

ABRONS
ARTS HENRY STREET
CENTER SETTLEMENT

November 14-17, 2018

BIG DANCE THEATER
Antigonick

Antigonick

Directed by Annie-B Parson

Performed by Vinie Burrows, Stacy Dawson Stearns, Theda Hammel, Anne Gridley, Jennie MaryTai Liu, Elizabeth DeMent, Eliza Bent, Jeanine Durning, Sibyl Kempson.

Set Design by Joanne Howard

Lighting Design by Madeline Best

Sound Design by Theda Hammel and Chris Giarmo

Costume Design by Suzanne Bocanegra

Choreography by Annie-B Parson and The Company

Associate Director and Stage Manager Ilana Khanin

Assistant Director Catherine Galasso

Producer Sara Pereira da Silva

Interns Stephen Smith and Martin Rukaj

Volunteers Emily Oliveira, Malcolm McMichael, Meredith Glisson, Merve Sanal, Nerina Freán, Constanza Filócomo, Pritesh Chakraborty, Molly Ross, Arthur Gorlorwulu.

Musical Score

- *Tida Akrara Nami Kirara* by The Boom
- *untitled* by Tomoko Uehara and Rincken Band
- *The Poet with His Face in His Hands* poem by Mary Oliver; song by Theda Hammel
- *First Ode* by Chris Giarmo
- *Saddest Pop Music In The World* by Chris Giarmo
- *Life* by Haddaway (1993)
- *Run* by Snow Patrol (2003)

Big Dance Theater's latest work, **Antigonick**, is a rough cut of **Anne Carson's** one-act, radical-feminist, philosophical take on Sophocles' *Antigone*. In Carson's theatrical perspective on Antigone's role as a humanist and antagonist, the intellectual excitement of *Antigonick* lies in how she loses, why her peaceful resistance matters, and the sobering consequences of the Antigone/Kreon face-off.

Big Dance Theater first workshopped this play, directed by **Paul Lazar**, in 2016 at **Suzanne Bocanegra and David Lang's Home Theater**. In 2017, *Antigonick* was commissioned and Originally Produced by **Williamstown Theatre Festival** with the support of **Mandy Greenfield**. The original group in the cast included **Yvonne Rainer, Chris Giarmo, Kirstin Sieh, and Sheena See**. Both of those iterations were directed by **Paul Lazar** and co-directed by **Annie-B Parson**, with original sound design by **Chris Giarmo**, and produced by **Aaron Mattocks**.

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Annie-B Parson co-founded the OBIE/Bessie award-winning Big Dance Theater in 1991 with Molly Hickok and Paul Lazar. Outside of her work with Big Dance Theater, Parson has made dances for the work of: Mikhail Baryshnikov, David Byrne, David Bowie, St. Vincent, Laurie Anderson, Salt 'n Pepa, Jonathan Demme, Ivo van Hove, Sarah Ruhl, Wendy Whelan, Lucas Hnath, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Lang, Mark Dion, and Nico Muhly. Her most recent choreography/staging for David Byrne's *American Utopia*, is currently on world tour. Parson's choreography has appeared at The National Theatre, The Kings Cross Theater, Sadler's Wells and The Royal Ballet/Lynberry in London, The Steven Colbert Show, The Jimmy Kimmel Show, at Signature Theater, The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Soho Rep and many other theaters. In the Spring of 2018, Parson was a fellow at the Center for Ballet and the Arts.

Eliza Bent (Ismene) is a playwright and performer based in Brooklyn, NY. Bent's plays have happened at Abrons Arts Center, JACK, Clubbed Thumb, and the Bushwick Starr. Residencies: Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, MacDowell Colony Fellow, 2018 LMCC Workspsace fellow. Alum: SPACE on Ryder Farm "Working Farm," Target Margin Institute, Project Y Playwright's Group, New Georges Audrey Residency and affiliated artist. Bent is the inaugural Humanities Initiative Artist in Residence at the University of Scranton for 2018-19. Bent is an adjunct lecturer in creative writing at Brooklyn College where she received an MFA in playwriting. Bent's play *Bonnie's Last Flight* will premiere in NYTW's Next Door Series in Feb '19 directed by Annie Tuppe.

