



## THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS

**Theater of War Productions** provides a framework to engage communities in challenging dialogues about human suffering. Using theater as a catalyst to spark conversations, Theater of War Productions addresses pressing public health and social issues such as combat-related psychological injury, suicide, end-of-life care, police/community relations, prison reform, gun violence, political violence, natural and manmade disaster, domestic violence, substance abuse, and addiction.

Since its founding in 2009, Theater of War Productions has facilitated events for over 100,000 people, presenting 22 different tailored programs targeted to diverse communities across the globe. The company works with leading film, theater, and television actors to present dramatic readings of seminal plays—from classical Greek tragedies to modern and contemporary works—followed by town-hall discussions designed to confront social issues by drawing out raw and personal reactions to themes highlighted in the plays and underscoring how they resonate with contemporary audiences. The guided discussions break down stigmas and invite audience members to share their perspectives and experiences, helping to foster empathy, compassion, and an understanding of deeply complex issues.

Notable artists who have performed with Theater of War Productions include Blythe Danner, Adam Driver, Reg E. Cathey, Jesse Eisenberg, Paul Giamatti, Jake Gyllenhaal, Alfred Molina, Frances McDormand, Samira Wiley, Jeffrey Wright, and many others.

Theater of War Productions was co-founded by Bryan Doerries and Phyllis Kaufman, and Doerries currently serves as the company's artistic director.

In 2017, Doerries, was named NYC Public Artist in Residence (PAIR), a joint appointment with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and Department of Veterans' Services. Over the course of his two-year residency, Doerries will bring more than 60 events to veterans and civilian communities across all five boroughs in collaboration with Brooklyn Public Library, a co-producer of the PAIR events, and support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

In an unprecedented effort to bring arts-based public health projects to communities around the U.S. and globally, Theater of War Productions partnered with government, community, and educational organizations to stage more than 70 events in over 20 cities worldwide during 2017.

[www.theaterofwar.com](http://www.theaterofwar.com)  
@TheaterofWar

## THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS

### Selected Projects by Issue

#### Impact of War and Violence

##### ***Theater of War*** (Sophocles' *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*)

Rooted in discussions about the enduring impact of war, the company's hallmark project is designed to increase awareness of post-deployment psychological health issues, disseminate information on available resources, and foster greater community cohesion.

##### ***The Tecmessa Project*** (Sophocles' *Ajax*)

This presentation of Sophocles' *Ajax* focuses on the role of Tecmessa, wife of the warrior Ajax. The dramatic reading serves to inspire a conversation about the unique challenges faced by military families.

#### Community and Police Relations

##### ***Antigone in Ferguson*** (Sophocles' *Antigone*)

First developed in response to Michael Brown's 2014 murder, this project is designed to bridge the growing divide between law enforcement and local communities throughout the United States. Artistic Director Bryan Doerries' contemporary translation brings Sophocles' ancient play to life, recounting the fate of Antigone, who in defiance of the King's orders, decides to honor her brother's death by moving his slain body from the streets. *Antigone in Ferguson* is set to gospel music, performed by an ensemble made up of community leaders including police officers and educators. With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, *Antigone in Ferguson* is being developed as a full-scale theatrical production to be staged in New York City in the fall of 2018.

#### Ethics and the Justice System

##### ***Theater of Law*** (Aeschylus' *Eumenides*)

Commissioned by New York University's Forum on Law, Culture, & Society, and designed as a professional development program for legal professionals, as well as a project for the general public, *Theater of Law* drives conversations about moral justice in the court system. The project is aimed at engaging audiences who have in some way been disenfranchised by the law in constructive, powerful dialogue.

#### Domestic Violence

##### ***Domestic Violence Project*** (Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*)

Addressing the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities, the *Domestic Violence Project* is touring all five boroughs of New York City under the current Public Artist in Residence program, through a partnership with the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

#### End-of-life Care/Chronic Suffering/Death/Dying

##### ***King Lear Project*** (Shakespeare's *King Lear*)

This project presents readings of scenes from Shakespeare's *King Lear* to engage diverse audiences, including the elderly and their families and caregivers, in open discussions about the challenges of aging and of caring for senior citizens.

