BAM presents the US premiere of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* featuring Fiona Shaw and dancer Daniel Hay-Gordon, directed by Phyllida Lloyd

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
By Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Directed by Phyllida Lloyd

Composed by Mel Mercier
Lighting design by Jean Kalman and Mike Gunning
Set design by Chloe Obolensky
Choreography by Kim Brandstrup

American Express is the BAM 2013 Next Wave Festival sponsor

**BAM Harvey Theater** (651 Fulton St)
Dec 10—12 and 17—19 at 7:30pm
*Press opening – Dec 11
Dec 13, 14, 20, & 21 at 7 & 9pm
Dec 15 & 22 at 3pm
Tickets start at $25

**Talk: On Coleridge with Richard Holmes**
Dec 14 at 4:30pm
BAMcafé (30 Lafayette Ave)
Tickets: $20 ($10 for Friends of BAM)

The 2013 Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award honors Fiona Shaw and the production of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

“Incandescent intensity that approaches the heroic” —*The Sunday Times* (London)

**Brooklyn, NY/Nov 14, 2013**—The inimitable Olivier Award winner and Tony Award nominee Fiona Shaw (*Medea*, 2002 Next Wave; *Happy Days*, 2008 Spring Season; *John Gabriel Borkman*, 2011 Spring Season) and dancer Daniel Hay-Gordon perform one of the best loved poems in the English language, Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s epic *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, under the acclaimed direction of Phyllida Lloyd. This fiery, pared-down adaption of the 215-year-old tale tells of consequences paid while marooned at sea and of man’s wanderings throughout the world in search of meaning.

Shaw portrays a sailor regaling a wedding guest with a story of his ill-fated last voyage. The tale traces his encounter with the figure of Death and the loss of his crew after being blown off course. During this doomed Antarctic voyage, the mariner shoots a large bird that arguably symbolizes the crew’s salvation—a holy thing “hailed in God’s name.” The crew assumes that the death of the albatross is an omen of their doomed fate; they punish the mariner by hanging it around his neck (“Instead of the cross, the albatross / About my neck...
was hung.”) When he realizes what he’s done, he becomes saddled forever with guilt,
hence the mythological “albatross around the neck.” After a period of reflection, the sailor finds redemption in prayer and beauty in the sea creatures that he initially dismissed as “slimy things.” The poem, written in 1797—98, is believed to have been inspired by the real-life sailor Simon Hatley, who had been lost at sea and, like Coleridge’s mariner, shot down a black albatross from the deck.

Rebelling against the literary techniques of his day, Coleridge proved himself a genuine forerunner of modernism, combining a poetic imagination and unfailing creativity with critical thinking. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* was first published in *Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems* (1798)—a collection of poems by William Wordsworth and Coleridge, marking the beginning of the English Romantic movement in literature.

About the Artists

**Fiona Shaw** is an award-winning Irish actress and theater director. Her prolific career spans three decades and includes numerous works with the National Theater, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Old Vic, the Barbican, BAM, on Broadway. She recently starred in *The Testament of Mary* which earned three Tony nominations including Best Play. Her films include *The Tree of Life*, the *Harry Potter* films, *Catch and Release*, *The Black Dahlia*, Anna Karenina, *The Avengers*, *The Waste Land*, *Jane Eyre*, *My Left Foot*, *The Butcher Boy*, *The Last September*, *The Triumph of Love*, *Mountains of the Moon*, *London Kills Me*, Underground Blues, *RKO 281*, and *Skin and Blister*. She has honorary degrees from Trinity College Dublin, the National University of Ireland, and the Open University, and she was awarded l’Officier des Arts et des Lettres in 2000 and made an honorary CBE in 2001. In the fall of 2013 Shaw directed both Britten’s *Rape of Lucretia* for the Glyndebourne Festival and the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*. Shaw trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She appeared at BAM previously in *John Gabriel Borkman* (Spring 2011), *Happy Days* (Spring 2008), and *Medea* (Next Wave 2002).

