



For Immediate Release

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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS ANNOUNCES HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW SEASON

June 10–25, 2016, New Haven, CT

**Two world premieres, four U.S. premieres, two original commissions,
and speakers from around the world will be featured in the 21st annual Festival**

February 25, 2016, New Haven, CT... The International Festival of Arts & Ideas (IFAI) today announced highlights of its much-anticipated 2016 season, June 10–25, featuring the U.S. premiere of “Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour,” a critically and audience-acclaimed production from the National Theatre of Scotland.

The annual two-week Festival in downtown New Haven celebrates the arts, ideas, and community with groundbreaking performances and provocative conversations with leading artists, thought-leaders, and innovators from around the world. The events take place in a variety of venues, including on the Green, and 80% of them are free admission. Performers include some of the most influential and innovative theater arts, classical, jazz, and dance figures of our time. Additional 2016 programming will be announced as dates and venues are confirmed.



Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour production image. Photo by Manuel Harlan

Executive Director Mary Lou Aleskie said, “With the 2016 program, we have stepped up our game yet again, bringing extraordinary talent, creativity, and expertise to our community. Our audiences will be treated to two world premieres, four U.S. premieres, and two works co-commissioned by the Festival. The diversity of programs further establishes the Festival and New Haven as a major force for the presentation of world-class performing arts and as a catalyst for stimulating discourse about the key issues of our time.”

The 2016 Festival is presented with major support from the Connecticut Office of the Arts, First Niagara, Yale University, Comcast/NBC Connecticut, the City of New Haven, the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Carolyn Foundation.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Premiere of “Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour”

Yale Repertory Theatre, 1120 Chapel Street, New Haven, June 10-25, 2016



Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour production image.
Photo by Manuel Harlan

Named by *The Guardian* as one of the top ten stage plays in the U.K. last year, the delightfully raucous “Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour” is produced by the **National Theatre of Scotland** and adapted by **Lee Hall** (“Billy Elliot”) from the cult novel *The Sopranos* by **Alan Warner**. It will receive its London West End premiere in early August.

An exhilarating musical play that is both hilariously funny and poignant, “Our Ladies” is about six schoolgirls on the cusp of change. Love, lust, pregnancy, and death all spiral out of control in a single day when they venture to Edinburgh for a singing competition. With a soundtrack of classical music and 70s pop rock, featuring **music by Handel, Bach, Bob Marley, and Electric Light Orchestra**, “Our Ladies” is a life-affirming piece of musical theater.

Directed by **Vicky Featherstone** with Music Supervisor **Martin Lowe** (“Once”). Lowe won a Grammy, Tony, and Olivier award for his work on “Once.” Hall won a Tony, Drama Desk, and Olivier award for his work on “Billy Elliot.”

“Our Ladies” premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2015, winning four awards before embarking on a sell-out Scottish tour and run at Newcastle’s Live Theatre.

“a work that’s both anthem and elegy, a getting of wisdom that celebrates life even as it breaks your heart” *The Herald* ★★★★★

Advance tickets for “Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour” are currently on sale at artidea.org.
Recommended for ages 16 and over; contains strong language and adult themes.

World Premiere of new work by Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks with Brooklyn Rider

Shubert Theatre, 247 College Street, New Haven, June 23–24, 2016

Co-commissioned by International Festival of Arts & Ideas, The Joyce Theater, and Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond, this new full-length work was created by **Wendy Whelan**, former New York City Ballet principal, and dancer and choreographer **Brian Brooks**. Whelan and Brooks previously collaborated on the duet “First Fall” for “Restless Creature,” each taking creative risks in unfamiliar territory; classical and contemporary dance, respectively. This new work of solos and duets represents a continuation and extension of their exploration. **Brooklyn Rider**, the New York City-based string quartet, will perform live.



Wendy Whelan in “Restless Creature” production image. Photo by Christopher Duggan

“Everything about her (Whelan) is riveting, interesting, unusual, and intelligent.”
The New York Times

U.S. Premiere of “The Money”

Quinnipiac Club, 221 Church Street, New Haven, June 18–25, 2016



The Money production image. Courtesy of Kaleider

In this immersive theater experience, audience members opt to buy in to participate as a benefactor or observe among silent witnesses. As the clock ticks, the benefactors have 90 minutes to decide unanimously how to spend a pot of money. If they don't agree, the money rolls over to the next audience. A Kaleider production, every outcome of “The Money” is unique.