### ***End of Life*** (Sophocles' *Women of Trachis* and *Philoctetes*)

In addition to public performances, this project is used as a teaching tool by medical institutions, such as Harvard Medical School, NYU School of Medicine, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, and others to prepare medical professionals in the fields of palliative care, hospice, geriatrics, and nursing.

### Gun Violence

#### ***Hercules*** (Euripides' *Madness of Hercules*)

Drawing from an ancient Greek tragedy about a vicious act of violence committed by an angry man with an invincible weapon, this project aims to generate powerful dialogue between concerned citizens, members of the law enforcement community, victims and perpetrators of gun violence, and the general public.

### Addiction and Substance Abuse

#### ***Addiction Performance Project*** (Eugene O'Neill's *A Long Day's Journey into Night*) and ***The Dionysus Project*** (Euripides' *The Bacchae*)

Designed to raise awareness of addiction, the projects promote dialogue about the ethical and professional challenges posed by treating and supporting patients and loved ones who are struggling with addiction.

#### ***Rum and Vodka*** (Conor McPherson's one-man play, *Rum and Vodka*)

This project provokes discussions about the impact of alcoholism and addiction.

### Prison Reform

#### ***Prometheus in Prison*** (Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*)

Addressing the challenges of rehabilitating prisoners in both correctional facilities and in communities, *Prometheus in Prison* premiered at the Missouri Department of Corrections in 2009 and has since been presented at various forums and correctional facilities worldwide, including the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in 2011.

### Racism/Racial Injustice

#### ***The Drum Major Instinct***

*The Drum Major Instinct* engages audiences in dialogue about racism, inequality, and social justice. The performance features a dramatization of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final sermon, embodied by prominent actors and supported by a large gospel choir, composed of singers, activists, police officers, and musicians from St. Louis, MO, and Brooklyn, NY.

#### ***Frederick Douglass in Staten Island***

*Frederick Douglass in Staten Island* uses an 1883 speech that Douglass delivered to the National Convention of Colored Men as a forum for a powerful dialogue about racism, inequality, civil rights, education and the legal system, with the goal of fostering compassion, understanding, and positive action. The reading is accompanied by chain-gang music, spirituals, and additional original music composed by St. Louis native Phil Woodmore.

### Sexual Violence

#### ***Tape*** (Stephen Belber's *Tape*)

*Tape* has been developed as a sexual assault awareness and prevention training program that uses dramatic readings of Stephen Belber's 1999 play to ignite discussions designed to confront community tolerance for sexually inappropriate behavior, particularly in military and university settings.

### Mental Health

#### **Medea** (Euripides' *Medea*)

*Medea* timelessly depicts how scorned passion can lead to revenge and, sometimes, unthinkable violence. This project, which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in June 2016, delves into under-discussed mental health issues that affect women and their families.

### Political Violence

#### **Acts of Violence** (Seneca's *Thyestes*)

This project presents scenes from Seneca's *Thyestes*, a Roman tragedy that was written during the gruesome reign of Nero, as a catalyst for town-hall discussions about the impact of political violence upon individuals, families, caregivers, health and human rights advocates, communities, and nations.

### Natural Disaster

#### **Book of Job** (Stephen Mitchell's translation of *The Book of Job*)

Developed in collaboration with PopTech, *The Book of Job* was created to promote healing dialogue within the community of Joplin, which was devastated by a tornado in May 2011. The project has since been presented all over the country and the world, from New York City (Hurricane Sandy), to Pascagoula, MS (10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina), to Tokyo (Fukushima).

#### **Other projects in development address**

- Immigration/Assimilation/Refugee Issues
- Sex Trafficking
- Gang Violence



**BRYAN DOERRIES**  
**Artistic Director**

Bryan Doerries is a Brooklyn-based writer, director, and translator, who currently serves as Artistic Director of Theater of War Productions. A self-described evangelist for classical literature and its relevance to our lives today, Doerries uses age-old approaches to help individuals and communities heal from trauma and loss.

