

Devanny-Condron
Funeral Home
FIND OUT HOW

Pre-Plan your Services

The Berkshire Eagle (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

ENTERTAINMENT (/ENTERTAINMENT)

Weather:

(<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

(<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

Pittsfield, MA | Now: 23° (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

/weather) | High: 38° (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/weather>)

| Low: 28° (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/weather>) | 5-Day

Forecast (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/weather>)

HOT TOPICS: [Quiz: What you need to know about the Apple Watch \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/latestnews/ci_27680039/quiz-what-do-you-need-know-about-apple\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/latestnews/ci_27680039/quiz-what-do-you-need-know-about-apple)

AdChoices

Close Ad X

[Home](#) ▶ [Entertainment](#) ▶ [Story](#)

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

(</ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout>)

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» [Continue](#) to article...

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

'A Rite' deconstructs moment in cultural history

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, SITI Company collaborate in show

By Christopher Marcisz >> *Special to The Eagle*

POSTED: 03/12/2015 03:40:45 PM EDT | UPDATED: 41 MIN. AGO

COMMENTS



[\(/portlet/article/html/imageDisplay.jsp?contentItemRelationshipId=6663038\)](#)

The cast of 'A Rite' — including members from the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and SITI Company — will perform Tuesday at the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance at Williams College. (Photos courtesy of Paul B. Goode)

WILLIAMSTOWN — The story of the premiere of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" in May 1913 in Paris is legendary.

A challenging and bold new piece of music, choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky that upended cherished (if possibly stale) traditional forms, and a story about the pagan sacrifice to celebrate the arrival of spring is as compelling as it is disturbing. As that first performance unfolded the audience grew restive, the hooting grew louder, and it ended in a riot that spilled onto the streets.

While the details of what actually happened are up for debate, the moment's place in the cultural history of the West is secure. It reflected a moment in time when the long 19th century's era of relative peace and prosperity (at least for Europeans) was about to vanish in the horrors of the First World War's killing fields. Social revolution and state violence would be the defining feature of the coming century.

The unique dance and theater collaboration "A Rite" explores that moment and why it resonates generations later, and will be presented for one show Tuesday at the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance at Williams College. The project brought together dancers from the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and actors from SITI Company to craft a hybrid work about what happens when the mind is forced to consider new and dangerous ideas.

"It's an adventurous and a wonderful deconstruction of a time in history with consequences that linger to today," said David Eppel, a professor of theatre at Williams who will host a post-show Q&A session.

One of the launching points for the piece is a simple question.

Advertisement

"What makes an audience riot?" said Anne Bogart, the artistic director and co-founder of SITI Company. "That's an extraordinary thing to happen."

The piece came together when both companies were invited to consider the "Rite" by the Carolina Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012, ahead of the centennial of that tumultuous first

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

[\(/ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout\)](#)

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker





HIRING EVENT!

Store Associates \$12.50 per hour
Shift Managers \$16.75 per hour
Manager Trainees \$25.00 per hour
With potential to earn 75k yearly as Manager.
Hiring Event for our Rensselaer, Clifton Park, Hudson,
Bennington and soon to open Pittsfield location
Saturday March 14th, 2015 • 8am - 5pm
Crowne Plaza Hotel
1 West Street • Pittsfield, MA 01201
For consideration, please apply in person at hiring event only

performance. The companies decided to work together and over the course of months crafted a unique blend of dance and theater, with lots of music and movement and a text drawn from sources as varied as physicist Brian Greene, Japanese poet Shuntaro Tanikawa, musicologist Severine Neff and diaries from First World War soldiers.



[\(/portlet/article](#)

[/html/imageDisplay.jsp?contentItemRelationshipId=6663037\)](#)

Will Bond performs in 'A Rite.'

Bogart said "there was a chemistry between the two companies" right away, and each brought their own approach. She said she arrived with a theoretical and historical interest in "The Rite of Spring" and its tumultuous appearance.

"I tend to jump right to the prefrontal cortex," she said.

That spirit was tempered by Jones' focus on the poetic and visceral elements of it.

"He said, 'We can't do anything until we get the music into our bones,'" Bogart said.

