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The New Victory Theater 2017-18 Season Features Three World Premieres from American Companies

Jason Bishop's *BELIEVE IN MAGIC*

Created Especially for The New Victory Theater this Holiday
Opens December 1

Ping Chong + Company's 25th Anniversary of *UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS*

Brand New Work of Interview-based Theater
Amplifying the Voices of Young New Yorkers
Opens January 13

Rennie Harris Puremovement's *FUNKEDIFIED*

Choreographed by Rennie Harris
Featuring The Hood Lockers and a Live, Funk Band
Opens June 1

Season Also Includes Step Afrika!, Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis, the Acrobuffos, Reduced Shakespeare Company and Five U.S. Premieres

New York, NY (June 15, 2017) – The New Victory Theater announces its 22nd season as New York's premier performing arts venue entirely devoted to kids and families. **From October 13, 2017 through June 17, 2018, The New Victory Theater will feature seven American companies amongst its 15 productions from around the globe, including three world premieres and five U.S. premieres.**

"This year, we celebrate the incredible work made here in the U.S.," says Mary Rose Lloyd, Director of Artistic Programming. "You'll discover shows with distinctly American voices, stories and art, showcasing a range of disciplines from companies across the country."

American Highlights include:

- Celebrate the holiday season with the world premiere of **JASON BISHOP: BELIEVE IN MAGIC** (December 1 - 30, 2017). With consultation from Broadway's greatest illusion designer, **Jim Steinmeyer** (*Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, Disney's *Aladdin* and *Mary Poppins*), Jason Bishop returns with jaw-dropping new tricks and illusions designed especially for New Victory festive fun for the whole family.
- In **THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE** (November 10 - 26, 2017), the world's premier step company takes inspiration from artist Jacob Lawrence's *Migration*

Series, the landmark collection of paintings about the exodus of millions of African-Americans from the rural South to the urban North. Fusing body percussion, tap and contemporary dance with live gospel, jazz and blues, **Step Afrika!** uses uniquely American art forms to tell this uniquely American story.

- National Medal of Arts recipient **Ping Chong + Company** will interview and cast young New Yorkers to share their experiences about coming of age in this great, big city for the 25th year of **UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS** (January 13 - 21, 2018), a world premiere production at The Duke on 42nd Street created especially for New Victory audiences.
- For the world premiere of **RENNIE HARRIS: FUNKEDIFIED** (June 1 - 10, 2018), **Rennie Harris Puremovement** (*Rome & Jewels; Unlocked; Continuum*) celebrates the music and street dance of the 1970s with the help of a live funk band and fellow Philadelphia dance crew, The Hood Lockers.
- In the Tony Award®-winning **Children's Theatre Company's** production of **SEEDFOLKS** (May 4 - 11, 2018), based on the book by Newbery Medal-winning **Paul Fleischman** (*Joyful Noise*) and directed by Children's Theatre Company Artistic Director **Peter C. Brosius** (TCG's Alan Schneider Directors' Award), the many diverse characters of an immigrant neighborhood are brilliantly brought to life by Ivey Award-winning actress **Sonja Parks**.
- **AIR PLAY** (March 30 – April 15, 2018) is the latest creation by the **Acrobuffos** (*Big Apple Circus, London's Royal Festival Hall*). **Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone** merge circus and street theater with the artistry of air sculpture, enlisting sculptor **Daniel Wurtzel** (*Finding Neverland; Amaluna, Cirque du Soleil*) and director **West Hyler** (*Paramour; Metamorphosis, Legendarium*) to help them bring beautiful life and impossible flight to the most surprising of objects. **AIR PLAY** was partially developed in the New Victory LabWorks program for new work development.
- Last seen at the New Vic in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]* and *The Complete World of Sports (abridged)*, the **Reduced Shakespeare Company** spins **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LONG LOST FIRST PLAY (ABRIDGED)** into a fast and funny *minimum opus* filled with mistaken identities, unsettled ghosts, questionable potions, powerful tempests, men dressed as women, and twins, twins, twins, from March 2 - 11, 2018.