**Daniel Hay-Gordon** trained at Legat in Sussex and graduated from Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, where he studied works by modern and contemporary choreographers including Martha Graham and Rudi van Dantzig. He studied under Darshan Singh Bhueller and Robert Cohan. Hay-Gordon has worked with companies such as Rambert Dance Company and National Dance Company Wales, where he performed works by Stijn Celis, Itzik Galili, Andonis Foniadakis, Nigel Charnock, Jonathan Lunn, and Joanna Fong.

**Phyllida Lloyd** is a British director whose career spans theater, opera, and film. Her work includes *Julius Caesar* (St. Anne’s Warehouse/Donmar), *Threepenny Opera* (Donmar), *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Hysteria*, and *Wild East* (Royal Court); *Artists and Admirers*, and *The Virtuoso* (RSC); *La Bohème*, *Medea*, *Carmen*, *L’Étoile*, *Gloriana*, *Albert Herring*, *Peter Grimes* (Opera North); *Macbeth* (Paris/Royal Opera House); *The Handmaid’s Tale* (Copenhagen/ENO/Toronto); *The Carmelites*, Verdi’s *Requiem*, *Rhinegold*, *Valkyrie*, *Siegfried*, and *Twilight of the Gods* (ENO). Her films include *Gloriana*, the BAFTA and Golden Globe nominated *Mamma Mia!,* and the Academy Award nominated *The Iron Lady.*

About the 2013 Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award

Behind great arts presenters are great supporters, and few of BAM’s friends have deserved that title more than Richard B. Fisher (1936—2004). A visionary in both professional and philanthropic endeavors, Dick championed the creation of a strong endowment to enable BAM to continue presenting its signature groundbreaking programming, even in difficult times. As chairman of the BAM Endowment Trust from 1992 to 2004, Dick shared financial expertise from years as president, chairman, and chairman emeritus of Morgan Stanley, and he guided investments as pledges grew to $50 million. The doubling of the endowment in 2004 may be largely credited to a leadership challenge grant from Dick and his wife, Jeanne Donovan Fisher, which in turn inspired support from other donors.
Dick’s generosity throughout his life continued even with his passing in the form of a landmark bequest. To honor Dick’s friendship to BAM and recognize the legacy of progressive arts presentations he helped ensure in Brooklyn, BAM inaugurated the annual Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award in 2006. Each year, members of the Fisher family help BAM select the engagement that best exemplifies Dick’s forward-thinking ethos and passion for the arts, using this opportunity to celebrate Richard B. Fisher in perpetuity. Past recipients have included Pina Bausch, Charles Mee, Bill T. Jones, Robert Wilson, Mark Morris, Kronos Quartet and Anne Bogart.

The 2013 Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award honors Fiona Shaw and the production of The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins will present to Ms. Shaw the Fisher Award—a beautifully designed walking stick by Fort Greene sculptor-designer Chris Gullian, who drew his inspiration from Dick’s interests and the architecture of BAM’s Peter Jay Sharp Building. The award presentation will take place on stage immediately following the opening night performance of the engagement.

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

Credits
American Express is the BAM 2013 Next Wave Festival sponsor
Diverse Voices at BAM sponsored by Time Warner Inc.
Programming in the BAM Harvey Theater is endowed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Additional support provided by Jon & NoraLee Sedmak

Major support for theater at BAM provided by The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund; The SHS Foundation; and The Shubert Foundation, Inc

BAM 2013 Next Wave Festival supporters: Brooklyn Community Foundation; Robert Sterling Clark Foundation; Con Edison; The Irene Diamond Fund; The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation; Leon Levy Foundation; McKinsey & Company, Inc.; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; MetLife Foundation; Stavros Niarchos Foundation; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; The SHS Foundation; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; The Skirball Foundation; Viacom, Inc.; Time Warner Inc.; The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation; The Wall Street Journal; and The Winston Foundation, Inc.

Stevia In The Raw and Monk Fruit In The Raw is the Official Zero Calorie Sweetener of the Next Wave Festival. Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM. Sovereign Bank is the BAM Marquee sponsor. Yamaha is the official piano for BAM. New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge is the official hotel for BAM.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Finance Committee Chair Domenic M. Recchia Jr., Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council, and Councilwoman Letitia James; and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Delegation Leader.

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
small plate and prix-fixe dinner menus 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 drink and small plate 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.

###

For press information contact Sarah Garvey, sgarvey@BAM.org, 718.724.8025.