

Next Wave 2025

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

BAM announces its Fall 2025 Season

Offerings include an expansive slate of dance, music, theater, visual art, family events, holiday fare, and more

Dambudzo by nora chipaumire kicks off this year's Next Wave

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

May 15, 2025/Brooklyn, NY— Today BAM announces its programming for Fall 2025 and Next Wave...an expansive slate of dance, music, theater, visual art, family events, holiday fare, and more.

This year's Next Wave features iconic artists who BAM has celebrated many times over, along with newer talents whose work will define the decades to come. By showcasing local, national, and global creators' genre-spanning works, Next Wave offers a panoramic view of contemporary innovation—and illuminates the shared inspirations and aspirations that bring artists and audiences together. *Dambudzo by nora chipaumire* kicks off this year's Next Wave in October followed by **Natalia Lafourcade**, **Eiko Otake and Wen Hui's** *What Is War*, **Caroline Guiela Nguyen's** *LACRIMA*, **Richard Move's** *Martha@BAM—The 1963 Interview*, **Juliana F. May's** *Optimistic Voices*, **Andrea Voets' FOR REAL**, **Hanif Abdurraqib's** poetry series *I Guess It Was My Destiny To Live So Long*, **Leslie Cuyjet's** *For All Your Life*, **Richard Foreman's** *What to wear*, and a season-long exhibition, *Franklin Furnace's 50th Anniversary*, which celebrates the revered avant-garde collective's contributions over the past five decades.

Alongside Next Wave, BAM will present talks and film screenings that uplift new and refreshed works from **Arundhati Roy**, **Linton Kwesi Johnson**, and **Peter Brook**.

In a holiday performance like no other, the season includes an extraordinary opportunity to experience **William Christie / Les Arts Florissants' Messe de Minuit and Pastorale de Noël**.

Rounding out the season are the annually anticipated BAMboo!, the Best of BAMkids Film Festival, and a film program featuring eclectic repertory screenings and series alongside new releases.

"My goal was to put together a season that focused on women artists. Some, like Martha Graham, are iconic, while others making their BAM debuts also represent a long lineage in what is known as 'downtown dance'" says BAM Artistic Director, **Amy Cassello**. "Through our performances, films, free community programs, school-time matinees, and beyond, we believe that our purpose is to challenge, provoke, and connect. BAM continues to support New York-based art makers in all forms while presenting provocative international work."

"We are proud to present this season of ground-breaking performance," says BAM's Interim CEO, **Tamara McCaw**. "Ensuring that we remain an accessible and equitable home serving artists, audiences, and members of our community could not happen without our incredible supporters. BAM deeply thanks our donors, our civic leaders, and elected officials for their unwavering commitment to BAM and the arts."

Hi-res photos available [here](#).

Fall programs

Sep 10 *Mother Mary Comes to Me*, Arundhati Roy in conversation with Imani Perry (Talk)
Sep 18 New 8K restoration of Peter Brook's *The Mahabharata* (Film)
Sep 20 Linton Kwesi Johnson: *Dread Beat an Blood* (Film /Talk)

Next Wave

Oct 8—9 nora chipaumire's *Dambudzo* (Dance)
Oct 11 Natalia Lafourcade's *Cancionera* (Music)
Oct 21—25 Eiko Otake and Wen Hui's *What Is War* (Dance)
Oct 22 & 24—26 Caroline Guiela Nguyen's *LACRIMA* (Theater)
Oct 28—Nov 1 Richard Move's *Martha@BAM—The 1963 Interview* (Dance/Theater)
Nov 5—8 Juliana F. May's *Optimistic Voices* (Dance/Music)
Nov 18—22 Hanif Abdurraqib's *I Guess It Was My Destiny To Live So Long*, a poetry series honoring the legacy of June Jordan (Various)
Nov 19—23 Andrea Voets' *FOR REAL* (Theater/Music)
Dec 3—7 Leslie Cuyjet's *For All Your Life* (Dance/Film/Theater)
Jan 15—17 Richard Foreman's *What to wear* (Theater/Music/Opera) presented as part of Prototype 2026
Oct 22—Jan 17 *Franklin Furnace's 50th Anniversary* (Visual Art/Performance Art)

Holiday

Dec 4—6 Les Arts Florissants' *Messe de Minuit* and *Pastorale de Noël* (Music)

Tickets go on sale for BAM Members and Patrons on May 15, and to the general public on May 22.

