



THE NEW VICTORY® THEATER A PROJECT OF THE NEW 42ND STREET, INC.

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The New Victory Theater 2016-17 Season includes Two World Premieres and Six U.S. Premieres

Highlights include The Acting Company's **CAESAR/X**

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in repertory with *X*, a new play by Marcus Gardley
Opens March 17

Beth Morrison Projects, VisionIntoArt and Brooklyn Youth Chorus' **AGING MAGICIAN**

New Opera-theater Work by Julian Crouch, Rinde Eckert, Paola Prestini
Featuring Rinde Eckert and Brooklyn Youth Chorus
Opens March 3

Akram Khan Company's **CHOTTO DESH**

Choreographed by Akram Khan
Opens November 4

Circus Der Sinne's **MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME**

Pan-African Circus for the Holiday Season
Opens December 2

Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour's **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!**

Musical Based on the books by Mo Willems
Opens January 28

New York, NY (June 7, 2016) – As New York City's premier theater for kids and families, The New Victory Theater announces its 2016-17 season. **From September 30, 2016 through May 21, 2017, the NEW VICTORY 2016-17 season will feature two world premieres, six U.S. premieres and six NY premieres among its 15 productions from 11 different countries around the world.**

Tony Award-winning **The Acting Company** will present the NY Premieres of **CAESAR/X** (March 17-26, 2017): Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* together in repertory with *X*, a new play by PEN/Laura Pels Award-winner **Marcus Gardley** (*The House That Will Not Stand*, *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*) about the assassination of Malcolm X. Through the lens of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *X* will put a spotlight on one of America's most complex, compelling historical figures and explore the tumultuous landscape of ideology and activism in the 1960s. These productions are currently in development for their world premieres in January 2017.

Co-created by **Julian Crouch** (*Shockheaded Peter*, New Vic 1999; *Wolves in the Walls*, New Vic 2007), **Rinde Eckert** (*Orpheus X*, *Horizon*, *And God Created Great Whales*) and **Paola Prestini** (*Gilgamesh*, *Labyrinth Installation Concertos*, *The Hubble Cantata*), **AGING MAGICIAN** (March 3-12, 2017) combines live music, theater, puppetry, instrument making and scenic design to tell the story of Harold, an aging clockmaker on his last adventure. In this epic new opera-theater work, music by Prestini will feature Eckert in the lead role alongside the Grammy Award-winning **Brooklyn Youth Chorus** led by founder and artistic director **Dianne Berkun-Menaker**. Design and direction is by Crouch with instrument design by **Mark Stewart** (Bang on a Can and Theatre for a New Audience's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Lear*). **AGING MAGICIAN** made its world premiere in March 2016 at the Walker Art Center and was presented in workshop at MASS MoCA, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the 2015 PROTOTYPE Festival.

The NY Premiere of **CHOTTO DESH** (November 4 – 13, 2016), **Akram Khan Company's** first piece of dance theater for family audiences, uses contemporary dance, humorous text and an evocative score to create a visually compelling, cross-cultural story about the struggle of being "other." **CHOTTO DESH**, directed by Sue Buckmaster of **Theatre Rites** (*Mojo*, New Vic 2012; *Mischief*, New Vic 2011) is adapted from Khan's **DESH** (2014 *Bessie Award* for Outstanding Production, 2012 *Olivier Award* for Best New Dance Production).

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY! (January 28 – February 5, 2017) is a musical adaptation of Mo Willems's best-selling *Elephant & Piggie* children's books. Produced by **Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour**, **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!** is written by six-time Emmy Award winner and Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal recipient **Mo Willems** with music by **Deborah Wicks La Puma**, who has been honored with a Jane Chambers Playwriting Award and the Robert M. Golden Award, among others.

For the holidays, Drama Desk-nominated **Circus Der Sinne** returns to NYC with the NY Premiere of **MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME** (December 2, 2016 – January 1, 2017), a circus spectacular celebrating the enduring spirit found in Cape Town's largest township, Khayelitsha. Twenty-six acrobats, jugglers, dancers, contortionists and musicians from seven African nations will fill the NEW VICTORY stage with electrifying live music and feats of extraordinary strength and dazzling skill. Since 2006, Circus Der Sinne has toured **MOTHER AFRICA'S** unique mix of modern circus arts and traditional African dance and music to over a dozen countries on five continents.

The New Vic opens its season with the first of six U.S. Premieres when **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** (September 30 – October 10, 2016) takes the stage. Directed by Dora and Gemini Award-winner **Rick Miller** (*MacHomer*, *Bigger Than Jesus*) and Kidoons creative director **Craig Francis**, this inventive reimagining of Jules Verne's classic science-fiction novel is brought to life with a mix of multimedia magic, eye-popping projections and interactive technology.

