



BAM

FALL 2021

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) announces Fall 2021 programming

Season begins with the US premiere of the stunning Venice Biennale top prize-winning *Sun & Sea*

Exhilarating slate of BAM debuts from around the world also includes *By Heart* created by and starring Tiago Rodrigues in his first US performance since being appointed the next director of the Avignon Festival, Alice Ripoll's *Cria*, and ASUNA's *100 Keyboards*

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

July 15, 2021/Brooklyn, NY—BAM is excited to welcome audiences to a fresh and forward-looking fall season that presents an unforgettable lineup of US premieres by artists from around the world. All of the artists are making their BAM debuts. The season begins with the US premiere of the sensational, Golden Lion-Winning *Sun & Sea*. It continues with an exhilarating slate, including Tiago Rodrigues in his collaborative theater piece *By Heart* (the playwright's first US performance since his appointment as director of the Avignon Festival), the US premiere of *Cria*, Alice Ripoll's steamy ode to passion, and ASUNA's captivating listening experience *100 Keyboards*. Each artist unleashes their imagination at the BAM Fisher, exploring new ways to activate the space in unprecedented ways.

Tickets go on sale for BAM Members and Patrons on July 20, and to the general public on July 27 at BAM.org.

With BAM's doors open once again, the fall season brings some of the most singular artists on the planet to New York, inviting audiences to rediscover the wild transformations that can take place inside a theater. As the season unfolds, audiences can expect announcements on more compelling fall engagements and collaborations with notable artists and companies.

“The hunger for artistic adventures has never been greater as our world continues to change around us,” said BAM Artistic Director, David Binder. “Our 2021-22 season kicks off with works from a cohort of remarkable international artists, all of whom are making their BAM debuts. New forms and new ideas will abound in the Fisher, as they create singular experiences that can only happen at BAM.”

“BAM is deeply grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies and to all our donors for their incredible generosity,” said Co-Interim President Jennifer Anglade. “We acknowledge that we are still amid challenging times, and not just for BAM, but for artists and communities everywhere. This support has been, and continues to be crucial to our mission of bringing adventurous art to audiences and providing spaces for our community to gather, share, and connect.”

BAM looks ahead to a full year of adventurous art on all our stages, spaces, and in our cinemas, with humanities, literary, community, visual art, and family programs. Full season details, updates, and confirmations will continue to be posted on BAM.org.

Photos are available [here](#).

All performances will adhere to protocols developed in accordance with New York State regulations and in consultation with medical professionals for the safety of our artists, audiences, and staff. Capacities for all events will comply with government-issued guidelines.

Sun & Sea

By Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė
Sep 15—26

Direction and set design by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė
Libretto by Vaiva Grainytė
Music and musical direction by Lina Lapelytė
Curated by Lucia Pietroiusti

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.
Brooklyn
Tickets \$25

“a remarkable achievement”—*The New York Times*

“astonishing”—*The Guardian*

“surreal as it is profound”—BBC

“a revelation.”—*Artnet*

The US premiere of this theatrical installation enthralled audiences at the 2019 Venice Biennale, earning its all-woman creative team (Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, and Lina Lapelytė) the much-coveted Golden Lion. The BAM production also launches a nationwide tour from September 15—October 16 with stops in Philadelphia (Arcadia Exhibitions/Arcadia University as part of Philadelphia Fringe Festival), Bentonville (the Momentary), and Los Angeles (the Hammer, MOCA, and CAP UCLA).

Using twenty-five tons of sand to transform the theater into a bustling beach, sunbathing characters offer up a range of seductive harmonies and melodic stories that glide between the mundane, the sinister, and the surreal. From the sprawling narrative of their lives emerges a piercing exploration of climate change, shining light on the complex relationship between people and our planet. The piece is brought to life by 13 vocalists who are surrounded by approximately 25 adventurous local community members who act as fellow beach-goers.

About the artists:

Sun & Sea is the second collaboration for these three artists who focus on the relationship between documentary and fiction, reality and poetry, and how theater, music and the visual arts intertwine. Their previous work, the contemporary opera *Have a Good Day!* for 10 cashiers, supermarket sounds, and piano, premiered in 2013 and is touring worldwide.

