



BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) announces Amy Cassello as interim artistic director

September 13, 2023/Brooklyn, NY—BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) today announces the appointment of **Amy Cassello** as BAM's interim artistic director. The appointment comes after **David Binder** concluded his artistic director tenure at BAM on July 2. Binder remains at BAM as artistic advisor through the remainder of 2023.

"A highly-regarded fixture of the Brooklyn and downtown arts scene, Amy has played a key role in stewarding BAM's programming for many years. She is fiercely committed to protecting artistic expression and she shares my passion for creating a holistic vision for BAM that exemplifies our deep commitment to artists and Brooklyn. I could not have a better partner to lead BAM's artistic programming while we determine an equitable and dynamic structure for our multidisciplinary programming team," said BAM President **Gina Duncan**.

Cassello oversees all programming and will continue to explore the organization's multi-voice curatorial approach through a select roster of artists-in-residence, guest curators, and a wide range of partners that will expand BAM's programmatic lens. With Cassello's guidance, this approach will be organically applied across BAM's programmatic spectrum including theater, dance, opera, music, film, archives, and community offerings.

"BAM has always been a place for discovery – whether you're a second grader walking into the ornate Howard Gilman Opera House for the first time, a seasoned audience member ready to be wowed by a Next Wave production, or a fan of experimental film—our ambition to present challenging, multi-genre, resonant work carries on," said Cassello. "We will continue to add new artists and curators into the mix, expand our residency program for emerging artists and thought leaders, and refine mechanisms for meaningful engagement with our audiences and fellow cultural partners."

"Known for her ardent support of artists, Amy walks with us, not for us. There is a direct, heart-to-heart experience that Amy brings to her work, and it is what has helped me persist through the hard parts of the art-making process," said **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**, founder of Urban Bush Women.

"Amy is a wonderful collaborator and colleague with an impressive depth of knowledge and experience. What I find most special about Amy is that she accomplishes everything with calm efficiency, understated brilliance, an adventurous spirit, and a twinkle in her eyes," said **Janet Wong**, associate artistic director of New York Live Arts.

"Amy's ability to navigate a vast and complex artistic landscape while remaining staunchly committed to artists and their work is truly inspiring. She's also a joy to work with and I look forward to seeing her programming on BAM's stages," said Binder.

The multi-voice curatorial model is evolving from of a series of recent successful collaborations including **Hanif Abdurraqib's** 2022 spring music series (that included Nikki Giovanni, Devonté Hynes, Little Syria, Mdou Mocktar, L'Rain, Omar Offendum, Moses Sumney, Dawn Richard, Little Simz, and Moses Sumney), **Solange's** 2023 Eldorado Ballroom series (that included Kelela, Res, KeiYaA, Autumn Knight, Maren Hassinger, Twinkie Clark & The Clark Sisters, Artina McCain, Malcolm J. Merriweather, Voices of Harlem, Angella Christie, Archie Shepp, Linda Sharrock, and Claudia Rankine) and numerous significant visual art exhibitions and commissions conceived by **Larry Ossei-Mensah** from 2019-2022.

About Amy Cassello:

A programming veteran with a background in arts administration, **Amy Cassello** has worked in development, marketing/publicity, and general management for the City of New Haven's Department of Cultural Affairs, the Arts & Ideas Festival, and Doug Elkins Dance Company before becoming General Manager for Urban Bush Women where she went on to become Executive Director. She also has helped develop the careers of nora chipaumire and Souleymane Badolo, among other independent choreographers. She joined BAM in August 2012 in a newly created position as the Associate Producer for the Next Wave Festival. She was promoted to Producer in 2018, and became BAM's associate artistic director in November 2020.

About BAM

A world-class home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas, **BAM** (Brooklyn Academy of Music) is North America's oldest performing arts center, showcasing the work of emerging artists and modern icons. It is led by President, Gina Duncan.

For more than 160 years, BAM has been a thriving, urban multi-arts complex renowned for presenting an unparalleled roster of visionary and cutting-edge dance, theater, music, opera, visual arts, literature, and film engagements. Attracting more than 750,000 people annually to its home in Brooklyn, BAM provides a welcoming cultural stage and meeting place for global and local communities of all backgrounds. BAM's distinctive multi-theater campus is alive year-round with inspired new engagements and signature programs alike including the renowned Next Wave (one of the world's most influential festivals of contemporary performing arts, founded in 1983), the iconic DanceAfrica, an acclaimed repertory film program, and literary, archival, educational and humanities programs. For more information visit BAM.org.

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