



STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

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**FIVE-TIME OBIE AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR JOANNE AKALAITIS
WORKSHOPS NEW PRODUCTION OF EURIPIDES' *THE BACCHAE*
AS PART OF THE PUBLIC THEATER'S TWO-WEEK RESIDENCY AT
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 29–NOVEMBER 11, 2007**

Events for students and community members include class visits, a choreography workshop, and symposia, culminating in open rehearsals of *The Bacchae* November 8–10

Stanford, CA, October 25, 2007—Stanford University continues its multiyear partnership with New York's Public Theater this fall when celebrated theater director **JoAnne Akalaitis** workshops her new production of Euripides' *The Bacchae* during a two-week residency on the university campus from October 29 to November 11.

Akalaitis will be joined by actors from the Public Theater, Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**, translator **Nicholas Rudall**, choreographer **David Neumann**, dramaturge **Jim Leverett**, and lighting designer **Jennifer Tipton** for intensive rehearsals, class visits, panels, symposia, and workshops designed to highlight the process of collaboration and adaptation as well as develop her new production for the Public Theater. The residency features several events for the public and the campus community, as well as academic activities specifically for Stanford students.

Public activities include a seminar entitled "How We Write" with Akalaitis and her artistic team on November 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Cubberley Auditorium; a lunchtime lecture by professor of drama and classics **Rush Rehm** on "Euripides' *The Bacchae* and the Theater" on November 2 at 12:00 p.m. at Pigott Theater; a modern dance master class with **David Neumann** on November 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Roble Dance Studio; a meet-the-artists panel discussion on the subject of adaptation with **JoAnne Akalaitis**, playwright **Octavio Solis**, and director **Mary Zimmerman** on November 8 at 12:00 p.m. at Pigott Theater; a *Bacchae* Symposium, *Tyrants, Gods & Wild Women*, hosted by Classics Professor **Richard Martin** on November 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Building 110 Lecture Room; and three Open Rehearsals of *The Bacchae* production on November 8 (campus only) and 9 at 8:00 p.m., and November 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Roble Studio Theater.

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This is the Public Theater's third residency at Stanford, following the pilot project with Los Angeles-based musician, playwright, and filmmaker Stew and his production *Passing Strange* in 2006 and the residency with Stanford alumnus David Henry Hwang to workshop his new play *Yellow Face* in early 2007. The alliance between one of the most prominent cultural institutions and one of the world's great universities was formed with the intention of creating new theatrical works, supporting emerging and established artists, cultivating new audiences, and fostering innovation and diversity in the arts at Stanford and in the theater industry.

"This partnership between Stanford and the Public Theater allows for an exciting exchange of intellectual, artistic, and institutional resources, says Bryan Wolf, co-director of the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts and Jones Professor in American Art and Culture. "It connects theater artists with students, faculty, and the surrounding communities, and it fuels a culture of creativity at Stanford, demonstrating the integral role the arts play in learning and thinking across all disciplines."

The Public Theater at Stanford Residency is presented by the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SICA), Stanford Lively Arts, Stanford's Institute for Diversity in the Arts (IDA), and the Stanford Department of Drama, in partnership with the Hume Writing Center, Stanford Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford Department of Classics, Structured Liberal Education Program, Introduction to Humanities, East Florence Moore Hall, Kimball Hall, the Arts Focus House at Stanford, Casa Zapata, and the Chicano/Latino Theme House at Stanford.

ABOUT JOANNE AKALAITIS AND *THE BACCHAE*

Theater director and writer **JoAnne Akalaitis** is the winner of five Obie Awards for direction (and sustained achievement) and founder of the critically acclaimed Mabou Mines in New York. She has staged works by Euripides, Shakespeare, Strindberg, Schiller, Beckett, Genet, Williams, Philip Glass, and Janáček, as well as her own work, at Lincoln Center Theater, New York City Opera, the Goodman Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the American Repertory Theatre, Court Theatre, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and the Guthrie Theater. She is the former artistic director of the New York Shakespeare Festival and was artist-in-residence at Court Theatre. Akalaitis was the Andrew Mellon Co-Chair of the Directing Program at the Juilliard School and is currently the Wallace Benjamin Flint and L. May Hawver Flint Professor of Theater at Bard College. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts grants, an Edwin Booth Award, a Rosamund Gilder Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre, and a Pew Charitable Trusts National Theatre Artist Residency Program grant.

The Bacchae is one of 17 tragedies by Euripides to have survived completely intact. It tells the story of the revenge taken by Dionysos on the city of Thebes, site of the death of his mortal mother, Semele. Following its development at Stanford, Akalaitis' production of *The Bacchae* will premiere at the Public Theater during the 2008-09 season.

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TICKETS

Tickets for all of the public events are free but seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. For information and updates, please call 650-736-9017 or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

VENUE INFORMATION

Roble Studio Theater is located on 375 Santa Teresa Street on the east side of the Stanford University campus. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times. Parking is available behind Roble on Panama Street and Via Ortega.

