Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

SITI Company The Medium

Based on the Life and Predictions of Marshall McLuhan Conceived and directed by Anne Bogart Created & Performed by SITI Company

Thursday & Friday, March 31 & April 1, 7:30 pm

The Moore Theater • Dartmouth College • 2022

Program

The Medium will be performed without an intermission.

Approximate duration: 90 minutes

Credits

Marshall McLuhan	Will Bond
Ensemble	Gian-Murray Gianino
Ensemble	Violeta Picayo
Ensemble	Ellen Lauren
Ensemble	
Understudy	Barney O' Hanlon
Scenic & Lighting Design	Brian H Scott*
Scenic & Lighting Designadapted from original scenic designs	Brian H Scott*
adapted from original scenic designs	Neil Patel*
adapted from original scenic designs	Neil Patel* Gabriel Berry* Darron L West*
adapted from original scenic designs Costume Design	Neil Patel* Gabriel Berry* Darron L West*
adapted from original scenic designs	Neil Patel*Gabriel Berry*Darron L West*Ellen M. Lavaia

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Anne Bogart is a member of SDC, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, an independent national labor union.

The 2022 production of *The Medium* was re-commissioned, produced and presented for touring by City Theatre Company (Clare Drobot, Monteze Freeland & Marc Masterson, Co-Artistic Directors; James McNeel, Managing Director)

The Medium was originally devised in 1993 at the Toga Festival in Toga-Mura, Japan and featured Tom Nelis as McLuhan, Will Bond, Mark Corkins, Kelly Maurer, and Puk Sharbau. SITI gratefully acknowledges the artistry and creative contributions of the current ensemble and creative team as well as those who have contributed to *The Medium* in other iterations: Akiko Aizawa, J.Ed Araiza, Gregory Gunter, Jason Hackett, Leon Ingulsrud, Kurt Kellenberger, Andrew Kranis, Chris Kurtz, Neil Patel, Mimi Jordan Sherin, Anita Stewart, Michitomo Shiohara, Megan Wanlass, Sue White, among others.

SITI Company's 30th Anniversary Season and Legacy Plan was funded, in part, by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and New York Community Trust.

^{*}Members of the United Scenic Artists Union (USA).

Director's Note

The Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan, regarded by many as the most prescient interpreter of our current information age, was also one of the most charismatic, controversial and original thinkers of the 20th century. McLuhan was the first person able to articulate the stress and complexity of the digital world in which we now find ourselves. He was the progenitor of such familiar notions as "the global village" and "the medium is the message." He understood the effect of media and emerging technologies on our perceptions, our psyches and our personal lives.

During the summer of 1993, SITI Company devised *The Medium* in the tiny mountain village of Togamura, Japan. Creating the piece fostered our unique methods and means and became the DNA of SITI Company. Nearly 30 years later, as we return to *The Medium*, we are reminded of the significance of the work, both in content—still relevant to the world we inhabit—and in the processes that emerged while we were engaged in making it. The scenes and moments shift abruptly, at times manically, suddenly lyrically, as in the blips and bleeps of electronic media. *The Medium* condenses philosophical texts with emotional and visceral moments of intensely physical, and yet familiar, moments-of-being that we find in our current environment

The five SITI Company actors capture the anxiety and hysteria of life under the complex stress of this new world of simulated reality and advanced technology. Where does the real world stop and the fabricated one begin? What is the role of the imagination? What happens to us in the absence of nature? What are the rituals of modern life? Where is there hope?

Our play begins at the moment the normally loquacious Marshall McLuhan suffers a stroke. In his confusion, he enters like Alice-through-the-looking-glass into the very world that fascinated him most: Television. In this upside-down world, he moves from channel to channel, experiencing first-hand the fulfillment of his worst and yet most insightful dreams. He encounters characters dealing with extraordinary inner changes brought on by the rapidly changing technological world. As he gets sucked further into television's vortex, he learns that, although there's not much he can do to stop the wave of the future, "there is no inevitability, as long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening."