Remaining U.S. Premieres in the NEW VICTORY 2016-17 Season include:

- Kenny Wax Family Entertainment & TC Beech's **MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS** (October 14 – 30, 2016) Richard and Florence Atwater's beloved tale comes to life with plenty of penguin puppets in this brand new musical adaptation by Pins and Needles Productions.

- Théâtre du Phare's **OH BOY!** (January 6 – 15, 2017)
Honest and heartrending, *OH BOY!*, based on the book by Marie Aude-Murail, is a one-man tour de force exploring what it means to be a family when faced with some of life's most devastating moments.
- Teater Refleksion & Branar Teatar's **THE WAY BACK HOME** (March 10 – 26, 2017)
Using intimate puppetry and original music, *THE WAY BACK HOME* is a charming puppetry adaptation of Oliver Jeffers' picture book about a young adventurer's trip to outer space.
- Liberi Di... Physical Theatre's **SOMETHING** (March 31 – April 16, 2017)
Fusing circus, dance, physical theater and clowning, this troupe of seven skilled acrobats creates a singular, captivating performance that appears comically effortless.
- Cahoots NI's **NIVELLI'S WAR** (April 28 – May 7, 2017)
Inspired by a true story, *NIVELLI'S WAR* is a vivid and moving theatrical account of an incredible journey and an unlikely friendship at the end of WWII.

The new season also features two World Premieres: Mons Dansa's **PAPER DREAMS** (November 11 - 20, 2016), a dance piece for little ones featuring lyrical movement and object theater to tell the stories left behind on scrap pieces of paper, and **JASON BISHOP: STRAIGHT UP MAGIC**, a virtuosic performance of stunning and original magic by one of the only illusionists in the U.S. to tour the rare Double Levitation, just one of the show's many exclusive, grand illusions.

In addition to *CHOTTO DESH*, *MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME* and both productions of *CAESAR/X*, NY Premieres in the season include Plastic Boom's **WATER ON MARS** (February 10 – 26, 2017), a riotous performance of hypnotic juggling tricks and Windmill Theater Co's **GRUG AND THE RAINBOW** (May 13 – 21, 2017), an all-new show for little ones based on Ted Prior's celebrated series of picture books.

Please see attachment for complete show descriptions and profiles for all NEW VICTORY 2016-17 season programming.

Audience Services

In consultation with **Autism Friendly Spaces, Inc.**, select performances of *MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS*, *MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME*, *ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!* and *SOMETHING* will be modified to accommodate and support the sensory, social and emotional needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The New Vic will also provide **Sign-Interpreted** and **Audio-Described** performances throughout the season. The New Victory, an ADA compliant theater, continues to offer free lockers, stroller parking and booster seats at all performances.

Public Engagement

With every show in the season, The New Victory invites audiences to extend and enhance their time at the theater through its celebrated public engagement programs. Inspired by the shows on stage, these arts-based explorations include free hands-on activities and a theater-wide, text-based scavenger hunt called **TXT Marks the Spot**. For select performances, New Vic patrons can also keep an eye out for post-show **Talk-Backs** with the creative teams and performers, and pre- and post-performance **Arts Express** activities, which invite ticket holders to learn about the shows' themes and art forms. Patrons can also download **Family Activities** from NewVictory.org/FamilyActivities to try some fun, creative play at home.

Membership

Theatergoers who buy tickets to three or more NEW VICTORY shows qualify for free Membership benefits, including locked-in discount ticket prices, free unlimited exchanges (up to 48 hours in advance) and access to a first-look purchase period for newly added performances.

Ticket Information

Tickets are available online (NewVictory.org) and by telephone (646.223.3010). For summer box office window hours, please visit <http://www.newvictory.org/boxoffice>. Beginning September 6, The New Victory Theater box office window (209 West 42nd Street) will be open Sunday and Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

- For shows at The New Victory Theater (except *MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS*, *MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME* and *ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!*), full price tickets are \$16, \$19, \$28 and \$38 based on seat locations.
- For *MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME*, which runs throughout the holiday season, full price tickets are \$20, \$24, \$33 and \$55 based on seat locations.
- Full price tickets for *MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS* and *ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!* are \$25.
- Full price tickets for *OH BOY!* at The Duke on 42nd Street are \$25.
- Full price tickets for *PAPER DREAMS*, *THE WAY BACK HOME* and *GRUG AND THE RAINBOW* at THE NEW 42ND STREET Studios are \$20.

Programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change.

