Bodycast:
An Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra
Starring Frances McDormand
Directed by Paul Lazar
DATES: Dec 3—7 at 7:30pm
LOCATION: BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)
RUN TIME: Approx 1hr

2013 Next Wave Festival

BAM Fisher

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The BAM Artist Circle provides essential support for mainstage, visual and cinema arts, education, and community programs. Members participate in an ongoing dialogue regarding BAM’s future and have opportunities to attend intimate gatherings with artists—both emerging and iconic—in private settings.

To join the Artist Circle contact Gwendolyn Dunai at 718.623.7810 x3 or gdunaif@BAM.org.
Thanks for coming tonight.

In 2010 the curator Laurence Kardish asked me to give a lecture on my work at the Museum of Modern Art. Rather than just do a normal artist lecture, where an artist runs through a bunch of slides of her paintings and sculpture, I thought I would make a new piece out of the idea of an artist lecture, an artist lecture about an artist lecture. In the course of that new piece I ended up telling a larger story—how I became an artist and how when I was 10 a strange series of events in my Catholic church showed me how an artist really worked.

I did the lecture with an actor, Paul Lazar, and the resulting piece—*When a Priest Marries a Witch, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Paul Lazar*—ended up having several performances at museums and theater festivals across the country. To one of these performances Paul invited Frances McDormand. They had worked together at the Wooster Group. Fran came and took us out for beers afterwards, and she asked me if there were any more stories I was planning on telling in this format. I told her I was planning one about how I grew up visiting my grandparents farm, which was next to the most famous whorehouse in Texas, and one about how I spent my early teenage years in a bodycast. Fran said, “I’ll take the bodycast.”

Thank you!

I’d like to thank the following people and places for all their help in the development of this piece:

Laurence Kardish at the Museum of Modern Art.
Luis Croquer and Sylvia Wolf at the Henry Art Gallery in Seattle.
Ann Philbin at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.
Eric Karpeles and Commonweal in Bolinas, California.
Rebecca Robertson, Jamie Boyle, and Michael Lonergan at the Park Avenue Armory.
Mathew Pokoik at Mt. Tremper Arts. Joe Melillo and everyone at BAM.

I’d also like to thank the people who helped support the other pieces of mine that I talk about in the show:

Manhattan Tartan Project (with J. Morgan Puett) (2001) was commissioned by Lisa Corrin for the Serpentine Gallery and exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Color Chart (2009) was commissioned by Pau Aleta-Cortes and Quang Bao’s Math Studio at Smith College, and John McCleary was the mathematician and the original singer.

I Write the Songs (2009) was commissioned by Brett Littman at the Drawing Center, in partnership with the River to River Festival. FLUX Quartet was the original string quartet.

Little Dot (2010) was commissioned by Ian Berry at the Tang Museum, and Deborah Lohse was the original dancer.

When a Priest Marries a Witch, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Paul Lazar (2010) was written for and premiered at the Museum of Modern Art. Subsequent performances thanks to Brian Rogers and Sheila Lewandowski at the Chocolate Factory, Helen Shaw and the Prelude Festival at CUNY, Karen Farber at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at University of Houston, Ron Berry at the Fusebox Festival in Austin, Charlotte Meehan at Wheaton College, Eric Ehn at Brown University, Joe Scanlan and Susan Marshall at Princeton, Kate Valk and Cynthia Hedstrom at the Performing Garage, Ann Hamilton and the Wexner Center, Jim and Jane Cohan at the James Cohan Gallery.

Little Dot and I Write the Songs photos by Peter Serling.

Special thanks to:

Thank you to “Our Bodies Ourselves” (9th Edition) for the use of images.

And of course, thanks to Fran and Paul for doing this in the first place.

—Suzanne Bocanegra
Frances McDormand studied at the Yale School of Drama. On Broadway, she received the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her performance in David Lindsay-Abaire’s *Good People*, directed by Daniel Sullivan. Other stage appearances include *The Country Girl* directed by Mike Nichols on Broadway, Caryl Churchill’s *Far Away* directed by Stephen Daldry at New York Theatre Workshop, her Tony-nominated performance as Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Sisters Rosenzweig* directed by Daniel Sullivan at Lincoln Center Theatre, *The Swan* at The Public Theatre, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (this time in the role of Blanche) at the Gate Theater in Dublin, and Dare Clubb’s *Oedipus* at the Blue Light Theater Company opposite Billy Crudup. With The Wooster Group, she performed in *To You, The Birdie!* and *North Atlantic*. Films include *Promised Land*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, *This Must Be the Place*, *Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted*, *Burn After Reading*, *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*, *Friends with Money*, *Laurel Canyon*, *Something’s Gotta Give*, *Wonder Boys*, *City by the Sea*, *Madeline*, *Primal Fear*, *Lone Star*, *Palookaville*, *Chattahoochee*, *Darkman*, *Hidden Agenda*, *Short Cuts*, *Beyond Rangoon*, *Paradise Road*, *The Man Who Wasn’t There*, *Raising Arizona*, and *Blood Simple*.