Fall 2025 Engagements

BAM in association with Greenlight Bookstore
Presents

Mother Mary Comes to Me

Arundhati Roy in conversation with Imani Perry

Sep 10 at 7:30pm

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

30 Lafayette Ave

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$25

“Roy has built up a formidable body of work about the role of the writer today, about the crisis of democracies at risk, and about the vital power of storytelling.” —*Los Angeles Review of Books*

One of the world's most celebrated writers, Arundhati Roy is known as the author of two novels—*The God of Small Things*, her Booker Prize-winning debut, and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*—as well as powerful essays addressing urgent social and political issues like globalization, indigenous rights, and nuclear weapons.

Roy comes to BAM for a revealing conversation about her newest book, *Mother Mary Comes to Me*, scheduled for publication in September. Speaking with scholar and National Book Award-winning author Imani Perry, Roy will discuss her first memoir, detailing her complex relationship with her mother, Mary Roy, a fierce, formidable force she calls “my shelter and my storm.”

Arundhati Roy is the Booker Prize–winning author of *The God of Small Things* (1997) and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017), which was longlisted for the Booker Prize and translated into more than forty languages. Her acclaimed nonfiction works include *The End of Imagination*, *The Doctor and the Saint*, *My Seditious Heart*, and *Azadi*. Roy received the European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement in 2023 and the PEN Pinter Prize in 2024 for telling “urgent stories of injustice with wit and beauty.” She lives in Delhi.

Imani Perry is the National Book Award–winning author of *South to America* and seven other nonfiction titles. Her latest work, *Black in Blues: How a Color Tells the Story of My People*, was published in January 2025. She is the Henry A. Morss Jr. and Elisabeth W. Morss Professor of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. A 2023 MacArthur Fellow, Perry lives in Philadelphia and Cambridge with her two sons.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org

The Mahabharata (8K restoration)
Directed by Peter Brook (1989)

Sep 18 at 7:30pm

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$28

“Exhilarating...a work of beauty and eloquence...” —*Los Angeles Times*

In October 1987, BAM made theater history by staging English director Peter Brook's nine-hour adaptation of the Sanskrit epic *Mahabharata* in a long-dormant Brooklyn theater—now known as the Harvey Theater at BAM Strong—which proudly hosts Brook's 1989 film adaptation of that historic production on the Steinberg Screen. Marking the late director's centenary in 2025, the film is screening in a stunning new 8K restoration undertaken by his son, Simon Brook.

Shot in Paris and condensed from its original form to a more concise yet still sweeping cinematic experience, *The Mahabharata* features an international cast including Akram Khan, Erika Alexander, and Ciarán Hinds, performing an artful distillation of the foundational Hindu epic. Focused on a conflict between two families descended from the same royal house, the film depicts a bitter rivalry that explodes into war, with victory achieved at an unthinkable cost.

Peter Brook was born in London and achieved distinction in the disciplines of theater, opera, and literature. He dedicated himself to the performing arts, soon directing some of the great actors of his time—John Gielgud, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, and Paul Scofield—as well as in iconic venues across the UK and beyond. He directed and performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company in such productions as *Titus Andronicus*, *King*

Lear, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Marat/Sade* (also seen on Broadway), and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Brook became identified with a pared-down, minimalist style in which the audience was returned to a raw and unmediated encounter with the power of the performing art.

In 1971, Brook founded the International Centre for Theatre Research in Paris and in 1974, he established its permanent base at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord. Among his landmark works are the stage adaptation of the epic Indian poem *Mahabharata*; the film version of *The Lord of the Flies*; and *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, an apartheid-era classic. Brook, who has written and directed works in French and English, retired from the Bouffes du Nord in 2008. Brook's history with BAM began with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1971 Spring Season) and continued with the historic *The Mahabharata* (1987 Next Wave), *The Cherry Orchard* (1988 Spring Season), *The Man Who* (1995 Spring Season), *The Tragedy of Hamlet* (2001 Spring Season), *The Island* (2003 Spring Season), and *The Suit* (2013 Spring Season).

