

SITI COMPANY  
**CHESS MATCH N°5**

WORLD PREMIERE  
MARCH 9 – APRIL 2, 2017  
JUNE HAVOC THEATRE

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THEATRE COMPANY

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2017 SEASON

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PRESENTS

**CHESS MATCH N°5**

World Premiere | March 9 – April 2, 2017

Conceived & Directed by  
**ANNE BOGART**

Text Arranged by  
**JOCELYN CLARKE** from the words of **JOHN CAGE**

Created by  
**SITI COMPANY**

Featuring  
**WILL BOND\*** and **ELLEN LAUREN\***

Choreographer  
**BARNEY O'HANLON\***

Scenic & Costume Design  
**JAMES SCHUETTE\*\***

Lighting Design  
**BRIAN H SCOTT\*\***

Sound Design  
**DARRON L WEST\*\***

Assistant Director  
**MOLLY BERNARD**

Assistant Sound Designer  
**TYLER KIEFFER**

Production Stage Manager  
**ELLEN MEZZERA\***

SITI Company Executive Director  
**MICHELLE PRESTON**

Production Manager  
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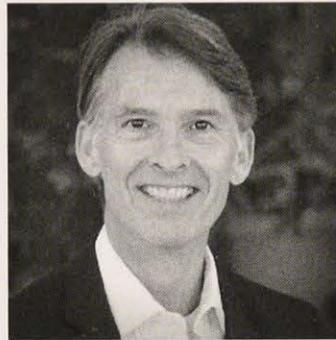
The taking of photographs is prohibited.

*Chess Match No. 5* will be performed without an intermission.

\*Member of the Actors' Equity Association \*\*Member of United Scenic Artists  
Anne Bogart is a member of the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers

# THE CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

He..... Will Bond  
She ..... Ellen Lauren



*Chess Match No. 5* was developed with support and insight from The John Cage Trust.

Early development of *Chess Match No. 5* occurred during SITI Work/Space, SITI Company's in-house residency for new play development, which was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. This production is funded, in part, by the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation and the Dramatists Guild Fund.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The influence of John Cage upon the cultural landscape is monumental. His influence upon me has been consistently mysterious yet practical, clarifying and also liberating. *Chess Match No. 5* is an opportunity to spend time in the presence of Cage's philosophical, artistic and political musings. Not interested in debate, Cage was nevertheless deeply committed to the art of conversation. The Latin root of the word conversation implies "to turn with, or together." His many conversations with friends, musicologists, fellow artists and scholars who came to speak with him form the basis for this play. We can now take our own turn on the proverbial dance floor with the words that he left behind.

## THE COMPANY

**Anne Bogart** (*Director*) is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors of 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: *Lost in the Stars*, *the theater is a blank page*; *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*; *Cabin Pressure*; *War of the Worlds – The Radio Play*; *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*.

**Jocelyn Clarke** (*Adaptation*) is currently Theatre Adviser to the Arts Council of Ireland and dramaturg at American Voices New Play Institute at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. He has taught dramaturgy at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Columbia University and Trinity College Dublin. He was the Commissioning and Literary Manager of the Abbey Theatre for four years, and lead theatre critic with The Sunday Tribune for nine years. He is an associate artist with The Civilians and Theatre Mitu in New York. He has written six plays for Anne Bogart and the SITI Company – *Bob*, *Alice's Adventures Underground*, *Room*, *Score*, *Antigone* and *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*.

**Will Bond** (*He*) is a founding member of SITI Company. He most recently performed the company's play *Bob* at the Venice Biennale, and last summer performed in the 40th Anniversary Toga International Arts Festival as Cornwall in Tadashi Suzuki's *Lear*. He has performed internationally in SITI's *Orestes*, *The Medium*, *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *Culture of Desire*, *War of the Worlds*, *Cabin Pressure*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *Radio Macbeth*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *Antigone*, and *Persians*. He has toured in Tadashi Suzuki's *Dionysus* and Robert Wilson's *Persephone*. Recently Will toured with SITI & the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company collaboration *A Rite* commissioned for the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's *Rite Of Spring*. Original works include *History of the World from the very Beginning* with Christian Frederickson & Brian H Scott, *I'll Crane For You* solo dance work commissioned from Deborah Hay, *The Perfect Human V.1* and *Option Delete* with Marianne Kim. Will was awarded a prestigious 2013 EMPAC Dance MOVIES Commission for the short film *Lost & Found* with Marianne Kim and Brian H Scott premiering at RPI in January 2015.