Credits

As part of the nonprofit The New 42nd Street, The New Victory Theater is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Board of Directors, the New Vic Council, and our dedicated foundation, corporate and individual donors.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids as New York City's premier theater devoted to the highest quality performing arts for kids and families. Serving the community in all its diversity, The New Victory Theater on 42nd Street presents theater, dance, circus, opera and music from around the world at affordable ticket prices. In addition to its public performances, the New Vic is also the largest provider of live performance to NYC school kids, serving 40,000 youth through more than 200 schools, after school programs and day camps each year. The New Victory has been recognized for its contributions to the cultural landscape of the city. Awards include a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for the NEW VICTORY Usher Corps, which provides paid employment to approximately 50 NYC teens each year, the national Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts and a Special Award from The Drama Desk for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

About The New 42nd Street

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent nonprofit organization charged with the continuous cultural revival of 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. Committed to the transformational power of the arts, The New 42nd Street builds on the foundation of seven historic theaters to make extraordinary performing arts and cultural engagement part of everyone's life. The New 42nd Street fulfills this purpose by ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of 42nd Street's historic theaters; maintaining and fully using the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street to support performing artists in the creation of their work; and through The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families.

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The New Victory Theater 2016-2017

U.S. and Off-Broadway Premiere

TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

Kidoons/WYRD Productions in association with The 20K Collective
Montreal, Canada
September 30 – October 10
At The New Victory Theater

Based on the novel by Jules Verne

Created by Craig Francis & Rick Miller

Director Rick Miller

Projection Designer Deco Dawson

Lighting Designer Itai Erdal

Composer Richard Feren

Set & Costume Designer Yannik Larivée

Puppet Designers Shawn Kettner & Marcus Jamin

Cast Richard Clarkin, Suzy Jane Hunt, Marcel Jeannin, Andrew Shaver

Plunge deep into the pages of Jules Verne's *TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA* and get swept away by a stunning mix of multimedia magic, eye-popping projections and interactive technology. This inventive reimagining of the classic science fiction novel follows Jules, a modern-day raconteur, as he finds himself transported into his favorite story. When he climbs aboard the Nautilus, helmed by the infamous Captain Nemo, he sets off on a fantastical aquatic adventure.

Created by Rick Miller and Craig Francis and directed by Miller, *TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA* was commissioned by the Toronto Pan Am Games' arts and culture festival, Panamania, and produced by Kidoons/WYRD Productions, in association with The 20K Collective. For his work on *MachHomer*, which toured to 120 US cities and appeared at NYU Skirball in 2012, Miller was named in *Entertainment Weekly's* "The It List: The 100 Most Creative People in Entertainment." Kidoons, a platform of original content that bridges online education and live entertainment, reaches half a million teachers and kids across North America.

U.S. and Off-Broadway Premiere

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

Kenny Wax Family Entertainment & TC Beech
London, England
October 14 – October 30
At The New Victory Theater
Best for ages 4-7

Based on the novel by Richard & Florence Atwater

Adapted by Pins and Needles Productions

Director Emma Earle

Lyricist Richy Hughes
Composer Luke Bateman
Set & Costume Designer Zoe Squires
Puppet Designer Nick Barnes
Lighting Designer Ric Mountjoy
Sound Designer Jason Barnes
Cast Lucy Grattan (Greta/Admiral Drake), Scott Jones (Understudy/ASM), Toby Manley (Captain Cook/Mr. Greenbaum), Russell Morton (Mr. Popper), Roxanne Palmer (Mrs. Popper)

In the small town of Stillwater, Mr. and Mrs. Popper are pleasant, practical, predictable people. But when a package for the Poppers produces a penguin, chaos waddles into their lives! This brand new musical will have kids ages 4-7 chirping with cheer to songs like “Chills 4 U” and “Poles Apart.” Adapted for the stage by Pins and Needles Productions, **MR. POPPER’S PENGUINS** is produced by Kenny Wax Family Entertainment (*Hetty Feather*, 2015 Olivier Award Nominee) and TC Beech (*Loserville the Musical*, West End).

Director-designer duo Emma Earle and Zoe Squire formed Pins and Needles Productions in 2009, and since then have created over a dozen works for audiences of all ages. After seeing their successful stage adaptation of Raymond Brigg’s *Father Christmas*, producer Kenny Wax tasked the pair with creating a brand new musical production—the delightful **MR. POPPER’S PENGUINS**. Following a successful run in 2015, and after a three week run at The New Victory Theater, the show will be coming into London’s West End this Winter for the festive season.

