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Photo Credits: (Cover) Lulu Fall, Nabiyah Be, Jessie Shelton, Shaina Taub, and Chris Sullivan in *Hadestown* at NYTW, Photo by Joan Marcus; (Page 1) Amber Gray in *Hadestown*, photo by Joan Marcus; Phantom Limb Company *Memory Rings*, photo by Phinn Sriployrung; *Our Secrets* by Béla Pintér and Company; Fiasco Theatre Company's *Into The Woods* photo by Joan Marcus; *Songs of Lear* by Song of the Goat Theatre; (Page 2) Esperanza Spalding and Wayne Shorter; Theatre for One; (Page 3) Adam Cochran, Dito Van Reigersberg, and Tony Torn in *Rimbaud in New York*, credit Richard Termine; Dan Dominguez and Irene Lucio in *The Undertaking*, photo by Richard Termine; (Page 4) *Memory Rings* by Phantom Limb Company at BAM, photo by Dan Efram; *Memory Rings* at UCLA, photo by Phinn Sriployrung; *Memory Rings* at Oz Arts Nashville, photo by Sierra Ulrich.; (Page 5) Patrick Page and Chris Sullivan in *Hadestown*, photos by Joan Marcus; Denis O'Hare in *An Iliad*, photos by Joan Marcus.



Creative Producing and Consulting

Octopus Theatricals

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ABOUT

OCTOPUS THEATRICALS

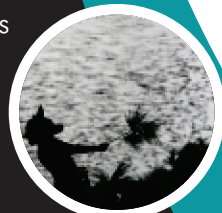
From experimental to commercial, we collaborate with artists and organizations to foster an expansive range of compelling theatrical works for local, national and international audiences. We eschew boundaries—esthetic, geopolitical, institutional—and thrive on a nimble and rigorous practice.

As **producers** we generate and develop our own innovative theatrical projects, serve as a creative producer for hire (by producing companies, independent artists and others) and provide other creative project-based services, including program development and dramaturgy.

As **consultants** we work with theater companies, presenters, performing arts centers, foundations and other non-profit or commercial entities to provide ongoing programming advice, research and development as well as broad policy, leadership and structural input and oversight.

Our model of producing and consulting varies project by project, organization by organization. Our projects reflect a broad spectrum of genre, scale and clients. We examine the individual elements and or artists involved and shape producing strategy around their particular visions. By customizing an approach that capitalizes on the strengths of everyone involved and then identifying how to supplement those strengths we facilitate artistic excellence, while having a good time.

At its core, Octopus combines artistic values with an independent flexibility and financial structure that allow us to create a body of work that wouldn't exist under any other auspice.



SOMI DREAMING ZENZILE

Performed and written by vocalist & songwriter Somi, this modern jazz opera is based on the extraordinary life of South African singer and political activist Miriam Makeba, and is part of the Joe's Pub commissioning program.

Currently in development. Seeking development partners.



THE SPRINGBOARD PROJECT

The Jerome Robbins Foundation and Octopus Theatricals are pleased to introduce The SPRINGBOARD Project: Fostering Collaboration in Dance-Driven Musical Theater.



Designed to encourage collaborations in which choreography plays an integral part in the conception and creation of new musical projects, the Springboard Project will launch a pilot program in 2017. Two creative teams in early conceptual stages of a new musical will be selected to participate in the program and will receive a fully supported three-week development residency with stipends for the creative team, up to 12 performers, a music director, stage manager, and dramaturg. The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and the Baryshnikov Arts Center will each host one of the projects.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

LEWIS CENTER FOR THE ARTS -- OPENING WEEKEND OCTOBER 5-8, 2017

Octopus Theatricals is curating and producing the opening celebration for Princeton University's new Lewis Center for the Arts — a dynamic multi-facility complex that will greatly expand the performance, rehearsal and teaching spaces for the arts. Designed by Stephen Holl Architects, this village-like cluster of buildings and public spaces will support the University's academic programs in the arts, particularly dance, music, music theater and theater, offered through the Lewis Center for the Arts and the Department of Music. The celebratory festival will reflect what is unique about the arts at Princeton, and include performances, readings, concerts, exhibitions and the biennial Princeton Poetry Festival. It will showcase the work of Princeton students, faculty, alumni and world-class guest artists. Audiences will be invited into the creative process through open rehearsals, scholarly discussions, readings and other events.