Anne Bogart

About the Creative Team

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 FALLING & LOVING, The Bacchae, Chess Match No. 5; Lost in the Stars; Persians; Steel Hammer; A 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 The Handmaid's Tale, Handel's Alcina, Dvorak's Dimitrij, Verdi's Macbeth, Bellini's Norma and Bizet's Carmen. She is the author of six books: The Art of Resonance, A Director Prepares; The Viewpoints Book; And Then, You Act; Conversations with Anne; and What's the Story.

About the Creative Team continued

Brian H Scott (Lighting & Scenic Designer) is a SITI Company member and has designed lighting for Café Variations, Trojan Women and Persians in association with the Getty Villa; American Document with the Martha Graham company; Under Construction, Who Do You Think You Are, Hotel Cassiopeia, Death and the Ploughman, bobrauschenbergamerica (Henry Hewes Design Award 2004) and War of the Worlds-the Radio Play. With Rude Mechs: Stop Hitting Yourself; Now Now, Oh Now; Method Gun; I've Never Been So Happy; How Late It Was, How Late; Lipstick Traces; Requiem for Tesla; and Matchplay. He designed light for Ann Hamilton's the event of a thread and the theatre is a blank page. With Park Avenue Armory, he has created lighting for tears become... streams become... with Douglas Gordon, The Let Go for Nick Cave and for Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet's Landfall.

Darron L West (Soundscape) has been a SITI Company member since 1993. He is a TONY and Obie award-winning sound designer whose 30-year career spans theater and dance, Broadway and Off-Broadway. His work has been heard in over 600 productions all over the United States and internationally in 14 countries. Additional honors include the Drama Desk, Lortel, Audelco and Princess Grace Foundation Statue Awards, among others.

Gabriel Berry (Costume Designer) designs costumes for theater, dance and opera. Specializing in the creation of new work, she has designed premieres of the works of artists including John Adams, David Adjmi, Samuel Beckett, Charles Ludlam, Caryl Churchill, Christopher Durang, Ethyl Eichelberger, Richard Foreman, The Five Lesbian Brothers, Maria Irene Fornes, John Guare, Lameece Issag, Nick Jones, Craig Lucas, Naomi Wallace, Kia Corthron, Will Power, Marcus Gardley, Scott Z. Burns, Meredith Monk, Charles Mee, Tony Kushner, Peter Sellars, Philip Glass, Reinaldo Povod, Mabou Mines, Tennessee Williams and Branden Jacob Jenkins. Her notable honors include Obie, Bessie and Lucille Lortel Awards and a silver medal from the Prague Quadrennial for her contribution to experimental theater. Her upcoming projects include A Midsummer Night's Dream for the Stratford Festival and Stew and Heidi Rodewald's The Total Bent for The Public Theater/NYSF.

Ellen M. Lavaia (Production Stage Manager) Originally from San Francisco, she now resides in New York City. Broadway: The Lion King, Annie, Les Misérables, and Matilda. Select New York Credits: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Macbeth, and A Man's a Man. With SITI Company: Steel Hammer, Persians, Cafe Variations, Radio Macbeth, the theater is a blank page, bob, Chess Match No. 5, Hanjo, The Bacchae, and The Medium. Lavaia has toured internationally through China, The Republic of Georgia, Hong Kong, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Japan and The United Arab Emirates. Additional credits: NBC's The Sound of Music Live! and the 2013 Tony Awards. Education: MFA, Columbia University. BA, Gonzaga University. She is aproud member of Actors' Equity Association, Local 764, and SITI Company.

Michelle Preston (Executive Director) began her career in arts administration at the Columbus Symphony Orchestra before coming to New York where she worked with Urban Bush Women, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and the School of American Ballet. She started at SITI Company in 2012 as the Deputy Director and has served as Executive Director since 2014.

