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

Thu–Sun Nov 9–12, 2017
Edlis Neeson Theater
MCA Stage Fall 2017

Thank You For

Driscoll
Faye

Eyes

Low

Lights

Stage at MCA
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

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
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.
Doris Duke Artist Award.

Residencies for Dance Grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Jerome Foundation, the Greenwall for Contemporary Art grant, the French-US Exchange in Dance by Josephine Decker. Driscoll has recently choreographed a new film with the National Theater of the USA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAUL SINGH (PERFORMER)

is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history. He has performed at numerous festivals and venues across the United States and abroad. His work has been presented nationally at venues such as the Walker Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, the MCA, Wesleyan University, University of Miami, and many others.

BRANDON WASHINGTON

is a dance artist, educator, and movement expert. He received his BFA in dance from the University of Florida, where he also studied acting and art history. His work has been featured at numerous festivals and venues across the United States and abroad. He is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history.

LAUREL SNYDER (PERFORMER)

is a dance artist, educator, and movement expert. She received her BFA in dance from the University of Florida, where she also studied acting and art history. Her work has been featured at numerous festivals and venues across the United States and abroad. She is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history.

FAYE DRISCOLL

is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history. He has performed at numerous festivals and venues across the United States and abroad. He is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history.

SEAN DONOVAN (PERFORMER)

is a New York actor, dancer, and writer. He has worked with Driscoll since 2015. He has also performed with Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort and Company, the Builders Association, Witness Relocation, 600 Highwaymen, Jennie MaryTai Liu, John Sayles, 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 has also performed in collaboration with Sebastián Calderón, Benoit with the title Donovan & Calderón. Original works include The Reception (2017; HERE Arts Center), 18:45 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 has 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, the United States, Japan, working with the highly acclaimed Jidil! 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)

is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history. She has performed at numerous festivals and venues across the United States and abroad. She is a native of Houston, Texas, and studied acting and art history.

BOBBY MCELVER (SOUND DESIGN)

is a sound designer and composer for theatre, 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, Hamlet, Cry, Trojaní (Troills & Cresside), Early Plays, Vieux Carré, and Hamlet. Theater and dance credits: Andrew Schneider (Youarenowhere), NYC Players, Half Straddled, Young Jean Lee, New Museum, the Wooster Group, NYU, and La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, The Theatre for the New City, The Zipper, The Tank, the Wooster Group, The Living Theater, and many other venues. 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 Rich Live at the Borden Gallery, 50 States: Texas, Oklahome, Colorado and A Marriage: 2 (West-Er) at the Invisible Dog Art Center, A Marriage: 1 (Suburbie) at HERE Arts Center and elsewhere, and Preparations for a Marriage at Future Tenant Gallery. Their collaborations with choreographers include creating environments for Yoshiko Chuma’s Shredded and Pavel Zuthak’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.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

FAYE DRISCOLL is a Bessie Award-winning performance maker whose works intersect dance and theater. Driscoll’s shared environment live performance (Wolw (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 challenges us to extend the sphere of influence of performance to create communal space where co-emergent social moments are questioned, heightened, and palpable. Driscoll 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, University of Miami, the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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.

S(even) and Pavel Zuštiak's}
The six plays that they have created as members of the devised theater company TEAM—Anything That Gives Off Light, Roose Elvis, 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 play 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, Darragh Carr, and cakecake. 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 artists group Fixed Agency, artists in residence at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2016 and 2017, 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. Schlahter, 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 Hort (National Theatre of Scotland; 2017 Drama Desk Award), Their Eyes Were Watching God with Tony Award–winning director Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Billie Holiday Theatre, 2016); 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 ZARRITT (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 at 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 created 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 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.
Join us for dinner or drinks before or after the theater at Marisol, the new restaurant and bar at the MCA. When purchasing tickets through the MCA Box Office, ask about a special Date Night promotion. Call 312-397-4010 for more information.

Date Night

Marisol. Photo: Herman Hiller.

SEASON CALENDAR

2017
Sep 7–10 600 HIGHWAYMEN
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 Mind Over Mirrors
Bellowing Sun

Apr 12–15 Okwui Okpokwasilli
Poor People's TV Room

Program notes compiled by Tara Aisha Willis
The MCA’s newest affinity group, Enact, is a group of MCA donors dedicated to supporting the renowned programs of MCA Stage. Join today for opportunities to meet artists, gain behind-the-scenes access, and discuss groundbreaking directions with leading curators—all while providing vital support.

BENEFITS OF ENACT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- Members-only programming throughout the MCA Stage season, such as intimate gatherings with MCA performance leadership, pre- and post-performance discussions with artists, and behind-the-scenes access to select rehearsals
- Invitation to Season Reveal, an annual preview of the upcoming season
- Opportunities for complimentary drinks and tickets

Circle Donor membership is required to join Enact. Enact dues are an additional $1,000 annually. For more information, contact us at enact@mcachicago.org.

ENACT MEMBERS

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Linda and Michael Welsh

*Enact Chair
As of November 2017

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. Shavun M. Donnelley and Dr. Christopher M. Kelly.

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

The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

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ABOUT MCA STAGE
As an internationally renowned institution devoted to contemporary culture, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago presents the most thought-provoking visual art and performing arts of our time. MCA Stage is a vibrant series presenting theater, dance, and music by leading artists from the United States and around the world in the MCA’s three-hundred seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

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.

PARKING
Validate your ticket at coat check for $12 parking in the MCA garage (220 E Chicago Ave) and the Bernardin garage (747 North Wabash). The $12 parking is limited to six hours on the date of performance.

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

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

Patrons are seated at the management’s discretion. Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in the seating area.

REPRODUCTION
Unauthorized recording and reproduction of a performance are prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION
312-280-2660

BOX OFFICE
312-397-4010

VOLUNTEER FOR PERFORMANCES
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