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# News Release

## **BAM's 2000 Next Wave Festival Opens on October 4 with the New York Premiere of The SITI Company's *War of the Worlds*, Conceived and Directed by Anne Bogart**

Conceived and directed by Anne Bogart  
Written by Naomi Iizuka  
Created by The SITI Company

Lighting design by Mimi Jordan Sherin  
Sound design by Darron L. West  
Set design by Neil Patel  
Costume design by James Shuette

### **BAM Harvey Theater**

Oct 4-7 at 7:30pm

Oct 8 at 3pm

Tickets: \$17, 33, 45

**BAMcinématek** complements the engagement with four films featuring Orson Welles:  
*Casino Royale* (1967), *A Man for all Seasons* (1966), *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942)  
(with a special Cinemachat with Elliott Stein), and *The Trial* (1963)

**BROOKLYN, August 21, 2000 (revised 10/3/00)**—Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) launches its 2000 Next Wave Festival with the New York premiere of The SITI Company's *War of the Worlds*, conceived and directed by Anne Bogart and written by Naomi Iizuka. The SITI Company—an American theater company co-founded by Bogart, one of New York's leading figures in contemporary theater, and Tadashi Suzuki—will make its BAM debut with this acclaimed production. The new work, which takes its name from Orson Welles' ground-breaking, panic-inducing 1938 radio adaptation of *War of the Worlds* (*Invasion from Mars*) by H.G. Wells, is a multi-layered examination of Welles' life and oeuvre that contemplates modern society's fascination with electronic media. Five performances of *War of the Worlds* will be presented at the BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton Street), October 4-7 at 7:30pm and October 8 at 3pm.

The annual Next Wave Festival, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, is comprised of thirteen dance, music, and theater events, sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc. Two events open the festival on October 4: The SITI Company's *War of the Worlds* (BAM Harvey Theater) and the North American premiere of Philip Glass' *Symphony No. 5, Requiem, Bardo, Nirmanakaya*, co-produced and performed by the Brooklyn Philharmonic led by Dennis Russell Davies (BAM Howard Gilman Opera House), both at 7:30pm. For tickets, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, Ticketmaster at 212.307.4100, or visit BAM's web site at [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

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# 2000 Next Wave Festival



Orson Welles, the actor/screenwriter/director/producer who became a Hollywood legend in his own time, often characterized himself as a magician. "To me," he once said, "magic begins and ends with the figure of the magician who asks the audience to believe that the lady is floating in the air. In other words, to be eight years old for a minute." Perhaps the best example of Welles' manipulative magic occurred on October 30, 1938, when he shocked America into believing Martians had invaded New Jersey during his on-air dramatization of H.G. Wells' radio play *War of the Worlds* (*Invasion from Mars*). (During the creative evolution of SITI's *War of the Worlds*, the company celebrated the original broadcast's anniversary last October by presenting two special live performances of the radio play at New York's Laurie Beechman Theater—a performance SITI reprised at the Kennedy Center in February.) Welles' fictionalized versions of real people and events span many genres, from film (*Citizen Kane*) to opera (*The Cradle Will Rock*).

"Because Welles was such a great storyteller and such a remarkable entertainer, I chose him to be the anchor for this play—which is essentially about the American confusion between news and entertainment, our appetite for sensation, and our ability to quickly discard and forget whatever it was we were so excited about," says Bogart. *Citizen Kane*, Welles' first and perhaps most famous film, uses mock interviews to examine the life of media tycoon Charles Foster Kane—a character based on one of the most infamous public figures of the day, William Randolph Hearst. Bogart borrows *Citizen Kane*'s noir feel and narrative style, studying Welles' life and work through a series of interviews. As the action fluidly moves between past and present, *War of the Worlds* ponders the disposability of cultural icons as well as the societal effects of manipulating the truth.

*War of the Worlds* also examines the development of the media since Welles' day and draws parallels to today's media manipulators and moguls. In a time when so-called "reality shows" are enjoying record-breaking audiences and ratings (ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," CBS' "Survivor" and "Big Brother"), The SITI Company's exploration of popular culture and society's love for news-as-entertainment heightens the work's relevance. The New York Times described *War of the Worlds* as a "visually striking" and "intellectually engaging work" when it was first performed in March at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Kentucky.

The production features SITI Company members Akiko Aizawa, J. Ed Araiza, Will Bond, Tom Nelis, Ellen Lauren, Barney O'Hanlon, and Stephen Webber.

