

FAYE
DRISCOLL

*Thank You For
Coming: Play*

Program
Notes

Thu-Sun
Nov 9-12, 2017

MCA STAGE
Fall 2017

Edlis Neeson
Theater

Eyes
Wide

Lights
Low

at MCA
Stage

Thank You For Coming: Play
running time is seventy-five
minutes with no intermission.

Lead commissioner for *Thank You For Coming: Play* is the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University through its Wexner Center Artist Residency Award program. Co-commissioning partners are Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM); Summer Stages Dance at the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston; Walker Art Center with support from the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council developed as part of LMCC's Extended Life Dance Development program made possible in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional commissioning support was provided by Mass Live Arts through a multiyear residency and presentation commitment. *Thank You For Coming: Play* was created with the support of a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship.

Thank You For Coming: Play is made possible, in part, by the New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional project funding provided by Creative Capital's MAP Fund, which is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You For Coming: Play* is a project of Creative Capital.

Faye Driscoll was the 2016 Harkness Foundation Artist in Residence at BAM Fisher. Additional residency support for *Thank You For Coming: Play* was provided by the Wexner Center, Walker Art Center, the Museum of Arts and Design, The Performing Garage Presents

Produced by Faye Driscoll with Aaron Rosenblum

PERFORMERS AND MUSIC

Conception and Direction	Faye Driscoll
Choreography and Text	Faye Driscoll, in collaboration with the performers
Performance	Faye Driscoll, Sean Donovan, Lindsay Head, Paul Singh, Laurel Snyder, and Brandon Washington
Original Cast	Alicia ayo Ohs
Sound Design	Bobby McElver
Original Compositions	Sean Donovan, Bobby McElver, and Faye Driscoll
Vocal Arrangements	Sean Donovan
Lyrics	Faye Driscoll
Additional Lyrics	Sean Donovan

PRODUCTION

Set Design	Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin
Garment and Prop Design	Jamie Boyle
Lighting Design	Amanda K. Ringger
Artistic Advisor	Jesse Zaritt
Additional Text and Dramaturgy	Amanda K. Davidson
Company Stage Manager	Alessandra Calabi
Lighting Director	Devin Cameron
Rehearsal Assistant	Marina Fong

Copresented with the Chicago Humanities Festival

FROM THE CURATOR

In February of 2016, Faye Driscoll made the Chicago premiere of the series *Thank You For Coming*, which she described as part of a body of work rooted in an obsession with the problem of being somebody in a world of somebodies. The experience confirmed my thinking about dance as a communal event, the very title of the series serving as a playful reminder of dance's social function while also pointing to a belief in the body as open to exchange, ready for all kinds of metamorphosis.

The experimental impetus of Driscoll's work points to the importance of the *willful* in a dance event. The second installation in the series, *Play*, seems like an unbelievably rich opportunity to understand the depth of this aim. In the semi-fictional, collective autobiography, it is possible to witness ourselves looking at the world anew, put ourselves in the place of others, and recognize human experience.

Thanks to Alison Cuddy, Phillip Bahar, and all the staff at the Chicago Humanities Festival for their friendship and partnership, which inspired this copresentation as part of the Fallfest/17: Belief.

—Yolanda Cesta Cursach
Curator of Performance

FAYE DRISCOLL
Thank You For Coming: Play

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Theater

visiting artist series, and a Production Residency grant funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You For Coming: Play* was supported, in part, through a generous rehearsal space grant from chashama.

SUPPORT FOR THIS MCA STAGE PROJECT

Lead support for the MCA Stage New Works Initiative is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

Touring support for *Thank You For Coming: Play* is provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Accessible programming for *Thank You For Coming: Play* is supported by artist/scholar Carrie Sandahl, director of Bodies of Work: A Network of Disability Art and Culture and faculty in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

MCA Stage acknowledges the support of Jeanine Pollard, Master's candidate in Museum and Exhibition Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and primary liaison for Bodies of Work at MCA Stage in the 2017-18 season.



Faye Driscoll, *Thank You For Coming: Play*. Pictured: Sean Donovan, Alica Ohs, Brandon Washington, Paul Singh, and Laurel Snyder. Photo: Whitney Brewer.



Faye Driscoll, *Thank You For Coming: Play*. Pictured: Lindsay Head and Laurel Snyder. Photo: Francesca Beltran.

RELATED PROGRAMS

MCA Stage's series of artist-centered talks, workshops, and open studios engages the public with the artists in intimate settings and provides a closer look at the creative process.

ARTIST TALK

Tues, Nov 7, 4:30 pm

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Faye Driscoll joins Chicago-based performance artist and SAIC faculty member Anna Martine Whitehead for a conversation about performance and performance making through SAIC's Artist Lecture Series.

ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

RELAXED PERFORMANCE WITH ASL INTERPRETATION AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Sun, Nov 12, 2 pm

ABOUT OUR PARTNER

ABOUT THE CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

For nearly thirty years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has believed that humanity thrives when people come together to explore ideas that go beyond their personal experiences. We connect our passionate and inquisitive audiences to ideas that shape and define us as individuals and communities. We celebrate ideas within the context of civic life, producing more than 140 events annually (for students and adults) from Evanston to Englewood, the Loop to Bronzeville. Our presenters leave you with thoughtful insights and compelling questions and often include Noble Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows, and Oscar, Grammy, and Tony award winners. Join us and see the world differently.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

FAYE DRISCOLL

is a Bessie Award-winning performance maker whose works include *Wow Mom, Wow* (2007), *837 Venice Boulevard* (2008), *There is so much mad in me* (2010), *You're Me* (2012), and *Thank You For Coming: Attendance* (2014). Each work in the *Thank You For Coming* trilogy desires to extend the sphere of influence of performance to create a communal space where co-emergent social moments are questioned, heightened, and palpable. Her work has been presented nationally at venues such as the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, the MCA, Wesleyan University, Danspace Project, The Kitchen, and the American Dance Festival, and internationally at the Théâtre de Vanves's Festival Artdanthé, Théâtre de Gennevilliers, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, Melbourne Festival, Belfast International Arts Festival, and Centro de Arte Experimental (UNSAM). Her work was exhibited in *Younger Than Jesus*, at the New Museum, and in *NYC Makers: The MAD Biennial*. Driscoll has collaborated with theater and performance artists such as Young Jean Lee, Cynthia Hopkins, Taylor Mac, and Jennifer Miller, and with the National Theater of the United States of America. She recently choreographed a new film by Josephine Decker. Driscoll has been funded by the MAP Fund, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Creative Capital award, a NEFA National Dance Project Production Residencies for Dance Grant, and French-US Exchange in Dance (FUSED) grant, the New York State Council on the Arts, a Foundation for Contemporary Art grant, the Jerome Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. She is a grateful recipient of a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award.

SEAN DONOVAN (PERFORMER)

is a New York actor, dancer, and writer. He has worked with Driscoll since 2013. He has also performed with Miguel Gutierrez, Jane

Comfort and Company, the Builders Association, Witness Relocation, 600 Highwaymen, Jennie MaryTai Liu, John Jesurun, and others. In New York, he has performed at such places as Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kitchen, The Joyce Theater, Danspace Project, Performance Space 122 (PS122), New York Live Arts, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Chocolate Factory Theater, HERE Arts Center, The Duke on 42nd, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and others. He creates performances in collaboration with Sebastián Calderón Bentin under the title *Donovan & Calderón*. Original works include *The Reception* (2017; HERE Arts Center), *18 ½ Minutes* (2013; JACK), *The Climate Chronicles* (2011; The Incubator Arts Project), and *Se Vende* (2008; FAE Festival, Panama). He is currently an artist in residence at HERE Arts Center. Donovan received his BFA in theater from NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. He has trained and performed internationally in France, Holland, Romania, Poland, Russia, Panama, Argentina, Croatia, Canada, Thailand, and Japan, working with the highly acclaimed Ildi! Eldi of France and Sankai Juku Butoh of Japan. He has also performed at theaters and universities throughout the United States and abroad.

LINDSAY HEAD (PERFORMER)

received her BFA in dance performance in 2014 from the University of Florida, where she also studied acting and art history. Lindsay is honored to have collaborated and performed with Raja Kelly, Neta Pulvermacher, Dana Ruttenberg, and Megan Kendzior, among others. She currently creates pieces of theater with her collaborator Gus Heagerty, produces her own music, and is a tour guide at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAUL SINGH (PERFORMER)

earned his BFA in dance from the University of Illinois. He has danced for Gerald Casel, Jane Comfort, Risa Jaroslow, Douglas Dunn, Christopher Williams, and Will Rawls, and was part of Punchdrunk Theatre

Company's American debut of *Sleep No More*. Singh was a dancer in Peter Sellars's new opera *The Indian Queen* and recently danced for Peter Pleyer (with collaborators Meg Stuart, Sasha Waltz, Eva Karczag, and Jeremy Wade) in a large-scale improvisation work in Berlin. He has presented his own work at the Judson Memorial Church, New York Live Arts, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, and La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, and in 2004, his solo piece *Stutter* was presented at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Singh has taught contact improvisation around the world, at festivals in Israel, Spain, Ukraine, Germany, France, Finland, and India. He currently teaches for Movement Research, Sarah Lawrence College, and The Juilliard School. In New York, he continues dancing and choreographing for his company, Singh & Dance.