That process involved a lot of pushed boundaries, with dancers called on to act and actors to dance. At points, everyone on stage needs to be on the same page with the clapping and stomping.

"Every note is expressed in their bodies," she said.

Among the questions they asked themselves early on is what kind of response they were hoping to pull from their own audiences — especially given that they were engaging with a piece that provoked one of the most famously extreme audience reactions.

"It isn't about recreating the event," Bogart said. "It's about making something for today."

The finished work begins with Stravinsky's work, but takes off in new directions. That includes its libretto, but also introducing elements of jazz into the music, and not sticking strictly to the order of the original "Rite of Spring."

"It is a question of what 'respect' means," Bogart said. "It isn't about just celebrating something without entering into it."

Eppel, who saw the work performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music last fall, said even setting aside the events surrounding the source material, "A Rite" is foremost a powerful work on its own.

"Just watching this and the intensity they bring to their characters and their roles, the way they work together to create moving images, on any level is incredibly exciting," he said.

The theme of works that engage with other works is part of the reason it is being brought to Williams. Rachel Chanoff, director of the CenterSeries at Williams, said it was chosen as part of the college's ongoing year-long "The Book Unbound" series to celebrate the opening of the new Sawyer Library.

"We selected this piece in part because it is based on an original work," she said, specifically the part of the libretto derived from the 2007 book by Jonah Lehrer, "Proust Was a Neuroscientist."

As with most CenterSeries events, which have a "mission to contextualize arts within scholarly inquiry," Bogart, Jones and members of their companies will participate in several master classes and workshops with Williams dance and theater students, as well as students at Mount Greylock Regional High School.

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

(/ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout)

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)



That includes on Monday a "mini-commission" site-specific presentation by Bogart at the new library at 7:30 p.m.

"They are not only extraordinary artists," Chanoff said. "They are so engaged with the world, and engaging themselves."

Ultimately, Bogart said she didn't get the answers she wanted at first about what makes an audience respond so forcefully.

"Those questions were not satisfied, but provoked," she said. "And that's the best kind of research."

If you go

What: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company & SITI Company: A Rite

When: 8 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Mainstage at '62 Center For Theatre and Dance, 1000 Main Street, Williamstown

Cost: \$10; \$3 for students

For more information: 62center.williams.edu or 413-597-2425

MOST POPULAR (/POPULAR)

[DAY \(/POPULAR\)](#) [HOUR \(/POPULAR\)](#) [NEWS \(/POPULAR\)](#) [EMAIL \(/POPULAR\)](#)

[Pittsfield City Councilor Barry Clairmont won't seek re-election \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27698102/pittsfield-city-councilor-barry-clairmont-wont-look-for-re-election\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27698102/pittsfield-city-councilor-barry-clairmont-wont-look-for-re-election)

[Interprint joins forces with Taconic High School to enhance vocational manufacturing program \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27699625/taconic-high-school-interprint-join-forces-enhance-voc?source=most_viewed\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27699625/taconic-high-school-interprint-join-forces-enhance-voc?source=most_viewed)

[In the courts \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27691401/courts?source=most_viewed\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/local/ci_27691401/courts?source=most_viewed)

» [More most-popular news stories \(/popular#pop-news\)](#)

TAKE ACTION

[Got a tip?](#)

[\(mailto:news@berkshireeagle.com?subject=Tip\)](mailto:news@berkshireeagle.com?subject=Tip)

[Send us a photo \(http://www.neni-news.com/cgi-bin/newsroom/uploadFORM.pl?puid=1\)](http://www.neni-news.com/cgi-bin/newsroom/uploadFORM.pl?puid=1)

[Visit community links](#)

[\(http://www.berkshireeagleblogs.com/\)](http://www.berkshireeagleblogs.com/)

[Have a correction?](#)

[\(mailto:news@berkshireeagle.com?subject=Correction%20on%20http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699195/rite-deconstructs-moment-cultural-history\)](mailto:news@berkshireeagle.com?subject=Correction%20on%20http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699195/rite-deconstructs-moment-cultural-history)

Trending Articles and Offers

ADVERTISEMENT



Maybe these models were "plus size," but that took nothing away from their overall beauty.