for the London Sinfonietta, with libretto and visuals by English filmmaker Peter Greenaway. He frequently collaborates with choreographers including Shen Wei, Benjamin Millepied, Susan Marshall, and Édouard Lock. The commercial recording of the *little match girl passion* won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance. Lang is a professor of music composition at the Yale School of Music and co-founder/artistic director of New York’s legendary music festival Bang on a Can.
Joshua Higgason is a video and interactive media designer and engineer. Recent designs include Platonov (video and co-scenic design, La Jolla Playhouse, dir. Jay Scheib); Powder Her Face (video, New York City Opera, dir. Jay Scheib); World Of Wires (lighting and video, The Kitchen, dir. Jay Scheib); Ich, Kürbisgeist (video, Big Dance Theater); Sontag: Reborn (scenic design, The Builder’s Association); Planetarium (BAM, video engineering for Sufjan Stevens, Nico Muhly, Bryce Dessner, design by Candystations); and Age of Adz (Sufjan Stevens, Candystations). He is a co-founder of Workhorse and has taught interactive media workshops at Princeton, MIT, and LIU, where he earned his MFA.

She is the recipient of four Academy Award nominations: Mississippi Burning, Almost Famous, North Country, and Fargo, for which she received the award for her performance as Marge Gunderson.

Paul Lazar
Director

In 1990 Paul Lazar co-founded Big Dance Theater with Annie-B Parson, and since then he has continuously created dance/theater work with the company. Among the pieces he has directed for Big Dance: Man in a Case starring Mikhail Baryshnikov, Fassbinder’s Bremen Freedom; Odon Van Horvath’s Don Juan Comes Back from the War; and Tristan Tzara’s The Gas Heart, which has toured to the Exit and Via Theater festivals in France and the Polverigi Festival of Theater in Italy. The company’s original piece, Another Telepathic, opened at Dance Theater Workshop in New York and toured to the STUC Festival in Leuven, Belgium. Mac Wellman’s Girl Gone opened at The Kitchen in New York and toured to On The Boards in Seattle, to UCLA, and to Kampflaue Theater in Hamburg, Germany. Along with Annie-B Parson, Lazar also co-directed Shunkin which opened at The Kitchen and toured to the Yerba Buena Theater in San Francisco. He has acted in numerous Big Dance pieces including Plan B and The Other Here. Big Dance’s most recent work, Comme Toujour Here I Stand, has toured numerous cities in France and also ran at The Kitchen in New York. Lazar and Parson directed a dance/theater adaptation of Anne Carson’s translation of Euripides’ Alkestis. This piece, titled The Supernatural Wife, opened at the National Theatre in Paris and made its New York premiere in the 2011 BAM Next Wave Festival. Their production of Sybil Kempson’s Ich, Kürbisgeist premiered at the Chocolat Factory (NYC) in March of 2011. Lazar is an associate member of The Wooster Group, acting in Brace Up!, Emperor Jones, The Hairy Ape, and North Atlantic. Lazar also performed in Richard Maxwell’s Cowboys and Indians and Young Jean Lee’s Lear at Soho Rep, and Chekhov’s The Three Sisters at Classic Stage Company.

Lazar’s film acting career includes roles in Silence of the Lambs, The Host, Beloved, Lorenzo’s Oil, Philadelphia, Henry Fool, Six Ways to Sunday, Married to the Mob, Trapped in Paradise, Speechless, Stars Fell on Henrietta, The Vig with Peter Falk, and Mickey Blue Eyes with Hugh Grant. His latest film Snow Piercer will be out this spring. Lazar currently teaches acting and theater related courses at New York University and has taught at Rutgers, Barnard, and the William Esper Studio. At NYU, Lazar directed Botho Strauss’ Big and Little, Len Jenkin’s The Country Doctor, and Fassbinder’s Bremen Freedom. He directed Mac Wellman’s Girl Gone at Marymount Manhattan College.
Who's Who