“Brilliant” *The Guardian*★★★★

Abraham.in.Motion “The Live Music Program”

University Theatre, 222 York Street, New Haven, June 14–16, 2016

Kyle Abraham, Bessie award-winning choreographer and MacArthur Fellow, and his company **Abraham.in.Motion** will present works that combine refined movement with compelling themes of identity and race. “The Gettin” features live music (a first for Abraham) with Grammy-winning jazz artist **Robert Glasper** and his trio re-imagining “We Insist! Max Roach’s Freedom Now Suite.” “Absent Matter” is a new work created in collaboration with Blue Note recording artist **Otis Brown III**, multimedia artist **Tahir Hemphill**, and costume designer **Karen Young**.



Abraham.in.Motion “The Gettin” production image with Vinson Fraley and Tamisha Guy. Photo by Jerry and Lois Photography

“*Absent Matter* draws from a fusion of techniques—contemporary dance, ballet, West African, hip hop—charging through his dancers with liquidity and flash. It all belongs to them, their energies unflagging, each and every ripple, whirl and thrust never less than alluring.”

Time Out New York

“Race and music are potent tools for Kyle Abraham.” *The New York Times*

“Steel Hammer”

Long Wharf Theatre, 222 Sargent Drive, New Haven, June 16–18, 2016

“Steel Hammer” is the latest collaboration from acclaimed composer **Julia Wolfe**, Obie-winning **SITI Company**, and the celebrated ensemble **Bang on a Can All-Stars**. The play inventively examines key contemporary social issues through the folk song “John Henry,” the legendary steel-driver who challenged a steam drill in a man versus machine contest. It serves as a potent vehicle for examining the African American experience and the malleability of myth and fact. Music and the spoken word woven with movement, dance, and percussion on a variety of surfaces, including the performers’ bodies, create a highly original theatrical experience.



Steel Hammer production image. Courtesy of Julia Wolfe/Siti Company/Bang on a Can All-Stars

“Steel Hammer’ bangs out a spectacularly inventive social message.” *The Los Angeles Times*

“alternately clamorous, haunting, exhilarating” *The New York Times*

“Air Play”

University Theatre, 222 York Street, New Haven, June 21–25, 2016

“Air Play” is a comic adventure of an epic scale for audiences of all ages. It follows the surreal journey of a brother and a sister as they encounter flying umbrellas, massive balloons, kites, and a monumental snow globe. Created by Acrobuffos and performed by the comedy duo **Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone**, “Air Play” uses spectacular sets featuring **Daniel Wurtzel’s** air sculptures. The show also spins the radio dial to create auditory air play, including Balkan gypsy music, Nordic boys’ choirs, symphony orchestras, Italian avant-garde, and Appalachian ballads.

Ticket Information

Advance tickets for “Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour” are currently available at www.artidea.org.



Air Play “Moby” production image.
Photo © Florence Montmare

Tickets for Wendy Whelan and Brian Brooks, “The Money,” Abraham.in.Motion “The Live Music Program,” “Steel Hammer,” and “Air Play” go on sale to IFAI members on March 29, and to the public on April 19, 2016. The complete 2016 Festival program will be announced March 29, at www.artidea.org.

About the International Festival of Arts & Ideas

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a year-round organization that culminates with an annual celebration of performing arts, lectures, and conversations each June in New Haven, CT. The 2016 Festival takes place June 10–25. The Festival convenes leading artists, thought-leaders, and innovators from around the world for fifteen days of dynamic public programs to engage, entertain, and inspire a diversity of communities. More than 80% of Festival programs are free to the public, including events that feature some of the most influential jazz, classical, dance, and theater artists of our time. The Festival takes place in venues and open spaces in downtown New Haven, in the heart of the northeast corridor, two and a half hours south of Boston and ninety minutes north of New York City.

The Festival’s programs have an impact throughout the year and include additional performances, educational opportunities, and the annual Visionary Leadership Award.

The Festival was established in 1996, by Anne Calabresi, Jean M. Handley, and Roslyn Meyer. They envisioned an annual celebration in New Haven—a city steeped in a rich array of cultural and educational traditions—distinguished from other arts festivals by its fusion of the arts with events centered on sharing ideas.

www.artidea.org

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