From eight different countries around the world, international highlights include:

- Australia's **Slingsby** opens the New Vic season with an immersive and interactive experienced, based on Oscar Wilde's short story **THE YOUNG KING** (October 13 - 22, 2017). Audiences will journey through the "kingdom" of The New Victory in preparation for the royal coronation, and then experience the rich, magical realm of the young monarch—this year's International Performing Arts for Youth Victor Award-winner—while seated either on stage or in the orchestra level of the theater.
- Italy's **A SKY FOR THE BEARS** (October 28 – November 5, 2017) by **Teatro Gioco Vita** uses shadow puppetry to animate two endearing stories by children's book authors Dolf Verroen and Wolf Erlbruch. By alternately showing and hiding the puppeteers at work, Italy's leading shadow theater company displays the art form's potency.

- London's **BROMANCE** (February 9 - 25, 2018), the first production from British experimental acrobatic company **Barely Methodical Troupe**, fuses hand-to-hand and Cyr wheel acts with parkour, breakdancing and contemporary dance in an adrenaline-fueled circus, turning handshakes into handstands, and racing through fast-paced, high-risk stunts.
- Following a critically acclaimed run in Edinburgh, five nominations and two wins from the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland for Best Design and Best Production for Children and Young People, **BLACK BEAUTY** (March 16 - 25, 2018) blends storytelling, music and puppetry by Scottish artists **Andy Cannon**, **Andy Manley** and **Shona Reppe** in this fun-filled twist on Anna Sewell's classic story.
- **Pss Pss** (May 19 - 20, 2018) is slapstick at its sweetest and the first production by Switzerland's **Compagnia Bacçalà**. Inspired by Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and other stars of silent film era, the show has won 13 international prizes and has been performed over 600 times in over 50 countries.

For New York's littlest theatergoers ages of 18 months to 5 years-old, The New Victory presents at the New 42nd Street Studios:

- Sweden's **MARMALADE** (November 10 - 19, 2017), a gentle circus for the senses by **Claire Parsons Co.** and a recipient of the Swedish Theater Critics' Dance Prize, uses dance, juggling and colorful design to take tiny tots on an exquisite exploration of texture.
- Israel's **A SICK DAY FOR MORRIS MCGEE** (January 13 - 28, 2018) by the renowned **The Train Theater**, is a charming table top puppetry performance based on a Caldecott Medal-winning book by Philip C. Stead.
- **PANDA'S HOME** (June 7 - 17, 2018), a co-production between Italy's **Compagnia TPO** and China's **TONG Production**, invites curious kids to interact with two dancers on an interactive digital surface as they explore the five elements of Wu Xing—wood, fire, earth, metal and water.

Tickets are available online (NewVictory.org) and by phone (646.223.3010). From June through September, the box office window will be at the **New 42nd Street Studios** (229 West 42nd Street), a half block west of The New Victory; please visit <http://www.newvictory.org/boxoffice> for operating hours. Beginning October 9, The New Victory Theater regular box office window at 209 West 42nd Street will be open Sunday and Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12pm-7pm.

Full price tickets at the New Vic are \$38, \$28, \$19, \$16 with the following exceptions:

- **Jason Bishop: Believe in Magic** - full price: \$55, \$33, \$24, \$20
- **The Young King** - full Price: \$38, \$28
- **A Sky for the Bears, Undesirable Elements** and **Pss Pss** - full price: \$25
- **Marmalade, A Sick Day for Morris McGee** and **Panda's Home** - full Price: \$20

Programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change. Please see attachment for complete show descriptions and profiles for all New Victory 2017-18 season programming.

Audience Services

In consultation with Autism Friendly Spaces, Inc., select performances of *Bromance*, *Black Beauty* and *Air Play* will be **Autism-Friendly Performances**, 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.

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 Governor Andrew M. 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. Created in 1995 on iconic 42nd Street, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the U.S. Reflecting and serving the diverse city it calls home, The New Victory is committed to arts access for all students, teachers, kids, families and communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international programming of theater, dance, circus, puppetry and more on its stages. A leader in arts education, youth employment and audience engagement, The New Victory Theater has been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, by Americans for the Arts with a national Arts Education Award, and by 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, building 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; supporting performing artists in the creation of their work at the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street; creating arts access and education at The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families; and through the New 42nd Street Youth Corps, its model youth development initiative, which pairs life skills workshops and mentorship with paid employment in the arts for NYC youth. Inspired by the city it serves, The New 42nd Street is committed to the transformational power of the arts.

