

THE PUBLIC.



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**THE PUBLIC THEATER
AND
THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE
PRESENT
THREE SPECIAL SCREENINGS OF FILMS
AS PART OF
*THE WALLACE SHAWN-ANDRÉ GREGORY PROJECT***

***André Gregory: Before and After Dinner
Vanya on 42nd Street
My Dinner With André***

August 3 & 4 at Joe's Pub at The Public

June 27, 2013 – The Public Theater (Artistic Director, Oskar Eustis; Executive Director, Patrick Willingham) and Theatre for a New Audience (Founding Artistic Director, Jeffrey Horowitz; Managing Director, Dorothy Ryan and Chairman of the Board, Henry Christensen III) will present three special screenings of Wallace Shawn and André Gregory's most beloved films, ***André Gregory: Before and After Dinner***, ***Vanya on 42nd Street***, and ***My Dinner With André***, at Joe's Pub at The Public in August. These three screenings are presented as part of the current retrospective, ***The Wallace Shawn-André Gregory Project***, celebrating the 40-year collaboration between these two artists.

Single tickets, priced at \$10, are on sale now and can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.joespub.com, or in person at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street.

On **Saturday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m.** the first film in the retrospective, ***André Gregory: Before and After Dinner***, will be screened in Joe's Pub at The Public. The film is an exploration of the life and work of groundbreaking director, actor and artist André Gregory, directed by award-winning filmmaker Cindy Kleine (who is also his wife). A witty and often hilariously funny raconteur, Gregory looks back on a career that spanned decades, shattered boundaries and established him as a cultural icon. Bringing us back and forth in time, Gregory looks not only at his life, but at the nature of art, love and the creative process.

The second film, ***Vanya on 42nd Street***, will be presented on **Sunday, August 4 at 4:00 p.m.** Over the course of three years, director André Gregory and a group of actors came together on a voluntary basis in order to better understand Chekhov's work through performance workshops. Staged and filmed entirely within the vacant shell of the then-abandoned New Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street, once the home of the Ziegfeld Follies, they enacted the play rehearsal style on a bare stage with the actors in street clothes. The first 45 minutes seem to be a documentary of a rehearsal, and without the audience noticing, it transforms into a filmed version of the play.

On **Sunday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m.** the final film, ***My Dinner with André***, will be presented. An extended conversation between two old friends over dinner: André Gregory, a renowned experimental theater director, and playwright and actor Wallace Shawn, both of whom play versions of themselves. Gregory is an inquisitive,

uninhibited wanderer, willing to travel to remote lands to take part in unusual foreign rituals, while Shawn is the cynical, realistic New Yorker, more concerned with the challenges and rewards of day-to-day city life.

A co-production with Theatre for a New Audience, ***The Wallace Shawn-André Gregory Project*** is a celebration of a remarkable theatrical collaboration. Wallace Shawn is one of America's most significant playwrights, long overdue for a major retrospective. André Gregory, his *My Dinner with André* co-star, has been directing Shawn's plays for 40 years, and as part of this retrospective, he directs Shawn's two most recent plays; the first New York revival of the acclaimed masterwork ***The Designated Mourner*** and the American premiere of the profoundly provocative ***Grasses of a Thousand Colors***. Shawn is a multifaceted figure: an internationally famous character actor as well as an incomparably courageous playwright whom critics have placed in the first rank of contemporary dramatists. Gregory is the acclaimed director who has brought his most challenging works to fruition, including *Our Late Night*, Shawn's first play in New York City which was presented at The Public Theater in 1975.

In this two-part event, the acclaimed masterwork, ***THE DESIGNATED MOURNER***, is running now through Sunday, August 25 at The Public's Shiva Theater for its first New York revival. The cast includes **Shawn** as well as **Deborah Eisenberg** and **Larry Pine** – original company members from the 2000 New York production.

GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS, which had its world premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in 2009, will have its American Premiere at The Public's Shiva Theater this fall with **Shawn, Emily Cass McDonnell** and **Jennifer Tilly** repeating their roles in this acclaimed production. ***GRASSES OF A THOUSAND COLORS*** will run Monday, October 7 through Sunday, November 10.

WALLACE SHAWN's plays include *The Designated Mourner, Grasses of a Thousand Colors; The Fever; Aunt Dan & Lemon* and *Marie and Bruce*. With André Gregory, he wrote the film *My Dinner With André*, and with Tom Cairns he wrote the film *Marie and Bruce*. Scott Elliott directed *Aunt Dan & Lemon* and directed Shawn as an actor in *Hurlyburly*. Shawn was the editor of "Final Edition," which contained work by Deborah Eisenberg, Mark Strand and Jonathan Schell, and Shawn's interview with Noam Chomsky.