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė works as a filmmaker, theater director and visual artist. In her creative practice, Barzdžiukaitė explores the gap between objective and imagined realities, while challenging an anthropocentric way of thinking in a playful way. Her recent full-length documentary film-essay *Acid Forest* was awarded at the Locarno International Film Festival among others, was shown at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, Lincoln Center in NYC, American Film Institute festival in LA and many other events and venues for cinema and contemporary art. *Sun & Sea* is her latest collaboration in the medium of performance.

Vaiva Grainytė's text-based practice shifts between genres, interdisciplinary theater works and publications. As a writer, playwright, and poet she takes action as an observant anthropologist: challenged by Grainyte's poetic interpretation, mundane social issues take on a paradoxical and defamiliarized nature. Her book of essays *Beijing Diaries* (2012) and the poetry collection *Gorilla's Archives* (2019) were nominated for the Lithuanian Book of the Year awards, and included in the top twelve listings of the most creative books in Lithuania. Her oeuvre has been translated into more than 10 languages. Her upcoming, bilingual, cross-genre novel, *Roses and Potatoes* (2022), deconstructs the contemporary enforcement of happiness.

Lina Lapelytė's performance-based practice is rooted in music and flirts with pop culture, gender stereotypes and nostalgia. Her works engage trained and untrained performers often in an act of singing through a wide range of genres such as mainstream music and opera. The singing takes the form of a collective and affective event that questions vulnerability and silencing. Her recent and upcoming shows include Cartier Foundation, Paris, Tel Aviv Museum of Art; RIBOCA2 – Riga biennale; Tai Kwun, Hong Kong; Glasgow International;

Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels; Kaunas Biennale, Lithuania; Pompeii Commitment and Castello di Rivoli, Italy.

Originally produced by Neon Realism

Co-Commissioned by the Momentary, Bentonville (AR), Goethe-Institut; Münchner Kammerspiele; National Gallery of Art, Vilnius; Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts; Staatsschauspiel Dresden; Hosting venue: Akademie Schloss Solitude

Commissioned for the Lithuanian Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, 2019 by Rasa Antanaviciute

Additional funding by Lithuanian Council for Culture; Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania; Laurenz Foundation, Basel; Vilnius City Municipality

Sponsored by JCDecaux

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@BAM.org.

100 Keyboards

ASUNA

Sep 30—Oct 2

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn

Tickets \$25

“it has to be heard to be believed”—*The Times* (UK)

“nothing short of amazing”—*Popspoken* (Asia)

In ASUNA’s immersive work, *100 Keyboards*, the performance begins with one note played and sustained on a battery-operated toy keyboard. The artist then meticulously repeats this process on 99 more keyboards throughout the space, until the sound climaxes to a singular resonant reverberation. As the frequencies multiply, sound waves hover together in space, giving way to nuanced acoustic variations, changing the sound as the piece progresses and creating a moiré pattern of sound interference.

Audience members are encouraged to gather and move about the space as ASUNA nimbly manipulates this unusual, and sublime sonic bath which is simultaneously analog and electronic, minimal and complex, meditative and mesmerizing.

About the artist:

ASUNA is a Japanese sound artist who began creating experimental music and installations during the late 90's. He has gone on to become a pioneer in the experimental ambient / drone / improvisation scene in Japan and has collaborated with many renowned electronic musicians including Jan Jelinek, minoru sato-m/s (ex.WrK), Pekala Kordylasinska Pekala and others. He has also released a number of albums for European, American and Japanese labels.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@BAM.org.

By Heart

Written and performed by Tiago Rodrigues

Oct 5—17

Text with fragments and quotes by William Shakespeare, Ray Bradbury, George Steiner, Joseph Brodsky, among others

Set and costume design by Magda Bizarro

English translation Tiago Rodrigues, revised by Joana Frazão

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn

Tickets: \$35

“Subtle, powerful and likely to make you roar at the stage”—*The Irish Times*

Literary critic George Steiner said, “Once 10 people know a poem by heart, there’s nothing the KGB, the CIA, or the Gestapo can do about it. It will survive.”

Portuguese playwright- actor Tiago Rodrigues’ *By Heart* is about the importance of transmission, the invisible smuggling of words and ideas that only keeping a text in your memory can provide. He invites 10 audience members to join him in a deeply personal poetic experiment. What appears as a relatively simple task —memorizing a poem— quickly unfolds into something more expansive, as stories and characters and unexpected connections emerge between Boris Pasternak, Ray Bradbury, and a cook from the north of Portugal.