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

Dread Beat an Blood

Linton Kwesi Johnson

Film by Franco Rosso (1979)

Sep 20 at 7:30pm

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$20

“Linton Kwesi Johnson’s impact on the cultural landscape over the last half-century has been colossal and multi-generational.” —*The Guardian*

Born in Jamaica, poet, reggae artist, and activist Linton Kwesi Johnson (LKJ) moved to England in 1963, and by the late 70s attained iconic status with his robust voice, passionate activism, and fervent verse set to heavy dub. Marking the 50th anniversary of Johnson's groundbreaking 1975 eponymous poem, the potent documentary portrait *Dread Beat an Blood* by Franco Rosso—director of the incendiary *Babylon*, which screened at BAM Rose Cinemas in 2012, 2019 and 2024—comes to the Steinberg Screen in a beautiful new restoration from the original 16mm elements by the British Film Institute. The film's depiction of a now-vanished Black Brixton gained national attention when its TV premiere was delayed by the Tories until Margaret Thatcher was safely elected, so great was the party's concern about Johnson's powers of persuasion.

After the screening, Johnson takes the Harvey Theater stage in person, reciting his poetry in his first US theatrical appearance in close to two decades. More than a timely retrospective, this singular event celebrates a militant artist still raising his voice for justice.

New York Premiere of Restoration. A Seventy-Seven film.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org or Gabriele Caroti gabriele@seventy-seven.com.

Next Wave engagements

Dambudzo

Created by nora chipaumire

Oct 8-9 at 7:00pm

Roulette

509 Atlantic Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11217

Tickets start at \$35

“Ms. chipaumire is an artist of ferocious intensity” —*The New York Times*

nora chipaumire transforms nearby performing arts venue Roulette into a Zimbabwean *shabini*—an informal house-based bar—where music, movement, and memory collide in a bold act of resistance. Titled after the Shona word for 'trouble,' Dambudzo is a live anti-genre combining sound, painting, sculpture and performance inspired by radical African thinkers such as Dambudzo Marechera, Steve Biko, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. Set against the sounds of Jit music and ambient city life, the piece invites audiences to co-conspire in imagining decolonized futures and revisiting the promises—and betrayals—of liberation movements across Africa. A politically urgent, participatory experience, *Dambudzo* blurs the lines between performance and gathering, rebellion and ritual.

nora chipaumire was born in 1965 in what was then known as Umtali, Rhodesia (now Mutare, Zimbabwe). She is a product of colonial education for Black native Africans—known as Group B schooling—and is deeply invested in knowledge acquisition and sharing outside of prescribed parameters. She has presented at BAM on multiple occasions, including *Les écailles de la mémoire (The Scales of Memory)* (Next Wave 2008), *Miriam* (Next Wave 2012), and *portrait of myself as my father* (Next Wave 2016). A bold, genre-defying artist, chipaumire creates performance environments that challenge assumptions around race, gender, history, and power, blending sound, movement, and installation into radical forms of expression.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

Natalia Lafourcade

Cancionera Tour

Oct 11 at 7:30pm

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

30 Lafayette Ave

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$45

“Natalia Lafourcade’s music is pure poetry” —*Billboard*

One of this century’s most influential voices in Latin popular culture, performer, composer, and producer, Natalia Lafourcade will take BAM’s opera house stage for the first time on October 11. The engagement is the latest addition to her *Cancionera* Tour, her most extensive North America run since 2018. The tour commenced in her home town of Xalapa, Mexico last April.

Since launching her solo career in 2002, Lafourcade has earned countless prestigious prizes and honors, including 18 Latin Grammy awards—more than any other female artist since the Latin Recording Academy was established in 1997. She has also earned four Grammy Awards, a Billboard Music Award, and three MTV Music Awards.

For her debut appearance at BAM, this global superstar promises a powerfully intimate experience like nothing she has offered before. In the wake of sold-out concerts with Los Angeles Philharmonic and an iconic live album recorded at Carnegie Hall, Lafourcade strips her presentation down to voice and guitar only for her *Cancionera* tour, named after her latest album (out on Apr 24) and single, which will feature intimate arrangements of her classics as well as new music. Hermanos Gutiérrez, El David Aguilar, Israel Fernandez, Diego Del Morao, Gordon Hamilton, and Soundwalk Collective are also featured on the record.