15 Celebrities Who Totally Let Themselves Go in 2014



These are the 20 toughest military units on earth: Where does your nation rank?



These Oversized Dogs Think They're A Toy Breed [30 PICS]

Recommended for You

- ▶ [Letter: End the pointless changing of clocks](#)
- ▶ [Egremont health official earns CET award for...](#)
- ▶ [Hoosac Valley boys hoops playing 'hot hand'](#)
- ▶ [Hoosac Valley girls basketball beats Bellingham...](#)
- ▶ [Pittsfield man admits to cocaine charges...](#)
- ▶ [Rinaldo Del Gallo, III: End blight of Styrofoam...](#)

-- SPONSORED LINK --

Powered by
newstogram

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

[\(/ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout\)](#)

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

[\(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

[\(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

✕

Welcome to your discussion forum: Click the login link below to sign in with or to [set up a Disqus account \(http://disqus.com/profile/signup/\)](#) or to access your social networking account. When you do, your comment should be posted immediately, provided it meets the guidelines. ([What are the guidelines? \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_15912379\)](#).) Report abuse by flagging a comment (mouse over the comment). Comments made here are the sole responsibility of the person posting them; these comments do not reflect the opinion of The Berkshire Eagle. So keep it civil.

0 Comments

The Berkshire Eagle

Login

Recommend

Share

Sort by Newest



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site

Privacy

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

(/ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout)

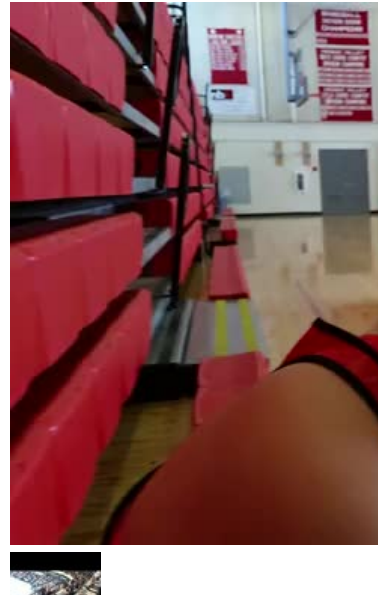
Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

X



New Year. New Home?

Visit Us Online



The Bank of Bennington
*Your money stays here, works here,
and that makes a difference.*
TheBankofBennington.com

Pittsfield Local Guide (<http://mylocal.berkshireeagle.com/>)

Featured Businesses

Find Pittsfield Attractions

Search for a business

Search by keyword or Zip



Add your business here +
(http://mylocal.berkshireeagle.com/#add_business)

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT
(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarFlyout)

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'
(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)







**Ashmere Realty,
Inc.**

[Learn More](#)

Flyerboard

(<http://www.flyerboard.com/view/mediaone/4468/0.html>)

(<http://www.flyerboard.com>)

(<http://www.flyerboard.com/view/mediaone/4468/0.html>)



(<http://www.flyerboard.com>)

/jsfb/inc

(<http://www.flyerboard.com>)

/flyviewer.new.php?cid=493007&

/jsfb/inc

bid=4468&

/flyviewer.new.php?cid=222&

rand=1426257969&

bid=4468&

view=)

rand=1426257969&

view=)

Local internet marketing (<http://www.paperg.com/>) by PaperG

Android Wear

Six unique watches, dozens of beautiful watch faces. Buy now



The Berkshire Eagle

(<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

Copyright © 2015 The Berkshire Eagle

Copyright (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/portlet/layout/html/copyright/copyright.jsp?siteId=101>)

Privacy Policy (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/portlet/layout/html/privacypolicy/privacypolicy.jsp?siteId=101>)

Site Map (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/sitemap>)

MNG Corporate Site Map (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com/portlet/layout/html/sitemap/mng-sitemap.jsp>)

NEXT ARTICLE IN ENTERTAINMENT

([ENTERTAINMENT?source=JBarFlyout](#))

Town Players of Pittsfield offer comic relief in 'Skin Deep'

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)

» Continue to article...

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/entertainment/ci_27699196/town-players-pittsfield-offer-comic-relief-skin-deep?source=JBarTicker)