersive experience, offering a seamless fusion of improvisation, composition, and physical theater that channels the spiritual journeys they have shared into a transcendent exploration of creation itself.

Holland Andrews is a vocalist, composer, clarinetist, and performance artist whose work moves between solo practice and deep collaboration. They have created and performed with Bill T. Jones, Dorothee Munyaneza, Otobong Nkanga, Will Rawls, and Sonya Tayeh, among others, and have composed for dance, theater, and film.

yuniya edi kwon is a violinist, composer, vocalist, and poet whose interdisciplinary practice has been presented throughout the US and Europe. She has collaborated with The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Senga Nengudi, and Tomeka Reid, and performed alongside Roscoe Mitchell, Moor Mother, Mary Halvorson, and the Sun Ra Arkestra.

How does it feel to look at nothing is made possible by lead commissioner John C. Robinson, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Creative Capital Award, The Watermill Center's Nina von Maltzahn Fellowship, sweat variant's Artists Supporting Artists Program, and Chiwoniso Kaitano & Andy Sabl. Developmental and residency support has been provided by Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Watermill Center, Guild Hall's William P. Rayner Artist-in-Residency, Performance Space New York, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, National Sawdust, Teatro Municipal do Porto, Avaloch Farm Music Institute, and Shadowcliff Artist Residency.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

New York Live Arts in association with BAM, L'Alliance New York | *Crossing The Line*
and Villa Albertine

Presents

Toi, moi, Tituba...

US Premiere

By Dorothée Munyaneza

(Dance)

Oct 23—24 | New York Live Arts, 219 W 19th St, New York, NY (offsite)

Tickets on sale soon at newyorklivearts.org

Based on French philosopher Elsa Dorlin's text about Maryse Condé's heroine Tituba, a Black woman and so-called witch erased from history, Dorothée Munyaneza uses her own body as a danced archive, making suppressed voices audible, visible, and present. A multiplicity of voices and perspectives converge in a single body, insisting that no one is forgotten.

Originally from Rwanda, **Dorothée Munyaneza** moved to England in 1994 and later settled in France. With music, singing, dance, and writing, she starts from real-life stories to seize memory through the body and make the scars of history seen. She founded her company, Kadidi, in 2013, and her works including *Samedi Détente* (2014), *Unwanted* (2017), and *Mailles* (2020) have been presented at major venues across Europe. She is currently an associated artist of the Théâtre National de Chaillot and Maison de la Danse in Lyon.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org / Tyler Ashley at tashley@newyorklivearts.org

I Guess It Was My Destiny To Live So Long

Curated by Hanif Abdurraqib

(Poetry)

Oct 24—30 | Various venues on the BAM campus

Go to BAM.org for programming updates and ticket prices.

BAM Curator at Large and MacArthur Fellow Hanif Abdurraqib returns for year three of his vital, multidisciplinary celebration of poetry as a force for bringing people together. With the poet June Jordan as a guiding spirit, this year's program reaches across the African continent, gathering poets and voices in conversation with Brooklyn. Also returning is *Stones in the Water*, Abdurraqib's beloved annual reading with close friends Sarah Kay, Clint Smith, and Anis Mojgani, a resounding affirmation of community and the shared language of poetry.

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His books include *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us* (2017), *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest* (2019), and *There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension* (2024), with a new poetry collection forthcoming. Named a MacArthur Fellow in 2021, Abdurraqib has become one of the most vital and widely read cultural voices of his generation. He began curating performances at BAM in 2022.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org/Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

Turn. Turning. TURNT.

By Cynthia Oliver

(Dance)

Nov 4—7 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets start at \$40

Cynthia Oliver returns to BAM with a three-part evening of dance constructed before, during, and after the 2020 pandemic. *Tether*, an Afrofuturist experiment germinated in 2019, meditates on Black girls' creativity and play, proposing that Double Dutch jump rope is, in essence, life-skill training. *Fallow* is the most explicit response to the pandemic: through a facade of stillness, it holds the myriad pressures of that extraordinary time. *Summon. Sow. Reap.* follows as a companion piece, exploring re-emergence from isolation through deep rhythm and spiritual patterning. Together, Oliver and a cast of six brilliant contemporary dance artists cultivate an evening that responds to shared history with fierce determination and hope.

