

BAM

2017 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

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

Festival d'Avignon director Olivier Py makes rare US cabaret appearance as Miss Knife at BAM Fisher, Sep 20—23

Each night features a special guest— Joey Arias, Angélique Kidjo, Ute Lemper, and Jo Lampert

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Olivier Py Sings Les Premiers Adieux de Miss Knife

World Premiere

Music by Stéphane Leach
Texts by Olivier Py
Costume design by Pierre-André Weitz

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl
Sep 20—23 at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$25

Talk: *Performing Gender*

With Olivier Py and Peggy Shaw
Moderated by Daniel Alexander Jones
Presented at the Brooklyn Book Festival
Sep 17 at 4pm
Brooklyn Book Festival (Free and open to the public)

Aug 11, 2017/Brooklyn, NY—By day, one of the most respected stage directors, actors, writers, and impresarios in Europe; by night, a cabaret chanteuse expunging life's pain and love's agony—this unusual artistic double identity comes together when the director of Festival d'Avignon **Olivier Py** makes a rare US stage appearance in *Olivier Py Sings Les Premiers Adieux de Miss Knife*.

Since “she” first morphed into fully-bejeweled and boa-feathered glory in 1996, Miss Knife has become Py's alter ego, allowing him to disregard gender conventions and express another side of himself. Working with long-time collaborator Stéphane Leach, Py pens a set of brand-new

songs about love and desire for this BAM engagement. Every night one guest artist—**Joey Arias** (Sep 20), **Angélique Kidjo** (Sep 21), **Ute Lemper** (Sep 22), and **Jo Lampert** (Sep 23)—joins Miss Knife's soirée, delivering a cocktail mix of genres, genders, nationalities, and stories.

About the Artist

Author, director, and actor **Olivier Py** was born in 1965. After studying at the National Superior School of Theatre Arts and Techniques (ENSATT), he entered the National Conservatory of Dramatic Art Paris in 1987 while also studying theology. His first play, *Oranges and Nails*, starring Didier Lafaye, was produced in 1988, the year he also founded his own company. In 1995 he made a big splash at the Festival d'Avignon when he performed *The Servant*, an endless story on a 24-hour cycle. In 1998, Py was appointed as the director of the Orléans National Drama Centre. From 2007 to 2011 he was the head of the Théâtre National de l'Odéon. He was appointed as the director of Festival d'Avignon in September 2013. His previous appearance at BAM was as director of *Requiem for Srebrenica* in the 2000 Next Wave Festival.

The pianist, choir director, and composer **Stéphane Leach** has devoted himself to the composition of incidental music and has worked with singers and actors for more than 15 years. He has set to music the stage works of Olivier Py at the Théâtre National de l'Odéon, such as *Orestie* by Aeschylus, for which he received the Prize of the Association of Critics in 2008 for the best composition of incidental music. He also composed the music of *Soulier de Satin* by Paul Claudel and *Les Vainqueurs* which were performed at the Festival d'Avignon, the Festival of Edinburgh, at the Théâtre du Rond-Point in Paris, and at the Théâtre de l'Odéon.

A fixture of vibrant downtown performance scene for 30-plus years, **Joey Arias** is a bona fide New York City icon. He has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, The Freedom Theatre in London, and on a world tour into the cabaret clubs of Paris, Tokyo, Moscow, Germany, Finland, Estonia, Canada, and England. On film and TV, he has appeared in *Mondo New York*, *Big Top Pee Wee*, *Elvira*, *Mistress of the Dark*, the *Saturday Night Live* episode with David Bowie and Klaus Nomi, *Elvira's MTV Halloween Special*, HBO's *Dragtime*, among others. Arias has produced several of his own recordings including *Arias on Holiday*, *Strange Fruit*, *Jazzo Lozo*, *StarLust in Berlin*, *Arias with a Twist* and *Bar D'o in New York*.

Three-time Grammy Award winner **Angélique Kidjo** is one of the greatest artists in international music today, a creative force with 13 albums to her name. *Time* magazine called her "Africa's premier diva." The *BBC* included her in its list of the continent's 50 most iconic figures, and in 2011 *The Guardian* listed her as one of the Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World. *Forbes* magazine has ranked Kidjo as the first woman on their list of the Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa. Kidjo's music cross-pollinates the West African traditions of her childhood in Benin with elements of American R&B, funk, and jazz, as well as influences from Europe and Latin America.

Ute Lemper's career is vast and varied. She has made her mark on the stage, in films, in concert, and as a unique recording artist of more than 30 CDs over 30 years. She has been universally praised for her interpretations of the Berlin cabaret songs, the works of Kurt Weill and Berthold Brecht, and the chansons of Marlene Dietrich, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Léo Ferré, Jacques Prévert, Nino Rota, Astor Piazzolla, and also her own compositions. She is equally renowned for her performances in musicals and plays on Broadway, in Paris, Berlin, and London's West End. Lemper was born in Münster, Germany and completed her studies at the Dance Academy in Cologne and the Max Reinhardt Seminary Drama School in Vienna.

Jo Lampert is a Brooklyn-based performer, producer, and DJ who most recently headlined *Joan of Arc: Into the Fire* (David Byrne, Alex Timbers) at The Public Theater. She has toured with the band tUnE-yArDs. Lampert has appeared in *Jo Lampert in the Lounge*—a solo cabaret at Ars Nova; *Rimbaud in New York* at BAM (2016 Winter/Spring); *New York Animals* directed by Eric Tucker at Bedlam; *Iphigenia in Aulis* directed by Rachel Chavkin at CSC; *Dance, Dance Revolution* directed by Alex Timbers; *The LaMaMa Cantata* written by Liz Swados, performed in Tokyo; *Marie Antoinette* at A.R.T and Yale Rep; *Prometheus Bound* at A.R.T.; and *The Last Goodbye* at Williamstown. Lampert is a Civilians Associate Artist, and received a B.F.A. from NYU Tisch.

For press information, contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.724.8027.

Credits:

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General Information:

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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