ANDRÉ GREGORY, as a theatre director, has been one of the most important forces in the American theatre for nearly 40 years. Gregory was one of the original creators of the regional theatre movement in this country as well as the off-Broadway movement in New York. His production of *Alice in Wonderland*, now legendary, played in New York for seven years, as well as touring the U.S., Europe, and the Mideast. It was made into a book in collaboration with Richard Avedon. His relationship with Wallace Shawn, which has been ongoing for over thirty years, began with his production of Shawn's *Our Late Night*, which was critically acclaimed and was presented at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre. Shawn and Gregory went on to create *My Dinner With André*, which has now become an American classic. It was one of the two to three films to launch the American independent film movement. It is studied in many film courses with other American classics, such as *Citizen Kane* and *Casablanca*. It was directed by Louis Malle. The partnership of Shawn, Malle and Gregory went on to create the film *Vanya on 42nd Street*, which like *My Dinner With André*, was hugely successful and has been shown all over the world. In 2000, Gregory directed Wallace Shawn's play, *The Designated Mourner*, to universally successful reviews. As an actor, Gregory has performed in a dozen Hollywood films, including films directed by Martin Scorsese, Peter Weir and Woody Allen. Martin Scorsese directed Gregory in the role of John the Baptist in *The Last Temptation of Christ* and Peter Weir directed him in *The Mosquito Coast*. Gregory's most recent production of *Endgame* – over the years, he's done three – was performed in an unfinished Donald Judd building in the middle of the Marfa Texas desert in 2005. In 2009, Gregory directed a new play, *Grasses of a Thousand Colors*, by Wallace Shawn at the Royal Court Theatre in London. It received rave reviews, both there and in the U.S. This past Spring Jonathan Demme made a film of Gregory's production of Ibsen's *Master Builder* which Wallace Shawn adapted.

THE PUBLIC THEATER (*Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director*) was founded by Joseph Papp in 1954 and is now one of the nation's preeminent cultural institutions, producing new plays, musicals, and productions of classics at its downtown home and at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. The Public Theater's mandate to create a theater for all New Yorkers continues to this day onstage and through extensive outreach programs. Each year, more than 250,000 people attend Public Theater-related productions and events at six downtown stages, including Joe's Pub, and Shakespeare in the Park. The Public Theater's

productions have won 42 Tony Awards, 161 Obies, 48 Drama Desk Awards and four Pulitzer Prizes. Fifty-four Public Theater productions have moved to Broadway, including *Sticks and Bones*; *That Championship Season*; *A Chorus Line*; *For Colored Girls...*; *The Pirates of Penzance*; *The Tempest*; *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk*; *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan*; *Topdog/Underdog*; *Take Me Out*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Passing Strange*; the revival of *HAIR*; *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *The Merchant of Venice*. www.publictheater.org.

THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE, (Jeffrey Horowitz, Artistic Director; Dorothy Ryan, Managing Director) founded in 1979 by Mr. Horowitz, is a modern classical theatre whose cornerstone is Shakespeare. The Theatre is dedicated to the language and ideas of authors and produces Shakespeare alongside other classic and contemporary plays. It has played Off and on Broadway and toured nationally and internationally. In 2000, the Theatre's production of *The Green Bird* directed by Julie Taymor transferred to Broadway. In 2001 Theatre for a New Audience became the first American theatre invited to bring a production of Shakespeare to the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), Stratford-upon-Avon. *Cymbeline*, directed by Bartlett Sher, premiered at the RSC; in 2007, Theatre for a New Audience was invited to return to the RSC with *The Merchant of Venice* starring F. Murray Abraham and directed by Darko Tresnjak. In 2011, Mr. Abraham reprised his role as Shylock for a national tour. The Theatre's productions have been honored with over 80-Tony, OBIE, Drama Desk, Drama League, Callaway, Lortel and Audelco awards and nominations. Last season, the Theatre played to 49,000 people, an audience diverse in age, economics and cultural background. The Theatre created and runs the largest program in the New York City Public Schools to introduce Shakespeare, and has served more than 123,000 students since the program began in 1984. In June, 2011, Theater for a New Audience celebrated the groundbreaking for its first home, a center for Shakespeare and classic drama adjacent to BAM in the new Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District. The new Theatre will open in fall 2013.

TICKET INFORMATION

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Single tickets, priced at \$10, are on sale now and can be purchased by calling **(212) 967-7555**, www.joespub.com, or in person at The Public Theater at Astor Place at 425 Lafayette Street. There will be no food or drink minimum in Joe's Pub for these events.

The Library at The Public is open nightly for food and drink, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.publictheater.org.

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