

PROMETHEUS BOUND

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**GETTY AND CALARTS CENTER FOR NEW PERFORMANCE JOIN TO PRESENT
PROMETHEUS BOUND IN ANNUAL OUTDOOR THEATER PRODUCTION AT GETTY VILLA**

A World Premiere Translation by Joel Agee, Directed by Travis Preston

At the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, September 5–28, 2013

LOS ANGELES—This September, the Getty Museum and CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP), in association with Trans Arts, will present **Prometheus Bound**, the eighth annual outdoor theater production in the Getty Villa's Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater. Featuring a newly-translated text by noted poet and essayist Joel Agee, *Prometheus Bound* will be directed by Travis Preston, artistic director of CNP and dean of the CalArts School of Theater, and include original music by composer Ellen Reid and celebrated jazz multi-instrumentalist Vinny Golia (who will also perform live onstage).



The Chorus clustered around Prometheus. *Prometheus Bound* at the Getty Villa (Photo: © 2013 Craig Schwartz)

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In the mythic tradition, the Titan Prometheus, progenitor and champion of humankind, stole fire from Mount Olympus to give to mortals. In this play, he also taught them crafts and skills essential for human civilization. As punishment, Zeus dooms him to an eternity chained to a mountaintop, where Prometheus spends his days and nights railing against the gods and their injustices.

The striking central element of this original production of the ancient Greek drama will be a mammoth steel wheel, twenty-three feet tall that will be installed in the outdoor theater. As envisioned by director Preston and scenic designer Efren Delgadillo, Jr., the remote mountaintop is represented by this enormous steel wheel, to which Prometheus is strapped in the opening scene of the play.

Notes Preston: "*Prometheus Bound* addresses man's relationship to the eternal order of the cosmos. The circle represents the cosmos and is also an image of time. The drama is placed at the edge of civilization, as well as at the border between ritual and artistic expression. *Prometheus Bound* also depicts the enfranchisement of human capability. It is a hosanna to human culture and achievement."

Of the surviving ancient Greek dramas, *Prometheus Bound* (of unknown date, but perhaps first performed in the 450s B.C.) is considered to be one of the most beautifully written, theatrically unique, and theologically profound: a masterpiece of Western theater. It has equally proven to be one of the most challenging to translate and present to contemporary audiences. While continuing to be ascribed to the tragic poet Aeschylus, the play's authorship has been the subject of scholarly debate in recent decades. Composed in the most ancient extant dramatic form, *Prometheus Bound* unfolds almost as an epic poem or extended hymn, rarely yielding the dramatic action generally associated with later Greek tragedies.

The Getty Villa's annual outdoor theater production is part of the Getty Museum's innovative theater program that enhances the visitor's experience of the ancient world. Live performances of classical drama offer insights into the social, cultural, and political realities of life in ancient Greece and Rome while, in the galleries, works of art serve to deepen the connection between modern audiences and the mythical stories underlying the tragedies and comedies on stage.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with the widely respected and highly innovative team of theater artists at CalArts for this new presentation of *Prometheus Bound*," says Timothy Potts, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "In the ancient world, theater was a

fundamental part of religious and social life, and as our theater program at the Getty Villa demonstrates, Classical drama still connects strongly with contemporary playwrights, actors, and audiences."

Performances of **Prometheus Bound** will be held on Thursdays through Saturdays, September 5–28, 2013, at the Getty Villa's Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater. Tickets are \$42 (\$38 for students and seniors). Tickets may be purchased online at www.getty.edu or by telephone at (310) 440-7300.

Prior to each evening's performance, the museum galleries will open at 6:30 p.m. for theater-goers to enjoy the Villa's collection and gardens. The Cafe at the Getty Villa will once again offer a special pre-theater prix fixe sit-down dinner.

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The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

The J. Paul Getty Museum collects in seven distinct areas, including Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts, and photographs gathered internationally. The Museum's mission is to make the collection meaningful and attractive to a broad audience by presenting and interpreting the works of art through educational programs, special exhibitions, publications, conservation, and research.

Visiting the Getty Villa

The Getty Villa is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Tuesday and major holidays. However, in preparation for the 2013 outdoor theater production, the Getty Villa will be **CLOSED on the following Wednesdays: September 4, 18, 25**. Admission to the Getty Villa is always free. 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. 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. Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

The CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP), the professional producing arm of the California Institute of the Arts, was established in 1999 as a forum for the creation of groundbreaking theatrical performance. Seminal artists from around the world are brought to CNP to develop work that expands the language, discourse, and boundaries of contemporary theater and performance. CNP supports a producing model that is artist and project-specific, giving priority to performances that cannot be easily produced in other circumstances -- either because of scale of vision or extremity of aesthetic. CNP fosters the future of the theater by infusing its work with the talent, vitality and impulses of emerging artists in the CalArts community.

Trans Arts is dedicated to developing and presenting adventurous art and programs in all genres – including, performance, visual art, music, dance, theater, film, video and new media.