Bessie Award-winning choreographer **Cynthia Oliver** has performed with David Gordon Pick Up Co., Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Bebe Miller Company, and Tere O'Connor Dance. Her last evening-length work, *Virago-Man Dem*, premiered at BAM's 2017 Next Wave. She has been named a 2021 United States Artist, a 2021 Doris Duke Artist, and a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

BAM and Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels in association with L'Alliance New York's *Crossing The Line* Festival

NY Premiere

Present

(Dance/Theater)

adaku, part 2

Created by sweat variant - Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born

Nov 11—15 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets start at \$45

New York premiere, extending a cycle introduced at Next Wave 2023

Set in a near-future United States, a young woman taught that she has no history worth remembering receives sudden transmissions. What are the futures she can now imagine? *adaku, part 2* continues the speculative mythology that sweat variant, the collaborative practice of Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born, introduced at Next Wave 2023. The *adaku* trilogy explores how one family in precolonial West Africa becomes entangled in the transatlantic slave trade. sweat variant's multidisciplinary practice places Black interiority at the center, inviting audiences into cycles of ritual and repair at the crossroads of dance, theater, and visual art.

Brooklyn-based performer, choreographer, and writer **Okwui Okpokwasili** is a Nigerian American artist who was born and raised in the Bronx, and the histories of these places and the girls and women who inhabit them feature prominently in much of her work. She is the recipient of a 2018 MacArthur Fellowship, a Doris Duke Artist Award, and multiple Bessie Awards. Peter Born is a director, composer, and designer of performance and installations, often together with Okpokwasili. Their work together has appeared internationally at the Berlin Biennale, the Wiener Festwochen, and the Tate, among other venues. Born's collaborations with Okpokwasili and others have been awarded four NY Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards. Okpokwasili also appears this season in the US premiere of *Minor Music* at the End of the World.

adaku, part 2 is commissioned by Aspen Art Museum, The Wexner Center for the Arts, and Yale Schwarzman Center as lead co-commissioners. *adaku, part 2* is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Walker Art Center, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, DiverseWorks, ASU Gammage, CAP UCLA and NPN. *adaku, part 2* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and The Mellon Foundation. *adaku, part 2* is also supported by the Harkness Foundation for Dance.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

BAM in association with L'Alliance New York's *Crossing The Line* Festival
Presents **North American Premiere**
La Distance (Theater)
Festival d'Avignon
Text and Direction by Tiago Rodrigues
Nov 18—29 | Harvey Theater at the BAM Strong, 651 Fulton St.
Tickets start at \$25

Breakout hit of the 2025 Festival d'Avignon, *La Distance* arrives at BAM for its North American premiere. Welcome to 2077, where survival has put humanity to the test. As humanity struggles to endure on earth, a daughter chooses life in exile on Mars, leaving her father to grapple with love, loss, and the challenge of connection across unnavigable distance. Performing on a visually stunning rotating stage, Alison Dechamps and Adama Diop make their BAM debuts in an urgent, unforgettable work about the consequences of choices we make today.

Tiago Rodrigues is among the most compelling theater makers working in Europe today, known for work that is at once formally rigorous and deeply human. He cofounded the theater company Mundo Perfeito, which has presented over 30 productions across 20 countries. Since 2022, he has served as director of the Festival d'Avignon, one of the world's most prestigious performing arts festivals, where *La Distance* had its world premiere in 2025. BAM audiences know him through *By Heart* (2021) and *Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists* (2024).

Translation by Thomas Resendes

Scenography by Fernando Ribeiro

Costume Design by José António Tenente

Lighting Design by Rui Monteiro

Music and Sound Design by Pedro Costa

Co-produced by Teatro stabile di Napoli Teatro Nazionale (Naples), Onassis Stegi (Athens), La Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand Scène nationale, Divadlo International Theatre Festival (Pízeň), Le Volcan Scène nationale du Havre, Teatre Lliure (Barcelona), Centro Dramatico Nacional (Madrid), Malakoff Scène nationale Théâtre 71, Culturgest (Lisbon), De Singel (Antwerp), Équinoxe Scène nationale de Châteauroux, Points communs Nouvelle Scène nationale de Cergy-Pontoise / Val d'Oise, Piccolo Teatro di Milano Teatro d'Europa (Milan), Maillon Théâtre de Strasbourg Scène européenne, NTCH Taiwan National Theatre and Concert Hall, Les Célestins Théâtre de Lyon, Théâtre du Bois de l'Aune (Aix-en-Provence), Théâtre de Grasse Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art & Création, Scènes et Cinés Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art en territoire (Istres), Le Bateau Feu Scène nationale de Dunkerque, Plovdiv Drama Theatre, Malta Festival (Poznań), Espace 1789 (Saint-Ouen)