Michelle spent six years as an adjunct faculty member for the Brooklyn College Performing Arts Management MFA program teaching fundraising and 18 months serving as the Interim Program Head. Additionally, she has guest lectured at Bard College, St. Lawrence University, Columbia University Teachers College, Columbia University, NYU, Playwrights Horizons Theater School and Marymount Manhattan. She has also served as a panelist for the Brooklyn Arts Council Regrant Program, the TCG Global Connections Grant, the ART/NY Nancy Quinn Fund and the NAMT Innovation & Exploration Fund. She holds an MFA in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College and a BFA in Dance Performance from Northern Illinois University.

Megan E. Carter (Producing Director) Before joining SITI Company, Megan was the Producing Director of CalArts Center for New Performance in Los Angeles, where she worked with Natalia Korczakowska, Nataki Garrett, Stan Lai, Roger Guenveur Smith and Travis

Preston at venues like REDCAT, the Huntington Gardens, the World Internet Convention Center in Wuzhen and Małopolska Garden of Arts in Krakow. She has developed and/or produced devised ensemble work with Ripe Time, Lear deBessonet, SITI Company, Palissimo and the Rude Mechs; new plays by Liz Duffy Adams, Sheila Callaghan, Virginia Grise, Dominique Morisseau and Catherine Trieschmann, among others. Megan served as dramaturg on the American Premiere

of *Jackie* by Elfriede Jelinek, directed by Tea Alagic and has edited the English translations of a number of Jelinek's plays. She developed a lot of new works as the Associate Artistic Director of WP Theater and led the WP Lab from 2006-2013. Megan has been on faculty at the SITI Company Conservatory and California Institute of the Arts and is currently on faculty at Einhorn School for the Performing Arts. Education: MFA in Dramaturgy, Brooklyn College.

About the Cast

Will Bond (Marshall McLuhan) is a founding member of SITI Company. He has taught Viewpoints and Suzuki training all over the world and performed nationally and internationally in SITI's Orestes, The Medium, Small Lives/Big Dreams, Culture of Desire, Bob (Drama Desk Nomination solo performance), War of the Worlds, bobrauschenbergamerica, Death and the Ploughman, Radio Macbeth, Who Do You Think You Are, Antigone, Persians, FALLING & LOVING (with STREB Extreme Action) and in the SITI / LA Chamber Orchestra production Lost in the Stars at the Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA. He has performed Tadashi Suzuki's Dionysus and Cornwall in The Tale of Lear, in Robert Wilson's Persephone, and was featured in A Rite with the Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Original works include History of the World from the Very Beginning with Christian Frederickson; I'll Crane For You, a solo dance work commissioned from Deborah Hay; The Perfect Human V.1, Option Delete; and a 2013 EMPAC DANCE MOVIEs commission, Lost & Found, with Marianne Kim and Brian H Scott.

Gian-Murray Gianino (Ensemble) As a member of SITI Company, Mr. Gianino has helped create and performed in their productions of The Bacchae, Steel Hammer, Trojan Women (After Euripides), bobrauschenbergamerica, theatre is a blank page, Hanjo, Persians, Café Variations, Radio Macbeth, systems/layers and Freshwater. His New York credits

include work at BAM, Second Stage, Signature Theatre, The Public Theater, Japan Society, WP Theater, SoHo Rep and HERE Arts. He has performed regionally and internationally including at Yale Rep, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival), Berkshire Theatre Festival, Arts and Ideas Festival, SUNY Purchase, Penguin Rep, Getty Villa (LA), The Court (Chicago), Krannert Center, Walker Art Center, Wexner Center, MC93 Bobigny (Paris, France), Bonn Biennale (Bonn, Germany), Dublin Theatre Festival (Dublin, Ireland), GIFT Festival (Tbilisi, Georgia), NYUAD (Abu Dhabi, UAE) and Theatre Olympics (Toga-Mura, Japan). FILM: Abaddon, Inside Me, Hospitality, Dead Canaries; TV: The Affair, Limitless, White Collar, Law & Order, Law & Order: SVU, All My Children. BA Wesleyan University. Member of the Actors Center.