From her start in breezy Latin pop and rock, **Natalia Lafourcade** has created a sophisticated style all her own, fusing beloved idioms like mariachi, son jarocho, and bolero with a modern sensibility that bridges genres and generations. Her urge to bring people together transcends art: as an activist and advocate for charitable causes, Lafourcade was named the first Ambassador of Music for Peace at the XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in Monterrey, Mexico, last September.

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

What Is War

Created by Eiko Otake and Wen Hui

Oct 21—25 at 7:30pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

Created and performed by **Eiko Otake** (of Eiko & Koma) and **Wen Hui** (of Living Dance Studio), *What Is War* is a powerful collaboration that fuses movement, video, and personal testimony excavated from the artists' recollections of war and its aftermath. Otake grew up in post war Japan and Wen grew up in China during the Cultural Revolution. Friends since 1995 and working closely since 2020, Otake and Wen explore the enduring impacts of war on human consciousness, collective memory, and the body.

Eiko Otake is a Japanese-born, New York-based interdisciplinary performance artist who worked for over four decades as half of the duo Eiko & Koma. Their performances included five seasons at BAM Next Wave Festival (1986-2000). Since 2014, she has developed *A Body in Places*, a series of site-specific solo performances at more than 70 locations. *A Body in Fukushima*, a collaboration with photographer William Johnston, documented her five visits to post-nuclear disaster zones in Japan. *The Duet Project* (2018-) is an ongoing cross-disciplinary collaboration with diverse artists. Her ten-year initiative, *I Invited Myself*, showcases her media works through exhibitions and screenings. Otake's feature-length films, *A Body in Fukushima* and the documentary *No Rule Is Our Rule* (co-directed with Wen Hui) have been screened in film festivals worldwide.

Wen Hui is a pioneering Chinese choreographer, dancer, filmmaker, and installation artist who co-founded Beijing's Living Dance Studio—the first independent dance theater group in China—in 1994. For over 30 years, she has used dance theater to explore social realities and histories, researching bodily memory as a form of

personal and political documentation. Her works bridge the past and present through deeply embodied performance. Wen's solo works *Memory* (2008) *I am 60* (2021) and *New Report on Giving Birth* (2023) were presented at Festival d'Automne in Paris and in many other venues in Europe. In 2021, she was awarded Germany's Goethe Medal for her cultural contributions. Wen Hui now resides in Frankfurt, Germany. For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

LACRIMA

Written and directed by Caroline Guiela Nguyen

Oct 22, 24 & 25 at 7:30pm

Oct 26 at 3:00pm

Harvey Theater at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$30

"Insanely realistic and captivating. Gripping." —*Le Figaro* (France)

Written and directed by Caroline Guiela Nguyen, *LACRIMA* is set in a Parisian *haute couture* fashion house that's been commissioned to create a wedding dress for a British princess. From France to India, this choral theater performance traces all of the hands that create the dress over the eight months and thousands of hours of work needed to finish it. Marion, the head tailor on Rue Saint-Honoré, Thérèse, a lacemaker in Alençon, Abdul, an embroiderer in Mumbai, all present the power of their exceptional expertise that comes from a long tradition. Nguyen transforms the stage into a bustling workshop floor in this sprawling play about the hands that make the garments we covet.

Caroline Guiela Nguyen is a French director and filmmaker whose work has received widespread international acclaim. She is the founder of the theatre company Les Hommes Approximatifs and Artistic Director of Théâtre National de Strasbourg.

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

Martha@BAM—The 1963 Interview

Created by Richard Move

Oct 28—Nov 1 at 7:30pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

"Richard Move's channeling of the Modern Dance Diva is too brilliant for words" —*Time Out New York*

More than a theatrical work or dance performance, *Martha@BAM—The 1963 Interview* is an act of artistic resurrection. At the heart of the performance is Martha Graham, the visionary choreographer who changed the course of modern dance during the first half of the 20th century. Making their BAM debut, Richard Move embodies Graham in all her complexity and elegance, faithfully recreating an interview held on stage at the 92nd Street Y on March 31, 1963, in which she discussed the meaning and method behind her most iconic roles. Appearing opposite Move is Tony Award-winning actress and playwright Lisa Kron, portraying dance critic and interviewer Walter Terry.

