

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

Jerome Robbins' *Watermill*, reimagined by director/choreographer Luca Veggetti, comes to BAM Fisher, Oct 24–27

Features former New York City Ballet principal Joaquin De Luz in the lead role

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Watermill

By Jerome Robbins

Re-imagined by Luca Veggetti

Music by Teiji Ito

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space) 321 Ashland Pl

Oct 24–27 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25

Then and Now: *Watermill*

A pre-show discussion with Sharon Lehner, Joseph V. Melillo, and Luca Veggetti

Oct 25 at 6:30pm

BAM Fisher Lower Lobby

Free

Sept 17, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—A meditative dance theater work that explores the nature of time and perception, *Watermill* was created during renowned choreographer-director Jerome Robbins' most experimental period. The unique piece has been rarely staged since its premiere performance by New York City Ballet in 1972. BAM presents this Noh-inspired work, which Robbins called "poetic theater," as part of the Jerome Robbins Centennial Celebration.

Director/choreographer Luca Veggetti's newly reimagined production features former New York City Ballet principal Joaquin De Luz in the lead role. The piece is set on 18 dancers who portray adolescents on a barren beach in Watermill, Long Island—a dream landscape, where a man looks back on scenes from his life. Robbins' interest in Noh theater is reflected in the piece's ritualistic content, slow and stylized gestures, and the appearance of a demonic character. With Asian religious and theatrical influences, the contemplative music evokes the cycles of nature, the seasons, and moons. The production includes the original Teiji Ito score featuring Japanese instrumentation including the shakuhachi, a 13th-century bamboo flute played by Buddhist monks. The

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central and intimate configuration of the BAM Fishman Space will engender a new vision and perception of this unique piece of dance theater.

Veggetti said, "*Watermill* is a theater piece that is enacted by dancers. Or, to paraphrase Antonin Artaud in his seminal essay about Balinese theater, it is a kind of superior play in which the actors are, above all, dancers."

The performance will feature students from the acclaimed Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College, SUNY, who were chosen by Luca Veggetti to portray elements of the male protagonist's inner life. Veggetti, who was a guest artist in residence at the Conservatory of Dance in 2009 and 2010, said, "Working with students has become an essential component of my activity and career. Apart from the thrill of seeing the potential of young dancers, it is one of the most exciting ways for me to develop new ideas. In their extraordinary diversity, Purchase students embody a field of possibilities that is particularly interesting to me on a choreographic level."

Conservatory Director Nelly van Bommel said, "This is a great opportunity for our students to learn and experience this rarely performed Jerome Robbins masterwork. It has been an extremely valuable experience for the students, from learning the original steps from Robbins (Rights Trust) staggers Diana White and Kipling Houston, to being part of Luca Veggetti's new vision for the work, and performing in the Next Wave Festival at BAM."

Jerome Robbins is world renowned for his work as a choreographer of ballets as well as his work as a director and choreographer in theater, movies, and television. His Broadway shows include *On the Town*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, *High Button Shoes*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Miss Liberty*, *Call Me Madam*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. His last Broadway production in 1989, *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, won six Tony Awards including best musical and best director. Among the more than 60 ballets he created are *Fancy Free*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, *The Concert*, *Dances at a Gathering*, *In the Night*, *In G Major*, *Other Dances*, *Glass Pieces*, and *Ives, Songs*, which are in the repertoires of New York City Ballet and other major dance companies throughout the world. His last ballets include *A Suite of Dances* created for Mikhail Baryshnikov (1994), *2 & 3 Part Inventions* (1994), *West Side Story Suite* (1995), and *Brandenburg* (1996). In addition to two Academy Awards for the film *West Side Story*, Robbins received four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen Directors' Guild Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. He was a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient and was awarded the French Chevalier in l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Robbins died in 1998.

Luca Veggetti (choreographer/stage director) was born in 1963 and trained at La Scala in Milan. Veggetti began his career as a choreographer and stage director in 1990. Turning his interests toward contemporary music, experimental forms, and new technologies, he has collaborated with Toshio Hosokawa and Kaija Saariaho. Veggetti's work has been produced and presented by leading theaters, companies, and museums around the world including at the Drawing Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and La Cité de la Musique in Paris. Notable productions include Iannis Xenakis' *Oresteia* and Kaija Saariaho's *Maa* at the Miller Theater in a co-production with the Guggenheim's Works & Process series; creations for the Martha Graham Dance Company; *NOTATIONOTATIONS* for the Drawing Center; Toshio Hosokawa's opera *Hanjo* at Tokyo's Suntory Hall; *The Raven* for the first New York Philharmonic Biennial; *Vision of Lear* in Hiroshima; Kaija Saariaho's *The Tempest Songbook* for Gotham Chamber Orchestra with the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the performance/video installation *Scenario* conceived for

the spaces of MART at Oriente Occidente Festival in Italy; and the recent *Left-Right-Left*, a co-production by the Japan Society in New York and the Yokohama Noh Theater.

About the Conservatory of Dance

The Conservatory of Dance in the School of the Arts at Purchase College is one of only a handful of conservatories in the world where students can learn what it means to be a dance professional.

The Conservatory offers an education at the forefront of contemporary professional dance, while remaining committed to classical foundations. The BFA program gives students a comprehensive entrée into the world of professional dance. Purchase alumni currently perform with many of the foremost international contemporary modern and ballet dance companies. They also teach, direct, and choreograph major productions, dance on Broadway, have founded companies across the globe, and are nurturing the next generation as professors in higher education.

About Purchase College, SUNY

Purchase College, part of the State University of New York (SUNY) network of 64 universities and colleges, was founded in 1967 by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. His aspiration for Purchase was to create a dynamic campus that combined conservatory training in the visual and performing arts with programs in the liberal arts and sciences, in order to inspire an appreciation for both intellectual and artistic talents in all students. Today, Purchase College–SUNY is a community of students, faculty, and friends where open-minded engagement with the creative process leads to a lifetime of intellectual growth and professional opportunity. For more information about the College, visit www.purchase.edu.

For press information, contact Sandy Sawotka at ssawotka@BAM.org or 718.636.4190.

This presentation of *Watermill* is supported by the BAM Harvey Fund.

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

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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 varied light fare and bar service 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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