

THE WATERMILL CENTER AND NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE FOR THE CREATION OF NEW OPERATIC WORKS FOR THEATER

Collaboration Will Foster Development Process from Residency and Rehearsal to Public Performances

The Watermill Center and New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW) are partnering for the first time to launch a special program supporting the development of new operatic works for theater. The collaboration between these two prestigious institutions will offer uniquely comprehensive opportunities for artists and companies: Watermill for the residency phase of new works, and NYTW for future rehearsal phases and public performances.

The partnership will apply to new theatrical works where music plays an integral role or defines the essential theatrical language of the work. The primary emphasis is not on the conventional American notion of music-theater—the kind seen on Broadway—but rather other innovative forms that are often marginalized.

The Watermill Center and NYTW are inviting artists or groups to submit proposals by May 31 at www.watermillcenter.org. In July, applications will be reviewed by Watermill's selection committee, which includes Watermill Center's founder, Robert Wilson, as well as Marina Abramovic, Alanna Heiss, Albert Maysles, Jonathan Safran Foer, Richard Sennett and others. The artistic leadership of NYTW, Jim Nicola and Linda Chapman, together with Watermill Center Directors Jorn Weisbrödt and Sherry Dobbin, will announce the committee's choice of one resident, who will be invited to initiate the new program.

NYTW and Watermill Center are collaborating with a group of specialists in the field—artists, arts professionals and critics—to give the selected artist/company guidance throughout the creative process. The partnership epitomizes Watermill's mission to provide emerging artists with a network of institutions and fellow artists to help launch their careers, in addition to time and a place to create new original works.

About New York Theatre Workshop

Founded in 1979 (incorporated 1982), New York Theatre Workshop is a contemporary theatre company committed to the development of innovative theatre by supporting theatre artists at all stages of their careers, providing an environment where work can be created free from the artistic compromise and forbidding financial demands often associated with commercial ventures. The Workshop is dedicated to exploring and presenting theatrical experiences that reflect, respond to and invigorate the world in which we live and work. Over more than twenty-five years, NYTW has evolved to become a significant force in New York City's vibrant cultural landscape and is now recognized as one of the leading producing theatres of original work in the United States.

The Workshop places the artist at the center of its mission, and, as a result, the work developed and produced here is aesthetically, thematically and methodologically diverse. During the course of a season, audiences can engage with an eclectic mix of theatre, including full-scale musicals, bare-bones readings and multimedia productions. NYTW is renowned for producing intelligent and complex plays that expand the boundaries of theatrical form and in some new and compelling way address issues that are critical to our times. The Workshop boasts a long list of acclaimed work that includes Tony Kushner's *Slavs!* and *Homebody/Kabul*, Martha Clarke's *Vienna: Lusthaus (revisited)* and *KAOS*, Caryl Churchill's *Far Away* and *A Number*, Jonathan Larson's *RENT*, John Guare's *Lydie Breeze*, Doug Wright's *Quills*, Alan Ball's *All That I Will Ever Be*, and Claudia Shear's *Blown*

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Sideways Through Life and *Dirty Blonde*. NYTW's productions have received a Pulitzer Prize, four Tony Awards and assorted Obie, Drama Desk, and Lucille Lortel Awards.

About the Watermill Center

Watermill is a laboratory for performance founded by Robert Wilson as a unique environment for young and emerging artists from around the world to explore new ideas.

Watermill draws inspiration from all the arts and cultures as well as from social, human, and natural sciences. Watermill is a global community of artists where living and working together among the extensive collection of art and artifacts lies at the heart of the experience. Watermill strives to be a haven for a next generation of artists while supporting their work among a network of international institutions that embrace new interdisciplinary approaches.

Watermill offers a wide range of programs and activities throughout the year. For the well-known International Summer Arts Program, Wilson invites 60-80 artists who come from over 25 countries—48 countries so far—for 4-5 weeks of intense creative exploration. There are daily workshops with Mr. Wilson and his collaborators, based on new projects they are developing in all areas of the arts. Residents also develop their own work under Wilson's guidance. A lecture series completes the ambitious programs.

For the Center's Fall and Spring Residency programs, which take place from September to June, a high-profile committee of practitioners in the arts and humanities—including Wilson, Marina Abramovic, Alanna Heiss, Albert Maysles, Gerard Mortier, John Rockwell, Jonathan Safran Foer, Richard Sennett, Nike Wagner and others—selects over 15 groups, individual artists and scholars in residence to workshop their own creations. The residencies are complemented by educational programs with schools and other institutions; public events such as open rehearsals and lectures, seminars and symposia; and tours of the building and grounds.

Founded in 1992, the Watermill Center is a 22,000 square foot facility located on the six-acre site of a former Western Union communication research facility on Long Island's East End.

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