During his tenure at Theater of War Productions, the company has presented diverse projects across the country and internationally. Theater of War Productions uses dramatic readings of seminal plays and community conversations to confront topics such as combat-related psychological injury, end-of-life care, police and community relations, prison reform, gun violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance abuse and addiction.

Doerries' book, *The Theater of War: What Ancient Greek Tragedies Can Teach Us Today*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in September of 2015, along with a volume of his translations of ancient Greek tragedies, entitled *All That You've Seen Here is God*. His graphic novel, *The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan*, an adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey* as told by an infantry Marine to his squad, was published by Pantheon in April of 2016. Doerries lectures on his work at cultural venues throughout the world and, in recent years, has taught courses at Princeton University, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, and the Bard Prison Initiative.

Doerries is a proud graduate of Kenyon College and serves as a board member of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and Friends of the Young Writers Workshop. Among his awards, Doerries has received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Kenyon College, and in March 2017, he was named Public Artist in Residence (PAIR) for the City of New York, a joint appointment with the New York City Department of Veterans' Services and Department of Cultural Affairs. During this two-year residency, he will bring more than 60 events to diverse communities across all five boroughs.



Diverse Artists. Transformative Art.



**Harlem Stage and Theater of War Productions Present *Antigone in Ferguson*  
September 13 - October 13, 2018**

*Free performances to feature a live gospel choir and leading actors including  
Samira Wiley, Paul Giamatti, Adepero Oduye, David Strathairn,  
Tamara Tunie, Frankie Faison, Kathryn Erbe and more*

*Performances will spark community conversations on race and social justice*

New York, NY – June 26, 2018 – **Harlem Stage** and **Theater of War Productions** today announced an unprecedented five-week FREE run of performances of Theater of War Productions' original project, ***Antigone in Ferguson***. Opening on September 13 and kicking off Harlem Stage's 2018/2019 programming season, *Antigone in Ferguson* was conceived in the wake of Michael Brown's death in 2014, through a collaboration between Theater of War Productions and community members from Ferguson, MO. Translated and directed by **Bryan Doerries** and composed by **Phil Woodmore**, the project fuses a dramatic reading by leading actors of excerpts from Sophocles' Greek tragedy with live choral music performed by a choir of activists, police officers, youth, and concerned citizens from Ferguson and New York City. The performance is the catalyst for panel and audience-driven discussions on race and social justice, the core component of the event. This multifaceted production will offer a glimpse not only into the effects of the tragedy in Brown's local community, but also the trauma of police violence and racial injustice in communities of color in New York and across the nation.

During the *Antigone in Ferguson* run, Harlem Stage, with deep roots in both the Harlem and broader artistic community, and Theater of War Productions will work closely with various partners to engage audiences from across the city, providing interborough transportation and targeted outreach initiatives in order to encourage and facilitate diverse audience attendance for each event. To further deepen connections to the community, performances will be enriched by the participation of local choirs from Harlem and around the city, who will join **The Phil Woodmore Singers** each week.

Local stakeholders and community leaders will participate as panelists, assisting in opening up dialogues with audiences. These guided discussions, which aim to promote healing and bridge the growing divide between law enforcement and local communities, will focus on the impact of racialized violence against communities of color, and the legacies of the tragic deaths of Michael Brown, as well as Eric Garner, Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell, Saheed Vassell, and numerous other victims.

The presentation will feature a rotating roster of acclaimed actors, including **Samira Wiley** (*The Handmaid's Tale*), who will reprise the role she portrayed in the premiere of *Antigone in Ferguson*, first presented on the stage of Michael Brown's high school near Ferguson in 2016. Other cast members include: **Paul Giamatti** (*Billions*), **Tamara Tunie** (*Law & Order: SVU*), **David Strathairn** (*Good Night, and Good Luck*), **Adepero Oduye** (*12 Years a Slave*), **Frankie Faison** (*The Wire*) and **Kathryn Erbe** (*Law & Order: Criminal Intent*). Each week will feature a different group of actors.

