Samoan artist Lemi Ponifasio makes his BAM debut with *Birds With Skymirrors*, Nov 19—22

A reflection on our relationship with the world in a time of climate change, featuring elements of ceremony, dance, theater, and activism.

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*Birds With Skymirrors*  
US Premiere

Lemi Ponifasio  
MAU

Concept, set design, choreography, and direction by Lemi Ponifasio  
Lighting design by Helen Todd

**BAM Howard Gilman Opera House** (30 Lafayette Ave)  
Nov 19—22 at 7:30pm  
Tickets start at $20

“...a passionate cry for—and from—a beautiful wilderness.” – *The Guardian* (UK)

**Brooklyn, NY/October 17, 2014**—Samoan director and choreographer Lemi Ponifasio and his New Zealand-based company MAU make their BAM debut with the US premiere of *Birds With Skymirrors*—a haunting reflection on our relationship with the world in a time of climate change.

“A work of unusual power” (*Sydney Morning Herald*), *Birds With Skymirrors* is a radical composition in poetry, chant, and dance which emerged from Ponifasio’s experiences while working on the remote Micronesian island of Tarawa. There he encountered birds carrying strips of video tape in their beaks, dangling like liquid mirrors in the sky—an image of both beauty and the spirit of death. A visually stunning piece, featuring precise, gestural choreography against a stark backdrop, *Birds With Skymirrors* is a *karanga* (“summoning,” an element of cultural protocol of the New Zealand Māori people), a genealogical prayer, a ceremony, a poetic space, a life reflection.

Most of the performers of MAU—particularly in this work—are from low-lying atolls of the Moana Ocean, which are already experiencing the disastrous consequences of climate change. *Birds With Skymirrors* is Ponifasio’s response to this reality, his idea of the last dance on earth.

**Lemi Ponifasio**, an international leading force in theater and dance, established MAU in 1995 as his platform for critical reflection and creativity with artists, scholars, activists, intellectuals, and community leaders. MAU means a declaration to the truth of a matter or revolution, as an effort to transform. In his artistic universe, Ponifasio orients the modern individual towards other dimensions of consciousness by way of the decelerated rhythm of his strict aesthetic, making
use of striking images, movement, and dynamic interplay of light and darkness. A pioneer at the international frontier of dance and theater art, his theatrical vision transcends the barriers between genres and cultures and transmits the universal power of art. Globally, Pónifasio's productions such as The Crimson House, Stones In Her Mouth, Tempest: Without a Body, Le Savali: Berlin, and Birds With Skymirrors shed light on controversial topics. He presents his work at major theaters and festivals around the world, including Festival d'Avignon, Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, Edinburgh International Festival, Ruhrtriennale in Germany, Southbank Centre in London, Holland Festival, Lincoln Center, Venice Biennale, Santiago a Mil International Theater Festival in Chile, Vienna Festival, and Berliner Festspiele.

For press information contact Lauren Morrow at lmorrow@bam.org or 718-636-4129 x1

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, 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 a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

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
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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

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