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**The New Victory Theater
2017-2018 Season**

U.S. Premiere

THE YOUNG KING

Slingsby from Adelaide, Australia

October 13 - 22, 2017

At The New Victory Theater

Based on the short story by Oscar Wilde

Adapted for the stage by Nicki Bloom

Director Andy Packer

Playwright Nicki Bloom

Composer & Musician Quincy Grant

Experience The New Victory in a completely new way when the theater itself is transformed from entry to exit for **THE YOUNG KING**, an immersive and interactive experience from Australia's **Slingsby** (*The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy*, New Vic 2013). Invited to prepare for the coronation of a young king, audiences will journey on a pre-show pathway before being seated on stage or in the orchestra to experience the rich theatrical realm of Oscar Wilde's short story. Employing unique and interactive stagecraft, puppetry and live music, **THE YOUNG KING** was adapted for the stage by **Nicki Bloom** (Belvoir St Downstairs, Griffin Theatre Company). Winner of the 2017 International Performing Arts For Youth Victor Award and nominated for a prestigious Helpmann Award for Best Presentation For Children, **THE YOUNG KING** tours to the Sydney Opera House following its U.S. Premiere at The New Victory.

Founded in 2007 by Artistic Director Andy Packer and former Executive Producer Jodi Glass, Slingsby produces and tours original theater that captivates, challenges and inspires international audiences. The company's debut production, *The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy*, premiered in January 2008 at the Adelaide Festival Centre and has since produced six original productions, won 14 arts industry and business awards and performed in 70 venues around the world.

U.S. Premiere

A SKY FOR THE BEARS

Teatro Gioco Vita

Piacenza, Italy

October 28 – November 5, 2017

At The New Victory Theater

Director and Set Designer Fabrizio Montecchi

Shadow Puppets by Federica Ferrari and Nicoletta Garioni

When you're a happy, handsome, well-rested bear, what more could you want? Why, to be a daddy bear of course! With all the courage he can muster, a bear sets out on a quest to find a family of his own to love. In a different forest, a little bear sets off to find the quickest way to the clouds in hopes of reuniting with his dear, departed grandfather. Two sweet stories told through charming shadow puppetry and lyrical movement, **A SKY FOR THE BEARS** shows us that

sometimes when we look to the sky for our hearts' deepest desires, the best answers are found right here on earth.

A SKY FOR THE BEARS by **Teatro Gioco Vita** (*Firebird*, New Vic 1998) uses charming shadow puppetry and lyrical movement to animate two German stories by children's book authors Dolf Verroen and Wolf Erlbruch. By alternately showing and hiding the puppeteers at work, Italy's leading shadow theater company reveals the art form's unique potency. Teatro Gioco Vita has performed all over the world. The Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and the Region of Emilia Romagna recognize the company as a Centro di Produzione Teatrale (Theater Production Center) an apt title for an organization that invests in the creativity of kids.

NY Premiere

THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE

Step Afrika!

Washington, D.C.

November 10 - 26, 2017

At The New Victory Theater

Founder and Executive Director C. Brian Williams

Director Jakari Sherman

A beat for every brushstroke, **Step Afrika!** brings to life artist **Jacob Lawrence's Migration Series**, his landmark collection of paintings about the largest demographic transformation in U.S. history. Fusing body percussion, tap and contemporary dance with live gospel, jazz and blues, the world's first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping uses uniquely American art forms to tell this uniquely American story in **THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE**. Punctuated by live drumming and spoken word, this powerful full-length performance, inspired by the millions of African-Americans who moved from the rural South to the urban North, is Step Afrika!'s masterpiece.

One of the top 10 African-American dance companies in the U.S., and Washington, D.C.'s largest African-American arts organization, Step Afrika! performed at the White House for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, headlining their Presidential Black History Month Reception in February 2016. The company is prominently featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History & Culture with the world's first interactive stepping exhibit.

MARMALADE

Claire Parsons Co.