LAUREL SNYDER (PERFORMER)

is a dance artist, educator, and musician. She received much of her physical training at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and at various dance festivals throughout the United States and Europe. As a performer, Snyder has collaborated with artists including Tere O'Connor, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Kendra Portier. Her choreography has been performed at Judson Memorial Church, Dixon Place, The Tank, Triskelion Arts, Center for Performance Research, Chez Bushwick Inc., all in New York; the FRESH Festival, San Francisco; Deltebre Dansa, Spain; and Ponderosa, Germany. As an educator, Snyder facilitates movement experiences that require no prior dance training and emphasize movement potential, self-acceptance, and creativity. She has taught at organizations such as CLASSCLASS, Gibney Dance Center, Mark Morris Dance Center, the American Dance Festival Studios, the Dance Exchange, Colby College, Henrico Performing Arts High School, and Leviathan Studios.

BRANDON WASHINGTON (PERFORMER)

is a native of Chesapeake, Virginia, and received his BFA from the University of Florida. He has been collaborating with Driscoll since

2012 and is currently working on projects with Ryan McNamara, Dana Katz, and Robin Becker. In New York he has performed at venues including the Lincoln Center, MoMA PS1, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, French Institute Alliance Française, 92nd Street Y, Danspace Project, Dixon Place, and Judson Memorial Church. He has performed internationally with Driscoll and others in Vietnam, Argentina, France, and Croatia, and he previously collaborated with Mark Dendy, Alicia ayo Ohs, Burr Johnson, Jen McGinn, Neta Pulvermacher, Lauren Bakst, Megan Kendzior, Daria Faïn, and Germaul Barnes.

BOBBY MCELVER (SOUND DESIGN)

is a sound designer and composer for theater, dance, and film. He also designs interactive audio-visual technology for bands and live events. Company member of The Wooster Group from 2011 to 2016: *The Room*, *Early Shaker Spirituals*, *Cry, Trojans! (Troilus & Cressida)*, *Early Plays*, *Vieux Carré*, and *Hamlet*. Theater and dance credits: Andrew Schneider (*You're nowhere*), NYC Players, Half Straddle, Young Jean Lee, Palissimo, Michou Szabo, Erin Markey. Film credits: *Every Secret Thing* (Tribeca Film Festival 2014). He was nominated for a 2015 Bessie Award for Outstanding Music Composition/Sound Design.

NICK VAUGHAN AND JAKE MARGOLIN (SET DESIGN)

are Houston-based installation artists whose solo shows include *Where the Ranch Actually Was* at Devin Borden Gallery, *50 States: Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and A Marriage: 2 (West-Er)* at the Invisible Dog Art Center, *A Marriage: 1 (Suburbia)* at HERE Arts Center and elsewhere; *ArtSlant Prize Presents: Nick & Jake in Chicago*; and *Preparations for a Marriage* at Future Tenant Gallery. Their collaborations with choreographers include creating environments for Yoshiko Chuma's *Shredded* and Pavel Zuštiak's *S(even)*. They are recipients of an HAA Individual Artist Grant, a Tulsa Artist Fellowship, and a New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship, and received funding from The Idea Fund in Houston and the MAP Fund.

SUPPORT FOR THIS
MCA STAGE PROJECT
(Continued)



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Select MCA Stage performances include open-captioning, sign-interpretation, listening devices, or are relaxed-sensory.

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The six plays that they have created as members of the devised theater company TEAM—*Anything That Gives Off Light*, *Roosevelt*, *Waiting for You on the Corner of . . .*, *Mission Drift*, *Architecting*, and *Particularly in the Heartland*—have won numerous awards and toured to venues such as the Shed at the National Theater and Barbican Centre, Public Theater, PS122, Walker Art Center, Culturgest in Lisbon, Portugal, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

JAMIE BOYLE
(GARMENT AND PROP DESIGN)
is a visual artist who works with a needle, thread, and other ordinary objects and thinks about what that work has to do with the human body. She frequently collaborates on the creation of material stuff for performances, recently with artists including Michael Mercil (*Thoreau's Desk*, 2017); Ursula Eagly, Martin Lanz Landázuri, and Kohji Setoh (*piece with gaps for each other*, 2017); Geoff Sobelle (*The Object Lesson*, 2014/17); and Ann Hamilton and SITI Company (*the theater is a blank page*, 2015). Jamie is a 2007 graduate of Ohio State University with an MFA in art, and she received a majority of her material training while working in Ann Hamilton's studio from 2007 to 2011.

AMANDA K. RINGGER
(LIGHTING DESIGN)
has lived in New York since 1997, designing locally, nationally, and internationally with artists such as Doug Elkins, Cynthia Oliver, Molly Poerstel, Jennifer Archibald, Julian Barnett, Nora Chipaumire, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Laura Peterson, Donnell Oakley, Kota Yamazaki, 10 Hairy Legs, Darrah Carr, and cakeface. She received a BA from Goucher College in Baltimore and an MFA in lighting design from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She received a 2009 Bessie Award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard*.