A highly regarded choreographer and performer in their own right, Move was already known for their uncanny performances as Graham when the 92nd Street Y's Harkness Dance Center presented them with a recording of the 1963 interview. Joined by Kron and two former Graham company dancers, Catherine Cabeen and PeiJu Chien-Pott, demonstrating Graham's dance vocabulary, Move lovingly re-enacts the historic event, bringing to life the passionate presence of an iconic American artist.

Richard Move is a Guggenheim Fellow, TEDGlobal Oxford Fellow, and Assistant Arts Professor of Dance at NYU Tisch. As artistic director of MoveOpolis!, Move has created works for Mikhail Baryshnikov and the White Oak Dance Project, the Martha Graham Dance Company, New York City Ballet principal Heléne Alexopoulos, and the trio PARADIGM. Their site-specific work *Herstory of the Universe@Governors Island* was named one of the "Best Dance of 2021" by *The New York Times*. In 2022, Move choreographed *Snow White* for incarcerated actors at Larino Prison in Italy. Their acclaimed portrayal of Martha Graham in *Martha@...* has earned two Bessie Awards and continues to tour internationally.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

Optimistic Voices

Created by Juliana F. May

Nov 5—8 at 7:30pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

"May has a singular approach to choreography...highly crafted...astutely sincere" —*Brooklyn Rail*

Optimistic Voices is a new dance work by choreographer, writer, and director Juliana F. May. Renowned for creating thrillingly elaborate cycles of song, text, and movement from the wreckage of difficult experience, May delves into the tangled contradictions of family, eroticism, and motherhood in *Optimistic Voices*, her BAM debut. Influenced by postmodern dance and musical theater, she uses repetition and off-kilter rhythms in pursuit of a new performative language. In *Optimistic Voices*, she creates a dreamlike landscape from the quagmire of everyday life.

A Guggenheim and New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow, **Juliana F. May** has created ten evening length works since 2002 with commissions and encore performances from Dance Theater Workshop, New York Live Arts, The Chocolate Factory Theater, American Realness, and Abrons Arts Center. May has been awarded grants and residencies through The MAP Fund, NYSCA, Jerome Foundation, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Gibney Dance In Process, and Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography. In 2002, May received her BA in Dance and Art History from Oberlin College, and, in 2012, she received an MFA in

Choreography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. May served as the Artistic Advisor for New York Live Arts' Fresh Tracks Residency Program from 2017-2019 and 2024-present, and has been on faculty at Sarah Lawrence College since 2017.

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

FOR REAL

Created by Resonate Productions/Andrea Voets

Music by Andrea Voets, Sarah Jeffery and George Dumitriu

Nov 19—22 at 7:30pm

Nov 23 at 3:00pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

FOR REAL is a theatrical radio show on what it means to matter, created by Andrea Voets, artistic director of Resonate Productions. The starting point is the intellectual undermining of women. The work features three musicians alongside a mosaic of women's voices on tape and utilizes improvisation as a score for risky conversations about the effects of sexism on the mind and the soul. Demonstrating a new hybrid form Voets terms *music journalism*, audience members are invited to participate by answering questions posed by the musicians. Each performance will be recorded and released as a podcast-episode.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

I Guess It Was My Destiny To Live So Long

A poetry series honoring the legacy of June Jordan

Curated by Hanif Abdurraqib

Nov 18—22

Harvey Theater at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

Go to bam.org for programming updates and ticket prices.

Following last year's powerful election-week poetry series, BAM Curator at Large and 2021 MacArthur Genius Hanif Abdurraqib returns with another dynamic program of events calling Brooklyn to provoke poetry's power to connect. Celebrating the spirit of legendary Brooklyn-born poet June Jordan, a constellation of artists, writers, and performers activate BAM's spaces for an inspiring week illuminating the truths of our moment via poetic imagination.

BAM is proud to present the second edition of *I Guess It Was My Destiny To Live So Long*, a multi-year, multi-disciplinary celebration of poetry and performance curated by BAM curator-at-large and 2021 MacArthur

Fellow Hanif Abdurraqib. This series aims to build community, foster collaboration, and create a space for healing through poetry-centered programs for audiences of all ages.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org and Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org.

