



# SITI COMPANY IN CHARACTER



**UNCG**  
School of  
Music, Theatre and Dance

2014-15

**UPAS**  
UNIVERSITY PERFORMING  
ARTS SERIES

## *Café Variations*

Adapted from the *Café Plays* written by Charles L. Mee, Jr.  
Directed by Anne Bogart  
Created and performed by SITI Company

Sound Design by Stowe Nelson  
Choreography by Barney O'Hanlon\*  
Scenic Design by Neil Patel\*\*  
Lighting Design by Brian H Scott\*\*  
Costume Design by Caitlin Ward\*\*  
Stage Management by Aaron Heflich Shapiro\*  
Executive Director Michelle Preston

### Cast:

Ya-Ya and Lucia – Akiko Aizawa\*  
Andrew, Harold and Edmund – Leon Ingulsrud\*  
Henry – Gian-Murray Gianino\*  
Edith and Nanette – Ellen Lauren\*  
Tilly – Deborah Wallace\*  
Raymond, Herbert and Peter – Stephen Duff Webber\*

The performance lasts approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes  
with no intermission.

Originally developed and produced by ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage, Emerson Stage, and SITI Company at Emerson College, Boston, MA.

*Café Variations* was made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Pilot, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



**National  
Endowment  
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arts.gov

\*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

\*\*Members of United Scenic Artists

Anne Bogart is a member of the Society of Stage Directors  
and Choreographers

### Director's Note

The creation of *Café Variations* is a story of inspiration, influence and development and, in the same way as the play, unfolds in a process of theme and variations. I had been thinking about a project for SITI Company that would interweave scenes from many of Charles Mee's plays that happen in cafés. One of Mee's recurring themes is the philosopher Heidegger's notion that we become who we are through our relationships to other people and to the environment. I imagined that a café environment would be a perfect world for this investigation. It was clear to me that music and dance would play a key role in the project. And then came the chance to work with the music of George and Ira Gershwin.

Wonderful! What you are seeing tonight is the second phase of *Café Variations*. The first was a full-blown musical with a large live band, a cast of thirty and songs and music from the Gershwin catalogue. The project has been evolving ever since into its current manifestation: a six-actor dance/theater piece featuring SITI Company that we are excited to share with you now.

#### Recordings:

"For Lily Pons (Gershwin Melody #79)" performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic & Michael Tilson Thomas on Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue, Preludes for Piano, Short Story, Violin Piece, Second Rhapsody, For Lily Pons, Sleepless Night, Promenade, used by arrangement with Sony Classical/Legacy.

Selections from "Rhapsody in Blue" performed by Leonard Bernstein and the Columbia Symphony Orchestra on Bernstein Century—Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue/An American in Paris; Grofe, used by arrangement with Sony.

"Promenade (Walking the Dog)" performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Michael Tilson Thomas on Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue, An American In Paris & Broadway Overtures (Expanded Edition), used by arrangement with Sony BMG.

"Rhapsody in Blue" performed by George Gershwin, Nathaniel Shilkret & Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra on: Gershwin: An American in Paris, used by arrangement with Avid Records.

"Three Preludes for Piano" performed by Michael Tilson Thomas on: Classic Gershwin, used by arrangement with Sony BMG.

## SITI COMPANY

SITI Company was built on the bedrock of ensemble. We believe that through the practice of collaboration, a group of artists working together over time can have a significant impact upon both contemporary theater and the world at large.

Through our performances, educational programs, and collaborations with other artists and thinkers, SITI Company will continue to challenge the status quo, train to achieve artistic excellence in every aspect of our work, and offer new ways of seeing and of being as both artists and as global citizens.

SITI Company is committed to providing a gymnasium-for-the-soul where the interaction of art, artists, audiences and ideas inspire the possibility for change, optimism and hope.

Founded in 1992 by Anne Bogart and Tadashi Suzuki, and a group of likeminded artists, SITI Company began as an agreement to redefine and revitalize contemporary theater in the United States through an emphasis on international cultural exchange, training and collaboration. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, New York, SITI expanded to encompass a year-round Season inclusive of touring, the creation of new work and running a Conservatory program for 9 months of the year to cultivate the next generation of independent theater artists. Based in New York City, SITI Continues to operate its international training program during its summer season in Saratoga. The Company is known nationally and internationally as a top-level artistic collective that generates groundbreaking theater.

