

BAM

Next Wave 2019

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

Ireland's Dead Centre brings *Hamnet* to BAM, Oct 30—Nov 3

Shakespeare's personal tragedy-and Hamlet's father issue-imagined through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Hamnet

Dead Centre

Written and directed by Ben Kidd and Bush Moukarzel

Presented in association with Irish Arts Center

Text by Bush Moukarzel, Ben Kidd, and William Shakespeare

Dramaturgy by Michael West

Set design by Andrew Clancy

Costume design by Grace O'Hara

Lighting design by Stephen Dodd

Sound design by Kevin Gleeson

Video design by Jose Miguel Jimenez

Choreography by Liv O'Donoghue

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl

Oct 30—Nov 2 at 7:30pm & Nov 3 at 3pm

Tickets: \$25

"Over the course of a beautifully spry hour you can admire the performance's bright surface or plunge into it fathoms deep."—*The Irish Times*

Sep 20, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—Ireland's Dead Centre presents *Hamnet* as part of Artistic Director David Binder's first Next Wave season, in which every artist is making their BAM debut.

In 1596, an 11-year-old boy named Hamnet died in Stratford-upon-Avon. In 1602, a record showed that a tragedy called *Hamlet* had been performed in London. Their connection? William Shakespeare, the father of the boy and the author of the indisputable stage canon. Scholars

have long debated the significance of the similarity of the names; and as with most efforts to connect Shakespeare's works and his skimpy biography, the answer remains elusive. No matter. The two founders of the Irish theater group Dead Centre have fashioned a play—out of precious few historical facts—which explores common themes from a child's point of view: coming-of-age, an absentee father, artistic sacrifices, mortality and legacy.

At the center of this one-hour drama, the creators cast a real tween with no prior professional acting experience—Aran Murphy, who embodies Hamnet, Hamlet, and a contemporary latchkey child. He addresses the audience directly, transforms himself through makeup and costume, and interacts with an actor (company co-founder Bush Moukarzel) projected on pre-recorded video with equal parts bravura and vulnerability.

Dead Centre was founded in 2012 by Bush Moukarzel and Ben Kidd. Based between Dublin and London, Dead Centre has made four projects that have toured widely, including to the US, Russia, Australia, Hong Kong, Seoul, Germany, France, Holland, Sweden, and across the UK.

Presented with support from Culture Ireland.

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. 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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