

Café Variations

Adapted from *The Cafe Plays* written by Charles L. Mee, Jr.

Directed by **Anne Bogart**

Created & Performed by **SITI Company**

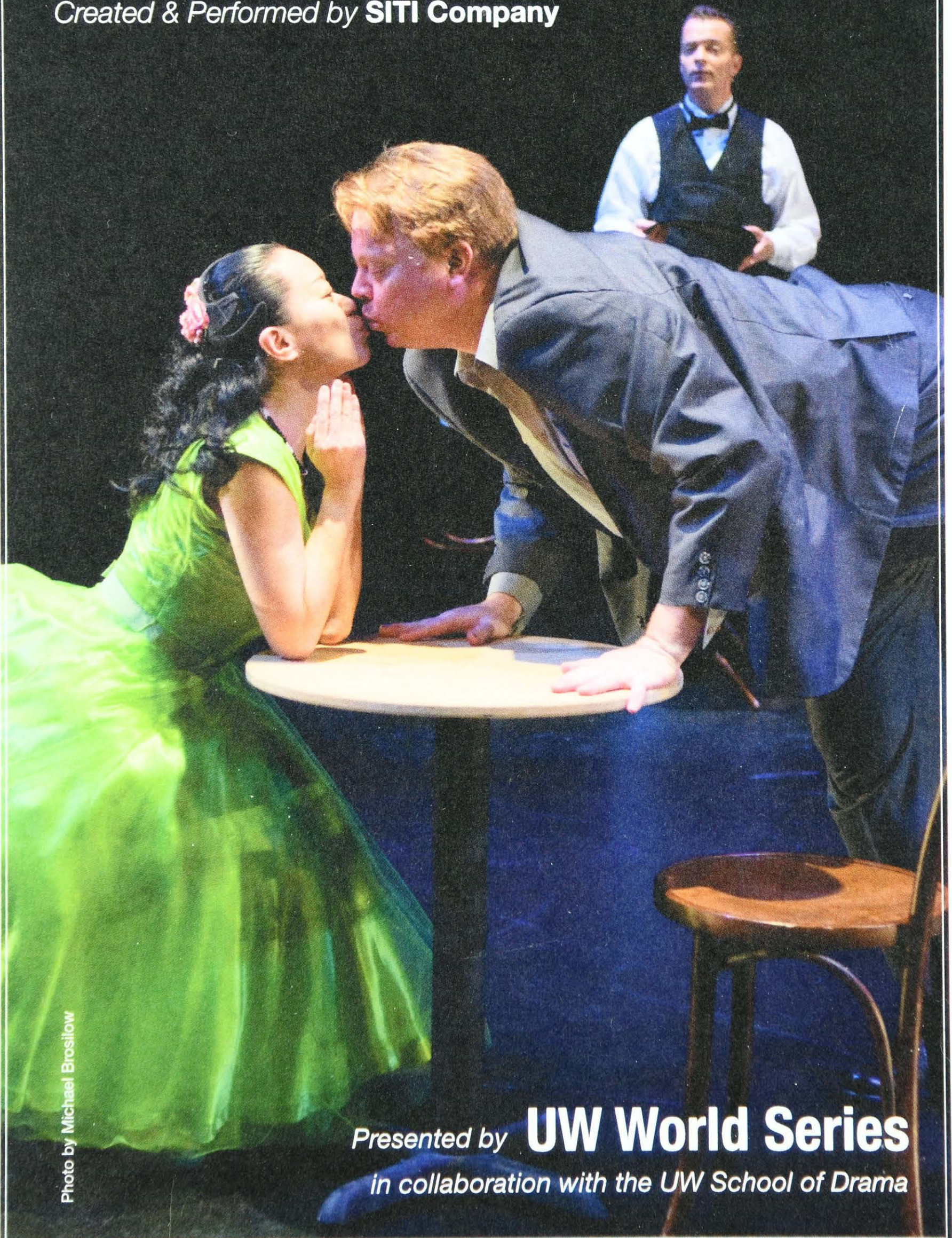


Photo by Michael Brosilow

Presented by **UW World Series**

in collaboration with the UW School of Drama

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November 14-16, 2013

Jones Playhouse
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

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**THE PAUL G. ALLEN
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

