BAM presents Ibsen’s *The Master Builder*—directed by Andrei Belgrader and featuring John Turturro in the title role

Production runs May 12–Jun 9 at BAM Harvey Theater

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*The Master Builder*
By Henrik Ibsen
Translated by David Edgar
Directed by Andrei Belgrader
Produced by BAM

BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St)
May 12—Jun 9 (opens May 21)
Tickets: start at $25

Artist Talk: John Turturro and Andrei Belgrader
May 1 at 7pm
BAMcafé
Tickets: $15 ($7.50 for Friends of BAM)

Brooklyn, NY/Feb 21, 2013—A new BAM production of Henrik Ibsen’s *The Master Builder* marks the return of actor John Turturro in the title role and reprises Turturro’s work with director Andrei Belgrader (*Endgame*, 2008 Spring Season). Casting for the four-week run features Katherine Borowitz (Aline Solness), Ken Cheeseman (Dr. Herdal), Julian Gamble (Knut Brovik), Kelly Hutchinson (Kaja Fosli), Max Gordon Moore (Ragnar Brovik), and Wrenn Schmidt (Hilde Wangel), with Turturro in the role of Halvard Solness. In addition to director Belgrader, the creative team features set designer Santo Loquasto, costume designer Marco Piemontese, sound designer/composer Ryan Rumery, and lighting designer James F. Ingalls.

*The Master Builder* was written in 1892 and is regarded as one of the Norwegian playwright’s most revealing and significant works. It tells the story of Halvard Solness, a middle-aged architect who comes to believe he has willed his professional accomplishments into reality, as though imbued with a God-given power. This psychologically complex character is plagued by ambition, doubt, and guilt; his own
marriage is frozen in the sorrow of his children’s deaths that resulted from a fire that ultimately led him to profit. Solness succumbs to the adoration of a young woman named Hilde who visits him years after he constructed her town’s church. Seeing Solness as a heroic figure from her childhood, Hilde maintains an obsession that plays into the architect’s desire and egoism—ultimately leading to the unexpected ending. The play explores, among other themes, the complex forces animating and inspiring an artist as he reconciles the callings of life and creativity.

Andrei Belgrader (director) returns to BAM following the success of Endgame by Samuel Beckett, featuring Max Casella, Alvin Epstein, Elaine Stritch, and John Turturro. He recently directed Chekhov’s The Cherry Orchard at Classic Stage Company and is well known for his work with American Repertory Theatre productions Loot, We Won’t Pay! We Won’t Pay!, Ubu Rock, The Servant of Two Masters, Rameau’s Nephew, The Bald Soprano, The Chairs, Waiting for Godot (for which he received the Boston Critics Circle Awards for Best Play and Best Director for 1982-3), Measure for Measure, and As You Like It. Since arriving from his native Romania in 1978, Belgrader has directed Off-Broadway productions including Scapin, Woyzeck, and Troilus and Cressida. At Yale Repertory Theatre he directed Molière’s Scapin, which he adapted with Shelly Berc and Rusty Magee and which was subsequently performed at Classic Stage Company in New York and at A.C.T. in San Francisco. His other credits with Yale Repertory Theatre include John Guare’s Moon Over Miami, The Miser, As You Like It, Alfred Jarry’s Ubu Rex, the American premiere of Dario Fo’s About Face, Joe Orton’s What the Butler Saw, and Gogol’s Marriage. At the Goodman Theatre in Chicago he directed Beckett’s Happy Days. Belgrader has also directed television, including episodes of Monk and Law & Order: Criminal Intent.