HADESTOWN

By **Anaïs Mitchell**
Developed with and directed by **Rachel Chavkin**

**"HADESTOWN will be your next musical theater obsession."
—VOGUE**

With HADESTOWN, celebrated singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and inventive two-time Obie award-winning director Rachel Chavkin (Three Pianos; Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812) transform Mitchell's phenomenal concept album into a bold new work for the stage. This folk opera follows Orpheus' mythical quest to overcome Hades and regain the favor of his one true love, Eurydice. Together we travel from wide open plains where love and music are not enough nourishment to survive the winter, down to HADESTOWN, an industrialized world of mindless labor. Inspired by traditions of classic American folk music and vintage New Orleans jazz, Mitchell's beguiling melodies and poetic imagination pit nature against industry, faith against doubt, and love against death.

HADESTOWN premiered at New York Theatre Workshop in May 2016, where it played to critical acclaim and sold-houses. A live cast recording is forthcoming from Warner Music Group. For future announcements, please be sure to sign up at

please sign up at www.hadestown.com



AN ILIAD

Written by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson
Based on Homer's Iliad, translated by Robert Fagles
A Homer's Coat Production
Directed by Lisa Peterson
Starring Denis O'Hare

The power of Homer's age-old story is unleashed on to a modern audience in a contemporary retelling created by acclaimed director **Lisa Peterson** and actor **Denis O'Hare** (Tony Award winner, HBO's True Blood and The Good Wife). Smartly conceived and powerfully performed, the familiar tale of gods and goddesses, undying love and endless battle become a breathtaking **tour-de-force**. A sweeping account of humanity's unshakeable attraction to violence, destruction and chaos that begs the question: has anything really changed since the Trojan War?

An Iliad does a magnificent job of retelling this Greek epic, making it accessible and timeless to the uninitiated; it's sweeping, sobering, it hits you in the solar plexus, and it puts into staggering perspective just how obsessed with war-mongering humans have always been and continue to be."
--Cicely Binford, *Australian Stage*

HOMER'S COAT

Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson are founding members of Homer's Coat - a creative collective that explores foundational literature. An actor and a director respectively, they both develop, write and edit the pieces they make together. The creative process differs according to subject matter but the lens through which they view the theatrical medium makes for unique, energetic, imaginative performative experiences. Together they created the stage piece, An Iliad over a period of 5 years, utilizing video, video transcriptions, improvisation, original music, and diligent research.
www.homerscoat.com



PROJECTS



WAYNE SHORTER AND ESPERANZA SPALDING IPHIGENIA NOW [working title]

Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding's Iphigenia places the traditional operatic form in an improvisational environment. The evening length work is scored for chamber orchestra, Shorter's quartet and an ensemble of operatic and non-operatic vocalists and dancers

The story finds a young screenwriter invoked to re-write the fate of Iphigenia, princess of Argost. Condemned to a sacrificial death after a transgression between her father Agamemnon and goddess Artemis, Iphigenia envelops her screenwriter within her tale and encourages him to suffer the burden of creation and reclaim impending doom by giving birth to his own inspired story. "Iphigenia Now" reclaims the expected horrific implications of Apocalypse by disrupting fate with revelation and rewriting destiny through creative intuition.

THEATRE FOR ONE

Theatre for One is a mobile state-of-the-art performance space for **one actor and one audience member**. Conceived by Artistic Director Christine Jones and designed by LOT-EK architects, Theatre for One commissions new work created specifically for this venue's one-to-one relationship. Embracing serendipity and spontaneity, Theatre for One is presented in public spaces in which audience members are invited to engage in an intimate theatrical exchange and enter the theatre space not knowing what to expect. Actor and audience member encounter each other as strangers in this suspended space and through the course of the performance **allow the divisions and distinctions that separate us to dissolve.**

Theatre for One has commissioned several short plays by **Lynn Nottage, Jose Rivera, Bill Irwin, John Guare, David Henry Hwang, Naomi Wallace** and many others for its mobile unit, which is available for touring. Theatre for One is also available for customized residencies and commissions created in collaboration with host venues.