Stockholm, Sweden

November 10 - 19, 2017

At the New 42nd Street Studios

Choreographer Claire Parsons

Music Arrangements by Mikael Svanevik

Gather 'round the ring and experience a gentle circus for the senses! Choreographed by Sweden's **Claire Parsons Co.**, juggler Viktor Gyllenberg and dancer Mira Björkman take tiny tots on an exquisite exploration of texture and movement. Recipient of the Swedish Theater

Critics' Dance Prize, **MARMALADE** has played over 300 performances in Sweden and on tour in the U.S., Europe and Asia, including performances for the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, the International Performing Arts for Youth showcase, the Swedish Performing Arts Biennial, Swedstage and Bibu Festival.

Claire Parsons Co. is an award-winning dance company creating clever and elegant performance art for children. The company tours year-round, annually performing nearly 150 shows throughout the U.S., France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Singapore, Lithuania and Russia, among others.

World Premiere

JASON BISHOP: BELIEVE IN MAGIC

Fleetwood, Pennsylvania

December 1 - 30, 2017

At The New Victory Theater

Celebrate the holiday season with the world premiere of **JASON BISHOP: BELIEVE IN MAGIC**. Back by popular demand after a sold out run last season with *Jason Bishop: Straight Up Magic* (New Vic 2015), the internationally-touring illusionist returns with new, jaw-dropping tricks and illusions designed especially for a festive engagement at The New Victory. With consultation from Broadway's famed illusion designer **Jim Steinmeyer** (*Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, Disney's *Aladdin* and *Mary Poppins*), **BELIEVE IN MAGIC** will showcase Bishop's breadth of talents in a mix of parlor magic and full stage illusions, including a wondrous snowfall in the theater.

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, Jason Bishop has performed at the world-famous Magic Castle in Los Angeles. He's been seen television programs such as "Cabaret Du Monde" in Paris, France, "Masters of Illusion" on the CW Network and the "TODAY Show" on NBC. The company performs an average of 150 shows per year and has traveled to all of the lower 48 states, as well as 30 countries on six continents.

World Premiere

UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS

Ping Chong + Company

New York, New York

January 13 - 21, 2018

At The Duke on 42nd Street

Author/Director Ping Chong and Sara Zatz

Projection Designer Kate Freer

Lighting Designer Marika Kent

Exclusively for The New Victory Theater and performed at The Duke on 42nd Street, **Ping Chong + Company** (Bessie Award for Sustained Achievement in the Performing Arts) will amplify the voices of young New Yorkers in the 25th Anniversary of **UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS**. For this world premiere production, National Medal of Arts recipient **Ping Chong** (Falstaff Awards for Best Director and Best Script Adaptation/Dramaturgy, Obie Award for Sustained Achievement of Direction) and his award-winning collaborators will interview and cast young New Yorkers, many of whom have never before spoken publicly, to share their experiences

about coming of age in this great, big city. Since 1992, there have been over 40 productions in the **UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS** series, including *South of the 8*; *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity*; and *Cry for Peace: Voices From the Congo*.

Ping Chong + Company (*Cathay: Three Tales of China*, New Vic 2005; *Kwaidan*, New Vic 2000) produces theatrical works addressing the important cultural and civic issues of our times. Their over 90 original productions have been performed at La MaMa ETC, BAM's Next Wave Festival, Central Park SummerStage, Lincoln Center Festival and Asia Society, and internationally at Perth International Arts Festival (Australia), Barbican Centre (U.K.), Lille 2004 European Capital of Culture Festival (France), Romaeuropa Festival (Italy), Tokyo International Festival of Performing Arts (Japan), and Festival of Asian Art (Hong Kong), among others.

U.S. Premiere

A SICK DAY FOR MORRIS MCGEE

The Train Theater

Jerusalem, Israel

January 13 - 28, 2018

At the New 42nd Street Studios

Director Ayelet Golan

Music, Sound Editing and Lighting Designer Dan Karger

Created and performed by Maayan Resnick

Designed by Gilad Nardi

Written by Tzipor Frumkin

Artistic Consulting and Support Naomi Yoeli and Marit Ben-Israel

Every day, Morris McGee takes the No. 5 bus to his job at the zoo. Every day, he lovingly attends to the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the owl and the rhinoceros (who always has a runny nose). Every day, that is, until it's Morris who has the sniffles! Based on a Caldecott Medal-winning book by Philip C. Stead (*A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, performed by arrangement with Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited partnership), **A SICK DAY FOR MORRIS MCGEE** is a charming puppetry performance about one creature of habit and his kindhearted coterie that will warm your heart and chase away the winter chills.