Supported by the integration programme of the École du TNB - Théâtre national de Bretagne (Rennes)

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

Einstein on the Beach

(Music)

50th Anniversary Concert

The Philip Glass Ensemble

The music of the opera by Philip Glass and Robert Wilson

Nov 19—21 | BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave

Tickets start at \$65

The Philip Glass Ensemble, led by longtime music director Michael Riesman, will be joined by Lucinda Childs for this anniversary event celebrating a revolutionary work, performed by those who know it best. Other special guests to be announced.

One of the most singular and significant stage works of the 20th century, *Einstein on the Beach* has been closely associated with BAM for decades. Introduced by director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass at the 1976 Avignon Festival, the opera radically upended long-held conventions of sound, staging, and duration, casting a long shadow over art and music in America and around the world.

First staged at BAM in 1984 and revived in 1992 and 2012, the work comes to BAM in concert, marking its 50th anniversary and anticipating Glass's 90th birthday. With stage design by Tony and Olivier Award winner Es Devlin.

Philip Glass has had an extraordinary and unprecedented impact on the musical life of his time, through his operas, symphonies, ensemble compositions, and collaborations with artists from Allen Ginsberg to David Bowie to Ravi Shankar.

Born in Waco, Texas, **Robert Wilson** (1941–2025) was among the world's foremost theater and visual artists, whose longstanding relationship with BAM began with *The Life and Times of Sigmund Freud* in 1970.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

“HUMAN”

Written and Directed by Nehprie Amenii

Music by Martha Redbone and Aaron Whitby

Dec 2—5 | BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl.

Tickets start at \$30

BAM Debut

(Theater/Puppetry)

At the bottom of the ocean, where darkness meets the stars, the Octopus tells the story of a thing once called the human being. Nehprie Amenii's kaleidoscopic, puppetry-driven performance explores what it means to be human in a world where humans no longer exist, asking whether humanity is something we are born with or something we must earn. The story follows Nacci, a young seahorse full of curiosity and conviction, who refuses to believe humanity is a thing of the past. As he searches for a way to bring humans back, his journey reveals who they were, their nature, their history, and the consequences they left behind. Rooted in African traditions and modes of thought, *“HUMAN”* blends puppetry, choreography, and original music by acclaimed vocalist and composer Martha Redbone, with Aaron Whitby, into a richly imagined world of deep beauty, realized through visually immersive design, evocative projections, and visionary costuming. This presentation marks the full production premiere and Amenii's BAM debut.

Brooklyn-based writer, director, and educator **Nehprie Amenii** is the founding artistic director of Khunum Productions. Over a twenty-year career she has collaborated with The Public Theater, La MaMa, Bushwick Starr, Bread and Puppet Theatre, and Cirque Du Soleil, among many others. She currently teaches Directing for Puppetry at the University of Connecticut and has spent two decades using puppetry and multimedia arts to teach English to young immigrants in New York City public schools. In 2020, she received the Puppet Showplace Black Puppeteer Empowerment Grant.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

Minor Music at the End of the World

Written by Saidiya Hartman

Directed by Sarah Benson

Dec 4—6 | Harvey Theater at the BAM Strong, 651 Fulton St.

Tickets start at \$35

US Premiere

(Theater)

"Behind and all around, the heavens glowed in dim, weird radiance that suffused the darkening world and made almost a minor music." — W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Comet"

From the monologue of the last man on earth to new modes of relation in the wake of catastrophe, *Minor Music at the End of the World* explores the possibility of Black life at the end of the world. What might blossom in the black morning?