For All Your Life

Created by Leslie Cuyjet

Dec 3—6 at 7:30pm

Dec 7 at 3:00pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

“A tour de force” —*The New York Times*

In her BAM debut, choreographer and performer Leslie Cuyjet presents *For All Your Life*, a searing solo performance interrogating the value of life and death. Part screening, part sales pitch, the work dissects the life insurance industry's historical ties to slavery, revealing how systems of power have long monetized human lives— particularly Black lives. Through movement, text, and visual media, Cuyjet delivers a sharp, poetic inquiry into how we reckon with mortality and capital in America.

A 2025 Guggenheim Fellow and Bessie Award-winning artist, Cuyjet continues her exploration of lineage, power, and perception—this time through a personal reckoning with the mechanism of life insurance investing. Learning that major insurers once sold policies on enslaved people became the seed for *For All Your Life*, complicating Cuyjet's own understanding of value, mortality, and legacy. Extending beyond the stage, the project includes a companion website (forallyourlife.com), a digital marketplace that invites audiences to confront how Black life and death have been—and continue to be—quantified.

Leslie Cuyjet is a choreographer and performer whose work has been presented at The Kitchen, MoMA PS1, The Chocolate Factory, Gibney, SculptureCenter, and The Shed, where her piece *Blur* earned her a 2022 Bessie Award for Outstanding Choreographer/Creator. Her accolades include grants from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, a Princeton Hodder Fellowship, and residencies at Movement Research, CPR, Chinati Foundation, Watermill Center, and MacDowell. A published writer and former co-editor of *Critical Correspondence*, Cuyjet continues to push the boundaries of interdisciplinary performance.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

Holiday engagement

Les Arts Florissants

Messe de Minuit and Pastorale de Noël

By Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Conducted by William Christie

Dec 4—6 at 7:30pm

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

30 Lafayette Ave

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$25

“A delight...” —*Gramophone* (UK)

★★★★★ **“Truly mysterious...”** —*Guardian* (UK)

One of the most renowned and respected early-music groups in Europe and around the world, French ensemble Les Arts Florissants returns to BAM with distinguished co-music director William Christie to perform two classic works by French Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier: *Messe de Minuit pour Noël*, a mass setting based on the melodies of 10 French Christmas carols, and *Pastorale de Noël*, a lyrical recounting of the Nativity story. The works will be staged with period instruments, Les Arts Florissants' full orchestra and chorus, plus solos by Emmanuelle de Negri (treble/soprano), Alex Rosen (bass) and others.

Founded by Christie in 1979, and named after a short opera by Charpentier, **Les Arts Florissants** is dedicated to the performance of Baroque music on original instruments. Christie and his company made their first BAM appearance in 1989 with a universally celebrated production of Jean-Baptiste Lully's opera *Atys*, and most recently appeared at BAM in 2019 with *Rameau, maître à danser*, pairing two rarely stage opera-ballets by Jean-Philippe Rameau.

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

BAM and Prototype by BMP

Present

What to wear

Libretto, Production and Direction by Richard Foreman

Music by Michael Gordon

Conducted by Alan Pierson

Re-created by Paul Lazar and Annie-B Parson

Jan 15—17 at 7:30pm

Harvey Theater at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$25

“No one is better than Mr. Foreman...the avant-garde magician...at creating the sense of a confounding universe.” — *The New York Times*

For the first time in 20 years, BAM remounts *What to wear*. This exciting revival is a raucous, biting funny post-rock opera by avant-garde theater icon Richard Foreman, who passed away in January 2025 at the age of 87, and celebrated composer Michael Gordon. In Foreman's signature style, *What to wear* is a surreal extravaganza of operatic tableaux brought to disturbing, hallucinatory life. A pageant of seductiveness gone wrong—as everyone on stage turns less and less beautiful—something more ecstatic than beauty slowly reveals its 21st-century face. Directed by Big Dance Theater co-founders Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, this work shows what happens when beauty gives way to something more transcendent. A collaboration between

BAM, Beth Morrison Projects, and Bang on a Can, this historic re-staging honors Foreman's trailblazing legacy and Gordon's ceaseless musical vitality.