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Directed by **Anne Bogart**

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Sound Design

Stowe Nelson

Choreography

Barney O'Hanlon

Scenic Design

Neil Patel**

Lighting Design

Brian H Scott**

Costume Design

Caitlin Ward**

Stage Management

Sunneva Stapleton*

Executive Director

Megan Wanlass

Cast:

Ya-Ya and Lucia

Akiko Aizawa*

Andrew, Harold and Edmund

Leon Ingulsrud*

Edith and Nanette

Ellen Lauren*

Henry

Barney O'Hanlon*

Tilly

Deborah Wallace*

Raymond, Herbert and Peter

Stephen Duff Webber*

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

**Members of United Scenic Artists

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

Café Variations was 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.

Café Variations

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 next 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.

About 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, SITI Company began as an agreement to redefine and revitalize contemporary theater in the United States through an emphasis on international cultural exchange and collaboration. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, New York, SITI expanded to encompass a year-round company based in

New York City with a summer season in Saratoga. The Company is known nationally and internationally as a top-level artistic collective that generates groundbreaking theater while also training artists from around the world.

In addition to Artistic Director, Anne Bogart, SITI Company is comprised of ten actors, four designers, a playwright and an executive director. The company represents a change in thinking about the relationships between artists and institutions. SITI Company has formed relationships with theaters and venues around the world who present the Company's work. Find out more at siti.org.

Biographies

Anne Bogart (Director)

Ms. Bogart is the Artistic Director 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 *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 four books: *A Director Prepares*; *The Viewpoints Book*; *And Then, You Act*; and *Conversations with Anne*.

Charles L. Mee (Playwright)

Mr. Mee 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 at charlesmee.org. His work has been made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

Megan Wanlass (Executive Director/SITI Company)

Ms. Wanlass has been a member of SITI Company since 1995 and its Executive Director since 2000. In her tenure with SITI, Megan has helped to create over 30 shows. She began working with Anne Bogart during *The Adding Machine* at Actors Theatre of Louisville (1995). She has an Arts Administration Certificate from New York University, attended the Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders at Stanford University Business School, was a member of the Arts Leadership Institute Charter Class at Teachers College, Columbia University, participated in the National Arts Strategies Executive Leadership Program and holds a B.A. in Theater from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. Megan currently serves on the board of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and as the president of the PTA for the Pearls Hawthorne School.

Stowe Nelson (Sound Designer)

Stowe Nelson is a sound designer and engineer based in Brooklyn. With SITI: *Cafe Variations* (ArtsEmerson). He has developed new works with the Women's Project, Dance Exchange and the Playwright's Realm. Along with director David Conison and actor Matthew Baldiga, he develops work as part of [scaffold]. His design for the Mad Ones' *Samuel & Alasdair: A Personal History of the Robot War* won the 2010 NY Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Sound Design and was nominated for a 2012 Drama Desk Award.

Neil Patel (Scenic Designer)

SITI Member since 1997. Productions with SITI include *Cafe 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 theatre, 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 which 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 Bergeres 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.

Brian H Scott (Lighting Designer)

Mr. Scott 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 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*.

Sunneva Stapleton (Stage Manager)

Sunneva Stapleton is beyond excited to be joining SITI and BTJ on this production. Other credits include *The Untitled Feminist Show* (YJLTC), *Horsedreams* (Rattlestick), *The Tenant* (Woodshed Collective), *Civilization* (Clubbed Thumb), *We're Gonna Die* (YJLTC/13P), *Roadkill Confidential* (Clubbed Thumb), *Zero Hour* (13P), *Samuel & Alasdair: A Personal History of the Robot War* (Mad Ones), *Signs of Life* (Amas Musical Theatre), *Creature* (New Georges/ Page 73 Productions), *I Have Been to Hiroshima Mon Amour* (Voice & Vision/Crossing Jamaica Avenue), *Frequency Hopping* (Hourglass Group), *Beebo Brinker Chronicles* (Harriet Leve), *Serenade* (Jaradoa Theater), *Trouble in Paradise* (Hourglass Group). BFA from Webster University.