NY and Off-Broadway Premiere

CHOTTO DESH

Akram Khan Company
London, England
November 4 – November 13
At The New Victory Theater

Artistic Direction and Original Choreography Akram Khan
Direction and Adaptation Sue Buckmaster
Composer Jocelyn Pook
Lighting Designer Guy Hoare
Stories imagined by Karthika Naïr and Akram Khan
Written by Karthika Naïr, Sue Buckmaster and Akram Khan
Assistant Choreographer Jose Agudo
Voices Leesa Gazi and Sreya Andricha Gazi
Original Visual Design Tim Yip
Original Visual Animation by Yeast Culture
Original Costume Supervisor Kimie Nakano
Sound Designer and AV Engineer Alex Stein
Dancers Dennis Alamanos, Nicolas Ricchini (alternating solo)
The grandmother’s fable in *Chotto Desh* is taken from the book *The Honey Hunter*

Akram Khan Company along with Theatre-Rites director Sue Buckmaster adapt Akram Khan’s much-loved, autobiographical production, *DESH*, for family audiences. Featuring a solo male dancer in a mix of contemporary dance, humorous text, visual design and an evocative score, **CHOTTO DESH**, meaning “small homeland,” draws on Khan’s unique quality of cross-cultural

storytelling, creating a compelling tale of a young man's dreams and memories from Britain to Bangladesh. Originally commissioned by DanceEast, **CHOTTO DESH** made its world premiere at DanceEast's Jerwood Dancehouse before appearing at Sadler's Wells in London.

Under Khan's guidance, the innovative Akram Khan Company creates works that range from kathak and modern solos to artist collaborations and ensemble productions. At the request of film director Danny Boyle, the company performed a piece choreographed by Khan during the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The Company's notable repertory includes *iTMOi*, *Vertical Road*, *Gnosis*, *zero degrees* and *DESH*, Khan's most lauded work. *DESH* premiered in 2011, appearing at the Curve Theatre in Leicester and at Sadler's Wells in London, for which it received the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production. *DESH* made its U.S. premiere at Lincoln Center's White Light Festival in 2013, earning a New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award for Outstanding Production. Akram Khan is one of Britain's most celebrated choreographers and a recipient of the International Society for the Performing Arts Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and six Critics' Circle National Dance Awards.

World Premiere

PAPER DREAMS

Mons Dansa

Barcelona, Spain

November 11 – November 20

The New 42nd Street Studios

Best for ages 2-5

Original idea and direction Claudia Moreso

Lighting Roger Guinot

Music Tactequeté, Henry Mancini, Cabo Sant Roque, Martí Mira

Set design Miquel Ruiz, Martí Doy

Costumes Flavia Onofre das Neves

Video Diego Delgado, Oscar Pérez

Video Editor Martí Mira

Dancers Sarah Anglada & Sara Pons

How many stories are left untold on the sheets torn from a sketch pad or on pages tossed into a waste bin? These lost ideas take the stage when Mons Dansa, the creators of *Minimón* (New Vic, 2014), returns with the world premiere of **PAPER DREAMS**. With lyrical movement, captivating object theater and multiple opportunities for audience interaction, **PAPER DREAMS** brings to life a world of wonder in this delightful dance piece for little ones.

Since 1998, under the direction of Claudia Moreso, Mons Dansa has created artful dance works for kids using choreography as a channel for communication, expression, amusement and education. The company has earned many awards, including the 2009 Premio Nacional de Catalunya de Dansa, the 2009 FETEN Award for Best Dance Production and the 2010 Dansacat Award. In 2006, Mons Dansa launched the educational project "Dansa a les escoles" to introduce contemporary dance to public school students throughout Spain. Mons Dansa is subsidized by the Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (ICUB), Department of Culture and Media of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (INAEM) and Ramon Llull Institute (IRL). The company is also a founder/member of La Caldera and a member of TTP (Públics Tots Theatre Association), ASSITEJ (Association of Theatre for Children and Youth)

and Te-Vevo (Theatre for Children and Youth). While specializing in works for young theatergoers, choreographer Claudia Moreso has created works for all ages both independently and with dance companies throughout Europe.

World Premiere

JASON BISHOP: STRAIGHT UP MAGIC

Fleetwood, Pennsylvania

November 18 – November 27

The New Victory Theater

Cast Jason Bishop, Kim Hess

Production Manager Noelle Smith

In **STRAIGHT UP MAGIC**, Jason Bishop infuses old school tricks with new school stagecraft in a virtuosic performance of skill, from stunning sleight of hand and “close-up” magic to dazzling, full-stage illusions. The only illusionist in the U.S. to tour the rare Double Levitation, Plasma Illusion and Op-Art—all of which will be featured in **STRAIGHT UP MAGIC**—Jason Bishop will perform the Walking through a Brick Wall and Cage Levitation feats, among others.