In addition to Co-Artistic Directors Anne Bogart, Leon Ingulsrud and Ellen Lauren, SITI Company is comprised of eight actors, four designers and a playwright. The company represents a change in thinking about the relationships between artists and institutions. Offering performances from our varied repertoire, and workshops in the unique theater training we champion, SITI Company is dedicated to establishing long lasting relationships with theater presenters and their communities around the world.

SITI Company is: Akiko Aizawa, J. Ed Araiza, Anne Bogart, Will Bond, Gian-Murray Gianino, Leon Ingulsrud, Ellen Lauren, Kelly Maurer, Charles L. Mee, Jr., Tom Nelis, Barney O'Hanlon, Neil Patel, James Schuette, Brian H Scott, Megan Wanlass, Stephen Duff Webber and Darron L West.

SITI Company Board of Directors: Anne Bogart, Gigi Bolt, Barbara Cummings (Vice-Chair), Rena Chelouche Fogel, Christopher L. Healy (Treasurer), Kim Ima (Secretary), Leon Ingulsrud, Kevin Kuhlke, Ellen Lauren, Thomas Mallon, Kelly Maurer, Charles L. Mee, Jr., Ruth Nightengale (Chair), and Annie Pell.

Emeritus Board: Nicole Borrelli Hearn, Matthew Bregman, Lynn & Ronald Cohen, Martha Coigney, Jim Cummings, Judy Guido, Leonard Perfido, Daniel C. Smith and Jaan Whitehead.

SITI Company Staff & Interns: Michelle Preston, Executive Director; Megan Hanley, Education Manager; Alexandra Lalonde, Development & Communications Manager; Vanessa Sparling, General Manager; Jeremy Pickard, Space Intern.

SITI Company Consultants: Chris Healy and Thomas Mallon, Attorneys; Al Foote, Web Programmer

## CONTACT AND CONNECT

For further details about any of SITI's productions or training programs, please feel free to contact us at:

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## BIOGRAPHIES

**Anne Bogart** (*Director*) one of the three Co-Artistic Directors of the SITI Company, which she founded with Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki in 1992. She is a Professor at Columbia University where she runs the Graduate Directing Program. Works with SITI include *Persians*; *Steel Hammer*; *A Rite*; *Café Variations*; *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*; *American Document*; *Antigone*; *Under Construction*; *Freshwater*; *Who Do You Think You Are*; *Radio Macbeth*; *Hotel Cassiopeia*; *Death and the Ploughman*; *La Dispute*; *Score*; *bobrauschenbergamerica*; *Room*; *War of the Worlds—the Radio Play*; *Cabin Pressure*; *Alice's Adventures*; *Culture of Desire*; *Bob*; *Going, Going,*

*Gone; Small Lives/Big Dreams; The Medium; Noel Coward's Hay Fever and Private Lives; August Strindberg's Miss Julie; and Charles Mee's Orestes.* She is the author of five books: *A Director Prepares; The Viewpoints Book; And Then, You Act; Conversations with Anne; and What's the Story.*

**Charles L. Mee** (*Playwright*) grew up in Illinois, headed east and graduated from Harvard College. He wrote *Orestes 2.0*, the first play that was done by the SITI Company when it was first formed, and has also written *bobrauschenbergamerica, Hotel Cassiopeia, Under Construction* and *American Document* for SITI. He has also written *Vienna: Lusthaus, A Perfect Wedding*, and a number of other plays in addition to his work inspired by Greek plays: *Big Love, True Love, Trojan Women: A Love Story* and others. Among other awards, he is the recipient of the lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His complete works are available on the Internet at [charlesmee.org](http://charlesmee.org). His work has been made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

**Aaron Heflich Shapiro** (*Stage Manager*) is a New York-based Stage Manger of theatre, opera and everything in between! NYC Theatre: *Make Me* (Atlantic); *Something You Did* (Primary Stages); *The Tenant* (Woodshed Collective); *Creature* (New Georges/Page 73); *Makandal* (Harlem Stage); *The New Hopeville Comics* (Commander Squish). Tour: *You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!* (OBB). Regional: *Blue Man Group* (Las Vegas); *Bright Star* (NYSAF); *Steppenwolf*; *Williamstown*. Opera: Moisés Kaufman's production of *Puss in Boots* (Tectonic Theater Project/Gotham Chamber Opera); *The Pearl Fishers* and *Of Mice and Men* (Sarasota Opera); *Slow Dusk/Markheim, Opportunity Makes the Thief, The Wandering Scholar/Savitri and Mitradata* (LOTNY); *Seattle Opera*. An avid traveler, Aaron likes to venture around the world and blog about his experiences on [www.aaronswadventures.com](http://www.aaronswadventures.com). He wishes to thank his family for all their love and support!