Ellen Lauren (Ensemble) SITI Company Founding Member & Co-Artistic Director. Acting credits include: Three Sisters, FALLING & LOVING (with Streb Extreme Action), The Bacchae, Room (stage and film) Chess Match #5, Persians, Trojan Women (After Euripides), Under Construction, bobrauschenbergamerica, the theater is a blank page (with Ann Hamilton), Radio Macbeth, Death and the Ploughman, Who Do You Think You Are, A Rite (with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), American Document (with Martha Graham Dance Co.), Seven Deadly Sins (with NY City Opera, Kosovar Award), Hotel Cassiopeia, Cabin

About the Cast continued

Pressure, Hayfever, Private Lives, Going Going Gone, and Orestes. Associate Artist Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) under the direction of Tadashi Suzuki. SCOT Credits include Electra (Clytemnestra), Dionysus (Agave), King Lear (Goneril), Oedipus (Jocasta) and Waiting for Romeo (Juliet). Festivals and venues: SIFA, Bonn, Melbourne, Iberoamericano Bogotá, Humana Festival, Bobigny94 Paris, Theatre Olympics 2019, CAP UCLA, Edinburgh Festival, Wexner, Walker, Krannert Center, BAM Next Wave, NY Live Arts, NY Theatre Workshop, Classic Stage Company, WP Theater, Under the Radar, Guggenheim Museum, Joyce Theater, Beijing Center for the Arts, Gu Bei Great Wall Theatre China, Kitchijoji Theater Tokyo, Moscow Art Theatre, Teatro Olympico Vicenza, Toga International Festival, Alexandrinsky Theatre St. Petersburg, The RSC, Olympic Arts Shizuoka, Buenos Aires Festival, Sao Paulo Brazil, Vienna Festival, Bogotá Festival, Harbor Front Toronto, Istanbul Festival, Festival Mundial Chile, Montpelier France, Hong Kong Festival. Faculty member: The Juilliard School of Drama. Recipient: TCG Fox Fellowship for Distinguished Achievement.

Barney O'Hanlon (Understudy) most recently appeared in FALLING & LOVING, SITI Company's collaboration with Elizabeth Streb's Extreme Action Company, choreographed by Elizabeth Streb, directed by Anne Bogart. Previously he appeared in SITI Company's production of The Bacchae at BAM's Next Wave Festival. Also with SITI Company at BAM's Next Wave: War of the Worlds, bobrauschenbergamerica, Hotel Cassiopeia, Trojan Women, A Rite (with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company), and Steel Hammer with the Bang on a Can All-Stars. Also at BAM: choreography and performance for Charles L. Mee's The Glory of The World, directed by Les Waters. Barney choreographed the world premiere of Anne Washburn and Dave Malloy's musical Little Bunny Foo Foo, directed by Les Waters at Actors Theatre of Louisville; Anne Washburn's 10 out of 12 at Soho Rep, directed by Les Waters; and Sarah Ruhl's The Oldest Boy, directed by Rebecca Taichman at Lincoln Center Theater.

Violeta Picayo is a bilingual Cuban-American actor, director, and choreographer. Selected credits - New York Theatre: Sense and Sensibility (Bedlam), Julius Caesar (Pocket Universe), Taming of the Shrew (Tale Told), Wake (OYL). On-Camera: Mary Stuart (Bedlam), A Despicable Woman (Kostov España), Bedlam: The Series (Bedlam), Fernanda (AFI). Violeta has worked regionally at the American Repertory Theater, Portland Center Stage, Bristol Riverside Theatre, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and City Theatre. Internationally, she has worked in Argentina, Greece. Scotland, and England. Upcoming productions include Helen (SuperGeographics) and The Strangers Came Todαy (Society). Violeta is a proud graduate of SITI's Inaugural Conservatory, the National Theater Institute, and Vassar College. She is an associate artist of SITI Company and a company member at Bedlam. www. VioletaPicayo.com