Caitlin Ward (Costume Designer)

Caitlin Ward 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)

Ms. Aizawa has been a member of SITI Company since 1997, after seven years as a member of the Suzuki Company of Toga. With SITI: *A Rite*, *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *Café Variations*, *American Document*, *Antigone*, *Under Construction*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *Radio Macbeth*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Freshwater*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Intimations for Saxophone*, *La Dispute*, *War of the Worlds*, *War of the Worlds—the Radio Play*, and *systems/layers*. Roles with SCOT include: *Trojan Women*, *Three Sisters*, and *Dionysus*. Theaters/festivals include BAM, Humana, the Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Joyce Theater, Guggenheim Museum, Park Avenue Armory, New York Live Arts, American Repertory Theater, Arts Emerson, 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, Melbourne, Bogota, São Paulo, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Toga and Moscow. Akiko is originally from Akita, Japan.

Leon Ingulsrud (Andrew, Harold and Edmund)

Mr. Ingulsrud helped found SITI Company and 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. Previous 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.

Ellen Lauren (Edith and Nanette)

Ms. Lauren is a Founding Member of SITI and her credits include: *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*, *A Rite* with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, *Café Variations*, *Under Construction*, *Radio Macbeth*, *Who Do You Think You Are*, *American Document* with Martha Graham Dance Company, *Death and the Ploughman*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Room, bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *systems/layers*, *War of the Worlds*, *Cabin Pressure*, *The Medium*, *Culture of Desire*, *Going, Going, Gone*, and *Orestes*. Festivals include: Bonn Germany, Iberoamericano Bogota, BAM Next Wave, Humana, Bobigny, Melbourne, Edinburgh, Singapore; Wexner Center, Krannert Center and Walker Art Center; In New York: New York Live Arts, NYTW, CSC, The Women's Project, Miller Theatre, The Public Theater, Joyce Theater. Regional credits with SITI include: San Jose Rep, ART Cambridge, Court Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare, Actors Theatre of Louisville. SITI training residencies in the US and abroad since 1993. Additional credits include *The Women* (Hartford Stage), *Seven Deadly Sins*, New York City Opera (Kosovar Award for Anna II) *Marina*, *A Captive Spirit*, all with Anne Bogart. Resident 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*. Venues include, Moscow Art Theatre, Toga Festival, Alexandrinsky Theatre,

RSC, Theatre Olympic in Athens, and Olympic Arts Festival in Shizuoka Japan, Buenos Aires Festival, Vienna Festival, Harbour Front Festival Toronto, Istanbul Festival, Festival Mundial Chile, Teatro Olimpico Italy, Montpellier France, Hong Kong Festival. For over 6 years, headed the Toga International Suzuki Training Summer Program in Toga, Japan. Ongoing faculty member since 1995, The Juilliard School of Drama; Former Faculty member: Columbia University, Fordham University. Selected workshop list: Royal Shakespeare Company, Le Coq School Paris, Yale University, Harvard School of Drama. Selected Guest Artist Faculty: Carnegie Mellon University, Windsor University, Canada, Helsinki National Theater Academy, Iceland National Academy of the Arts. Fox Fellowship recipient for Distinguished Achievement 2008. Published in American Theater January 2011-*In Search of Stillness*.

