



NYUAD and ADACH host ground-breaking professional theater performance by Theater Mitu as part of World Stage program

Abu Dhabi, March 1, 2011 – New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)

Institute presents Theater Mitu's production of *CHAOS*, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH). Theater Mitu, a New York City-based theater company, will perform *CHAOS*, a show created and produced entirely in Abu Dhabi, from March 2-5, 2011. *CHAOS*, will be staged on the shore of the Abu Dhabi Corniche against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf. In the spirit of all NYUAD Institute events, the performance will be free for the public; however, seating is limited and reservations are required for entrance.

The production, directed by Rubén Polendo, director of the NYUAD theater program and artistic director of Theater Mitu, will be an adaptation of a quartet of short stories by Italian author and Nobel Laureate Luigi Pirandello. Working with the elegant forms of Japanese, Balinese and Arabic traditions, and featuring original live music, this expressionistic piece creates a vivid panorama to delve into the heart of the migrant experience. According to Polendo, "The themes of Pirandello's work resonated with me, especially as they present an idea of chaos not as criticism but as potential. This is particularly relevant in a place like the UAE that serves as a cultural crossroads which continues to increase in complexity."

"The emotions and narratives of *CHAOS* are not confined to any one culture or history—instead Theater Mitu will present a hyper-theatrical expression of stories that speak to the human condition through a range of art forms, including dance and music," he added.

The company has a commitment to conducting field research to investigate and recreate an authentic adaptation of different performance art forms from around the world.

Theater Mitu has been fusing global performance traditions into innovative theater works since its inception in 1997. As with all Theater Mitu work, this production will be defined by the traditions the company has been exploring, training in and as performance field research.



A total of 38 people will be involved in the cast and crew, including 18 students who have been selected from NYUAD to participate in the production in apprenticeship roles including directing, music, production assistant, acting, production crew and documentary assistants.

ADACH is including *CHAOS* as part of the third season of World Stage program. This year-long initiative seeks to provide the best in world music and dance through the performance of a series of contemporary concerts.

Abdulla Al Ameri, Director of Culture and Arts, at ADACH said: “We are delighted to present a professional theater production conceived, rehearsed, and produced in Abu Dhabi through the World Stage program. This comes in line with the ADACH vision to make arts and culture part of people’s daily life.”

Faculty Director of the NYUAD Institute Philip Kennedy said: “This is an excellent example of how the NYUAD Institute is contributing to making Abu Dhabi a center for creative composition and original research. By making this performance accessible to all, we hope to see an engaged audience that represents a diverse cross-section of the Abu Dhabi community.”

Reservations to attend the performance can be made online at mituchaos.eventbrite.com. As seating is very limited, reservations that are not picked up at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled performance time will be released to be made available for wait-list or walk-up patrons.

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About the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute

The NYU Abu Dhabi Institute hosts academic conferences, workshops, lectures, film series, performances, and other public programs directed both to local audiences and to the worldwide academic and research community. It is a center of the scholarly community for Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, and the Gulf, bringing together faculty and students from institutions of higher learning throughout the region.

NYU Abu Dhabi, through the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, is a world-class center of cutting-edge research, scholarship and cultural activity. The Institute creates



singular opportunities for leading faculty members from across the arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences, engineering and the professions to carry out creative scholarship and conduct research on issues of major disciplinary, multidisciplinary and global significance.

About Theater Mitu

Founded in 1997, Theater Mitu has earned a wide reputation as an adventuresome and dynamic ensemble of artists. Under the leadership of artistic director Rubén Polendo, the Company is dedicated to transliterating a wide variety of performance traditions, exploring theatrical form, and supporting the creative growth of its members, who are at the artistic core of each piece the Company produces. Its considerable body of work has taken on a variety of forms: developmental work with some of the world's leading theatrical innovators, productions in conjunction with universities and conservatories, outreach to non-theatrical communities, and research and training with its members.

About ADACH

The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) is the institution in charge of conserving and promoting the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi. Established in October 2005 as an authority of the Government of Abu Dhabi, it is administered by a board of directors chaired by H. E. Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan.

The creation of ADACH was a direct result of the implementation of the Abu Dhabi Cultural Heritage Management Strategy, a 5-year strategy prepared by a UNESCO-led team working closely with local experts. The Strategy identified the principal issues affecting the development of Abu Dhabi's culture and heritage and laid down goals for its activities.

About World Stage

This year-long program was launched by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in October 2009 with the aim of providing the best international contemporary colours in dance and music.

The World Stage has been working to bring distinctive international musicians to Abu Dhabi. It is hoped that this will increase awareness and enhance public understanding of the unifying force of music throughout the world.



The World Stage reflects the classic musical origins of different regions of the world, as well as presenting modern, popular colorful and 'start-up' music.

Artists from a variety of remote locations are invited to present the crème-de-la-crème of contemporary performing artists.

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