**Stowe Nelson** (*Sound Designer*) specializes in new and devised work. With SITI: *Café Variations*. New York: *The Wayside Motor Inn* (Signature), *Buyer & Cellar* (Barrow St.), *16 Words or Less, Phoebe in Winter* (Clubbed Thumb), *The Box* (Foundry), *Take Me Home* (Other Forces Festival). Regional: *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Geva), *Crimes of the Heart* (Everyman), *A Civil War Christmas* (Center Stage). As a company member of the Mad Ones, he has designed sound for *The Tremendous Tremendous, The Essential Straight & Narrow* and *Samuel & Alasdair* (NY IT Award, Drama Desk Nom). More info: [www.wingspace.com/stowe](http://www.wingspace.com/stowe).

**Barney O'Hanlon** (*Choreographer*) has been collaborating with Anne Bogart since 1986. International: *Dublin Theatre Festival, Edinburgh*

International Festival, Prague Quadrennial, MC93 Bobigny – France, Bonn Biennial, Festival Iberoamericano – Bogota, Kaleideskop Theatre – Copenhagen, Royal Shakespeare Company. New York: BAM's Next Wave Festival, The Public Theater, NYTW, PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop, New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera. Regional: A.R.T., Arena Stage, Trinity Rep., Alley Theatre, A.T.L., Steppenwolf, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Rep., Portland Stage, UCLA Performing Arts, Walker and Wexner Arts Centers, Krannert Center, Austin's Rude Mechs (with Deborah Hay). SITI Company collaborations: *American Document*, with the Martha Graham Dance Co., *A Rite*, with the Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Co., and *the event of a thread* with visual artist Ann Hamilton. Barney most recently choreographed the world premiere of Sarah Ruhl's *The Oldest Boy* for Lincoln Center Theater.

**Neil Patel** (*Scenic Designer*) SITI Member since 1997. Productions with SITI include *Café Variations*, *Under Construction*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *Bob*, *War of the Worlds*, *Culture of Desire*, *Adding Machine*, *Private Lives*. Neil Patel is an award winning New York based designer practicing in many disciplines including theater, opera, dance, film, television and live events. He is best known for developing new work and bold interpretations of classic texts. Past credits include the Tony Award winning *Side Man* for Broadway, the West End and the Kennedy Center; the Pulitzer Prize winning *Dinner with Friends* in New York and on national tour; the world premiere of Bright Sheng's *Madame Mao* at the Santa Fe Opera; Amon Miyamoto's production of *Così fan tutte* at the Nissay Theater in Tokyo that was awarded the Japanese National Art Festival Award for theatrical production; the production design for HBO's Peabody Award winning *In Treatment*; and *Shadowland* for Pilobolus throughout Europe including the Folies Bergères in Paris and the Komische Oper in Berlin. He has twice been recognized with an Obie Award for sustained excellence and has been the recipient of the Helen Hayes Award and numerous Henry Hewes and Drama Desk nominations. He is a graduate of Yale College and the University of California at San Diego.

**Michelle Preston** (*Executive Director/SITI Company*) holds an M.F.A. in performing arts management from Brooklyn College and a B.F.A. in dance performance from Northern Illinois University. She began her career in arts administration at the Columbus Symphony Orchestra before coming to New York where she worked as a fundraiser for modern dance companies such as Urban Bush Women and the Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company. Prior to coming to SITI, she was the Manager of Planning & Projects for the School of American Ballet where she worked to implement recommendations from their strategic planning initiative. She has served on the board of Immediate Medium

since 2009, was a participant in the 2011 Arts Leadership Institute hosted by the Arts and Business Council of New York, and has frequently served as a panelist for the Brooklyn Arts Council regrant program. She is an active member of the Brooklyn College Arts Management alumni group, the New York chapter of Women in Development, and the Emerging Leaders of New York Arts – a program of the Arts and Business Council of New York.