By Heart is written and performed by Rodrigues in his first US performance since being appointed the next director of the Avignon Festival, becoming the first Portuguese and non-French artist to lead the prestigious theatrical event. He will present his first season in July 2023. "It is the most beautiful theater festival in the world, it is an adventure to which I promise you that I will devote all my energies, trying to contribute to this great celebration of artistic freedom and cultural democratization", said Tiago Rodrigues in response to the recent announcement.

About the artist:

Tiago Rodrigues is the artistic director of Teatro Nacional D. Maria II in Lisbon. He is an actor, playwright, and director whose subversive and poetic theatre has made him one of Portugal's leading artists. After working with the Belgian company tg STAN, in 2003 he created, with Magda Bizarro, the company Mundo Perfeito. The company's work has been produced by renowned festivals such as Festival d'Automne à Paris, METEOR Festival in Norway, Theaterformen in Germany, Festival TransAmériques in Canada, and kunstenfestivalsdesarts in Belgium. Rodrigues has collaborated with artists from Belgium, Lebanon, the Netherlands and Brazil, teaching for Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's contemporary dance school PARTS, Brussels, and curating community art projects. In 2018, he was awarded the XV Europe Prize Theatrical Realities. Deeply rooted in a collaborative theater tradition, his recent works manipulate documents with theatrical tools, challenging our perception of social or historical phenomena. He was awarded the Prémio Pessoa in 2020, one of the most prestigious Portuguese awards for Arts and Science. Rodrigues will serve as director of the Avignon Festival presenting his first season in July 2023.

A Teatro Nacional D. Maria II production after an original creation by the company Mundo Perfeito

Executive produced by Rita Forjaz and Joana Costa Santos based on the original production by Magda Bizarro and Rita Mendes

Co-produced by O Espaço do Tempo, Maria Matos Teatro Municipal

Created with the financial support by Governo de Portugal | DGArtes

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@BAM.org.

Cria

Cia Suave

Choreography by Alice Ripoll

Nov 2—6

Lighting design by Andréa Capella

Costume design by Raquel Theo

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn

Tickets: \$35

“a jump from any street on the outskirts of Rio...to the stage of contemporary dance, reinventing it.” — *Público* (Portugal)

Cria is the embodiment of youth. Taking the movement vocabularies of *dancinha*, a hot mix of funk, samba, and breakdance, and *passinho*, the life force of favela culture, choreographer Alice Ripoll relocates the wild exuberance of adolescence through dance. Driven by the social injustice in Brazil, the piece alternates between intense states of exultation and celebration, with the highly charged group absorbing and reconstructing the music's rapid and jerky rhythm.

Ripoll and the 10-member group Suave—an all-Black company of cis and trans performers from Rio de Janeiro, each brings their own narrative, dance history, and physicality to the stage—as they make their US debut.

About the artist:

Alice Ripoll was born in Rio de Janeiro. She studied to be a psychoanalyst at age 21 and took the path to study dance when she became curious about the bodies and movement research possibilities. Alice graduated from Angel Vianna's school, a well-known center for dance and motor rehabilitation where she began her career as a choreographer. Her work embraces contemporary dance and urban dance styles from Brazil through research that opens space for the dancers to transform into images the experiences and memories that still live in each one. Alice directs two groups: REC and SUAVE. Her shows have been performed in several places / festivals in Brazil, such as Panorama Festival, Bienal SES de Dança, MIT; and abroad: Kampnagel - Internationales Sommerfestival, Zurich Theater Spektakel, Noorderzo Performing Arts, Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Saine-Saint-Denis; HAU, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Centre Pompidou, Wiener Festwochen.

Directed by choreographer Alice Ripoll, SUAVE began with the creation of the performance *Suave*, which premiered at the Panorama Festival in 2014. Having as inspiration the Passinho (short step), a new style of urban dance that derived from Rio de Janeiro's funk, the show stood out for its unique energy, the quality of its performers, and the refinement of the structure created by the choreographer. The second performance of the group, *Cria*, premiered in 2017. Inspired by the Dancinha (little dance), a derivation from Passinho dance, the performance explores a mixture of affection and sensuality through the interweaving of funk with contemporary dance.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@BAM.org.

Credits

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