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SITI COMPANY RETURNS TO THE GETTY VILLA FOR *BACCHAE* BY EURIPIDES

*Co-produced by SITI Company, directed by Anne Bogart,
and translated by Aaron Poochigian*

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
September 6–September 29, 2018
At the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa

LOS ANGELES - The J. Paul Getty Museum announces *Bacchae* by Euripides, the thirteenth annual outdoor theatrical production in the Getty Villa's Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater. New York-based **SITI Company**, one of America's leading theater ensembles, returns to the Getty Villa for the third time, directed by the company's co-artistic director **Anne Bogart**, and featuring a new translation of Euripides' *Bacchae* by **Aaron Poochigian**.

"We are thrilled to be invited back to the Getty Villa to perform Euripides' *Bacchae*," says Anne Bogart. "More than any other play in Western civilization, *Bacchae* is probably the one that most directly addresses the art of theater. Dionysus, one of the central characters in the play, is not only the god of divine ecstasy, fertility, wine and harvest, but he also presides over the theater."

Packed with striking scenes, frenzied emotion, and choral songs of great power and beauty, *Bacchae* endures as one of Euripides's greatest surviving works. Dionysus, the god of wine, ritual madness, fertility, and theater, arrives in disguise to his birthplace in Greece. As revenge for a personal slight, he begins to spread his cult among the people of Thebes. His adversary King Pentheus, fearing the ensuing disorder, imprisons him to suppress his influence. This misguided attempt to thwart the divine leads to catastrophe for Pentheus and his entire



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family. The bacchants called Dionysus "the god of letting go," reminding us to respect our human wildness. Otherwise we may fall prey to the tyranny of excessive order or the frenzy of collective passion.

"We are delighted to welcome back SITI Company, an extraordinarily innovative theater ensemble, at the Getty Villa to perform this year's outdoor classical theater production," says Timothy Potts, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "In ancient Greece, theater was a fundamental component of religious and social life, and as our program at the Villa demonstrates, Classical drama still connects strongly with contemporary playwrights, actors, and audiences."

Over the past nine years, SITI Company has delighted and challenged Getty Villa audiences with a workshop of *Antigone* and play readings of *Trojan Women*, *Bacchae*, *Persians* and *Ion*, which culminated with two Outdoor Classical Theater productions, *Trojan Women* in 2011 and *Persians* in 2014.

Performances of *Bacchae* will be held Thursdays through Saturdays, September 6—29, 2018 at 8:00 p.m., with previews on August 30, 31 and September 1, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for Thursday night performances are \$40.00 (\$36.00 for students and seniors), Friday night performances are \$42, and Saturday night performances are \$48. Student and senior discounts are available for Thursday night performances only. Ticket prices for the previews are \$25. Tickets are available at (310) 440-7300 or www.getty.edu.

Anne Bogart (Director) is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors of the SITI Company, which she founded with Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki in 1992. She is a Professor at Columbia University where she runs the Graduate Directing Program. Works with SITI include *Chess Match No. 5*, *Persians*; *Steel Hammer*; *Rite*; *Café Variations*; *Trojan Women (After Euripides)*; *American Document*; *Antigone*; *Under Construction*; *Freshwater*; *Who Do You Think You Are*; *Radio Macbeth*; *Hotel Cassiopeia*; *Death and the Ploughman*; *La Dispute*; *Score*; *bobrauschenbergamerica*; *Room*; *War of the Worlds—the Radio Play*; *Cabin Pressure*; *Alice's Adventures*; *Culture of Desire*; *Bob*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Small Lives/Big Dreams*; *The Medium*; *Noel Coward's Hay Fever and Private Lives*; *August Strindberg's Miss Julie*; and *Charles Mee's Orestes*. Recent operas include: Handel's *Alcina*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, Bellini's *Norma* and Bizet's *Carmen*. She is the author of five books: *A Director Prepares*; *The Viewpoints Book*; *And Then, You Act*; *Conversations with Anne*, and *What's the Story*.

SITI Company was built on the bedrock of ensemble. We believe that through the practice of collaboration, a group of artists working together over time can have a significant impact upon both contemporary theater and the world at large. Through our performances, educational programs, and collaborations with other artists and thinkers, SITI Company will continue to challenge the status quo, train to achieve artistic excellence in every aspect of our work, and offer new ways of seeing and of being as both artists and as global citizens. SITI Company is committed to providing a gymnasium-for-the-soul where the interaction of art, artists, audiences and ideas inspire the possibility for change, optimism and hope.

Founded in 1992 by Anne Bogart, Tadashi Suzuki, and a group of likeminded artists, SITI

Company began as an agreement to redefine and revitalize contemporary theater in the United States through an emphasis on international cultural exchange, training and collaboration. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, New York, SITI expanded to encompass a year-round Season inclusive of touring, the creation of new work and running a biennial Conservatory program for 9 months of the year to cultivate the next generation of independent theater artists. Based in New York City, SITI continues to operate its international training program during its summer season in Saratoga. The Company is known nationally and internationally as a top-level artistic collective that generates groundbreaking theater.

In addition to Co-Artistic Directors Anne Bogart, Leon Ingulsrud and Ellen Lauren, SITI Company is comprised of eight actors, four designers and a playwright. The company represents a change in thinking about the relationships between artists and institutions. Offering performances from our varied repertoire, and workshops in the unique theater training we champion, SITI Company is dedicated to establishing long lasting relationships with theater presenters and their communities around the world.

Aaron Poochigian (Translator) earned a PhD in Classics from the University of Minnesota and an MFA in Poetry from Columbia University. His first book of poetry, *The Cosmic Purr* (Able Muse Press), was published in 2012 and, winner of the 2016 Able Muse Poetry Prize, his second book *Manhattanite* came out in December of 2017. His thriller in verse, *Mr. Either/Or*, was released by Etruscan Press in Fall of 2017. For his work in translation he was awarded a 2010-2011 Grant by the National Endowment for the Arts. His poetry has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *POETRY* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

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The J. Paul Getty Museum collects Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts to 1900, as well as photographs from around the world to the present day. The Museum's mission is to display and interpret its collections, and present important loan exhibitions and publications for the enjoyment and education of visitors locally and internationally. This is supported by an active program of research, conservation, and public programs that seek to deepen our knowledge of and connection to works of art.

Visiting the Getty Villa The Getty Villa is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, December 25 (Christmas Day), and January 1.

Admission to the Getty Villa is always free, but a ticket is required for admission. Tickets can be ordered in advance, or on the day of your visit, at www.getty.edu/visit or at (310) 440-7300. Parking is \$15 per car, but reduced to \$10 after 3 p.m. Groups of 15 or more must make reservations by phone. For more information, call (310) 440-7300 (English or Spanish); (310) 440-7305 (TTY line for the deaf or hearing impaired). The Getty Villa is at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades, California.

Same-day parking at both Museum locations (Getty Center and Getty Villa) is available for \$15 through the Getty's Pay Once, Park Twice program.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

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