Founded in Jerusalem in 1981, **The Train Theater** is a puppet theater, with works for children performed by professional artists, that promotes freedom of expression, innovation and excellence. The company performs throughout Israel and around the world at theaters and festivals. Every summer, they host the International Festival of Puppet Theater which brings together Israeli and international puppeteers, artists and festival directors.

NY Premiere

BROMANCE

Barely Methodical Troupe

London, England

February 9 - 25, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Director Eddie Kay
Producer Di Robson
Associate Director Ella Robson Guilfoyle
Lighting Designer Kate Bonney

Relationships are the heart of **BROMANCE**, which was inspired by the friendship of its three creators: Beren D'Amico, Louis Gift and Charlie Wheeler, who met at London's National Centre for Circus Arts. In this adrenaline-fueled contemporary circus, they flip, throw and catch each other, turning handshakes into handstands and racing through fast-paced, high-risk stunts.

With their first full-length production, experimental acrobatic company **Barely Methodical Troupe** creates a new acrobatic form, fusing multiple disciplines like parkour, hand-to-hand and Cyr wheel skills with a throughline of airborne dynamic movement. **BROMANCE** premiered at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014, where it won the Total Theatre Award and the Jacksons Lane Award for Circus. The show went on to open the London International Mime Festival in 2015 and has toured nationally and internationally ever since. Barely Methodical Troupe's second show, *KIN*, premiered at London's Roundhouse in 2016.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LONG LOST FIRST PLAY (ABRIDGED)

Reduced Shakespeare Company
Sonoma, California
March 2 - 11, 2018
At The New Victory Theater

That's right, the "Bad Boys of Abridgement" are back! Uproarious and rapid-fire, the **Reduced Shakespeare Company**, last seen in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]*, (New Vic 2010), and *The Complete World of Sports (abridged)*, (New Vic 2011), makes sharp, short comedy in their latest sendup, spinning the Bard's 39 plays into a fast, funny and fictional 40th. In honor of the company's 35th anniversary and the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, RSC premiered **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LONG LOST FIRST PLAY (ABRIDGED)**, at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

Since its pass-the-hat origins in 1981, the Reduced Shakespeare Company has created 10 world-renowned stage shows, two television specials and numerous radio pieces. The company's first three shows, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Complete History of America (abridged)* and *The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)* ran for nine years at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly Circus as London's longest-running comedies. The company's itinerary has included stops Off-Broadway, at the White House, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, London's West End, Seattle Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theater and Montreal's famed Just For Laughs Festival. The RSC has been nominated for an Olivier Award in London; two Helen Hayes Awards in Washington, D.C.; the SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award; and several podcast awards. RSC scripts are published in the U.S. and U.K., and translated into over a dozen languages. Their latest literary endeavor, *Pop-Up Shakespeare* will be released in the USA, UK and Australia in autumn 2017. The *RSC Radio Show*, *RSC Christmas*, and *Bible (abridged)* are all available on CD and from iTunes.

U.S. Premiere

BLACK BEAUTY

Red Bridge Arts and Traverse Theatre Company

Fife and Edinburgh, Scotland

March 16 - 25, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Created by Andy Manley, Andy Cannon and Shona Reppe

Performed by Andy Manley and Andy Cannon

Designed by Shona Reppe

Following two wins for Best Design and Best Production for Children and Young People and five nominations, including Best Director and Best New Play, from the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland, **BLACK BEAUTY** canters onto the New Victory stage following a critically acclaimed run in Edinburgh. Produced by **Red Bridge Arts** and **Traverse Theatre Company**, performed by **Andy Cannon** and **Andy Manley** and designed by **Shona Reppe**, **BLACK BEAUTY** is a fun-filled twist on Anna Sewell's classic by some of the most experienced and skilled makers of theater for young audiences, whose work includes New Vic favorites *White* (2015, 2011), *The Ballad of Ponderlife McGurk* (2014), *Kappa* (2014), *Potato Needs a Bath* (2011) and *Cinderella* (2010).