Stephen Duff Webber (Ensemble) With SITI nationally and internationally: FALLING & LOVING (with STREB Extreme Action), The Bacchae, Hanjo, Lost in the Stars, Persians (Getty Villa), A Rite (with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), Steel Hammer, Café Variations, American Document (with Martha Graham Dance Co.), Antigone, Radio Macbeth (as Macbeth), Hotel Cassiopeia, Under Construction, Freshwater, Death and the Ploughman, War of the Worlds (as Orson Welles), bobrauschenbergamerica, systems/layers (with Rachel's), La Dispute, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Cabin Pressure, Going Going Gone, Culture of Desire, The Medium, Private Lives, Hay Fever, War of the Worlds: Radio Play (as Orson Welles), Short Stories. New York: The Golden Dragon (PlayCo), Death and the Ploughman (CSC), War of the Worlds (BAM), Culture of Desire (NYTW), Trojan Women 2.0 (En Garde Arts), Freshwater (WP Theater), Hotel Cassiopeia (BAM), American Document (Joyce), Antigone (NYLA), Radio Macbeth (Public), Radio Play (Joe's Pub). Regional: American Repertory Theater, Actors Theater of Louisville, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, San Jose Repertory Theater, Magic Theater, Kennedy Center, Portland Stage Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Court Theatre, Stage West.

About the Company

SITI Company is an ensemble-based theater company whose three ongoing components are the creation of new work, the training of theater artists, and the promotion of international cultural exchange. SITI Company is committed to providing a space where the interaction of art, artists, audiences and ideas inspire the possibility for change, optimism and hope. 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 on both contemporary theater and the world at large.

In October 2020, SITI Company announced its Legacy Plan, a comprehensive set of activities designed to celebrate the company and their achievement over the past 30 years before the organization sunsets at the end of 2022. The Legacy Plan includes a celebratory Finale season, the creation of the SITI Living Archive, information-sharing activities to the theater community, and transition grants to help the ensemble members move on to the next stage of their careers.

SITI Company is Akiko Aizawa, J. Ed Araiza, Anne Bogart, Will Bond, Gian-Murray Gianino, Leon Ingulsrud, Ellen Lauren, Ellen M. Lavaia, Kelly Maurer, Charles L. Mee, Jr., Barney O'Hanlon, Neil Patel, James Schuette, Brian H Scott, Samuel Stricklen, Stephen Duff Webber and Darron L West.

SITI Company Board of Directors: Anne Bogart, Jennifer Greenfield, Jessica Hanna (Chair) Christopher L. Healy (Treasurer), Kim Ima, Leon Ingulsrud, Alexandra Kennedy Scott (Vice Chair), Kevin Kuhlke, Ellen Lauren, Ruth Nightengale, Diane Ragsdale (Secretary) and Samuel Stricklen.

SITI Company Staff: Michelle Preston, Executive Director; Megan E Carter, Producing Director; Claire Marie Mannle, Special Projects Manager; Stephanie Neel, Archive Project Manager; Dominic Jordan-Grier, Processing Archivist. Consultants: Christopher L. Healy, attorney; Sharon Lehner, Archivist; A. D. Hamingson & Associates, Development; Second Bolt, Events; John Wyszniewski, Everyman Agency, PR; Schall & Ashenfarb, CPAs, LLC.

For more information about SITI Company:

www.siti.org

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SITI Company is deeply grateful to its generous supporters:

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* Denotes SITI Board or Emeritus Board Member. To become a supporter of SITI Company or see our complete list of donors, please visit www.siti.org/support.

Connecting Artists to the Community

During their time on campus, SITI company led an improvisation workshop using their signature Viewpoints technique on Monday, March 28. Prior to the show on Friday, April 1 acclaimed director of The Medium Anne Bogart participated in a public discussion, moderated by Hop Director Mary Lou Aleskie, and the artists also took part in a post-show conversation following the performance on the same day.

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