"Theatre for One is an unforgettable, radically human experience." - David Cote, *Time Out New York*

"One of the most powerful (and unusual) theatrical experiences available in a city crawling with them." - Jesse Green, *New York Magazine*





THE CIVILIANS RIMBAUD IN NEW YORK

Written and Directed by **Steve Cosson** Poems by **Arthur Rimbaud** translated by **John Ashbery**

Featuring songs by **Adam Cochran, Michael Friedman, Rebecca Hart, Joseph Keckler, Matthew Dean Marsh and Grace McLean**

Boy genius, rebel, visionary, Rimbaud set off a bomb in the world of letters with the publication of *Illuminations*. 130 years later, John Ashbery's recent highly-acclaimed translation offers us these poems through the wonderfully precise and always surprising language of one of America's greatest contemporary poets. For *Rimbaud in New York*, The Civilians create a wildly original, playful and enriching inquiry into the meaning and legacy of *Illuminations*. The show finds Rimbaud in the 1950s of Ashbery and Frank O'Hara, in the downtown scene of the 1970s and in the many artists and musicians he's influenced -- Patti Smith, Bob Dylan, Jim Morrison, David Wojnarowicz and Jean-Michel Basquiat, to name a few. But, most centrally the show focuses on the poems themselves, which The Civilians animate through performance, song and an eclectic theatricality that brings Rimbaud into the present, here and alive in New York City.

THE CIVILIANS THE UNDERTAKING

Written and Directed by **Steve Cosson**
Creative Collaborator and Psychopomp: **Jessica Mitrani**
Available for touring

The Civilians' new work of investigative theater, *THE UNDERTAKING* premiered in fall 2016 at the BAM 2016 Next Wave Festival. Written and directed by Steve Cosson in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team of artists. *The Undertaking* examines mortality as a lens to explore how we understand life. For the ancients, it was essential: a journey unto the land of the dead as the only means of retrieving something crucial to life. In *The Undertaking*, writer-director Steve Cosson and theater company The Civilians offer a playful and profound 21st-century take on that underworld excursion. Using transcripts of actual conversations with shame, morticians, philosophers, and mystics as their script, two actors toe the precipice, inhabiting the twilight between being and non-being, transcendent visions with ayahuasca, flirtations with existential dread, and bouts of cosmic bliss. Inventive video and sound contribute to this engrossing attempt to see the unseeable, moving toward the light while illuminating how to live.

"Thought Provoking. Morbidly Funny"
The New York Times Critic's Pick

"Morbidly funny"
The New York Times



PHANTOM LIMB COMPANY

Led by visual artist/designer **Jessica Grindstaff** and puppet maker/composer **Erik Norse Sanko**, Phantom Limb **defies categorization**, harnessing theatrical elements (puppets, scenic design, movement and music) and deep research practices to create theatrical and emotional calls to agency around climate crisis.

Companies like Phantom Limb...have conscripted miraculous puppets in this battle to defend the biosphere, and they have proven to be an impressive fighting force."
--Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

FALLING OUT

Fusing puppetry with Japanese butoh, *Falling Out* is a story about water, Japan, Fukushima and climate crisis. Our work will examine the relationship between the falling apart of a love affair, the politics of our environment, the alienation and disconnection with our planet, and the preciousness of water. From science to psychology, this final look at our waning connection to our threatened planet aims straight for the heart, to reorient audiences to our new reality where human and natural failure meet at an immeasurable cost. Currently in development, Premiere Spring 2018. Available for touring beginning May 2018.

Currently In Development

MEMORY RINGS

Memory Rings is a spellbinding journey into the woods of a vanishing past and even more precarious future. By turns meditative and playful, this stunning theatrical collage from the inventive Phantom Limb Company combines fairy tale, fable, puppetry, choreography, original music and striking visual design to chronicle 5,000 years of human and environmental change, all under the watchful gaze of the world's oldest living tree. Inspired by the "Methuselah Tree," a California bristlecone pine estimated to be more than 4800 years old, *Memory Rings* is the 2nd installment in Phantom Limb's trilogy of original works about the environment. Its time-bending forest dreamscapes—incorporating everything from the epic tale of Gilgamesh to our penchant for Google searches—chart the humor and hubris of our species, the loss of our identification with the natural world, and the hope that we may yet be able to rewrite our story.

Available for Touring.