A collaboration in three movements based on writer and scholar Saidiya Hartman's texts, including her essays *The End of White Supremacy* and *Litany for Grieving Sisters* and an original unpublished work, *Dead River*, the performance is directed by Sarah Benson and features André Holland, Okwui Okpokwasili, Bria Bacon, Audrey Hailes, and AJ Wilmore, alongside a film by Arthur Jafa. The first movement draws from W.E.B. Du Bois's "The Comet," a speculative short story written in the aftermath of the 1918 pandemic and the violence of the Red Summer. This polyvocal work of hybrid form bridges performance, movement, film, and visual art, with site-specific scenic design by Mimi Lien, a stage installation by Precious Okoyomon, and live camera design by Josh Higgason.

Saidiya Hartman is the author of *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments, Lose Your Mother*, and *Scenes of Subjection*. A MacArthur Fellow, Guggenheim Fellow, and Fulbright Scholar, she is a University Professor at Columbia University.

Sarah Benson is a two-time Obie Award-winning director known for her architectural use of space and her collaborations across theater, dance, and visual art; she was a Director at Soho Rep from 2008 to 2023.

Commissioned by Hartwig Art Foundation

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

Holiday Engagement

I'mPossible Holiday Wonders

BAM Debut

Omnium Circus

(Circus/Kids/Holiday)

Dec 10—13 | BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave

Tickets start at \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for kids

A dazzling theatrical spectacular where breathtaking circus artistry, live music, and enchanting storytelling bring the magic of the holidays to life, Omnium Circus' *I'mPossible Holiday Wonders* features an extraordinarily diverse group of multi-abled, multi-talented artists in a joyous, heart-warming extravaganza. Led by Malik Paris the first Deaf Ringmaster, (voiced by Johnathan Lee Iverson), the show features original music by Mandy Harvey (Deaf singer-songwriter and America's Got Talent Golden Buzzer winner), Melissa Ruiz (a Bronx native and seven-time

World Champion Para-climbing athlete who holds two Guinness World Records , Danny Franzel (Special Olympic athlete and aerial silk artist) with a cast of legacy circus artists and comedy performers. All shows are sensory friendly, with integrated ASL captions, and live audio description.

Omnium Circus is an award-winning, globally recognized leader in innovative inclusion and comprehensive accessibility in the performing arts, dedicated to highlighting the potential in every performer and every audience member.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org

BAM Film Programs

BAM's fall film program returns across the expanded campus at the Peter Jay Sharp and BAM KBH buildings, offering an ambitious slate of international and local cinema. The season brings back longtime partners New York Film Festival and NewFest, alongside repertory programs dedicated to the legendary Taiwanese film composer Lim Giong and a spotlight on regional American filmmaking. BAM also presents the season's most anticipated new releases from acclaimed filmmakers including Alejandro González Iñárritu and Robert Eggers.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey, sgarvey@BAM.org/Kory Mello, kory@obscuredpictures.com

Programming for Kids and Families

BAM presents high-quality, globally diverse programming that sparks curiosity and ignites the imaginations of young audiences. This fall, BAMkids brings families together through film, Halloween festivities, and more, fostering a love for the arts in children of all ages.

BAMboo!

Oct 31 | 30 Lafayette Ave, between Ashland Pl and St. Felix St.

Free

Brooklyn's favorite family-friendly Halloween celebration returns bigger than ever, expanding this year to both indoor and outdoor activities across the Peter Jay Sharp Building. BAMboo! features carnival games, arts and crafts, candy giveaways, kid-friendly movies and more, a free community gathering that has become a must-attend Halloween tradition for families across Brooklyn.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org

Best of BAMkids Film Festival 2026

Sat, Sep 12 (Ages 3—5)

Sat, Nov 14 (Ages 6—8)

Sat, Dec 19 (Ages 9+)

BAM Rose Cinemas (Peter Jay Sharp Building) | 30 Lafayette Ave

Go to [BAM.org](https://www.bam.org) for programming updates and ticket prices.

A curated selection of the most celebrated animated and short films from BAMkids Film Festival 2026. Programming for each age group will be announced at a later date.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org

Credits

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 BAM's strategic initiatives provided by Altman Foundation

Leadership support for BAM programming provided by Alan and Judith Fishman

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Leadership support for adaku, part 2 provided by Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels

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