Jason Bishop is an international, award-winning illusionist who was the youngest person to win the Magician’s Alliance of Eastern States Stage Award, and one of the youngest individuals to compete in The Society of American Magicians national competition. He’s performed at the world-famous Magic Castle in Los Angeles and was the official illusionist for Live Nation’s Bamboozle Festival where he performed alongside artists like Drake, Weezer and Matt and Kim. His television credits include *Cabaret Du Monde* in Paris, France, and this summer’s national broadcast of *Masters of Illusion* on the CW Network, among others. In 2007, he was awarded the industry’s prestigious Jack Gwynne Award for Excellence in Presentation and was voted the Best Performing Artist of the Year by the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities”. The company performs an average of 150 shows a year, including performances on luxury cruise ships and at performing arts centers, theaters and corporate events, and has traveled to all of the lower 48 states, as well as 30 countries on six continents.

Holiday Show

NY and Off-Broadway Premiere

MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

December 2 – January 1

The New Victory Theater

Co-creators Winston Ruddle, Hubert Schober

Producer & Tour Manager Hubert Schober for FKP Scorpio

Director, Act Choreographer, Music Director and Prop Designer Winston Ruddle

Co-Director Ulrich Thon

Dance Choreographers Simon Nene, Clive Madlala, Noluyanda Mqulwana

Assistant Trainers Gombragchaa Ianjmaa, Rajubu Nasoro Zubwa

Costume Designers Tsendbyamba Erdeneshoo, Tumaini Baraka Mrutu

Set Designer Eddy Frühwirth

Stage Images Ginger Wensky

Acrobats Tomas Teka Alemu, Tamrat Yemane Ayalew, Elsabet Basaznew Belayneh, Mamadi Diabate, Moussa Drame, Baraka Juma Ferouz, Zenebech Kassa Meherete, Mohamed Tadei Mohamed, Abreham Abebe Mola, Ermiyas Muluken Sima, segn Mitku Wkjira

Singer/Dancers Asha Mohamed Ally, Hadija Nasibu Hassan, Charles Edward Hizza, Christina Benedict Jacob, Clive Madlala, Theresa Muteta, Hassani Hamadi Muya, Thandokuhle Phumzile Nomonde Zondo

Band Benick Pompido Dominick, Roy Gregory Figueiredo, Stephen William Gambo, Nurdini Athumani Makimu, Khamis Suleiman Mlengi, Richard Leonard Mwanisawa, Bizimana Emmanuel Ntavyo

Experience the electrifying live music, extraordinary strength and dazzling skill of the sensational Drama Desk-nominated Circus Der Sinne (*Mother Africa*, New Vic 2014) in **MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME**, a joyous circus spectacular set in Cape Town's largest township, Khayelitsha. With more than two dozen daring acrobats, mind-bending contortionists and jubilant dancers representing Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Ivory Coast, this radiantly rhythmic production exudes a palpable zest for life, just in time for the holiday season.

Mother Africa, which appeared at The New Victory Theater in 2014, was nominated for the Drama Desk Unique Theatrical Experience Award. Known for their feats of energy, strength, and dexterity, Circus Der Sinne is comprised of acrobats, aerial artists, jugglers, stilt dancers, contortionists, clowns, musicians and percussionists from seven different African nations. **MOTHER AFRICA: MY HOME** offers a new point of view on Africa, celebrating the hustle and bustle, as well as the hope and spirit, found in many of its impoverished townships.

The performers in Circus Der Sinne ("Circus of Senses") mastered their craft at director Winston Ruddle's artist academy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Portions of the academy entrance fees go to social aid projects in Africa, such as Karl-Heinz Böhm's Menschen für Menschen ("Humans for Humans"), which helps people in need in Ethiopia. Now on its 10th Anniversary Tour, Circus der Sinne has toured to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Sweden, the Baltic States, Russia, Spain, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Egypt, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and Costa Rica.

U.S. and Off-Broadway Premiere

OH BOY!

Théâtre du Phare

Paris, France

January 6 – 15

The Duke on 42nd Street

Adapted from the novel by Marie-Aude Murail

Adaptation by Catherine Verlaquet

Director Olivier Letellier

Translation by Nicholas Elliott

Cast Matthew Brown

Simeon: 14, awkward, a brainiac. Morgan: 8, also awkward, also a brainiac. Venice: 5, adorable. Orphaned and alone in the world, they make a vow to never be separated. Enter Balthasar: 26, handsome, gay and the older, immature half-brother the kids never knew they

had. He's also their only hope for staying together. Honest and heartrending, **OH BOY!**, based on the book by Marie Aude-Murail, is a one-man tour de force exploring what it means to be a family, and the importance of pulling together when faced with some of life's most devastating moments.

Translated into English for the first time for its run at The New Victory, **OH BOY!** is a gripping solo performance that, with humor and heart, was written to resonate with families of all types. **OH BOY!** won France's Young Audiences Molière Award in 2010, and has toured throughout Europe, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and to Canada. Founded by Olivier Letellier in 2000, Théâtre du Phare seeks to highlight the heart of the story with simplicity and clarity, so that young audiences can have a full and nurturing experience.