Cubberley Auditorium is located in the Stanford University School of Education at 485 Lasuen Mall. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times. Parking is available behind Tresidder Student Union, in the lots between Lagunita Drive and Mayfield Avenue.

Pigott Theater is located in Memorial Hall on the Stanford University Campus at 551 Serra Mall off of Serra Street at Galvez, across from Hoover Tower. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found on Serra Street, Memorial Way, or Lasuen Street. A searchable map of campus may be accessed at <http://ucomm.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/map>.

ABOUT THE STANFORD ARTS INITIATIVE

The Stanford Arts Initiative is fundamentally reimagining the role of the arts in a 21st-century education. The Arts Initiative is creating innovative educational programs, new curricular opportunities, and arts-rich student experiences. The goal of the Arts Initiative is to foster a culture of creativity across the university. It focuses on four primary areas: Enriching Student Life; Strengthening Core Arts Departments; Creating New Programs and Expanding Partnerships; and Building World-Class Arts Facilities. By focusing on these areas, the initiative plans to expand and deepen the presence of the arts on campus. The Arts Initiative seeks to produce students who are inventive in their lives and critical in their thinking—students with the vision to shape a world filled with challenges and surprises.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts is the premier arts presenter and producer in Silicon Valley. Now in its 38th year at Stanford University, Lively Arts reaches a diverse audience through performances of music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multimedia works and is a destination for artists developing new work. Lively Arts offers audiences a window into the creative process as well as a forum for exploration and discussion. As a key stakeholder in the arts at Stanford, Lively Arts plays a leading, collaborative role as Stanford moves to integrate the arts throughout academic disciplines and the community.

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ABOUT THE PUBLIC THEATER

Founded by Joseph Papp as the Shakespeare Workshop and now one of the nation's preeminent cultural institutions, the Public Theater is an American theater in which all the country's voices, rhythms, and cultures converge. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Mara Manus, who is a Stanford alumna, the Public remains dedicated to producing new plays, musicals, and productions of Shakespeare and other classics. Over 250,000 people annually attend Public Theater-related events on its many stages—six at 425 Lafayette Street including Joe's Pub and Shakespeare in the Park. The Public has won 40 Tony Awards, 135 Obies, 38 Drama Desk Awards, and four Pulitzer Prizes.

NOTE TO EDITORS

High-resolution images are available by contacting Robert Cable (650-736-0091, rcable@stanford.edu) or may be accessed at <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

- What:** Seminar: "How We Write"
With JoAnne Akalaitis and *The Bacchae* collaborators
- Where:** Cubberley Auditorium, Stanford University
- When:** Thursday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m.
- Tickets:** Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.
- Presented by:** Hume Writing Center, Undergraduate Advising and Research,
and Stanford Continuing Studies
- Description:** Director JoAnne Akalaitis is joined by members of *The Bacchae* creative team to discuss how a theater artist generates ideas, sustains large-scale projects, combines research with composition, overcomes various impediments and blocks, and cultivates stylistic innovations.

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- What:** Lecture: "Beauty in the Blood: Euripides' *The Bacchae* and the Theater"
With Rush Rehm
- Where:** Pigott Theater, Stanford University
- When:** Friday, November 2, at 12:00 p.m.
- Tickets:** Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
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Presented by: Stanford Department of Drama

Description: Stanford professor of drama and classics Rush Rehm gives a lunchtime lecture on Euripides' *The Bacchae*.

What: **Master class: Modern dance
With David Neumann**

Where: Roble Dance Studio, Stanford University

When: Monday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

Presented by: Stanford Department of Drama

Description: *The Bacchae* choreographer David Neumann gives an introduction to modern dance.

What: **Panel discussion: Meet the Artists
With JoAnne Akalaitis, Octavio Solis, and Mary Zimmerman**

Where: Pigott Theater, Stanford University

When: Thursday, November 8, at 12:00 p.m.

Tickets: Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

Presented by: Stanford's Institute for Diversity in the Arts (IDA)

Description: The Institute for Diversity in the Arts lecture series features Akalaitis and celebrated playwright Octavio Solis and director Mary Zimmerman in a panel discussion on the topic of adaptation.

What: ***Bacchae* symposium: "Tyrants, Gods, & Wild Women"
With Richard Martin**

Where: Building 110 Lecture Room, Stanford University

When: Saturday, November 10, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

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Presented by: Stanford Department of Classics

Description: Stanford classics professor Richard Martin leads a symposium on *The Bacchae*.

What: **Open rehearsal of *The Bacchae***

Where: Roble Studio Theater, Stanford University

When: Thursday, November 8, at 8:00 p.m. (CAMPUS ONLY)
Friday, November 9, at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: Free but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.
For information and updates please call 650-736-9017
or visit <http://publictheaterny.stanford.edu>.

Presented by: Stanford University

Description: Five-time Obie Award-winning theater director JoAnne Akalaitis workshops her new production of Euripides' *The Bacchae* as part of the Public Theater's residency at Stanford. *The Bacchae* is one of 17 tragedies by Euripides to have survived completely intact. It tells the story of the revenge taken by Dionysos on the city of Thebes, site of the death of his mortal mother, Semele.

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