Madeline Best designs lighting and is the Director of Production at The Chocolate Factory Theater. Best graduated from Bennington College, grew up in Durham NC and currently lives in Long Island City, Queens. Recent design projects include work with the artists Paulina Olowaska, Andrea Kleine, Anna Azrieli, Ursula Eagly, Heather Kravas, Katie Workum, Aki Sasamoto, Milka Djordjevich, Keely Garfield, Sophia Cleary and Neal Medlyn, Yve Laris Cohen, and others. Thanks to Jon, Davey, and Orson for all your support.

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Suzanne Bocanegra's most recent work *Farmhouse/Whorehouse: an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra starring Lili Taylor* premiered in 2017 at the CounterCurrent Festival in Houston and traveled to the Wexner Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, UCLA and Bard Fisher Center. An exhibit of Bocanegra's work titled, *Poorly Watched Girls*, opened at the Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia in 2018.

Vinie Burrows (Eurydike). Frustrated by the quality and quantity of roles for the actor of color, Vinie Burrows has created and produced a repertoire of eight one-woman shows. With over six thousand performances, she has developed a strong following; touring Holland, Germany, Denmark, Romania, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Algeria, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Japan, and -- more recently -- Russia. An active member of The Dramatists Guild, Vinie has also gained honors with appearances on *As The World Turns*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS Presents*, and *The Hallmark Hall of Fame*. Vinie hosted a weekly live two-hour talk show, *More Than Half the World*, on the Pacifica Station WBAI in New York City for three years. Guests ranged from street vendors, abused women, diplomats, writers, politicians, grass-roots housing activists and included international visitors from around the world.

Stacy Dawson Stearns (Kreon) is a performer, choreographer, director, and teacher based in Los Angeles. She collaborated with Big Dance Theater from 1993-2001, receiving a Bessie Award for her performance in *Another Telepathic Thing*. Stacy's most recent dance/theater work, *LOVE GASOLINE!*, is an erotic encounter with Marcel Duchamp's famously unfinished piece, *The Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors, Even*. Originally premiering at REDCAT in Los Angeles in July 2017 before playing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *LOVE GASOLINE!* is currently in post-production as a film abstraction of itself. Deep thanks to Annie-B for sharing her life in art. stacydawsonstearns.com

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Elizabeth DeMent (Nick) is a New York based performer originally from Ukiah, CA. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School, and has been working as a dancer/performer/actor ever since. She has worked with Peridance Ensemble, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Liz Gerring Dance Company, Stephen Petronio, Jodi Melnick, Patrick Corbin, Dance Heginbotham, Christina Masciotti, Half-Straddle, and Big Dance Theater. Elizabeth is proud to have worked extensively as associate choreographer to Annie-b Parson on several projects including *Here Lies Love*, St. Vincent's *Digital Witness Tour*, and David Byrne's *American Utopia Tour*. This year, Elizabeth won a Bessie Award for her outstanding performance in Big Dance's *17c* presented by the Brooklyn Academy of Music in November 2017.

Jeanine Durning (Antigone) is an Alpert Award winning choreographer and performer. Her work has been described by The New Yorker as having both "the potential for philosophical revelation and theatrical disaster." Her ongoing research is based on a practice she calls nonstopping which has yielded several performance works, including her solo *inging* (based on nonstop speaking) and *To Being* (based on nonstop moving). Durning has performed inging more than 40 times across the US, in Europe, and Canada. Some upcoming projects include commissions for Toronto Dance Theatre (2019) and Candoco/London (2020), and a new solo work, *dark matter, selfish portrait* (TBD).