"We are grateful to Harlem Stage for creating a home for our work in Harlem," said **Bryan Doerries, artistic director of Theater of War Productions**. "With our projects, we strive to make brave spaces for difficult conversations that have the power to heal rifts and strengthen community bonds. With *Antigone in Ferguson*, we hope to build upon the great work that Harlem Stage has been doing for decades to engage diverse audiences with dynamic performances, igniting dialogue and inspiring positive change."

"This production reflects our goal of making the arts accessible to everyone and to position the arts as a fertile breeding ground for discussion on current topics" said **Monique Martin, director of programming of Harlem Stage**.

*Antigone in Ferguson* is the culmination of artistic director Bryan Doerries' work as a NYC Public Artist in Residence -- for which Theater of War Productions has presented over 60 performances across all five boroughs. *Antigone in Ferguson* at Harlem Stage marks a departure from the company's history of nomadic presentations. Having mounted over 700 events at a range of venues around the world, from Guantanamo Bay to a playground in Brownsville, Brooklyn, this extended run will be the first time Theater of War Productions will embed itself in one location for an extended period of time. Exclusively supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the 30 free performances at Harlem Stage will offer expanded opportunities for community participation in this innovative social justice project.

"Harlem Stage is incredibly grateful to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for their generous support of this collaboration with Theater of War Productions which extends our mission-driven programs and enables us to offer the entire five week run for free to the public," said **Pat Cruz, executive director of Harlem Stage**.

The company's partnership with Harlem Stage builds on Doerries' two-year tenure as Public Artist in Residence, which has also been supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The residency has served as an incubator for the company's projects which have been presented to diverse communities around New York City, from audiences at Lincoln Center to Rikers Island, as well as at other community centers such as public libraries, homeless shelters, public housing developments, high schools and domestic violence shelters.

Known as an incubator of performing arts that stems from and relates to Black culture, Harlem Stage was the natural partner for this series. As a legendary uptown venue that has promoted the creative legacy of artists of color from around the globe for over 35 years, Harlem Stage is proud to include *Antigone in Ferguson* as the launch production for its 2018/2019 season. This upcoming season is curated by Monique Martin, recently appointed Director of Programming, and features artists as #Disrupters, who take creative risks. They reflect the times via a range of artistic genres, offering audiences the chance to experience legendary performers and rising stars.

### **Antigone in Ferguson at Harlem Stage**

Translated and Directed by Bryan Doerries

Composed by Phil Woodmore

**Dates:** September 13-October 13, 2018 (except for Sundays and Mondays)

**Time:** 7:30pm (Saturdays: 3:00pm and 7:30pm)

**Runtime:** 2 hours and 15 minutes

**Location:** Harlem Stage Gate House, 150 Convent Avenue. New York, NY, 10031

**Tickets:** Tickets are FREE but RSVP is required.

*For tickets and further details on cast and performers, visit [harlemstage.org](http://harlemstage.org).*

Tickets available beginning August 13; for advanced registration, email: [marketing@harlemstage.org](mailto:marketing@harlemstage.org)

### **ABOUT ANTIGONE IN FERGUSON**

Created in collaboration with citizens from St Louis and Ferguson whose lives were impacted by the death of Michael Brown, *Antigone in Ferguson* features an unconventional presentation of scenes from Sophocles' ancient Greek play. The staged readings, performed by leading television, film and theater actors, are accompanied by live music performed by a roster of local choirs who will complement The Phil Woodmore Singers, a St Louis-based gospel choir, featuring police officers, activists, youth, and members of the faith community. Notable members of the choir include Michael Brown's former teacher, Duane Foster, and Lt. Latricia Allen, Commander of the Community Engagement Unit of the St Louis Metropolitan Police Department, a special unit created following the unrest catalyzed by Brown's death.

