

BAM

2016 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

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

Post-rock collective Godspeed You! Black Emperor joins Holy Body Tattoo for *monumental*—a thundering choreographic investigation of neocapitalism, individualism and corporate culture—Sep 16 & 17

“Watching *monumental* is like holding on for dear life to a power line downed in a storm that keeps thrashing and sparking.”—*The Guardian* (UK)

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monumental

The Holy Body Tattoo

Music by Godspeed You! Black Emperor

Choreography by Dana Gingras and Noam Gagnon

New York Premiere

Text by Jenny Holzer

Films by William Morrison

Lighting design by Marc Parent

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Sep 16 & 17 at 7:30pm

Tickets start at \$20

August 11, 2016/Brooklyn, NY—*monumental* is an elegiac investigation into the physical anxiety of urban culture. This large-scale work performed by Canada’s powerful dance company The Holy Body Tattoo combines text elements from Jenny Holzer, live music by iconic post-rock collective Godspeed You! Black Emperor, film projections by William Morrison, and choreography by Dana Gingras and Noam Gagnon.

Engaged in purgatorial corporate survival, an ensemble of nine dancers dressed in monochromatic office attire—each anchored atop a two foot-tall pillar—represents the contemporary “Everyman” who at first represses the energy, aggression, and hostility that seethes behind a controlled exterior. With a flinch, restraint gives way to a stream of jarring and stilted movements. As they step, stumble, and slide off of their platforms, the dancers’ movements are propelled by the driving score, personifying the madness of urban life—the repetition, confinement, and alienation—culminating in the struggle to preserve the self amid the frantic pace of contemporary corporate culture.

monumental originally premiered at Canada's National Arts Centre on February 24, 2005. This new production incorporates a live performance by the iconic Godspeed You! Black Emperor and its massive wall of sound. Beneath a shadowy, menacing cityscape designed by Marc Parent, a constellation of characters physically evokes an ever-accelerating climate of greed and ambition, where connection becomes increasingly difficult.

About the artists

The Holy Body Tattoo is an award-winning Canadian contemporary dance company. It was formed in 1993 by co-artistic directors and choreographers Noam Gagnon and Dana Gingras, who had performed together since 1987. Initially conceptualized as a multimedia dance company, it has performed throughout Canada, Europe, Asia, and the US, to critical acclaim. The company's works often comment on modern life through repetitive and strenuous physical movement that pushes performers to the point of exhaustion. This technique is based on the idea that the secrets locked within the body will be revealed when pushed to its limit. The company has earned a number of significant awards and honors for both its stage and film work. In 1997, *our brief eternity* won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Ensemble Performance. Its repertoire includes *White Riot* and *Poetry & Apocalypse* (1994); *our brief eternity* (1999 Next Wave Festival); *Circa* (2000); and a tango-influenced pas de deux, *Running Wild* (2004).

Godspeed You! Black Emperor began with Efrim Menuck, Mauro Pezzente, and Mike Moya in the early 90s, playing a handful of shows and recording a self-released cassette as a trio before deciding to transform the group into a large band. Recruiting numerous Montreal musicians in 1995—96, GYBE mounted sense-rattling wall-of-sound performances, featuring as many as 14 musicians and several 16mm film projectors, before recording its debut vinyl-only 1997 album *Constellation*. Around then, they transformed a warehouse space into the Hotel2Tango, a DIY hive of activity with band rehearsal rooms, silkscreen and wood shops, and weekend shows that took place under the radar. Eventually the group settled into a permanent nine-member line-up by late 1998, with Aidan Girt and Bruce Cawdron on drums, Thierry Amar and Mauro on basses, Efrim, Dave Bryant, and Roger Tellier-Craig on guitars, and Norsola Johnson and Sophie Trudeau on cello and violin, respectively. The band toured and recorded incessantly from 1998—2002, gaining a reputation for mesmerizing live shows marked by orchestral dynamics, epic rock power, and clunky, beautiful film loops. After four records, GYBE announced an indefinite hiatus which lasted from 2003—10 when the band returned to curate and perform at All Tomorrow's Parties in the UK, followed by extensive international touring. October 2012 saw the release of critically acclaimed '*ALLELUJAH! DON'T BEND! ASCEND!*', its first recorded work in a decade. It was followed up by *Asunder, Sweet And Other Distress* released in March 2015.

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

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor.

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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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