Catherine Galasso is an independent choreographer and director based in Brooklyn. In addition to being presented by venues such as Danspace Project, La MaMa, SFMoMA, Bibliotheque National in Paris and MoCA Santa Barbara, Galasso has also created original performance works for underground bank vaults, decaying 4-story homes, and grand marble staircases. Galasso has been a resident artist with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, The Watermill Center, Headlands Center, and Kaatsbaan. Her collaboration with choreographer Andy de Groat, "get dancing" at Danspace was nominated for a 2016 Bessie. Her next work "Alone Together" is commissioned by ODC Theater in San Francisco, and will premiere in December 2018. Catherine has been a fan of Big

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Dance Theater for a long time, and is thrilled to be part of the incredible "Antigonick" team. www.catherinegalasso.org

Anne Gridley (Haimon) is a performer, dramaturg, teacher, and visual artist. As a founding member of Nature Theater of Oklahoma, she has toured nationally and internationally: *Poetics; a Ballet Brut; No Dice* [Obie: 2008]; *Romeo & Juliet* [Best Performer 2010, The New Yorker]; *Life & Times: Episodes 1-5* [Obie: 2012]. Since 2014, she has performed with: *Caborca; Hamlet; The Entitlement* [Manhattan Film Festival]; *Jerome Bel: The Show Must Go On; Ballet: NY; 7 Daughters of Eve: 12 Shouts to the Ten Forgotten Heavens*; and *Human Head Performance Group: Due to Events*.

Theda Hammel (Chorus) has released three EPs (Very Great, SondHamm, and Partial Magic) under the name "HAMM." In 2018, she played Marie in Wallace Shawn's play *Marie and Bruce* at Jack, Brooklyn. She has a Master's in Music Technology from NYU Steinhardt. Her original music can be found at majortransceleb.bandcamp.com

Joanne Howard has been designing sets for Big Dance Theater since 1992. In addition to set design, Howard works in a variety of media including sculpture, works on paper, ceramics and video. She has received a Bessie award for her collaboration with BDT for *Comme Toujours Here I Stand* and is a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship recipient for Architecture/Environmental Structures. Howard has exhibited in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. A recent installation will be included in *Call and Response*, an exhibition Wave Hill, The Bronx, in Fall of 2017.

Ilana Khanin is a New York based stage manager and director. Recent stage management credits include: *Miles for Mary* (The Mad Ones/Bushwick Starr), *Football Head* (La MaMa), *Some of the Things Inside* (Waterwell), *The Wolves* (Clubbed Thumb workshop), *Men on Boats* (Clubbed Thumb). She has also worked on productions at Samuel French, PTP/NYC, The Tank, New Victory, The Brick, Women's

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Project, Drama League, Governors Island, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Dixon Place, New York City Players, and BAM. M.A. Performance Studies, B.F.A Drama: NYU. www.ilanakhanin.com.

Sibyl Kempson's (Teiresias) plays began happening at Little Theater and Dixon Place long ago. She performed with New York City Players, Elevator Repair Service, and others 1999-2011. Big Dance Theater produced her play *Ich, KürbisGeist* at the Chocolate Factory and New York Live Arts in 2012/13. She launched the 7 Daughters of Eve Thtr. & Perf. Co. in 2015. Productions include *Let Us Now Praise Susan Sontag* (Abrons Arts Center), and *Sasquatch Rituals* (The Kitchen). *12 Shouts to the Ten Forgotten Heavens*, a 3-year ritual cycle at the Whitney Museum of American Art, concludes at the Winter Solstice this December 2018.

Jennie MaryTai Liu (Gaurd Messenger) is a Los Angeles-based artist working in performance. Her work has been presented in theaters and galleries including The Mistake Room, Bushwick Starr, Live Arts Exchange festival, the former Dance Theater Workshop, Prelude Festival, HERE Arts Center, and Incubator Arts Center. Her next show will be at the Los Angeles County Museum for Modern Art. She has been awarded residencies from Headlands Center for the Arts, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Bogliasco Foundation, Yaddo Arts Colony, Djerassi Resident Artist Program, and the Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and received grants from MAP Fund, the Jerome Foundation and Center for Cultural Innovation. She co-founded riting.org, an experiment in writing that engages with performance-making. As a performer she has recently collaborated with Andrew Gilbert, Adam Linder, Poor Dog Group, Stacy Dawson Stearns, and Milka Djordjevich. She started working with Big Dance Theater in 2006. www.grandladydancehouse.com

