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**'ANCHISES,' A COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHOREOGRAPHER JONAH BOKAER AND HARRISON ATELIER TO RECEIVE UNITED STATES PREMIERE AT THE ABRONS ARTS CENTER, NOVEMBER 17-21**

"Anchises," a collaboration between choreographer Jonah Bokaer and the design firm Harrison Atelier, will receive its New York City premiere at the Abrons Arts Center, where it will play November 17-21.

The 70-minute work is set to a commissioned score by Loren Dempster and performed by a cast ranging in age from 24 to 75 years. The performers are Valda Setterfield, Meg Harper, Catherine Miller, James McGinn and Jonah Bokaer. The lighting is by Aaron Copp and costumes by Christophe de Menil. The production received its world premiere on October 6 in Bournemouth, UK at the newly opened Pavilion Dance, which commissioned the work.

"Anchises" embodies the centuries-old conflicts between filial loyalty and progress, compassion and expedience, which have expressed themselves in many forms through the ages, most recently in the institutionalization of the aged. In Virgil's "The Aeneid," Anchises is carried out of the burning Troy on the shoulders of Aeneas, who was later to establish the city of Rome. Aeneas's loyalty to his dying father and the

**MORE**

decimated city of Troy metaphorically expresses the issues of moral responsibility, especially in a contemporary world that defies youth. Offering visual and physical expression to the theme of aging, the work examines change in the body's range and potential as it moves through time and space.

"Anchises," which abstracts the narrative, distilling it to its essential moral, philosophical and human questions, takes place in nine powerful scenes during which the set, comprised of a series of modules, is created and recreated by the dancers as the performance moves through centuries. The relationship between the young and old continually shifts from playful to impatient to concerned to loving throughout, as the dance proceeds with a rigorous meditative and ritualistic poetry.

The curtain for "Anchises" is at 7:30pm for all performances, November 17-21. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors and can be purchased online at theatermania.com or by calling 212-352-3101. The Abrons Arts Center is located at 466 Grand Street, at the corner of Pitt Street, on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

"Anchises" is commissioned by Eckhard Thiemann and Pavilion Dance and is produced by Dance Southwest (Bournemouth, UK); Abrons Arts Center (New York, USA); and Arnolfini (Bristol, UK). SCAN (Bournemouth University, UK) is a strategic partner for the production of "Anchises."

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### About the Artists:

**Jonah Bokaer** is an international choreographer, media artist, artist space developer and social entrepreneur. His work integrates choreography with digital media, resulting from cross-disciplinary collaborations with artists and architects.

Bokaer's choreography has been produced in Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Few of his works are seen in New York. Bokaer's production "REPLICA," created with Daniel Arsham and Judith Sánchez Ruíz, was the only American choreography seen at the Athens Festival and the Festival de Marseille (2010). The development of his choreography in France has included major productions in Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Avignon ("FUSED," 2011).

In 2008-2009 Bokaer became the first dance artist to be appointed a Young Leader of the French American Foundation. He led a group of choreographers in the formation of Chez Bushwick (2002). He later founded CPR – Center for Performance Research, a 4,000 square foot arts facility in Williamsburg, in collaboration with John Jasperse (2008).

Bokaer is a current choreographer for the operas of Robert Wilson. Such works include "FAUST" (Poland), "AIDA" (Italy), "KOOL" (USA/Japan) and "FRONTERAS" (Spain).

For more information about Jonah Bokaer, please visit [www.jonahbokaer.net](http://www.jonahbokaer.net)

**Harrison Atelier (HAt)** is a New York-based multi-disciplinary design firm founded in 2009. The practice operates along a broad spectrum defined by its two founding members' respective training and backgrounds. **Ariane Lourie Harrison**, a critic at the Yale School of

MORE

Architecture since 2006, holds a PhD in the History of Architecture from the Institute of Fine Arts as well as an M.Arch from Columbia University. A contributor to architectural journals "Log" and "Constructs," among others, she was also the editor of Peter Eisenman's book "Ten Canonical Buildings" (Rizzoli, 2008). **Seth Harrison** is a designer and entrepreneur with MFA, MBA and MD degrees from Columbia University. The founder of several successful venture-backed biotech firms, Seth is a respected authority on medical start-up companies, serving for eight years on the board of a Gates Foundation initiative to counter HIV transmission.

At the intersection of the Harrisons' diverse professional spheres, HAt mines a conceptual vein that runs through art, science, history and technology. At once avant-garde and pragmatic, engaged in theory as well as in form-making, the main thrust of the firm's work is an exploration of living systems. In their recent projects, such as new buildings and sustainability-research facilities at the Fire Island National Seashore, HAt has demonstrated a penchant for intellectual rigor and visual flair, all of it rooted in an exploration of natural processes of growth, decay and regeneration. "Anchises," for which HAt created both the conceptual and architectural framework, extends the firm's project along the vertical axis of man's own lifecycle, becoming a visual and physical expression of the ecology of aging, the use and reuse of materials and the role of space in determining the body's range and potential. This is their second dramaturgical collaboration with choreographer Jonah Bokaer, including 2009's "Replica."

For more information about HAt, please visit <http://www.harrisonatelier.com/>

**Aaron Copp's** travels as a lighting designer have taken him to hundreds of theaters in more than 30 countries, from opera houses in European capitals to tents in the sand dunes of Rajasthan. His recent projects include lighting designs for Natalie Merchant, Yo-Yo Ma, Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson. Copp designed the critically acclaimed Kennedy Center revival of "The Glass Menagerie," directed by Gregory Mosher and starring Sally Field. He has also designed frequently at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego and recently received a San Diego Theater Critics Award for Joe Hardy's production of "Bus Stop." He has worked extensively in the dance world, most recently receiving his second Bessie Award for Jonah Bokaer's "The Invention Of Minus One." Copp had a long association with Merce Cunningham, designing such pieces as "Ground Level Overlay," "Windows" and "Biped," for which he also won a Bessie. He holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama and a BA from SUNY-Binghamton.

**Loren Kiyoshi Dempster** uses a combination of computer, electronics, field recordings, cello, improvisation, notated scores and world music influences to create and perform music. He has performed with Dan Joseph Ensemble, Trio Tritticali, String Power, Spontaneous River and Left Hand Path, among many others. His compositions for music and movement have been presented at The Stone, Roulette, Issue Project Room, North River Music, Wesleyan College and at Chez Bushwick, a 2007 Bessie Award-winning performance arts space in Brooklyn of which he is a founding member. He has toured extensively with Merce Cunningham, and he played John Cage's solo cello work "One8" for the dance "Interscape."

Dempster has toured with the Berlin-based choreographer Jeremy Wade, performing "Glory," with a live musical electronics score co-composed/performed with Michael Mahalchick. In 2009, he was an alternate cellist for "Garden of Earthly Delights," choreographed by Martha Clarke and performed by Didjeridu and Conch Shell. He also performed alongside his father, Stuart Dempster, in a spring 2009 performance of Terry Riley's "In C" in Carnegie Hall. Ever interested in the relationships between movement, space and sound, Dempster creates or performs music for many choreographers including Chris Ferris, Jonah Bokaer, Project Limb and Stochastic Ensemble in 2010.

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