

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

Philip Glass' *Satyagraha* returns to BAM in a mesmerizing production that seamlessly integrates two high-wire art forms—opera and acrobatics, Oct 31—Nov 4

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Satyagraha

An opera in three acts by Philip Glass

Folkoperan/Cirkus Cirkör

Libretto by Constance DeJong adapted from the *Bhagavad Gita*

Directed by Tilde Björfors

Musical director and conductor Matthew Wood

Music arranged by Anders Högstedt

Set design by Tilde Björfors and Dan Potra

Costume design by Dan Potra

Lighting design by Patrik Bogårdh

Video design by Visual Relief

Masks and wigs by Therésia Frisk

Choreography by Cecilia Roos

BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St)

Oct 31—Nov 1 & 3 at 7:30pm; Nov 4 at 3pm

Tickets start at \$30

Talk: *On the Force of Truth*

With asha bandele, Tilde Björfors, and Anand Giridharadas

In conversation with Charles W. Mills

Co-presented by BAM and the Onassis Cultural Center New York

Part of *Speaking Truth to Power*

Nov 1 at 6pm, BAM Fisher Hillman Studio (321 Ashland Pl)

Price: \$15; \$7.50 for BAM members

Film: *Whose Streets?* (2017) Dirs. Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis

Co-presented by BAM and the Onassis Cultural Center New York

Oct 29 at 8pm, BAM Rose Cinemas

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Sep 21, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—*Satyagraha*, one of Philip Glass' most humane and mysterious works, returns to BAM after almost 40 years in a mesmerizing production from Swedish Folkoperan and circus group Cirkus Cirkör. The production puts singers (soloists and chorus), acrobats, and instrumentalists (reduced to 21 by Anders Högstedt) together on the Harvey Theater stage, creating an intimate and communal feeling. Balls of yarn serve as the visual unifier and the symbol of India's independence (a concept Gandhi himself promoted). Acrobats, sometimes serving as soloists' doubles, are used not only to create visual excitement, but also to illuminate the non-narrative plot. Although Folkoperan usually performs in Swedish to facilitate its audience's understanding of the text, at BAM the opera will be performed in its original Sanskrit as Glass intended.

New York City first saw *Satyagraha* in 1981 when then BAM President & Executive Producer Harvey Lichtenstein inaugurated a new series of avant-garde performing arts that would become the Next Wave Festival. Glass' opera, which premiered one year earlier in Rotterdam, would cement BAM's reputation as the home base of large-scale theatrical works by this quintessential American composer. In subsequent years, the Next Wave Festival would present many of those works, such as *Einstein on the Beach* (1984, 1992, and 2012), *the CIVIL warS*, *Act V—The Rome Section* (1986), and *Kepler* (2009).

Folkoperan is a small opera house in Stockholm driven by the determination to develop the art of opera through new expressions and unexpected interfaces. The founders of Folkoperan had a vision of making opera intimate and accessible for everyone—a vision Folkoperan has been nurturing, exploring, and developing since 1976. It is passionate about bringing opera to a wider audience irrespective of age, background, or experience. Folkoperan's productions of *Don Carlos* and *Carmen* were seen at BAM in 1994 and 2000, respectively.

Cirkus Cirkör formed in 1995 when Tilde Björfors and a few Paris-based artists fell in love with the possibilities that the contemporary circus offered. They decided to stop dreaming big and living small and instead gave their all to realize their dreams. Twenty years later Cirkus Cirkör has performed all over the world and many young people have taken part in their training and education programs. A Cirkus Cirkör performance is typically big-hearted, chaotic, and colorful with an optimistic sense of potential in the face of adversity. Cirkus Cirkör has performed at BAM with *Inside Out* (2009 NWF), *Wear it Like a Crown* (2012 Winter/Spring), and *Limits* (2017 Winter/Spring), all directed by Artistic Director Tilde Björfors.

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

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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