

# CALLBOARD



THE MONTHLY THEATRE NEWS MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THEATRE BAY AREA



LOCAL DIRECTORS DELIA MACDOUGALL, TONY KELLY AND AMY MUELLER. PHOTO: ERIKA PINO

How Do  
You Direct  
New Work?

Anne Bogart  
at the  
Magic Theatre

Plus:  
Teatro Visión  
Fills Niche  
in South Bay

## Directing in the Day Area: 11 VIEWS FROM LOCALS

# MAGIC THEATRE PRESENTS ANNE BOGART AND THE SITI COMPANY WITH "ROOM" AND "BOB"

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Posted by TB West Coast Rep on January 24, 2002 at 16:48:23:

SAN FRANCISCO--JANUARY 23---The Magic Theatre, San Francisco's premiere home for new plays, presents theatrical profiles of Virginia Woolf and Robert Wilson directed by world-famous director Anne Bogart. The two pieces, *Room* and *Bob*, were created by New York's SITI Company, the acclaimed ensemble-based theatre company. *Room* plays March 6 through 17, and *Bob* plays March 20 through the 31st., both at the Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. For tickets (\$10 - 47), call 415-441-8822. For more information, visit the Magic Theatre web site at [www.magictheatre.org](http://www.magictheatre.org).

*Room* featuring actress Ellen Lauren, is a spare and sumptuous take on the legendary author Virginia Woolf. Sampled from a lifetime of the author's writing, the show traces the movement of a creative spirit in crisis, searching for the intersection of thought and feeling which Woolf called "truth". Updated to the modern era, *Room* offers a reflection on Woolf's style of thought, presented with her trademark immediacy, delicacy and pursuit of complex feeling.

The Columbus Dispatch said "Anne Bogart's innovative New York troupe has done it again, creating a post-modernist montage of words, images and sounds that takes viewers on a fascinating interior journey...Lauren is a tour de force". The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette said "Lauren does not so much play Woolf as enact a journey through Woolf's thought, as re-shaped for this later century". Lauren, as associate artistic director of the SITI Company, was awarded the New York City Opera Kosovar Award for *Seven Deadly Sins*

*Bob* featuring actor Will Bond, is inspired by the life of international avant garde director and visual artist Robert Wilson, creating a portrait of an artist using the artist's own techniques. The New York Times called this production "a strikingly composed 90 minute rumination on the work and ideas of Robert Wilson. *Bob* boasts the advantages of Ms. Bogart's inventively glossy surfaces and Bond's balletic precision.

The show was created by compiling hundreds of print interviews and recorded conversations from Wilson's 30 year career, which were then artfully arranged by dramaturg Jocelyn Clarke. The result is a show whose dialogue consists solely of words that were spoken by Wilson, paired with a stunning collection of striking visual images. The work is perhaps best summed up by one of Wilson's own quotes "You can't explain theatre, you have to experience it". *Bob* was awarded two OBIES for its design and actor Will Bond was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for his role.

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# GUARDIAN

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# Calendar

## 8 days a week

March 6-13, 2002

### March 6 Wednesday

**Of one's own** Internationally acclaimed experimental director **Anne Bogart** and the New York-based SITI Company return to the Magic Theatre with *Room*, a collaborative creation based on writings by Virginia Woolf. Rather than offering a biographical sketch of Woolf, the piece attempts to transform the complexities of Woolf's consciousness for a 21st century audience. Actor Ellen Lauren has described her solo performance as not so much a portrayal of Woolf as an attempt to act as a conduit between Woolf's words and the audience. Bogart is known for her intensely physical staging, drawing on techniques from post-modern dance and vaudeville. Expect highly stylized choreography developed from Bogart and Lauren's interpretations of photographs of Woolf. Later this month Bogart and SITI Company present *Bob*, a solo show for actor Will Bond that delves into the life and career of artist Robert Wilson. *Through Sun/17. Opens tonight, 8 p.m. Runs Tues.-Sat., 8 p.m. (also Sat.-Sun., 2:30 p.m.) Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna, S.F. \$22-\$47. (415) 441-8822, www.magictheatre.org. (Lara Shalson)*

critics'  
choices,  
listings,  
and more

by Larry Eilenberg

## violence on the stage

*Series of Plays on Contemporary Violence*

In Stephen Belber's play *Finally*, four characters intersect around an act of horrific violence. The four are a football coach, his daughter, her husband, and the family dog, and they are all meant to be played by one actor. As in Anna Deavere Smith's groundbreaking solo dramas, *Fires in the Mirror* (about violence in Crown Heights, Brooklyn) and *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992* (about the L.A. riots), there is a deep implicit meaning to the theatrical gesture of having violently colliding individuals all acted by one person. We each contain within us, these plays seem to say, the conflicts which erupt outside ourselves. We each have internal wars and murders and multiple voices, which merely mirror (mostly unexpressed in daily life) the dangerous world which surrounds us.

*Finally* is the first of three plays about contemporary violence which the Magic Theatre is producing in collaboration with the Commonwealth Club in 2002, as part of our Martha Heasley Cox Raw Play Series. → pg 6

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Ellen Lauren as Virginia Woolf in Room

by Kenn Watt

## the SITI Company

*The Saratoga International Theatre Institute, under the direction of Anne Bogart, created the Magic Theatre's upcoming offerings of Room and Bob.*

It was the Fall of 1991. Anne Bogart was looking for an artistic home, and not for the first time. I had gone to New York to see her at the Public Theatre, where she was directing Brecht's *In the Jungle of Cities*. I was hoping to work with her the following year while on a TCG/NEA Directing Fellowship, and I wanted to find out what she had in store. After a brief interview during which she asked me (as she has, famously, so many others) what I saw myself doing in five years, I turned the question around on her, and she answered, "I will have an artistic home for a company, a place to work." → pg 4