**Ellen Lauren** (*She*) is a SITI Company founding member and co-artistic director; 25 years. Productions include: *Room*, *Persians*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *the theater is a blank page*, *Radio Macbeth*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *A Rite* (with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company). Associate artist with the Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) under the direction of Tadashi Suzuki; 35 years. Productions include: *Electra*, *Dionysus*, *Oedipus*, *King Lear*. Founding member international consortium on Suzuki Training for Actors. Representative guest faculty: TEAC Finland, RSC, Moscow Art Theatre, Banff Centre, Sfumato Theatre Bulgaria, Iceland Academy, Casa Teatro de Bogotá, Maastricht Academy, Beijing Academy, UCLA. Faculty member: The Juilliard School of Drama Lincoln Center; 18 years. Director: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* UCLA, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* Juilliard Group 43. Company member – Alley Theater, StageWest and Milwaukee Repertory. TCG Fox Fellowship for Distinguished Achievement recipient 2008-2010. Published in American Theatre, "In Search of Stillness"

**Barney O'Hanlon** (*Choreographer*) has been collaborating with Anne Bogart since 1986 and joined the SITI Company in 1994. He recently choreographed Verdi's *Macbeth* for the Glimmerglass Festival directed by Anne Bogart. He also choreographed Anne Washburn's *10 out of 12* at Soho Rep. directed by Les Waters, Charles Mee's *The Glory of The World* for the Humana Festival also directed by Les Waters, and Sarah Ruhl's *The Oldest Boy* for Lincoln Center Theater directed by Rebecca Taichman. International: Dublin Theatre Festival; Edinburgh International Festival; Prague Quadrennial; MC93 Bobigny, France; Bonn Biennial; Festival Iberoamericano, Bogota; Kaleideskop Theatre, Copenhagen. New York: BAM's Next Wave Festival, The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop and New York Live Arts. Opera: New York City Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington National Opera, and Opera Omaha. SITI Company collaborations: *American Document* with the Martha Graham Dance Company, *A Rite* with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and *the event of a thread* with visual artist Ann Hamilton.

**James Schuette** (*Scenic and Costume Designer*) has designed scenery and/or costumes for over 17 SITI Company productions. His work has been seen at American Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, BAM, Berkeley Rep, Classic Stage, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Manhattan Theatre Club, McCarter Theatre, New York Live Arts, New York Theatre Workshop, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Papermill Playhouse, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theatre/New York Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Rep, Steppenwolf, Signature Theatre, Trinity Rep, Vineyard Theatre, Wexner Center, Yale Rep, Boston Lyric Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Chicago Opera Theatre, Glimmerglass Opera, Houston Grand Opera, LA Opera, Minnesota Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Theatre of St Louis, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera Seattle Opera, and internationally.

**Brian H Scott** (*Lighting Designer*) hails from New York City. Brian is a SITI Company member and has designed lighting for *Café Variations*, *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *Antigone*, *American Document* in collaboration with the Martha Graham Dance 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*, *Macbeth*, and a dance collaboration with the musical groups Rachel's and systems/layers. Additionally, he has had the pleasure of assisting Mimi Jordan Sherin on *Bob*; *Cabin Pressure*; *War of the Worlds*; *The Medium*; *Small Live/Big Dreams*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Miss Julie*; *Private Lives*; *Alice's Adventures*; *Culture of Desire*; and *The Adding Machine*. With Christopher Akerlind on SITI productions: *Room*, *Score* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Darron L West** (*Sound Designer*) is a Tony and Obie award winning sound designer whose work for dance and theater has been heard in over 600 productions all over the United States and internationally in 14 countries. A SITI Company member since 1993, his accolades include the Drama Desk, Lortel, Audelco and Princess Grace Foundation Statue awards. He is Co-Director of SITI Company's *War of Worlds – The Radio Play* and *Radio Macbeth*.

**Molly Bernard** (*Assistant Director*) is thrilled to be working with SITI Company again! Previous theater credits include: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Soho Rep), *the theater is a blank page* (SITI Company and Wexner Center). Film/TV: *Younger* (series regular, TV Land), Shelly Pfefferman on *Transparent* (Amazon), *High Maintenance* (HBO), *Sully* (Warner Bros), *The Intern* (Warner Bros). MFA: Yale School of Drama (Acting). Love to Anne and all of SITI.

**Tyler Kieffer** (*Assistant Sound Designer*) is a Brooklyn based sound designer whose credits include *Made In China* (Wakka Wakka), *A Dog Story* (The Davenport Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *The History Boys* (Palm Beach Drama Works); *I Wasn't Going to Tell Anybody and then I Told Everybody*, *Buried Child*, *All's Well that Ends Well* (NYU: Tisch); *Deer and the Lovers*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Troublesome Reign of King John* (Yale School of Drama); *Arcadia* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *The Maids*, *Lindberg's Flight*, *The Defendant*, *The Untitled Project*, *Radio Hour*, *The Most Beautiful Thing in the World*, *Small Things* (Yale Cabaret); *Aint Gonna Make It* (Ars Nova).

**Ellen Mezzera** (*Production Stage Manager*). Originally from San Francisco, Ms. Mezzera now resides in New York City. Broadway: *The Lion King*, *Annie*, *Les Misérables*, *Matilda*. New York: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* with New York City Center *Encores!*; *Macbeth* and *A Man's a Man* with Classic Stage Company; Shen Wei Dance Arts at the Park Avenue Armory. Regional: *Steel Hammer* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, *Persians* at The Getty Villa, *the theater is a blank page* at the Wexner Center for the Arts. Mezzera has toured internationally through China, Georgia, Hong Kong, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. Additional Credits: She had the opportunity to work on *The Sound of Music Live!* (NBC Universal) and the 2013 *Tony Awards*. Education: MFA, Columbia University. BA, Gonzaga University. Member of AEA and Local 764.

