

Chess Match No. 5

Conceived and Directed by Anne Bogart
Text Arranged by Jocelyn Clarke from the words of John Cage
Created by SITI Company

June 22, 2018

**Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater
Skidmore College**



Photo by Maria Baranova



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Featuring Will Bond* (He) and Ellen Lauren* (She)

Barney O'Hanlon

James Schuette**

Brian H Scott**

Darron L West**

Laura Wilson*

Michelle Preston

Choreographer

Scenic and Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Production Stage Manager

Executive Director

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

**Members of United Scenic Artists

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

The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

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. – Anne Bogart

Originally produced in New York City by Abingdon Theatre Company; Tony Speciale Artistic Director. *Chess Match No. 5* was developed with support and insight from The John Cage Trust.

Early development of *Chess Match No. 5* occurred during SITl Work/Space, SITl 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 was funded, in part, by the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation and the Dramatists Guild Fund.



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Biographies

Anne Bogart (Director) Anne Bogart is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors of SITl 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 SITl include: *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 SITl Company – *Bob*, *Alice's Adventures Underground*, *Room*, *Score*, *Antigone* and *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*.

Will Bond (He) is a founding member of SITl Company. He has taught training all over the world and performed nationally and internationally in SITl's *Orestes*, *The Medium*, *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *Culture of Desire*, *Bob* (Drama Desk Nomination solo performance), *War of the Worlds*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *Radio Macbeth*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *Antigone*, *Persians*, and in the SITl / LA Chamber Orchestra production *Lost In The Stars* at the Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA. He has performed Tadashi Suzuki's *Dionysus* and as Cornwall in *The Tale of Lear*, in Robert Wilson's *Persephone*, and was featured in *A Rite* with the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Original works include *History of the World from the very Beginning* with Christian Frederickson, *I'll Crane For You*, a solo dance work commissioned from Deborah Hay, *The Perfect Human V.1*, *Option Delete*, and a 2013 EMPAC DANCE MOViEs commission *Lost & Found* with Marianne Kim and Brian H Scott. He is currently working on *This American Moment* (working title), a new work with SITl's Gian-Murray Gianino and Darron L West.

Ellen Lauren (She) is a SITl Company founding member and co-artistic director; 26 years. Credits include: *Chess Match No. 5*, *Room*, *Persians*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *the theater is a blank page* (in collaboration with Ann Hamilton), *Radio Macbeth*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *A Rite* (with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *American Document* (with Martha Graham Dance Company), *Under Construction*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cabin Pressure*, *War of the Worlds*, *Culture of Desire*, *Freshwater*, *Going Going Gone*, *The Medium*, *Miss Julie*, *Hayfever*, *Private Lives*, and *Orestes*. New York City Opera, *Seven Deadly Sins* as Anna II. American Opera Projects, *Marina a Captive Spirit*. Associate artist with the Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) under the direction of Tadashi

Suzuki; 25 years. Productions include: *Electra*, *Dionysus*, *Oedipus*, *King Lear*, *Waiting for Romeo*. Founding member International Consortium on Suzuki Training for Actors. Produced 2017 Transformation Through Training International Symposium on SCOT and the Suzuki Training for Actors at Skidmore College. Representative guest faculty: TEAC Finland, RSC, Moscow Art Theatre, Banff Centre, Sfumato Theatre Bulgaria, Iceland Academy, Casa Teatro de Bogota, Masstricht Academy, La Cachada San Salvador, Beijing Academy, UCLA, OSU, Windsor College. Ongoing Faculty member: The Juilliard School of Drama Lincoln Center; 19 years. Director: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at UCLA, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* with Juilliard Group 43, *Trojan Women* with Juilliard Group 47. Former Company member: Alley Theater Houston, StageWest and Milwaukee Repertory. TCG Fox Fellow for Distinguished Achievement recipient 2008-2010. Published in American Theatre, "In Search of Stillness". Featured artist in Scott Cummings' upcoming publication, "Narrative in Production" published by Palgrave to be released in late 2018.

Barney O'Hanlon (Choreographer) has been collaborating with Anne Bogart since 1986 and joined the SITl Company in 1994. He most 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. SITl 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 SITl 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 SITl 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 group Rachel's *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 SITl 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 SITl Company member since 1993, his accolades include the Drama Desk, Lortel, Audelco and Princess Grace Foundation Statue awards. He is Co-Director of SITl Company's *War of Worlds - The Radio Play* and *Radio Macbeth*.

Laura Wilson (Production Stage Manager) is excited for her inaugural collaboration with SITl Company. Based in NYC, she most recently stage managed Dominique Morisseu's New York premiere of *Paradise Blue* at Signature Theater. On Broadway she has worked on *Jitney*; *All the Way*; *First Date*; *A Free Man of Color*; *The People in the Picture*. Some Off-Broadway productions have included *School Girls*; *Or, the African Mean Girls Play* (MCC); *Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company); *Exit Strategy* (Primary Stages); *A Family of Perhaps Three* (Target Margin Theater). She has also worked at Two River Theater, the Alliance Theater, Centerstage (Baltimore), the Clarence Brown Theater, Riverside Theatre, Fulton Theater, Golden Gate Theater.

Molly Bernard (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be working with SITl Company again! Previous theater credits include: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Soho Rep), *the theater is a blank page* (SITl 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 SITl.

Michelle Preston (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 SITl, 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.

Contact Information:

520 8th Avenue	212.868.0860 phone
3rd Floor, Suite 310	inbox@siti.org
New York, NY 10018	www.siti.org

Instagram: @SITl_Company

Facebook: @SITl Company Anne Bogart

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SITI is deeply grateful to the generous donors who are listed below.

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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.

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., Ellen M. Lavaia, Barney O'Hanlon, Neil Patel, James Schuette, Brian H Scott, Megan Wanlass, Stephen Duff Webber and Darron L West

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For booking information, contact Sandy Garcia, Director of Booking

Tel.: 212-278-8111 x3425

Email: sandyg@pentacle.org