John Turturro (Halvard Solness) has appeared on stage in John Patrick Shanley’s Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, Waiting for Godot, Brecht’s The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Eduardo De Filippos’s Souls of Naples (for which he was nominated for a Drama Desk Award), Classic Stage Company’s The Cherry Orchard, and Broadway’s Life (x) 3. Turturro has performed in more than 60 films, including Martin Scorsese’s The Color of Money, Tony Bill’s Five Corners, Spike Lee’s Do The Right Thing and Jungle Fever; Robert Redford’s Quiz Show (Golden Globe nomination), Peter Weir’s Fearless, and Joel and Ethan Coen’s Miller’s Crossing, The Big Lebowski, and O Brother, Where Art Thou? For his lead role in the Coen brothers’ Barton Fink, he won the Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival. In television, Turturro portrayed Howard Cosell in Monday Night Mayhem, and won an Emmy Award for his guest appearance on Monk. For his film directorial debut, Mac, Turturro won the Camera D’Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He went on to direct Illuminata, Romance and Cigarettes, and the upcoming Fading Gigolo. Turturro made his Broadway directorial debut with Relatively Speaking, featuring three one-act plays by Woody Allen, Elaine May, and Ethan Coen.

Katherine Borowitz (Aline Solness) has appeared in films including A Serious Man, Somewhere Tonight, The Man Who Wasn’t There, Romance & Cigarettes, Quiz Show, Mac, Illuminata, The World According to Garp, Internal Affairs, and Harry and Son, among others. She performed in Ethan Coen’s Talking Cure as part of Relatively Speaking on Broadway. Borowitz has acted in television series including Law & Order and Swift Justice. Her theater credits include Classic Stage Company’s The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui and A Spanish Play, and McCarter Theater’s The Mai.

Ken Cheeseman (Dr. Herdal) has performed on stage in Classic Stage Company’s The Cherry Orchard, New York Shakespeare Festival’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Measure For Measure, and La MaMa’s production of King Lear. In film, he has appeared in Shutter Island, Mystic River, Next Stop Wonderland, Malice, State and Main, and HouseSitter, among others. Cheeseman’s television credits include Law & Order, The Good Wife, and Monk.

Julian Gamble (Knut Brovik) has appeared on Broadway in Michael Frayn’s Democracy, The Seagull (directed by Ian Rickson), and Dinner at Eight, as well as in Primary Stages’ Call the Children Home.
He has had film roles in *For Ellen, Taking Chance,* and the upcoming *Blood Ties.* Gamble’s television credits include *Damages, Law & Order, Third Watch, Made in Jersey,* and *Remember WENN.*

**Kelly Hutchinson** (Kaja Fosli) has appeared in films including *Slippery Slope, Catch Me if You Can,* and the upcoming *Don Peyote.* Among her television credits are *Strangers with Candy* and *The Jury.* On stage, Hutchinson appeared on Broadway in *Macbeth,* in Shakespeare Theatre Company’s *The Heir Apparent* (Washington, DC), in *Emma—A Musical Romantic Comedy* at London’s Old Globe Theatre, and in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s production of Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words of Christ.*

**Max Gordon Moore** (Ragnar Brovik) recently appeared in the Irish Repertory Theatre production of George Bernard Shaw’s *Man and Superman* and on Broadway in Elaine May’s *George is Dead*—one of three one-act comedies in *Relatively Speaking.* Moore performed in the Irish Repertory Theatre’s *It’s a Wonderful Life, the 1946 Live Radio Play,* and also appeared in a reading of David Cote’s *Otherland* and The Flea Theater’s *American Song: Swing Blue.*

**Wrenn Schmidt** (Hilde Wangel) plays Julia Sagorsky in season three of HBO’s Emmy-nominated tv series *Boardwalk Empire.* She is currently appearing Off-Broadway in the Mint Theater production of Teresa Deevy’s *Katie Roche.* Her film credits include *Our Idiot Brother, Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer,* and upcoming independent films *How to Follow Strangers* and *Mary & Louise.* Other theater work includes *Come Back, Little Sheba* at Manhattan Theatre Club, and *Be a Good Little Widow* at Arts Nova.

For press information contact: Sandy Sawotka, 718.636.4190 or ssawotka@bam.org

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, is open for dining prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a special BAMcafé Live 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 and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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