#### About The SITI Company

The 2000 Next Wave Festival presentation of *War of the Worlds* marks The SITI Company's BAM debut. Now in its ninth year, The SITI Company creates productions that are highly complex, intellectually rigorous investigations of questions central to the human experience at the end of the 20th century. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, NY, SITI grew quickly into a year-round theater company based in New York City, with Saratoga Springs serving as the company's summer home. SITI emphasizes international cultural exchange and collaboration and enjoys ongoing relationships with numerous American and international theater groups, including the Wexner Center for the Arts, PICA, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the New York Theatre Workshop. The company is also affiliated with a number of universities and tours widely, performing and teaching their methods throughout North America, Europe, and other parts of the world. Recent productions include *BOB*; *Cabin Pressure*; *Culture of Desire*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *The Medium*; and *Small Lives/Big Dreams*. SITI's upcoming projects include *ROOM*, based on Virginia Woolf's writings (arranged by Jocelyn Clarke), and *bobrauschenbergamerica*, a collaboration between SITI and Charles Mee, reflecting life in America through the modernist aesthetic of Robert Rauschenberg.

#### About Anne Bogart

Anne Bogart, recognized as one of the most influential artists in contemporary theater, is the artistic director of The SITI Company. She was co-director of Laurie Anderson's *Songs and Stories from Moby Dick*, which opened BAM's 1999 Next Wave Festival. Her previous productions with SITI include *BOB* (Wexner Center for the Arts/SITI); *Culture of Desire* (a co-production of SITI, City Theatre, and Portland Stage Company); *Private Lives* by Noël Coward, *Miss Julie* by August Strindberg (Actors Theatre of Louisville/SITI); *Alice's Adventures* (Wexner Center for



the Arts, City Theatre, City Stages, SITI); and *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *The Medium*, and *Going, Going, Gone* (SITI). Other recent productions include *Gertrude and Alice* (The Foundry Theatre) and *The Seven Deadly Sins* by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill (New York City Opera). Bogart is the recipient of two Obie Awards and a Bessie Award, and she is currently an associate professor at Columbia University.

#### Related BAMcinématek programming

*BAMcinématek*, BAM Rose Cinemas' repertory film program, complements the Next Wave Festival presentation of The SITI Company's *War of the Worlds* with four films highlighting the multitalented Orson Welles, October 2–5. On October 2, Welles plays the infamous Le Chiffre in the James Bond parody *Casino Royale* (1967); screenings are at 4:30, 7, and 9:30pm. Welles gives a bravura performance as Cardinal Wolsey in *A Man for All Seasons* (1966), directed by Fred Zinnemann, which will be screened October 3 at 4:30, 6:50, and 9:10pm. On October 4, *BAMcinématek* presents Welles' second film as a director, *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), to be screened at 6:50 and 9:10pm; the 6:50pm screening will be followed by a Cinemachat with film critic and historian Elliott Stein. Concluding the Orson Welles film series on October 5 is a new print of *The Trial* (1963), based on the Franz Kafka work and directed by Welles, with screenings at 4:30, 6:50, and 9:10pm.

Advance tickets, priced at \$9 or \$5 for students (with valid I.D. Monday-Friday, except holidays), seniors, BAM Cinema Club members and children under 12, are available one week prior to screening at the cinema box office or by calling 718.623.2770. (For *BAMcinématek* press information, contact Nicki Lilavois at 718.636.4129 x3.)

#### Credits

BAM's 2000 Next Wave Festival is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc. Programming in the BAM Harvey Theater is supported and endowed by the Doris Duke Foundation. BAM's new media partner is Lucent Technologies. Official Broadcast Sponsor is Bloomberg Radio AM 1130. *War of the Worlds* is funded in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The SITI Company's development partners are Actors Theater of Louisville and Wexner Center for the Arts at the Ohio State University. The BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a leadership gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, Richard B. Fisher and Jeanne Donovan Fisher, Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Bloomberg Radio AM 1130, Coca-Cola Enterprise of New York, and Bowne of New York.

#### General information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, BAMcafé, and Shakespeare & Co. BAMshop are located in the main building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (Lafayette and Ashland) in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater (formerly the Majestic Theater) is located at 651 Fulton Street in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. Award-winning Tentation Catering provides food and beverages at BAMcafé, which features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. A package including dinner in BAMcafé and a movie ticket to BAM Rose Cinemas is available for only \$30 (at the box office only).

Subway:	2, 3, 4, 5, D, Q to Atlantic Avenue B, M, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street, C to Lafayette Avenue
Train:	Long Island Railroad to Flatbush Avenue
BAMbus:	Departs from Whitney Museum at Philip Morris, 120 Park Avenue at 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street, one hour prior to most performances.
Car:	Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM.

**For ticket and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).** Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster at 212.307.4100.