

BAM

2016 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

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

Isabelle Huppert stars as the mythic queen in *Phaedra(s)*, a postmodern reimagining of the Greek legend, featuring text from Sarah Kane, Wajdi Mouawad, and J.M. Coetzee, Sep 13—18

Huppert delivers “a tour de force of extraordinary physical abandon and mesmeric skill” –*The Independent*

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Phaedra(s)

After Sarah Kane, Wajdi Mouawad, and J. M. Coetzee
Directed by Krzysztof Warlikowski
Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe

US Premiere

Dramaturgy by Piotr Gruszczyński
Set and costume design by Małgorzata Szcześniak
Lighting design by Felice Ross
Music by Paweł Mykietyn
Video design by Denis Guéguin
Choreography by Claude Bardouil and Rosalba Torres Guerrero
Makeup and hair design by Sylvie Cailler and Jocelyne Milazzo
Additional music composed by Bruno Helstroffer
Sound design by Thierry Jousse

BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St)
Sep 13—17 at 7:00pm; Sep 18 at 3pm
Tickets start at \$30

In French with English titles

Talk: *Phaedra* Interpreted

A program of the Brooklyn Book Festival
Sep 18 at 11am, Borough Hall Courtroom (209 Joralemon St)
Free

August 8, 2016/Brooklyn, NY— Isabelle Huppert returns to BAM as the doomed queen Phaedra, a woman grappling with an incestuous desire for her stepson. Polish director Krzysztof Warlikowski weaves together multiple versions and variations of the Greek myth of Phaedra, offering a radical

reconstruction of this tragic tale. The play's text is composed of excerpts from *Phaedra's Love* by British playwright Sarah Kane (itself a modern adaptation of Seneca's *Phaedra*) and J. M. Coetzee's novel *Elizabeth Costello*, as well as original writing developed in collaboration with Lebanese-Canadian playwright Wajdi Mouawad.

The shape-shifting queen is cast as a vengeful goddess, an exotic dancer, and an aging scholar. In Euripides' *Phaedra*, Aphrodite appears in person to announce Phaedra's fate as a collateral victim of the goddess' hatred for Hippolytus. Mouawad reimagines this prologue, casting the queen as Aphrodite herself, drunk with love and spite. Kane's Phaedra exists in a godless world, driven to drastic measures by a hollow Hippolytus and his unquenchable thirst for obscene transgressions. The final Phaedra, inspired by Coetzee, has lost everything, including her name. She is now Professor Elizabeth Costello, delivering a witty and insightful lecture on Greek myths and sex.

Małgorzata Szczęśniak's stark set of glass chambers and close-up projections magnifies the action onstage, allowing the carnal triptych to drift between these varied worlds. Its bare walls are occasionally covered with faces and bodies, but the rooms remain cold and clinical. Warlikowski's production presents a graphic theatrical collage and Huppert's performance of "astonishingly uninhibited physicality" (*The Guardian*) melds these fractured visions, offering a startling postmodern look at a mythic figure.

Krzysztof Warlikowski is best known for his staging of modern plays, including Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, Bernard-Marie Koltès' *Roberto Zucco*, and Sarah Kane's *Cleansed*. Warlikowski completed his studies at Jagiellonian University, the Academy of Theatre in Krakow, and the Sorbonne University as an assistant to Krystian Lupa, Giorgio Strehler, Ingmar Bergman, and Peter Brook. He has collaborated with the same group of artists for several years, including set designer Małgorzata Szczęśniak and composer Paweł Mykietyn. In 2004 he received the French title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and the Diploma of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland for his distinguished service to Poland abroad. He directed *The Dybbuk* at BAM in 2004 and won an Obie for his direction of *Krum* by Hanoch Levin, presented by TR Warszawa at BAM's Next Wave Festival in 2007. In 2008 he opened the Nowy Teatr in Warsaw, where he serves as artistic director.

Born in Paris, France, **Isabelle Huppert** studied at the Versailles Conservatoire, and embarked on a career in the theater before making her screen debut in 1971. Her film career took off with Claude Goretta's *The Lacemaker* (1977), which earned Huppert the first of her 12 Best Actress nominations at the César awards. Her star turn in Claude Chabrol's *Violette* (1978 Award for Best Actress at Cannes) marked the beginning of a rich artistic collaboration with the director, including *La Cérémonie*, for which she won a 1996 César award for Best Actress. Over the course of one of the most compelling cinema careers of her generation, Huppert has worked with such seminal directors as Claire Denis, Jean-Luc Godard, Michael Haneke (2001 Award for Best Actress at Cannes for *The Piano Teacher*), Benoit Jacquot, Maurice Pialat, Werner Schroeter, Joachim Trier, and Andrzej Wajda. Her recent theater credits include Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis* (BAM Next Wave 2005), Robert Wilson's *Orlando, Quartett* (BAM Next Wave 2009), and Jean Genet's *The Maids* with the Sydney Theater Company as part of the Lincoln Center Festival.

For press information, contact Christian Barclay at cbarclay@BAM.org or 718.724.8044

Produced by Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe

Co-produced by Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand – La Scène nationale, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Théâtre de Liège, Barbican – London & LIFT, and Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens

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 dinner menu 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: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

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

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