

2018 BAM Next Wave Festival

***Halfway to Dawn*, David Roussève's paean to music great Billy Strayhorn, comes to BAM, Dec 5—8**

A new dance theater piece that illuminates the life of a gay, African-American, and long-observed jazz composer

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Halfway to Dawn

David Roussève/REALITY

Video art by Cari Ann Shim Sham

Dramaturgy by L. MSP Burns

Lighting design by Christopher Kuhl

Costume design by Leah Piehl

Sound design & additional music by d. Sabela grimes

BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St.)

Dec 5—8 at 7:30pm

Tickets start at \$25

Choreographic Workshop: David Roussève

Co-presented by BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group

Dec 3 at 10am, Mark Morris Dance Center (3 Lafayette Ave)

Price: \$20

Visit BAM.org/master-classes for information and to register

Oct 31, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—BAM presents *Halfway to Dawn*, choreographer David Roussève's tribute to Billy Strayhorn. Using dance, music, projected text and video, this new dance theater work illuminates Strayhorn's multifaceted life as Duke Ellington's prolific but long-neglected collaborator, as an out gay African-American man living in Harlem, and as an ardent supporter of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now recognized as the author of such classic hits as "Take the 'A' Train," "Satin Doll," and "Lush Life," Billy Strayhorn (1915—67) remained largely unknown in his lifetime, working beside one of America's greatest composers and bandleaders. *Halfway to Dawn* delves into

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this private and proud artist's life by layering biographical information, historical images, and abstract video art to dance and music, putting Strayhorn's story in its proper socio-political context. The performance contains two acts: the first set in a '50s jazz club and the second in an abstract dreamland. The piece addresses issues of fame, privacy, and creative authorship that are now more resonant than ever.

Choreographer/writer/director/filmmaker **David Roussève** is a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and a Guggenheim Fellow. He has written, directed, and choreographed 13 evening-length works for **David Roussève/REALITY** including three commissions for the Next Wave Festival (*Love Songs* in 1999, *The Whispers of Angels* in 1995, and *Urban Scenes/Creole Dreams* in 1992). In 2016 Roussève created *Enough?*, a commission for San Francisco's RAWdance that asks whether dance can even begin to address social issues like the violence that gave birth to the Black Lives Matter movement. Roussève has received a Bessie Award, three (LA) Horton Dance Awards, the CalArts/Alpert Award in Dance, seven consecutive NEA fellowships, the *Distinguished Alumni Award* from the Association of Black Princeton Alumni, two Irvine fellowships in dance, and a Creative Capital fellowship.

REALITY performing company members include Bernard Brown, Raymond Ejiofor, Dezaré Foster, Jasmine Jawato, Kevin Le, Julio Medina, Samantha Mohr, Leanne Iacovetta Poirier, and Kevin Williamson.

Commissioned by ArtPower at UC San Diego; Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans; Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; NC State LIVE, Raleigh; REDCAT, Los Angeles.

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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Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Programming in the BAM Harvey Theater is endowed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Major support for dance at BAM provided by The SHS Foundation.

This engagement of David Roussève/REALITY is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM Next Wave Festival is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

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

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

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