ALESSANDRA CALABI
(COMPANY STAGE MANAGER)
is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist from Milan who works at the intersection of performance, politics, and critical theory. A graduate of the New

School for Social Research, she completed her MA in philosophy in 2015. Alessandra is the stage manager and cocreator of Andrew Schneider's Obie Award-winning *You are nowhere* and a main collaborator on *After*, which premieres in the fall of 2017 at EMPAC. She is a member of the collaborative arts group Fixed Agency, artists in residence at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2014 and the creators of *Private(i)*, an immersive, mixed-reality adventure about state surveillance. Alessandra has toured with Driscoll since 2016, and has worked in the United States and around the world for Pascal Rambert, Thaddeus Phillips, R. B. Schlather, Adam Weinert, and Banana Bag & Bodice, among others.

DEVIN CAMERON
(LIGHTING DIRECTOR)
is based in New York City, where he creates for theater, dance, music, and live events. Recent lighting design credits include: *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (National Theatre of Scotland); 2017 Drama Desk Award, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* with Tony Award-winning director Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Billie Holiday Theatre), *12 Angry Men* with Tony Award-winning director George Faison (Billie Holiday Theatre), *NPR Presents Water+/-* national tour, *Cinderella* (Company XIV), and resident lighting designer of special events at critically acclaimed immersive theater experience *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk Theatre Company).

JESSE ZARITT (ARTISTIC ADVISOR)
is a dance artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Now an assistant professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, he was the inaugural 2014–16 Research Fellow in the university's School of Dance. Jesse has performed his solo work in Uruguay, Russia, Korea, Germany, New York, Japan, Mexico, and Israel and throughout the United States. His solo work *Binding* is the recipient of three 2010 New York Innovative Theater Awards: Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Solo Performance, and Outstanding Performance Art Production. He has been commissioned to create

original choreographic works for numerous American college programs, as well as for the Seminar HaKibbutzim College (Israel) and the Acco Theater Festival (Israel). He currently dances in the work of Netta Yerushalmi (since 2009), has performed in the work of Faye Driscoll (2010–15), and is an artistic adviser for Driscoll's current projects. Jesse has taught at Bard College, the American Dance Festival, Hollins University, and Pomona College, as well as at schools and festivals in Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and Russia. Jesse received an MFA in dance from Hollins University/the American Dance Festival (2008) and a BA from Pomona College (2000).

AMANDA K. DAVIDSON
(TEXT AND DRAMATURGY)
is the author of the prose chapbooks *Arcanagrams: A Reckoning* (Little Red Leaves, 2014), *The Space: Fragments for a Family* (Belladonna, 2014), and *Apprenticeship* (New Herring Press, 2013), as well as *The Conditions of Our Togetherness*, an online serial comic in *Weird Sister Magazine*. A 2014 New York Foundation for the Arts poetry fellow poetry, she has been a writer in residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, MacDowell Colony, Millay Colony for the Arts, I-Park Foundation, Inc., and Art Farm in Nebraska. She teaches writing and movement at Evergreen State College.

DATE NIGHT



Marisol. Photo: Herman Hiller.

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The Fever

Oct 5-8

Marc Bamuthi Joseph/
The Living Word Project
*/peh-LO-tah/-a futbol
framed freedom suite . . .*

Nov 9-12

Faye Driscoll
*Thank You For
Coming: Play*

Dec 7-10

Twyla Tharp
Minimalism and Me

2018

Jan 25-28

Federico León
Las ideas

Feb 8-11

Claire Cunningham
and Jess Curtis
*The Way You Look
(at me) Tonight*

Apr 6-7

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Apr 12-15

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Program notes
compiled by
Tara Aisha Willis

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SUPPORT FOR MCA STAGE

Lead support for the 2017-18 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

Generous support is provided by Lois and Steve Eisen and The Eisen Family Foundation, Ginger Farley and Bob Shapiro, the Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley Jr. Family Foundation, Sharon and Lee Oberlander, Maya Polsky, Carol Prins and John Hart/The Jessica Fund, Susan Manning and Doug Doetsch, D. Elizabeth Price and Lou Yecies, and Ms. Shawn M. Donnelley and Dr. Christopher M. Kelly.

Additional generous support for MCA Stage is provided by Enact, the MCA's performance affinity group.

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MCA Stage's groundbreaking performances are an integral part of the MCA's artist-activated, audience-engaged programming. Along with the museum's exhibitions and educational initiatives, they encourage a broad and diverse community to experience and discuss the work and ideas of living artists.

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To inquire about a lost item, call the museum at 312-280-2660. Unclaimed articles are held for thirty days.

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Please switch off all noise-making devices while you are in the theater.

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