Richard Foreman, a major figure in the avant-garde theater, was the founder and director of the Ontological-Hysteric Theater, for which he had written, directed and designed over fifty major productions in New York and Europe from 1968 to 1977. Foreman's uniquely stylized theater is characterized by complex interplays and tensions between spoken language and visual tableaux. Foreman received numerous awards for his achievements in theater, including nine *Village Voice* OBIE Awards, a Rockefeller Foundation Playwrights Grant, a Ford Foundation New American Plays Award, a MacArthur Fellowship and an American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. In 1988 he received one of the first Distinguished Artists Fellowships in Theater from the National Endowment for the Arts for his "significant contribution to the art form." His plays and essays have been collected in the publications *Richard Foreman Plays and Manifestos* (1976) and *Reverberation Machines, The Later Plays and Essays* (1985). Foreman's work was last seen at BAM with his production of *The Birth of the Poet* as part of the 1985 Next Wave. He lived in New York until his death in January 2025.

Michael Gordon's music merges subtle rhythmic invention with incredible power embodying, in the words of *The New Yorker's* Alex Ross, "the fury of punk rock, the nervous brilliance of free jazz and the intransigence of classical modernism." Over the course of his composing career, Gordon has produced a strikingly diverse body of work, ranging from large-scale pieces for high-energy ensembles to major orchestral commissions to works conceived specifically for the recording studio. Transcending categorization, this music represents the collision of mysterious introspection and brutal directness.

Prototype is a co-production of Beth Morrison Projects and HERE, two trailblazers in the creation and presentation of contemporary, multi-disciplinary opera-theatre and music-theatre works. The visionary festival is the only one of its kind in New York City and is a model now emulated around the country – producing and presenting a wide spectrum of works, from intimate black-box experiences to larger chamber opera productions, valuing artistic, curatorial, and producorial risk-taking.

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

BAM art programs

Franklin Furnace 50th Anniversary

Oct 22—Jan 17

Rudin Family Gallery at the BAM Strong

651 Fulton St.

Brooklyn, NY

FREE

"Franklin Furnace: still radical...the avant-garde spirit is alive and well, and as relevant as ever." — Hyperallergic

Franklin Furnace, a crucial downtown New York arts space and archive currently based at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, is the subject of a retrospective gallery show anticipating its 50th anniversary in 2026. Founder Martha Wilson, an eminent feminist performance artist, described Franklin Furnace as "a hothouse for artists' ideas, a place where ideas create light and heat." Opened in 1976, the organization provided the downtown New York avant-garde with a repository for artist-produced books; nurtured performance art, installation art, and arts education; and championed countless emerging artists who would rise to international renown.

Included in the exhibition are works by Wilson, Jenny Holzer, Tehching Hsieh, Dread Scott, and more. On view 90 minutes prior to all performances in the Harvey Theater at BAM Strong.

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

BAM film programs

It will be an exciting fall at the BAM Rose Cinemas, with a mix of highly anticipated auteurs, cutting-edge young filmmakers, and retrospectives that expand our knowledge of global cinema. BAM welcomes back our partners at New York Film Festival and NewFest in October with selections from their 2025 festivals—always among the best-curated events of the season. BAM will showcase programs highlighting a neglected master of Mexican cinema, folklore and fairy tales at the movies and a tribute to the legendary Angela Bassett. All this alongside the best new films by BAM favorites like Yorgos Lanthimos, Luca Guadagnino, Chloé Zhao, Paul Thomas Anderson, and more.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@bam.org or Kory Mello at kory@obscuredpictures.com.

Programming for kids and families

BAM presents high-quality, globally diverse programming that sparks curiosity and ignites the imaginations of young minds. This fall features exciting events designed to engage and delight families, fostering a love for the arts in children of all ages.

BAMboo!

Oct 31

30 Lafayette Ave

Ashland Pl/ Lafayette Ave

Free

Brooklyn's favorite family-friendly Halloween celebration, BAMboo! returns. This festive block party features music, carnival games, arts and crafts, candy giveaways, and kid-friendly movies. BAMboo! is a free event that brings the community together for an afternoon of fun and festivity, making it a must-attend Halloween tradition.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

Best of BAMkids Film Festival 2025

Oct 2024—Dec 2025

BAM Rose Cinemas (Peter Jay Sharp Building)

30 Lafayette Ave

Brooklyn, NY

More information to be announced.

A selection of the most popular animated and short films for children 3—11 from BAMkids Film Festival 2025, curated in partnership with Melbourne International Animation Festival. Details will be announced at a later date. More info will be available at bam.org.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate, ctate@BAM.org.

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

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