Set in ancient Thebes in the midst of a brutal civil war, Sophocles' *Antigone* is a play about a teenage girl who wishes to bury her brother, Polyneices, whose slain body lays lifeless on the street. In defiance of King Creon, who wishes to make a public example of Polyneices, Antigone buries her brother and chaos and violence ensues. At its core, *Antigone* is a play about what happens when personal conviction and state law clash, raising questions about justice, oppression, and the use of power and force.

The performance seamlessly flows to the heart of the project: a dynamic conversation aimed at fostering empathy and deeper understanding between communities. Following comments and reactions from a panel of community leaders, audience discussions will be guided by De-Andrea Blaylock, a social worker based in St Louis and artistic director Bryan Doerries, among others.

### **ABOUT THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS**

Since its founding in 2009, Theater of War Productions, has facilitated events for over 100,000 people, presenting over 20 different tailored programs targeted to diverse communities across the globe. The company works with professional actors to present dramatic readings of seminal plays—from classical Greek tragedies to modern works—to provide a framework for engaging communities in challenging dialogues about human suffering.

The company uses a combination of theater and guided public dialogue to help communities address pressing public health and social issues such as combat-related psychological injury, suicide, end-of-life care, police/community relations, prison reform, gun violence, political violence, natural and manmade disaster, domestic violence, substance abuse, and addiction. Theater of War Productions was co-founded by Bryan Doerries and Phyllis Kaufman, who served as producing director from 2009 to 2016. Doerries currently serves as the company's artistic director.

In 2017, Doerries was appointed a NYC Public Artist in Residence, a joint appointment with the NYC Department of Veterans' Services and Department of Cultural Affairs. Co-produced by Brooklyn Public Library, the two-year residency has been supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

**For more information on Theater of War Productions, visit:** [www.theaterofwar.com](http://www.theaterofwar.com)

### **ABOUT HARLEM STAGE**

Harlem Stage, led by Executive Director Pat Cruz and Managing Director James King, is the performing arts center that bridges Harlem's cultural legacy to contemporary artists of color and dares to provide the artistic freedom that gives birth to new ideas. For over 35 years Harlem



Stage has been one of the nation's leading arts organizations, achieving this distinction through its work with artists of color and by facilitating a productive engagement with the communities it serves through the performing arts. With a long-standing tradition of supporting artists and organizations around the corner and across the globe, Harlem Stage boasts such legendary artists as Harry Belafonte, Max Roach, Sekou Sundiata, Abbey Lincoln, Sonia Sanchez, Eddie Palmieri, Maya Angelou and Tito Puente, as well as contemporary artists like Bill T. Jones, Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, Tamar-kali, Vijay Iyer, Mike Ladd, Stew, Meshell Ndegeocello, Jason Moran, José James, Nona Hendryx and more. Its education program each year provides over 1,000 New York City children with introduction and access to the rich diversity, excitement and inspiration of the performing arts. In 2006, Harlem Stage opened the landmarked, award-winning Harlem Stage Gatehouse. This once abandoned space, originally a pivotal source for distributing fresh water to New York City, is now a vital source of creativity, ideas and culture. Harlem Stage is a winner of the William Dawson Award for Programming Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming (Association of Performing Arts Professionals).

**For more information on Harlem Stage, visit:** [www.harlemstage.org](http://www.harlemstage.org)

**For a full list of donors, please visit:** <https://www.harlemstage.org/support/>

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**BRYAN DOERRIES, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS,  
NAMED PUBLIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (PAIR) WITH NYC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'  
SERVICES & DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

*The two-year residency, co-produced by Brooklyn Public Library, will bring theater projects designed to address public health and social issues to veterans and civilian communities across all five boroughs*

*The inaugural performance will take place March 20 at The Greene Space at WNYC. Subsequent performances have been scheduled in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island; the full run of 60+ performances will run through December 2018*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 1, 2017

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New York – The NYC Department of Veterans' Services and Department of Cultural Affairs today named Bryan Doerries, Artistic Director of Theater of War Productions, as the City's newest Public Artist in Residence (PAIR). The two-year residency, which will bring theater-based projects to all five boroughs, marks the second collaboration between the two agencies as part of the expanded PAIR program, created to enhance the City's services through creative practice. The project, made possible through a \$1,365,000 grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, will be the first city-wide public health program implemented by the Department of Veterans' Services.