Jamie McElhinney
Sound Designer

Jamie McElhinney is a New York-based audio artist who has worked with hundreds of music, theater, dance, and visual art performances in venues all over the world. Selected works include: audio system designer for Isaac Julien’s exhibit Ten Thousand Waves (MoMA atrium, NYC); head of audio and front of house engineer for the 2013 ONEBEAT International Music Exchange program and the 2013 Celebrate Brooklyn concert series (Prospect Park Bandshell); sound designer and engineer for Michael Gordon’s Timber (BAM Fisher); sound designer and engineer for Stop the Virgins directed by Adam Rapp (Sydney Opera House); sound system designer for We’re Gonna Die (Lincoln Center) and Untitled Feminist Show (Walker Performing Arts Center), both by Young Jean Lee; sound designer for Botanica directed by Jim Findlay (3LD); sound engineer for Brooklyn Omnibus by STEW (BAM Harvey); sound designer and engineer for Accinosca’s The Success of Failure; international touring sound engineer for This Clement World, Must Don’t Whip ‘Um, and Accidental Nostalgia by Cynthia Hopkins; and sound designer for Lightning at our Feet directed by Bob McGrath (BAM Harvey). McElhinney is also music director and lead banjo player with Bob Wonder and the Future Ex-Wives, international touring sound engineer with the Young at Heart Chorus’ show End of the Road directed by Roy Faudre, part time audio engineer for Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola (Jazz at Lincoln Center). He earned an MFA in sound design from CalArts in 2003.

Laura Mroczkowski
Lighting Designer

Laura Mroczkowski is a freelance lighting designer in New York City. She has had the opportunity to work with artists from around the world, including The Builders Association, Deborah Hay Dance Company, Big Dance Theater, Radiohole, Whitney Museum, The Public Theater, Los Angeles Opera Company, Walker Arts Center, the Theater of Louisville, First Stage Theater Company, New York Theater Workshop, 3-Legged Dog, Baryshnikov Arts Center, REDCAT, and the Center for New Performance. Her work has been seen in countless international festivals. Mroczkowski is the co-artistic director and a founding member of Blank-the-Dog productions. lauramroczkowski.org

Theo Bleckmann
Guest Performer-Vocalist

A singer and new music composer of eclectic tastes and prodigious gifts, Grammy-nominated and Echo Award recipient Theo Bleckmann makes music that is accessibly sophisticated, unsentimentally emotional, and seriously playful, leading his work to be described as “from another planet” (New York Times), as “magical, futuristic,” (AllAboutJazz), “limitless” (CityPaper, Philadelphia), “transcendent” (Village Voice), and “brilliant” (New York Magazine). Bleckmann has released a series of albums on the Winter & Winter label including recordings of Las Vegas standards, Weimar art songs, and popular “bar songs” (all with pianist Fumio Yasuda); a recording of newly-arranged songs by Charles Ives (with jazz/rock collective Kneebody); the acoustic Solos for Voice and I dwell in possibility; and his recent Hello Earth—the Music of Kate Bush. His current project is a song cycle of music on the subject of death, songs in the key of d, featuring harpist Zeena Parkins. Bleckmann has additionally collaborated with numerous musicians and composers, including Laurie Anderson, Uri Caine, Philip Glass, John Hollenbeck, Sheila Jordan, Phil Kline, David Lang, Kirk Nurock, Ben Monder, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kenny Wheeler, John Zorn, the Bang on a Can All-stars, and, most prominently, Meredith Monk, with whom Bleckmann worked as a core ensemble member for close to two decades. He has been interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR’s Fresh Air and appeared on the David Letterman show with Laurie Anderson.

Maurina Lioce
Production Manager

Maurina Lioce works in many aspects of production, theater, and music. She most recently produced Mass Live Arts, a new experimental theater festival at Bard College at Simon’s Rock. She has participated in Progressive Theater Workshop’s God Hates This Show, Pearl d’Amour’s How to Build a Forest, Kneehigh Theater Company’s The Wild Bride, Aynsley Vandenbroucke’s 33 1/3, and Jim Findlay’s Botanica and has performed in The PuSh Arts Festival and K Record’s What the Heck Fest. She is the company manager for Half Straddle and is currently developing Dream of the Red Chamber, A Performance for a Sleeping Audience with Jim Findlay.

Emily Coates
Guest Performer-Dancer

Emily Coates has performed internationally with New York City Ballet (1992—98), Mikhail Baryshnikov’s White Oak Dance Project (1998—2002), Twyla Tharp Dance (2001—03), and Yvonne Rainer (2005—present). Career highlights include three duets with Baryshnikov: in Mark Morris’ The Argument, Karole Armitage’s The Last Lap, and Erick Hawkins’ Early Floating; principal roles in works by Balanchine, Robbins, and Tharp; Lucinda Childs’ canonical solo Carnation; Rainer’s 21st century creations; and Christopher Janney’s solo HeartBeat. Her commissions include from Ballet Memphis (with Lacina Couliby), Performa (with Tamar Ettun), and presentations in the Movement Research Fall Festival and Baryshnikov Arts Center, where she was a Martha Duffy Memorial Fellow. She graduated magna cum laude with a BA in English from Yale (2006) and holds an MA in American studies from Yale (2011). With particle physicist Sarah Demers, she is co-authoring a book on physics and dance, forthcoming from Yale University Press. She teaches and directs the dance studies curriculum at Yale University.