

BAM

Next Wave 2019

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

In his BAM debut, Dimitris Papaioannou presents a stunning phantasm with *The Great Tamer*, Nov 14—16

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The Great Tamer

Conceived and directed by Dimitris Papaioannou

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Nov 14—16 at 7:30pm; Nov 17 at 3pm

Tickets: Start at \$25

“A masterpiece? Without a doubt.” —*Svenska Dagbladet* (Sweden)

“...macabre still life and surrealist nightmares...wonderfully moving” —*The Standard* (UK)

“...against that reminder of our inevitable mortality, Papaioannou set a celebration of breath: the essential living moment in all its wonder.” —*Los Angeles Times*

October 18, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—Through awe-inspiring stage design and breathtaking choreography Dimitris Papaioannou in his BAM debut, delivers an otherworldly take on the congruent relationship between the realms of the living and the dead.

In 2018 Papaioannou was the first choreographer to create a new evening length work for Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch since Bausch's death in 2009. He also conceived and directed the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Like much of his work, *The Great Tamer* references Greek mythology, proposing an omnipresent and restless underworld. Papaioannou, whose background is rooted in painting and visual art, intertwines these contemporary interpretations of ancient myths with classical art works brought to life including Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*, Michelangelo's *David*, and a paralyzing take on Rembrandt's *Anatomy Lesson*.

Ten dancers deftly explore and reinterpret the human form as they flip, peel, and push floor panels across a sloping stage. Mystifying treasures are unearthed and buried again (including the dancers themselves)—a recurring action throughout the performance that creates an overarching archeology of memory. The dancers' movements are imbued with a kinetic vocabulary that connotes a dark and sometimes absurd narrative posing existential queries, witty observations, and slightly hopeful solutions. Heightening the piece's ambiguity is a taut

score featuring a warped version of Strauss' *Blue Danube* waltz, adapted by Stephanos Droussiotis. *The Great Tamer* features performers Pavlina Andriopoulou, Costas Chrysafidis, Ektoras Liatsos, Ioannis Michos, Evangelia Randou, Kalliopi Simou, Drossos Skotis, Christos Strinopoulos, Yorgos Tsiantoulas, and Alex Vangelis.

About the artist:

After Pina Bausch's passing, Dimitris Papaioannou became the first artist to create a new, full-length work for Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, *Since She*, which premiered in 2018 in Germany. He also created the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Papaioannou gained early recognition as a painter and graphic artist, before his focus shifted to the performing arts where he wore many hats—director, choreographer, performer, set designer, costumer, make-up artist, and lighting designer. He was a student of the iconic Greek painter Yannis Tsarouchis before studying at the Athens School of Fine Arts. In 1986 he formed Edafos Dance Theatre as an initial vehicle for his original stage productions which were hybrids of physical theater, experimental dance, and performance art, resulting in their iconic work, *Medea* (1993). After the company dissolved in 2002, he followed with more avant-garde dance works including *2* (2006), *Nowhere* (2009), *Inside* (2011), and *Primal Matter* (2012). In 2015, he created the opening ceremony for the Baku 2015 First European Games.

Papaioannou's 25 productions range from mass spectacles with thousands of performers to intimate pieces, and have appeared in a wide variety of venues, from his famous underground squat theater in Athens, to the ancient theatre in Epidaurus, to the Théâtre de la Ville, and Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza. In 2017, he created *The Great Tamer*, his first international co-commissioned work with ten co-producers, including the Festival d'Avignon.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org or 718.724.8025.

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, 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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