Off-Broadway Premiere

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!

Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences On Tour

Washington, D.C.

January 28 – February 5

The New Victory Theater

Best for ages 4-7

Script & Lyrics Mo Willems

Director Jerry Whiddon

Music Deborah Wicks La Puma

Choreographer Jessica Hartman

Dramaturg Megan Alrutz

Cast Evan Casey as Elephant Gerald, Lauren Williams as Piggie, three Squirrelles and a live band

Elephant Gerald is a careful, formally-attired worrywart. Piggie is a perky, smiley bundle of fun. Total opposites? No way! In ***ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY!***, a Kennedy Center commission based on the *Elephant & Piggie* books by Mo Willems, Elephant and Piggie sing and dance their way through plenty of pachydermal peril and swiney suspense, facing fundamental questions like: What do you wear to a fancy costume pool party? Should you share your ice cream? And how can two friends play with one toy? This original musical features book and lyrics by Mo Willems and music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Willems's *Elephant & Piggie* books won the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal in 2008 and 2009, and Geisel Honors in five consecutive years from 2011-2015.

Author Mo Willems began his career as a writer and animator for *Sesame Street*, where he earned six Emmy Awards for writing. He later created two animated television series, *The Off-Beats* for Nickelodeon and *Sheep in the Big City* for Cartoon Network. Since 2003, Willems has authored children's picture books, earning three Caldecott Honors for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. Composer Deborah Wicks La Puma has been honored with a Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, the Robert M. Golden Award, a National Endowment for the Arts' New American Works Grant and two Helen Hayes nominations for Outstanding New Play.

The Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences on Tour brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the

country. Artistic teams consist of carefully selected professionals from all corners of the nation who possess extensive experience with both youth and adult theater. As one of the largest incubators of theater for kids and families, the team strives to create shows that are delightful, educational, and provide a foundation for a life-long appreciation of the performing arts for audiences of all ages.

NY and Off-Broadway Premiere

WATER ON MARS

Plastic Boom

Stockholm, Sweden

February 10 – 26

The New Victory Theater

Jugglers Tony Pezzo, Wes Peden, Patrik Elmnert

There's juggling, and then there's *this*. The three-man troupe of Plastic Boom combines deadpan humor with 15 years of award-winning juggling experience in ***WATER ON MARS***. Flinging rings, balls and clubs in hypnotic streaks of lite-brite neon, Plastic Boom one-up themselves with every act, keeping rhythm with an electro-pop soundtrack as they add bottles of water, bags of candy and rolls of toilet paper to the list of airborne objects.

Americans Tony Pezzo and Wes Peden met the Swedish Patrik Elmnert when all three were studying at the University of Dance and Circus in Stockholm. Together, they are Plastic Boom, a new company based in Stockholm. Individually, they are all award winners: Pezzo took the gold at the International Jugglers Association championships, Peden brought home the bronze from the Parisian Cirque De Demain and Elmnert holds a world record for his quadruple pirouette while suspending three clubs in the air. In 2009, Peden and Elmnert set a Guinness World Record for Most Club Passes Caught by a Duo Whilst Juggling—13 clubs and 26 catches.

Off-Broadway Premiere

AGING MAGICIAN

Beth Morrison Projects, VisionIntoArt & Brooklyn Youth Chorus

New York, New York

March 3 – 12

The New Victory Theater

Composer/Co-Creator Paola Prestini

Writer/Performer/Co-Creator Rinde Eckert

Director/Co-Scenic Design/Co-Creator Julian Crouch

Instrument Design Mark Stewart

Co-Scenic Design & Costume Design Amy C. Rubin

Video & Lighting Design Josh Higgason

Featuring Rinde Eckert, Brooklyn Youth Chorus

AGING MAGICIAN is an epic new opera-theater work that tells the story of Harold, a world-weary clockmaker near the end of his unusual life. The American Contemporary Music Ensemble and Brooklyn Youth Chorus help Harold, performed by Eckert, uncover his legacy. Creators **Julian Crouch** (*Shockheaded Peter*, New Vic 1999; *Wolves in the Walls*, New Vic 2007), **Rinde**

Eckert (*Orpheus X, Horizon, And God Created Great Whales*), **Paola Prestini** (*Gilgamesh, Labyrinth Installation Concertos, The Hubble Cantata*), and **Mark Stewart** (*Bang on a Can and Theatre for a New Audience's Midsummer Night's Dream and King Lear*) bring together the worlds of music, theater, puppetry, instrument making and scenic design to paint this poignant allegory on time, youth and the peculiar magic of ordinary life--or perhaps, the ordinary magic of a peculiar life.