Barney O'Hanlon (Henry and Choreography)

Mr. O'Hanlon has been a SITI Company member since 1994 and collaborator 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, Denmark, Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford on Avon. New York: BAM's Next Wave Festival, Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, PS 122, Dance Theater Workshop, New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera. Regional: American Repertory Theater, Trinity Rep., Alley Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Steppenwolf, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Rep, Portland Stage, UCLA Performing Arts, Walker and Wexner Arts Centers, the Krannert Center, Austin's Rude Mechs (with Deborah Hay) and numerous Humana Festivals. Other: Los Angeles Opera, Opera Omaha, Prince Music Theater and most recently, *Café Variations* for Arts Emerson and SITI Company's collaboration with the Martha Graham Dance Company on *American Document*. Currently touring *A Rite* with SITI and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

Deborah Wallace (Tilly)

Ms. Wallace 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), *Cafe Variations*, *The Event of A Thread*. Recent 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*. Deborah is Co-Artistic Director of the award-winning International WOW Company with whom 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*. With International WOW she has produced three documentary films *The Sky is Pink*, *Occupy Sandy*, and *Gasland Pt. II* for HBO. 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)

Mr. Webber has performed with SITI all over the world since 1994 in *A Rite* (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), *Café Variations*, *American Document*, *Antigone*, *Radio Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *Under Construction*, *Freshwater*, *Death and the Ploughman*, *War of the Worlds* (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*, *War of the Worlds-the Radio Play* (Orson Welles), and *Short Stories*. NEW YORK: *Death and the Ploughman* (CSC), *War of the Worlds* (BAM), *Culture of Desire* (NYTW), *Trojan Women 2.0* (En Garde Arts), *Freshwater* (Women's Project), *The Golden Dragon* (PlayCo), *Radio Macbeth* (Public), *Hotel Cassiopeia* (BAM), *American Document* (Joyce), *Antigone* (NYLA), *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, Stage West. Mr. Webber has been studying, teaching, and training with SITI Company for the last 20 years.

Special Thanks

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Contact and Connect

Website: www.siti.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SITICompany

Twitter: www.twitter.com/siticompany

SITI Extended Ensemble [SEE]: www.siti.groupsite.com

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, Martha Coigney, Barbara Cummings, Rena Chelouche Fogel, Gian-Murray Gianino, Jason Hackett, Chris Healy (Treasurer), Kim Ima (Secretary), Leon Ingulsrud, Kevin Kuhlke, Ellen Lauren, Thomas Mallon, Charles L. Mee, Ruth Nightengale (Vice-Chair), Annie Pell, Leonard Perfido (Chair), and Jaan Whitehead.

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About UW World Series

The UW World Series is one of Seattle's leading performing arts organizations, presenting innovative, provocative and diverse international artists in music, theater, and dance. More than 450 visiting artists from around the world have performed as part of the UWWS. The eclectic mix of programming has given Northwest audiences a broad view of the world of performing arts, from sampling unique cultural traditions to experiencing innovative new works that expand the scope and direction of contemporary performing arts. The UW World Series' mission includes supporting the educational goals of the University of Washington by providing extensive arts learning opportunities for UW students and faculty, area school children and teachers, and members of the community at large.

About the Studio Series

The UW World Series' 2013-14 Studio Series showcases emerging and influential artists in dance, music, and theater. In addition to SITI Company, the Studio Series features new music ensemble Jack Quartet and San Francisco dance company, Robert Moses' Kin. The latter events will take place in the 238-seat Meany Studio Theatre.

As a program of the University of Washington, UW World Series is uniquely positioned on the boundary between campus and community life. The Studio Series is designed to enrich the community's cultural offerings through University of Washington partnerships and provide interactive educational opportunities for students through lectures, workshops, master classes, and residencies.

About the UW School of Drama

The University of Washington School of Drama celebrates, develops, and prepares for employment the 21st-century artist through innovative education, practical application and connection to the world of performing art. Its award-winning, interdisciplinary faculty is dedicated to enabling each artist to reach their creative potential and its alumni are advancing the artistic conversation through innovative and diverse work both regionally and across the globe.

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