Red Bridge Arts is a producing company with a focus on creating work for young audiences and supporting artists' development. Led by Alice McGrath, who has held creative development roles at Imagineate, Macrobert Arts Centre and the Scottish Dance Theatre, Red Bridge recently toured to The Kennedy Center with *Titus* by Oliver Emanuel.

Formed in 1963, Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre Company, under Artistic Director Orla O'Loughlin, nurtures emerging talent, produces award-winning new plays and presents year-round seasons of theater, dance, performance, music and spoken word. The Traverse has launched the careers of some of the U.K.'s most celebrated writers, including David Greig, David Harrower and Zinnie Harris, and holds an iconic status as the theatrical heart of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

NY Premiere

AIR PLAY

Acrobuffos

New York, NY

March 30 – April 15, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Written and Created by Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Performed by Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Air Sculptures in collaboration with Daniel Wurtzel

Directed by West Hyler

Watch in absolute wonder as umbrellas take flight, balloons sprout minds of their own and shimmering silks ripple to the rafters in the modern circus spectacle **AIR PLAY**. With knowing smiles and suitcases full of surprises, the globetrotting **Acrobuffos** (*Big Apple Circus*, London's *Royal Festival Hall*) elicit gasps and giggles in equal measure as they animate airflow, goad gravity, and make buoyant, beautiful and really, really, really high art out of the very thing we breathe.

Written and performed by husband and wife team **Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone**, **AIR PLAY** features the Acrobuffos' signature mix of circus and street theater with the sculptural artistry of **Daniel Wurtzel** (*Finding Neverland*, *Sleep No More*, Radio City Rockettes' *New York Spectacular*, Cirque du Soleil's *Amaluna*, *Paramour*, *Big Apple Circus' Legendarium*), the world's only professional air sculptor whose "Magic Carpet" airflow piece went viral on YouTube with over two million views. **AIR PLAY**, with direction from **West Hyler** (*Paramour*, *Metamorphosis*, *Legendarium*), took off last year, touring across the country and abroad to Canada, Chile, the Royal Festival Hall in London and the State Theatre in Melbourne. The first **New Victory LabWorks** production to be presented in a New Vic season, **AIR PLAY** takes clowning to the next level atmosphere!

NY Premiere

SEEDFOLKS

Children's Theatre Company

Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 4 - 11, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Director Peter C. Brosius

Set and Projection Designer Jorge Cousineau

Costume Designer Sonya Berlovitz

Lighting Designer Paul Whitaker

Composer Victor Zupanc

Actor Sonja Parks

From Minneapolis, Minnesota's Tony Award®-winning **Children's Theatre Company** comes **SEEDFOLKS**, a story about how an immigrant neighborhood transforms when a young girl plants some precious beans in a nearby vacant lot. Aided by video projection and a lively mix of recorded music, a dozen distinct and diverse characters are brilliantly brought to life by Ivey Award-winning actor **Sonja Parks**, named a featured artist by *TIME* Magazine and one of "Seven Artists You Must See" by *American Theatre*. Based on the book by Newbery Medal-winning **Paul Fleischman** (*Joyful Noise*) and directed by Children's Theatre Company Artistic Director **Peter C. Brosius** (TCG's Alan Schneider Directors' Award), **SEEDFOLKS** demonstrates how every individual can be a powerful force for change.

SEEDFOLKS was developed by the Children's Theatre Company (CTC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as part of the company's new play development lab Threshold. As the only theater focused on young audiences to win the coveted Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre, CTC creates theater experiences that educate, challenge and inspire more than 300,000 people annually. For its production of *A Year with Frog and Toad* (New Vic 2002), CTC is also the only theater in Minnesota to receive three Tony® nominations. CTC is committed to producing world class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

NY Premiere

Pss Pss

Compagnia Bacçalà

Locarno, Switzerland

May 19 - 20, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Created and Performed by Camilla Pessi and Simone Fassari

Director Louis Spagna

Artistic Collaboration and Technical Management Valerio Fassari

Pss Pss, the secret is out: there's not much this dynamic duo can't do! Inspired by the silent film era, this clowning couple fumbles through merry mishaps, absurd antics and priceless pas de deux. They snicker and stumble, squabble and make peace, all without a word (but with a little help from the audience!). Slapstick at its sweetest, this timeless performance celebrates the clumsy connection we make when we meet our match.

