

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

Ted Hearne's *Place* has its world premiere at BAM's Next Wave Festival, Oct 11—13

With co-creators Saul Williams and Patricia McGregor, Hearne explores the meaning of belonging in both physical and metaphysical places

Place

Music by Ted Hearne
Libretto by Saul Williams and Ted Hearne
Directed by Patricia McGregor

Conducted by Ted Hearne
Scenic design by Tim Brown and Sanford Biggers
Video design by Tim Brown
Lighting design by Pablo Santiago
Costume design by Rachel Meyers and E.B. Brooks
Sound Design by Jody Elff

BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St.)
Oct 11—13 at 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$30

Talk: Inhabiting Place

With Ted Hearne, Patricia McGregor, and Saul Williams
Moderated by Brian Vines
Co-presented by BAM and BRIC
Oct 4 at 7pm
BRIC House Stoop (647 Fulton St.)
Free

Sep 18, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—Acclaimed composer Ted Hearne returns to BAM with a world premiere. *Place* is a theatricalized vocal work co-created with poet/musician Saul Williams and director Patricia McGregor that charts an artist's quest for his rightful place in society and history.

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The story of *Place* began when Hearne moved to Brooklyn in 2009 amid rapid neighborhood changes. In trying to make sense of his changing community, he reached out to an ex-Brooklynite, the poet and performer Saul Williams. Their extended discussion, which continued after Hearne left the borough, would form the libretto of *Place*, which touches on questions personal and communal: childhood, sense of belonging, artistic growth, urban politics, gentrification, land ownership, and migration. The music reflects the complexity of the libretto with a mix of classical, R&B, jazz, rock, and experimental. Using video, sets, and stage movements, McGregor blends private and public spaces and theatricalizes the issues discussed in the libretto.

The cast include six singers: Steven Bradshaw, Sophia Byrd, Josephine Lee, Isaiah Robinson, Sol Ruiz, Ayanna Woods, and 18 instrumentalists: Nathan Schram, Diana Wade, Erin Wight (violas); Ashley Bathgate, Melody Giron, John Popham (cellos); Clara Warnaar (percussion); Ron Wiltrout (drum kit); Gareth Flowers (trumpet); Rachel Drehmann (French horn); Jacob Garchik, Matthew Wright (trombones); Eileen Mack, Christa Van Alstine (clarinets); Taylor Levine (electric guitar); Braylon Lacy (electric bass); RC Williams (keyboard); and Philip White (electronics).

Ted Hearne is a composer, singer, bandleader, and recording artist noted for his “pan-stylistic freedom” (*Pitchfork*) and “tough edge and wildness of spirit” (*The New York Times*), who “writes with such technical assurance and imaginative scope” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Hearne's *Sound From the Bench*, a cantata for choir, electric guitars and drums setting texts from U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments, was a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize. *The New York Times* included Hearne's oratorio *The Source* on its list of the best classical vocal performances of 2014, and (along with *The New Yorker* and *The Nation*) the best albums of 2015. Alex Ross wrote in *The New Yorker* “Hearne's piece holds up as a complex mirror image of an information-saturated, mass-surveillance world, and remains staggering in its impact.” *Pitchfork* called *The Source* “some of the most expressive socially engaged music in recent memory—from any genre.” *Law of Mosaics*, Hearne's 30-minute piece for string orchestra, was recently performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony, and was named one of *The New Yorker's* most notable albums of 2014 by Alex Ross. Hearne performs with Philip White as the vocal-electronics duo R WE WHO R WE. His works have been conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, and Gustavo Dudamel. Recent collaborations have paired him with poet Jena Osman, director Daniel Fish and legendary musician Erykah Badu. www.tedhearne.com.

Saul Williams came to worldwide attention as a writer and performer with his debut film, *SLAM* (directed by Marc Levin), winning Sundance's Grand Jury Prize and Cannes Camera d'Or in 1998 and introducing the world to the phenomenon of slam poetry. As a musician his albums, which have featured genre-bending collaborations with producers Rick Rubin and Trent Reznor, ushered in Brooklyn's Afro-Punk movement. Williams has also collaborated with Swiss composer Thomas Kessler on two symphonies based on two books of his poems and has performed as a poet and performer in over 40 countries and hundreds of universities. In 2013 Williams became the first African-American to win best actor in the largest and oldest African film festival, FESPACO, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso for his work in the L'Etalon d'Or prize-winning film *TEY* (directed by Alain Gomis). He is currently working on a multimedia project in connection with his forthcoming graphic novel *MartyrLoserKing*.

Patricia McGregor is a director and writer from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. She has twice been profiled by *The New York Times* for her work. Recent credits include the world premiere of *Lights Out: Nat "King" Cole* (People's Light, upcoming Geffen Theater), *Skeleton Crew* (Studio Theater, Geffen Theater), world premiere of *Good Grief* (Center Theater Group), *Measure for Measure* (The Old Globe), *The Parchman Hour* (Guthrie Theater), *Hamlet* (The Public Theater), NY premier of *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre Company), NY premier of *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* (Lincoln Center Theater), world premiere of *Stagger Lee* (Dallas Theater Center), world premiere of *Hurt Village* (Signature Theatre Company), and productions of *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Spunk* (Cal Shakes). Other credits include: *Becky Shaw*, *Adoration of the Old Woman*, *Blood Dazzler*, *Holding It Down*, *Four Electric Ghosts*, *Nothing Personal*, and *The House That Will Not Stand* and *Indominatable: James Brown*. She served as consultant for J Cole's *4 Your Eyez Only* tour AD of *Fela!* on Broadway. For several years she has directed *The 24 Hour Plays* on Broadway. McGregor is co-founder of Angela's Pulse with her artist/activist sister Paloma McGregor, a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop, and was a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow at Yale School of Drama, where she served as artistic director of the Yale Cabaret.

Co-produced by Beth Morrison Projects and LA Phil.

Co-commissioned by the LA Phil, Beth Morrison Projects, and Barbican Centre, Lynn Locker and Elizabeth & Justus Schlichting with additional commissioning support from Sue Bienkowski, Nancy & Barry Sanders and the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts.

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 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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