**Brian H Scott** (*Lighting Designer*) hails from New York City. He is a SITI Company member and has designed lighting for *Café Variations*, *Trojan Women (After Euripides)* in association with the Getty Villa, *American Document* with the Martha Graham company, *Under Construction*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *bobrauschenbergamerica* (Henry Hewes Design Award 2004), *War of the Worlds–The Radio Play*. With Rude Mechanicals, he has designed *Stop Hitting Yourself*, *Now Now Oh Now*, *The Method Gun*, *I've Never Been So Happy*, *How Late It Was How Late*, *Lipstick Traces*, *Requiem for Tesla*, and *Matchplay*. He designed light for Ann Hamilton's *the event of a thread*. Recently he designed lighting for Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet's *Landfall*, as well as *Oh Guru Guru Guru* and *Death Tax* with Actors Theatre of Louisville.

**Caitlin Ward** (*Costume Designer*) is very honored to be working with SITI Company and Arts Emerson - her work has been seen at the Emerson Majestic twice before in Chen Shi-Zheng's productions of *Orfeo* and *Dido and Aeneas*. She has recently completed the release of a classical music video project featuring the Handel-Halvorsen *Passacaglia*; designed a series of convergent multi-media concerts, including Stockhausen's *Helikopter Quartet*, and *BASETRACK*, a collaboration with director Rod Hill and *BaseTrack* creator Teru Kuwayama. She has worked for many years as a costume & production designer for opera, film, and theater directors Chen Shi-Zheng, Bartlett Sher, Chris Bayes, Daniele Zambelli, and Alex Halpern, as well as classical music producers Michelle DiBucci and Mary Deissler. Her work has been featured at Carnegie Hall, Sundance Film Festival, PBS Great Performances, Emerson Majestic, Lincoln Center Festival, English National Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company, Guggenheim Museum, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York City Opera, Intiman Theater, Signature Theater, Longwharf Theater, Portland Stage, New York Chocolate Show, Lithuanian National Opera, and the Prague Quadrennial; and featured in association with Eiko Ishioka, in Zhang Yimou's *One World, One Dream* Opening Ceremonies for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games for which she designed the costumes for Lang Lang and the little girl.

**Akiko Aizawa** (*Ya Ya and Lucia*) With SITI: *Persians, Steel Hammer, A Rite* (with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company), *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *Café Variations, Radio Macbeth, American Document, Antigone, Under Construction, bobrauschenbergamerica, Freshwater, Hotel Cassiopeia, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Intimations for Saxophone, La Dispute, War of the Worlds—The Radio Play and systems/layers*. Theaters/ festivals include BAM, the Humana Festival for New American Plays, the Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Joyce Theater, Guggenheim Museum, Park Avenue Armory, Women's Project Theater, New York Live Arts, American Repertory Theater, ArtsEmerson, Arena Stage, Court Theatre, Krannert Center, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Carolina Performing Arts, Wexner Center, Los Angeles Opera and Getty Villa. International festivals/ venues include: Edinburgh, Dublin, Bonn, Bobigny, Helsinki, Tbilisi, Melbourne, Bogota, São Paulo, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Toga and Moscow.

**Gian-Murray Gianino** (*Henry*), as a member of SITI, has helped create and performed in *Persians, Steel Hammer, Café Variations, Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *Radio Macbeth, bobrauschenbergamerica, systems/layers, and Freshwater*. New York credits include work at BAM, Second Stage, Signature Theatre, The Public Theater, Women's Project Theater, SoHo Rep, and HERE Arts. He has performed regionally and internationally including at Yale Rep, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival for New American Plays), Berkshire Theatre Festival, Penguin Rep, Getty Villa (LA), The Court (Chicago), Krannert Center, Walker Art Center, Wexner Center, MC93 Bobigny (France), Bonn Biennale and Dublin Theatre Festival. TV/ Film credits include *White Collar, Law & Order, Law & Order: SVU, All My Children, Dead Canaries and Hospitality*. B.A. Wesleyan University. Acting Apprentice, ATL. G.M. is the third generation of a New York theater family.