Inspired by Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and many other stars of silent films, **Pss Pss** is the wildly successful first endeavor by **Compagnia Bacçalà**. Simone Fassari and Camilla Pessi met at the Teatro Dimitri school in Switzerland, eventually adding Valerio Fassari and Louis Spagna to the team to create the company's first full-length work, **Pss Pss**. Compagnia Bacçalà has won 13 international awards, including a 2016 Swiss Theatre Award, a 2014 Fringe Review prize for Outstanding Show, a 2014 Audience Award at the Festival des arts burlesques de Saint-Etienne in France and a 2010 Audience Award at the Festival Des Art Du Cirque in Switzerland. **Pss Pss** has been performed over 600 times in over 50 countries on five continents.

World Premiere

RENNIE HARRIS: FUNKEDIFIED

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 1 - 10, 2018

At The New Victory Theater

Choreographer Lorenzo Harris

Get on up with Rennie Harris Puremovement! Inspired by the soundtrack of his youth—*Soul Train* on the TV and James Brown on the radio—Rennie Harris celebrates funk music and street dance of the 1970s in the world premiere of **RENNIE HARRIS: FUNKEDIFIED**. Joined by fellow Philadelphia dance crew The Hood Lockers and a live funk band, **Rennie Harris Puremovement** (*Rome & Jewels*; *Unlocked*; *Continuum*; *Rennie Harris' New York Legends of Hip Hop*, New Vic 2007; *Rennie Harris Puremovement*, New Vic 1999) will have you grooving to the upbeat, the downbeat and all the syncopation in between.

Philadelphia native Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris is a pioneer in bringing hip hop culture and street dance to concert stages around the world. He founded Rennie Harris Puremovement (RHPM) on the belief that hip hop can express universal themes beyond racial, religious and economic boundaries. By merging traditional African dance with contemporary art forms, RHPM's cohesive and cogent voice merges social dances with theater and has been credited for bringing street dance into the mainstream. His past New Vic presentations include *LUV*:

American Style (RHAW, 2015), *Rennie Harris RHAW* (RHAW, 2013), *Rennie Harris' New York Legends of Hip Hop* (RHPM, 2007, 2005) and *Rennie Harris Puremovement* (RHPM, 1999). For *Rome & Jewels*, RHPM received three Bessie Awards, two Black Theater Alvin Ailey Awards, a Herb Alpert Award nomination and a Laurence Olivier Award nomination.

NY Premiere

PANDA'S HOME

Compagnia TPO in co-production with TONG Production & Teatro Metastasio Di Prato
Prato, Italy & Beijing, China
June 7 - 17, 2018
At the New 42nd Street Studios

Artistic Direction Francesco Gandi, Davide Venturini
Choreography Daniele Del Bandecca, Martina Gregori
Visual Design Elsa Mersi

Venture into the depths of China's rich culture! **PANDA'S HOME**, a co-production between Italy's **Compagnia TPO** and China's **TONG Production**, invites curious kids to interact with two dancers on a digital surface as they explore the five elements of Wu Xing—wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Fusing ancient art forms and contemporary dance with kaleidoscopic imagery and the sounds of traditional instruments, **PANDA'S HOME** is anything but black and white.

Com-pag-nia TPO (*Butterfly Garden*, New Vic 2010; *Saltbush*, New Vic 2014) specializes in the creation of "virtual gardens" inspired by different cultures and experiences. Each set piece is designed to interface with moving bodies on stage, transforming live gestures and virtual landscapes into a charming, interactive art environment. In 2016, the company began an important collaboration with Beijing's TONG Production, a theater company dedicated to bringing world-class productions to young people and families in China. Liz Ren, the founder of TONG Production, inspired Francesco Gandi, the artistic director of Compagnia TPO, to create a show that explored the beauty and heritage of Chinese culture—and so, **PANDA'S HOME** was developed during the company's residence at Teatro Metastasio di Prato.

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