AGING MAGICIAN features a set that will fill the NEW VICTORY stage with a remarkable installation that can be played like an instrument—blown, struck, whistled, plucked, and bowed. Water, stars, and sky, in addition to scenes from Harold's imagination, are projected onto the set. The Grammy Award-winning **Brooklyn Youth Chorus** (*On the Transmigration of Souls, Ceremony of Carols, War Requiem*), conducted by their founder and artistic director **Dianne Berkun-Menaker**, is woven into the set and story by using traditional Greek techniques of consolation, chiding and commenting on the protagonist's journey.

AGING MAGICIAN was commissioned by Beth Morrison Projects, VisionIntoArt, Walker Art Center, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and received residency support from MASS MoCA, Park Avenue Armory and The Watermill Center's Artist Residency Program. **AGING MAGICIAN** made its World Premiere at the Walker Art Center in March 2016.

Founded in 2006, Beth Morrison Projects (BMP) identifies and supports the work of emerging and established composers and their multi-media collaborators through the commission, development, production and touring of their works, which take the form of opera-theater, music-theater, multi-media concert works and new forms waiting to be discovered.

www.bethmorrisonprojects.org Founded in 1999 by Paola Prestini, VisionIntoArt has created and performed over 70 original works of various disciplines with the belief that collaboration sustains artistic innovation. www.visionintoart.com

U.S. Premiere

THE WAY BACK HOME

Teater Refleksion & Branar Téatar

Århus, Denmark & Galway, Ireland

March 10 – 26

The New 42nd Street Studios

Best for ages 3-5

Puppets & Set Design Mariann Aagaard, assisted by Malene Laurvig

Music and Sound Design Henrik Andersen, Morten Meilvang Laursen

Lighting Design Morten Ladefoged

Workshop/Technique Morten Meilvang Laursen, William H. Nielsen, Ciarán Kelly

Cast Nease Ní Nichuann, understudied by Sif Hymøller; Aapo Juhana Repo, understudied by Bajrø Sandborg

When a boy discovers a single-propeller airplane in his bedroom, he does what any young adventurer would do: flies into outer space. Using intimate puppetry and original music, Denmark's Teater Refleksion (*Songs From Above*, New Vic 2013 and 2007) and Ireland's Branar Téatar, in association with Barboró International Arts Festival for Children, have teamed up to bring **The WAY BACK HOME**, based on Oliver Jeffers' picture book about friendship and the courage to conquer the unknown, to The NEW 42ND STREET Studios.

Oliver Jeffers is an artist, illustrator and writer from Belfast, Northern Ireland who now lives and works in Brooklyn. As a picture book author and illustrator, he has received the Nestle Gold Medal for *Lost and Found* and the Irish Picture Book of the Year for *The Incredible Eating Boy*. Published by HarperCollins UK, *The Way Back Home* was released in September 2007 and was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway medal.

Teater Refleksion, which was nominated for Best Children's Show (Denmark's Reumert Awards) for *Arthur and the Angel* (1999) and *The Prince and the Servant* (2001), creates high-quality theatrical productions for audiences of all ages. The use of puppetry and animation, with the puppet as the principal means of storytelling, is the company's defining trait. Based in Ireland, Branar Téatar, which aims to "tell big stories for little citizens," strives for a "simple yet elegant" form of theater for young audiences. The company creates works that require few means, yet stimulate and challenge the imagination.

NY and Off-Broadway Premiere

CAESAR/X

The Acting Company
New York, New York
The New Victory Theater

For **X**

March 17 – 25

Playwright Marcus Gardley

Director Ian Belknap

Costume Designer Candice Donnelly

For **JULIUS CAESAR**

March 19 & 26

Playwright William Shakespeare

Director Devin Brain

Costume Designer Jennifer Moeller

For both

Set Designer Lee Savage

Lighting Designer ML Geiger

Casting will be announced at a later date.

The assassinations of Rome's great ruler of the Republic and the revolutionary leader Malcolm X share the stage when New York's acclaimed The Acting Company pairs Shakespeare's **JULIUS CAESAR** with **X**, a compelling new play by lauded playwright Marcus Gardley (*The House that Will Not Stand, The Gospel of Lovingkindness, Every Tongue Confess, On The Levee*). Presented in repertory, these two gripping dramas examine two charismatic leaders who rise only to fall victim to rivalry, resentment and retribution. Both plays will share the same set and cast. **JULIUS CAESAR** will move through time from ancient Rome to 1960s America, the time period in which **X** is set. For **X**, Ian Belknap, Artistic Director for The Acting Company, directs and for **JULIUS CAESAR**, Devin Brain, Associate Artistic Director for The Acting Company, directs; for both, Set Design is by Helen Hayes Award-winning designer Lee Savage (*The Dream of the Burning Boy, Ordinary Days*).

