

BAM

Next Wave 2019

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

BAM presents the epic endurance theater piece *The Second Woman*—in its US premiere—a gendered performance of an intimate moment performed 100 times by one woman opposite 100 different men over 24 hours, Oct 18-19

Indie film and TV actress Alia Shawkat to make her theater debut in this multi-layered exploration of relationship dynamics

The theatrical marathon is a part of 2019 Next Wave featuring artists from around the world, all making their BAM debut

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

The Second Woman

Created by Nat Randall and Anna Breckon

Written and directed by Anna Breckon and Nat Randall
Video direction by EO Gill and Anna Breckon
Lighting design by Amber Silk and Kayla Burrett
Sound design by Nina Buchanan
Set design by FUTURE METHOD STUDIO
Hair and makeup design by Sophie Roberts

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl
Oct 18—19 from 5pm—5pm (24-hour durational piece)
Tickets: \$25

Creative Conversation: *The Second Woman*

Co-presented by BAM and Mark Morris Dance Group
With Nat Randall and Anna Breckon
Oct 11 at 12pm
Mark Morris Dance Center
Tickets: \$25, (\$20 with an artist lab subscription for three or more programs)

“A stunning creative feat, from concept to execution. One of the finest examples of independent Australian theatre in years” —*The Guardian*

September 17, 2019/ Brooklyn, NY—A pink, neon-lit motel room. A bob-wigged woman, Virginia, waits patiently. The door opens. A man, Marty, enters. They talk, they laugh, they dance, it’s awkward, it’s funny. He leaves. Then she does it all over again, and again, 100 times for a full 24 hours. This is *The Second Woman*—**Nat Randall** and **Anna Breckon**’s epic feat of

endurance performance and live cinema. The Sydney-based artistic duo, along with a team of female and non-binary creatives, bring the critically acclaimed live theatrical performance work to BAM for its US premiere.

Indie film and TV actress **Alia Shawkat** (*Arrested Development*, *Search Party*, *Duck Butter*) makes her theater debut as she repeats a single scene inspired by John Cassavetes' 1977 cult film *Opening Night*. The scene is shot on digital video, edited live, and projected simultaneously alongside Shawkat's staged performance. Starring opposite Shawkat are 100 different men from New York City, ranging in age and background, professional and non-professional actors—presenting ample opportunity for improvisation, play, and adaptation. The evocative set draws its aesthetic influence from 1970s American independent cinema, while the projected images take their stylistic cues from the history of women's melodrama.

Audiences engage with the work entering and exiting BAM's Fishman Space throughout the duration of the performance and are encouraged to stay for 24 minutes or the full 24 hours, drop by once or return to see more. Through the repetition of an intimate exchange, *The Second Woman* explores the generic and gendered conventions of emotionality, as well as the affective and relational nature of gender identity.

The Second Woman is a part of Next Wave 2019—the first season curated by Artistic Director **David Binder**—featuring artists all in their BAM debuts. The season runs through December 2019 and includes theater, dance, music, film, site-specific, and multi-genre work across BAM's venues and off-site, as well as Holiday programming. www.bam.org/secondwoman

Creative Conversation: *The Second Woman* is a part of Artist Lab, a series of small group participatory experiences uniquely crafted to offer practicing artists greater insight into artistic processes and deepen experiences of a related BAM production. www.bam.org/classes/2019/the-second-woman

Alia Shawkat stars in TBS' breakout hit genre-bending mystery comedy *Search Party*. *The LA Times* raved "It's Shawkat, with her non-standard corkscrew hair and glorious profusion of freckles, who drives the show, bringing an intensity into Dory's most unfocused, unsure moments." Well known for her role of "Maebry Fünke" on FOX's Emmy Award-winning cult comedy series *Arrested Development*, Shawkat recently reprised the role with all new episodes for Netflix. She played a prominent role in the fourth season of Jill Soloway's critically acclaimed Amazon series, *Transparent*, and will return for the show's two-hour series finale. Shawkat's film career began at the age of 11 with her feature debut as a young Iraqi child in *Three Kings* opposite George Clooney. She's been seen in a slew of anticipated film projects including *20th Century Women*, *Paint It Black*, Netflix's Original Film *Pee-Wee's Big Holiday*, *Green Room*, and *Whip It*. Shawkat most recently starred in the 2019 drama *Animals* and served as lead actress, co-writer, and executive producer in the independent drama *Duck Butter*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival where she was awarded Best Actress in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film. Additional TV credits include: the Emmy nominated show *Drunk History*, IFC's *Portlandia*, Comedy Central's *Broad City*, and HBO's *Getting On*.

Nat Randall is a Sydney-based artist working at the intersection of performance, video, and film. Randall has presented work at major institutions, galleries, and festivals—nationally and internationally. In 2019 Randall, collaborator Anna Breckon, and Performing Lines were nominated for a Helpmann Award for "Best Production of a Play" for their critically acclaimed 24-hour theatrical endurance piece *The Second Woman*. Randall is a founding member of the art collective Hissy Fit and performance collective Team MESS. Randall studied at the University of

Wollongong where she developed a breadth of performance practice including devised work, site specific practice, and participatory work.

Anna Breckon is an independent filmmaker, editor, and critic based in Sydney, Australia. Breckon has a PhD in queer and feminist film theory from the University of Sydney. She has worked as a director, editor, and writer for projects presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Performance Space, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dark Mofo, Perth Festival, Adelaide Festival and Weiwuying: National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts. Breckon has published on John Waters and Todd Solondz in the academic film journal *Screen* (Oxford University Press) and is currently writing a manuscript on the queer politics of happiness.

Performing Lines produces provocative contemporary performance by Australia's most audacious independent artists. Their purpose is to champion risk and to ensure that the breadth and plurality of Australia's creative potential is represented and celebrated. Performing Lines previously appeared at BAM with Nigel Jamieson and I Wayan Wija's *The Theft of Sita* (2001 Next Wave).

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@bam.org or 718.724.8022

Produced by Performing Lines

Credits

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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. Harvey Theater at BAM Strong 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, houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features 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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