ABOUT

Big Dance Theater

Big Dance Theater Staff

Artistic Director

Annie-B Parson

Co-Founder

Molly Hickok

Executive Director

Sara Pereira da Silva

Finance and Development Manager

Sara Procopio

Development Consultant

Estelle Woodward Arnal

Administration Management

Artspool

Website

www.bigdancetheater.org

Social Media

@BigDanceTheater

Founded in 1991, Big Dance Theater is known for its inspired use of dance, music, text and visual design. The company often works with wildly incongruent source material, weaving and braiding disparate strands into multi-dimensional performance. Led by Artistic Director Annie-B Parson, Big Dance has delved into the literary work of such authors as Twain, Tanizaki, Wellman, Euripides and Flaubert, and dance is used as both frame and metaphor to theatricalize these writings. For more than 25 years, Big Dance Theater has worked to create over 20 dance/theater works, generating each piece over months of collaboration with its associate artists, a long-standing, ever-evolving group of actors, dancers, composers and designers. Big Dance Theater received New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards in 2002 and 2010; the company was awarded an OBIE in 2000 and BDT company members have received 5 other "Bessie" Awards and an OBIE award for their work with Big Dance. In 2007 the company received the first-ever Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. Big Dance Theater has been presented around the world including France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Brazil and Germany and in the USA in venues including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Dance Theater Workshop, The Kitchen, City Center, The Performing Garage, New York Live Arts, The Chocolate Factory, Classic Stage Company, Japan Society, Under the Radar, American Realness, PS122's COIL Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Walker Art Center, Yerba Buena, On the Boards, UCLA Live, ICA Boston, American Dance Institute (ADI), Fusebox Festival/Austin, CounterCurrent Festival/Houston, and Spoleto Festival USA. Additionally, in 2013-2014, the artistic directors and design team were invited to create a commission featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov, and under the Big Dance Theater creative umbrella in partnership with Baryshnikov Productions, *Man in a Case* toured nationally to Hartford Stage, Shakespeare Theater in D.C., Berkeley Repertory Theater, the Broad Stage in L.A., ArtsEmerson/Boston, and the MCA/Chicago. Other recent commissions have been from *Les Subsistances* in Lyon, the National Chaillot Theater in Paris, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Walker Art Center, Carolina Performing Arts, Deutches Theater, and the Old Vic in London.

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FUNDING

Commissioned by Williamstown Theatre Festival, Williamstown, MA Mandy Greenfield, Artistic Director. **Antigonick** is presented by Abrons Arts Center with generous grants from The Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Scherman Foundation, and other generous Henry Street Settlement funders. This program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. This season was also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Big Dance Theater is supported, in part, by the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards program, the Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theater Program; and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. **Big Dance Theater** receives major support from the Starry Night Fund, Anonymous, Virginia and Timothy Millhiser, the W Trust, the Herding Cats Foundation, and the Heimbinder Family Foundation.

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First and foremost, thank you to Paul Lazar. Thanks to Craig Peterson for his long-time belief in us, Suzanne Bocanegra and David Lang for lending us their home to start this project, Mandy Greenfield at Williamstown Theater Festival, Aaron Mattocks for keeping this alive, Amy Holzapfel at Williams College, Jenny Seastone, Brian Kulick, and Christine Holt, Tei Blow for lending us his studio space, everyone at Abrons Arts Center for their production support, and Anne Carson for allowing us to perform this play.

Big Dance thanks its Board of Directors, Anne Delaney, Craig Peterson, Edward McKeane, Jay Wegman, and Janet Wong for their continuous support. Thanks to Molly Hickok, without whose artistry and administrative initiatives, Big Dance would not exist.

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ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons Arts Center values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender identity. As definitions of expression and inclusion evolve, Abrons is committed to continually revising this statement in collaboration with our communities.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We offer our care and gratitude to Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

You are welcome here.

For tickets and show times:

abronsartscenter.org

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on

abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions

And get a discount when you bring this program!

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