Founded in 1972 by John Houseman and Margot Harley, The Acting Company has performed 143 productions for almost four million people in 48 states and ten countries. Additionally, the Company has received Obie, AUDELCO and Los Angeles Critics Circle Awards, and a 2003 Tony Honor for Excellence in Theater. Marcus Gardley, hailed by the *New Yorker* as “the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams,” was awarded the 2011 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Mid-Career Playwright. His play *Every Tongue Confess* was nominated for a Steinberg New Play Award and the Charles MacArthur Award, and was the recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. His play with music, *On the Levee*, which premiered with LCT3 at The Duke on 42nd Street, was nominated for 11 AUDELCO Awards, including Outstanding Playwright. He is the recipient of a Helen Merrill Award, a Kesselring Honor, the Gerbode Emerging Playwright Award, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Award, the Eugene O’Neill Memorial Scholarship and the ASCAP Cole Porter Award.

U.S. and Off-Broadway Premiere

SOMETHING

Liberi Di ... Physical Theatre

Milan, Italy

March 31 – April 16

The New Victory Theater

This contemporary circus, which features dance, theater and physical comedy, has **SOMETHING** for everyone: Something aerial. Something funny. Something beautiful. In a series of artful and playful vignettes, this troupe of seven acrobats fuses circus, dance, physical theater and clowning into a singular, captivating performance that appears comically effortless. From reading a book to playing a game of poker, these inventive performers create silly, surreal scenes out of everyday ordinary acts.

Liberi Di ..., founded in 2007 by David Agostini, Stefano Pribaz, Valentina Marino and Giulia Piolanti, has become one of the leading physical theater companies in Europe. This troupe evolved from creating works based in dance to creating physical theater pieces, bringing together an array of skilled performers and employing each of their specialized disciplines into their acts.

U.S. and Off-Broadway Premiere

NIVELLI’S WAR

Cahoots NI

Belfast, Northern Ireland

April 28 – May 7

The New Victory Theater

Director Paul Bosco Mc Eneaney

Playwright Charles Way

Musical Director Garth McConaghie

Choreographer Muirne Bloomer

Lighting Designer Sinead McKenna

Costume Designer Sabine Dargent

Set Designer Sabine Dargent

Based on the moving true story of a Holocaust survivor, **NIVELLI'S WAR** is told through a blend of theater, magic, illusion and original music. The story begins at the end of WWII. Ernst, a young evacuee from Frankfurt, is all alone and far away from home when he meets and befriends the mysterious Mr. H, a stranger with a trick or two up his sleeve. Together, they set off down a road fraught with danger, hunger and uncertainty to find Ernst's family in this dramatic story of an incredible journey and an unlikely friendship.

Cahoots NI is a professional children's touring theater company based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The company received London's Off West End Theatre Award for Best Production for Young People for its production of *Egg*, which toured to the US in spring 2016. Cahoots NI has created a unique style of presentation, which uses magic as a key element in its engaging and highly visual productions.

NY and Off-Broadway Premiere

GRUG AND THE RAINBOW

Windmill Theatre Co

Adelaide, Australia

May 13 – 21

The New 42nd Street Studios

Best for ages 3-5

Director Sam Haren

Designer Jonathon Oxlade

Composer DJ TR!P

Technical Designer Chris Petridis

Grug, Cara and Snoot Puppet Construction Tamara Rewse

Props James Parker, Bethany Goodchild, Lily Chester, Stephanie Fisher, Robert Forrest, Joel van der Knaap

Windmill Theatre Co (*Pinocchio*, New Vic 2015) returns with **GRUG AND THE RAINBOW**, an all-new colorful tale based on Ted Prior's celebrated series of picture books. Grug, with the help of his friends Cara the carpet snake and Snoot the echidna, sets off on a quest to capture a rainbow that he can call his very own. Set to the musical musings of DJ TR!P (*Plop!*, New Vic 2012), and featuring playful puppetry and imaginative storytelling, Grug and his mates embark on a fun-filled adventure, landing themselves in a host of hilarious situations.

Windmill Theatre Co's enduring purpose has been to create exceptional shows and tour them nationally and internationally. Windmill continues to inhabit new media spaces and participate in the development of innovative means to connect artists and audiences and to tell, create and share stories. Founded in 2002 as an initiative of the South Australian Government, Windmill Theatre Co (*Grug*, New Vic 2013; *Plop!*, New Vic 2012; *Twinkle Twinkle Little Fish*, New Vic 2003) has toured to Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, the U.S., Canada, Scotland, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Japan, among others. To date, Windmill Theatre Co has presented 56 productions made up of 27 new commissioned works, 8 new productions of existing works, the presentation of 19 leading Australian and international companies and has undertaken 55 regional, national and international tours, performing to a total of 500,000 children and their families.

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