**Leon Ingulsrud** (*Andrew, Harold and Edmund*) is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors and helped found SITI Company. He has appeared in *Orestes, Seven Deadly Sins* (New York City Opera), *Nicholas & Alexandra* (LA Opera), *bobrauschenbergamerica, Hotel Cassiopeia, Who Do You Think You Are, Radio Macbeth, Under Construction, Antigone, American Document* with Martha Graham Dance Company, *War of the Worlds—The Radio Play, Trojan Women (After Euripides), Café Variations, Continuous Replay* with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company and *A Rite* with SITI and BTJ/ AZ. Prior to SITI, Mr. Ingulsrud was a member of the Suzuki Company of Toga for seven years, during which time Mr. Ingulsrud also served as a resident director at the ATM Arts Center in Mito, Japan. Mr. Ingulsrud served two years as the Associate Artistic Director of Swine Palace in Baton Rouge, LA. Mr. Ingulsrud has taught in workshops and universities around the world, translates Japanese theater texts into

English, and holds an MFA in directing from Columbia. He also appears in AMC's western series *Hell On Wheels*.

**Ellen Lauren** (*Edith and Nanette*) Co-Artistic Director, Head of Conservatory and Training Programs. As a founding member, Ms. Lauren has acted in and helped create SITI's repertoire since the company's inception, performing and teaching in venues and festivals throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Additional credits: *Seven Deadly Sins*, New York City Opera (Kosovar Award for Anna II). Company member: StageWest Theatre, Mass.; The Milwaukee Repertory; The Alley Theatre, Houston. Associate artist for The Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) under the direction of Tadashi Suzuki. Credits include: *Dionysus, Oedipus, Waiting for Romeo, and King Lear* touring Europe, Russia, Asia, North and South America. For over 6 years headed the Toga International Suzuki Training Summer Program in Toga, Japan. Faculty member since 1995, The Juilliard School of Drama, directing graduating Group 43 in 2014; Guest Faculty: Theatre Academy of Helsinki, Windsor University, Columbia University, Fordham University. Fox Fellowship recipient for Distinguished Achievement in 2008-2010. Published in *American Theater*, January 2011 – *In Search of Stillness*.

**Deborah Wallace** (*Tilly*) is from Glasgow, Scotland. She has studied with The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and SITI Company. With SITI Company: *Radio Macbeth* (Tour), *Café Variations, the event of a thread*. Other performing credits include: Richard Foreman and John Zorn's *Astronome*, Object Collection's *Innova and Actua 1*, Hybrid Stage Project's *The Void* and *The Red Book*. Wallace was Co-Artistic Director of the award-winning International WOW Company, with which she appeared in *The Bomb, A Girl Of Sixteen, Death of Nations, Foreign, A History of God, Auto Da Fe, Reconstruction* and *The Expense of Spirit*. Also a director and producer, she has produced the documentary films *The Sky is Pink; Occupy Sandy; Gasland Pt. II* for HBO, for which she was nominated for an Emmy; and *Blood On The Mountain*. Her original plays have been produced at the Ohio Theatre (*Homesick, Psyche*), HERE Arts Center (*Psyche*), and Incubator Arts Project (*The Void, The Red Book*) with Hybrid Stage Project.

**Stephen Duff Webber** (*Raymond, Herbert and Peter*) has performed with SITI all over the world since 1994 in *Persians; Steel Hammer; A Rite; Café Variations; American Document; Antigone; Radio Macbeth* (Macbeth); *Hotel Cassiopeia; Under Construction; Freshwater; Death and the Ploughman; War of the Worlds—The Radio Play* (Orson Welles); *bobrauschenbergamerica; systems/ layers* (with Rachel's); *La Dispute; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Cabin Pressure; Going, Going, Gone; Culture of Desire; The Medium; Private Lives;*

*Hay Fever and Short Stories*. New York: *Death and the Ploughman* (CSC), *War of the Worlds—The Radio Play*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *A Rite* (BAM), *Culture of Desire* (NYTW), *Trojan Women 2.0* (En Garde Arts), *Freshwater* (Women's Project Theater), *The Golden Dragon* (PlayCo), *Radio Macbeth* (Public), *American Document* (Joyce), *Antigone* (NYLA) and *Radio Play* (Joe's Pub). Regional: American Repertory Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville (*Betrayal*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*), Milwaukee Repertory Theater, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, Portland Stage Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Court Theatre and Stage West.

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