**W. Alan Waters** (*Production Manager*) is excited to be working on this production of *Chess Match No. 5*. Alan is new to New York, moving recently from Georgia. For Abingdon, he was Production Manager for its recent production of *The Dork Knight*. He has a passion for anything theatre, and a dream of opening his own company one day. His favorite credits are Red Bull Theater's recent production of *Coriolanus*, Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's *Act IV Cabaret*, and The Averitt Center for the Art's production of *Merry Wives of Windsor* (for which he was nominated for 3 Emma Awards: Best Show, Best Scenic Design, and Best Lighting Design). He thanks his family for their support, Abingdon for its open arms, and Brooks, William, and Brandi for their never-ending cynicism and delight.

**Michelle Preston** (*SITI Company Executive Director*) 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 spent nearly three years as the Manager of Planning & Projects for the School of American Ballet. 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 served as a panelist for the Brooklyn Arts Council regrant program and the TCG Global Connections grant. She is an adjunct faculty member for the Brooklyn College Arts Management MFA program, as well as a member of the alumni board.

**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, 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 biennial 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.

**Tony Speciale** (*Abingdon Theatre Company Artistic Director*) joined Abingdon Theatre Company as its Artistic Director in October 2015. For Abingdon, he recently directed *The Mother of Invention* written by James Lecesne, Jason O'Connell's *The Dork Knight* and, last season, directed the world premiere of *Stet*, which he conceived with playwright Kim Davies and actress Jocelyn Kuritsky. He is also the founder of Plastic Theatre—conceiving, co-authoring and directing the world premiere of *Unnatural Acts* (Classic Stage Company—Drama Desk Award nominee, GLAAD Media Award nominee). NYC directing credits: *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* (Dixon Place/Westside Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* featuring Bebe Neuwirth, Christina Ricci and Taylor Mac (Classic Stage Company); Matthew-Lee Erlbach's *Handbook for an American Revolutionary* (The Gym at Judson); and *Remembering Mr. Maugham* (Clurman Theatre). Regional: *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* (Kirk Douglas Theatre/Bay Street Theater), Barry Manilow's *Harmony* (Alliance Theatre/Ahmanson Theatre) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Tony served four seasons as Associate Artistic Director of Classic Stage Company, where he helped found and administered The Young Company, CSC's premiere Education and Outreach Program for public high school students. He studied musical theatre at The Boston Conservatory and holds an M.F.A. in Directing from Columbia University. He is also the proud recipient of a Princess Grace Theatre Honorarium and a Suzi Bass Award.

**Abingdon Theatre Company is dedicated to developing and producing new American work by emerging and established artists.** Under the artistic direction of Tony Speciale, who joined Abingdon in October 2015, the company provides a safe home where playwrights, directors and actors can collaborate within a supportive and nurturing environment. Abingdon searches for stories about the human experience that reflect our social, political, historical and cultural diversity. To date, the company has collaborated with more than 200 playwrights, produced 89 New York and world-premiere plays, presented more than 700 readings, staged 175 ten-minute plays, and commissioned 6 one-act plays. Notable artists who have worked with Abingdon Theatre Company include Carl Andress, Bryan Batt, Reed Birney, Robert Brustein, Mario Cantone, Maxwell Caulfield, Dick Cavett, John Epperson, Jane Greenwood, Arthur Kopit, James Lecesne, Charles L. Mee, Ralph Macchio, Roberta Maxwell, Iddo Netanyahu, Jason O'Connell, Nancy Opel, Austin Pendleton, Sam Pinkleton, Marcia Rodd, and Mark Waldrop. Abingdon's 2014 production of Brian Richard Mori's *Hellman v. McCarthy*, directed by founding artistic director Jan Buttram, was filmed and presented by WNET as part of its inaugural Theatre Close-Up series.

## CHESSE MATCH NO. 5 PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic and Costume Designer	James Schuette	Master Electrician	Jesse Itskowitz
Lighting Designer	Brian H Scott	Head Electrician	David Levitt
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Associate Production Manager	Rachel Langley W.	Front of House	Kaitlyn Hoffman, Robert Malbrough, Brittany Partridge, Jessica Rappaport, Rachel Roberson, Cullen Shirtz, Michelle Viteri
Production Assistant	Bryan Russell		
Technical Director	Paul Passaro		
Head Carpenter	Colin Eastwood		
Carpenters	Michael Lebron, Cody Henson		
Scenic Charge	Rachel Langley W.		



**Actors' Equity Association** ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



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Special thanks to the estate of Carolyn M. Halpert whose generous gift supports our season.

Abingdon Theatre Company's 2016-17 Season is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council of the Arts, the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, The Shubert Foundation, Inc. and The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.

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