



THE HOP

Hopkins Center for the Arts
presents

Touki Delphine ***FIREBIRD***

Wed–Fri, Sep 24–26, 7:30 pm

Sat, Sep 27, 2 pm

Hopkins Center
Daryl Roth Studio Theater
Dartmouth College • 2025

*Funded in part by the Steven W. Draheim
1966 Fund.*

*FIREBIRD is supported by the Performing
Arts Fund NL.*

Artist Statement

We first had the idea for a Symphony of Light in 2016; a light installation that would perform a symphony in which each instrument is replaced by a light source. Preferably outdoors, perhaps in the forest, the installation would surround the audience with a fluorescent orchestra. We planned to premiere this in 2019 and began our research and creation period in the Fall of 2018. Touki Delphine member John van Oostrum then first posed the idea of using car taillights as the light source. He built a prototype with which we experimented in the spacing of the lights and the coupling of various audio sources.

Igor Stravinsky's 1919 *Firebird Suite*, although not a symphony, quickly presented itself as an ideal musical match for the installation. A fiery mythical creature that rises from the ashes, rebirthing, tempting, guiding, rescuing, overseeing; a lone renaissance every 100 years. The Firebird ballet was first performed in 1910, but Stravinsky continued to temper with the music and created the renowned 1919 suite version with a new instrumentation for Swiss composer Ernest Ansermet. Our Firebird is an homage to this suite. 100 years later, on recycled tail-lights from local salvage yards, a re-invention of Stravinsky's re-invention.

Hopkins Center Executive Director Statement

Welcome to the very first event in the new Daryl Roth Studio Theater. We chose Touki Delphine's *FIREBIRD* to "warm up" this versatile space because it looks to the future as much as it honors the past. *FIREBIRD* helps us show off the technical capabilities of this incredibly adaptable theater, while giving a nod to our history. Igor Stravinsky, one of the most acclaimed composers of his day, was a frequent visitor to Dartmouth and served on the Hop's advisory committee. The work also speaks to a subject that is crucial to us at the Hop and which is at the heart of our transformation project: sustainability. As the piece

invites us to imagine more responsible ways of inhabiting the world, the reimagined Hop reflects those same values. Rather than tearing down and starting anew, we chose to refurbish and adapt, honoring the history of our building while creating a sustainable foundation for future generations. We hope you enjoy your first experience in the Daryl Roth Studio Theater. We hope it sparks imagination, creativity and curiosity that have you return often, whether as an audience member or a creative artist. All are welcome to dream!

—Mary Lou Aleskie

Howard Gilman '44 Executive Director

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