



DIVADLO ARCHA

Na Poříčí 26, Praha 1

tel. 232 88 00, fax. 232 20 89

e-mail: ticket@archatheatre.cz

<http://www.archatheatre.cz>





Divadlo Archa presents  
The SITI Company, New York

## BOB

The Life and Work of Robert Wilson

Direction: Anne Bogart

In the title role: Will Bond

April 7., 8. and 9., 1999  
at 8:00 p.m.

### Bob

is the theatrical performance whose main, and only, character is Bob (Robert Wilson). This world famous avant-garde artist and theatre magician stages immense theatre productions which have continuously attracted the attention of audiences from different cultures all around the world.

Robert Wilson as an artist thrives on spreading the American pop culture with his „big art“. He has demonstrated that even experimental creations can simultaneously be a great spectacle. He captivated audiences with **Einstein on the Beach**, the world's first five-hour opera featuring the music of Philip Glass. The opera became a paramount performance, shedding new light on „contemporary theatre“. Conversely, this performance marked the entrance of „minimalism“.

His latest collaborative projects have included such artists as author Heiner Müller, William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Susan Sontag, in addition to musicians, Tom Waits (in the performances of **Black Rider, Alice**), David Byrne (the **CIVIL warS, Forest**), and Lou Reed (**Time Rocker**). In the recent years, it became in vogue for large opera houses to invite him to direct their classical opera pieces. In Prague, we had the opportunity to see his work only once. In 1994, the Archa Theatre presented the production of **Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights** by Gertrude Stein.

### Bob

is a performance conceived and directed by Anne Bogart. American theatre critics consider Anne Bogart to be one of the most significant theorists of theatrical direction and acting since the times of Stanislavsky and Brecht.

Bogart's theory of acting work, which she calls „Viewpoints“, is now considered to be standardised practice and is studied in most American theatre schools. The results can be seen on practically all the stages throughout the United States. Together with Japanese theatre director and theoretician, Tadaši Suzuki, she is director of The Saratoga International Theatre Institute (SITI), whose goal is to revitalise the modern American theatrical art. She organises internships for young artists, and supports international collaboration, as well as produces her own theatrical performances. The artistic team of S.I.T.I. Company currently consists of 19 people, including Will Bond and other creators of „BOB“. Anne Bogart usually produces a theme which is distant from the classical dramatic text. In the production of **The Medium**, she decided to use the insights of media philosopher Marshall McLuhan to create a piece about who society is becoming vis-a-vis the radical developments in technology around us. The performance **Culture of Desire**, containing the work of Andy Warhol, confronted the American consumer society based on the structure of Dante's *Inferno*.

In the autumn of 1997, Anne Bogart brought her theatre approach of Viewpoints to the Archa Theatre, where she worked with several Czech actors. During this time, the first rehearsals of BOB also took place, along with a public presentation of the Viewpoints workshop with Czech participants.

### From the American press about the performance of „BOB“:

*„A portrait of one ‚genius‘ taking on another... Bond has balletic precision.“*

New York Times

*„A PAEAN to theatre, startling, iconoclastic, daring and inventive... Will Bond is breathtaking.“*

IN Theatre-magazine

*„Genuine tribute [and] several kinds of cunning subversion... sturdy mix of human life and abstract beauty.“*

Village Voice, New York

made possible with the assistance of DTW-The Suitcase Fund