Bryan Doerries was selected to be the City's latest PAIR based on the broad impact of his work as co-founder of Theater of War Productions, which presents programs that address the enduring impact of war as well as broader community issues such as gun violence, mental health, addiction, prison reform, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is a co-producer of the residency as part of its commitment to being a resource and advocate for civic engagement, education, artistic expression, and a safe haven for public discourse. The project will combine theater and public forums that engage both veterans and civilians in community-specific performances that foster health and healing through open discussion and exchange. Over the next two years, the free events will take place in more than 60 venues across New York, including public libraries, with each of the projects tailored to the needs of different communities.

"Our deep connection with the arts is a distinct marker of our great city and a source of pride for all New Yorkers," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "This pioneering public artist residency is poised to have a tremendous impact on New York over the next two years by helping to better integrate our veterans into the social fabric of our city and to better educate communities of the impact of war on our city's veterans. Theater of War's singular approach to addressing social issues through performance will bring classical Greek plays to life for a modern, diverse audience of

communities across New York City. Thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, this unique partnership between city agencies, the library system, and Bryan Doerries' extraordinary theater company will demonstrate the powerful ability of art to address issues that face our society at a time when protecting and promoting our shared values is more important than ever."

"As the former State Senate chair of the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs, I have been honored to work alongside the heroes and sheroes who put their lives on the line for our shared liberty," said **Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams**. "It will be truly wonderful to see the cross-pollination of ideas and experiences between artists and veterans in our city as a result of Theater of War's work with our communities. Now is the time to spark dialogue and wrestle with the challenges in our society, and the arts are as important as ever in creating that space for sharing, learning, and inspiring. I applaud DCLA Commissioner Finkelpearl and DVS Commissioner Sutton on this meaningful collaboration."

"In recognition of the power of the arts to foster a sense of belonging and the creation of a broader community, the Department of Veterans' Services is pleased to build upon our ongoing partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and welcome Bryan Doerries as our Public Artist in Residence," said **Brigadier General (Ret.) Loree Sutton, MD, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Services**. "A key goal of this residency is to help veterans successfully transition to and thrive in civilian life by offering programs designed to address the impact of wartime experiences that endure long after a soldier leaves the battlefield. Harnessing the timeless power of storytelling, the *Theater of War* project will provide veterans and their families with programs tailored to their experiences and in doing so create connections with their communities and peers—vital elements in the path to restoring wholeness."

"The ancient Greek principle of *catharsis* is alive and well in *Theater of War*. The arts have the unique ability to evoke and diminish fear and trauma, to break down barriers, to build and strengthen social bonds, and to address some of the most challenging issues we face as a city and a community," said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**. "In our second PAIR with DVS, we're excited to be partnering with Brooklyn Public Library and working with a host of community organizations to bring the groundbreaking work of Theater of War Productions to communities in all five boroughs."

"It is our great honor to support this powerful initiative that aims to help improve the lives of thousands of veterans, their families and their communities across New York City. It is only through these broad collaborations by means of public and private partnerships that such work and efforts to impact thousands of people can be maximized," said **Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation**. "In our work in New York, Greece and around the world, the Foundation is committed to actions that help transform the lives of people and communities most in need. With this project, we are especially proud to continue our collaboration with Bryan Doerries, and help his efforts to address the devastating consequences of PTSD for thousands of veterans and their communities, through the staged reading of classical Greek tragedies and the process of ritualized catharsis they induce."

Led by Brooklyn-based writer and director Bryan Doerries, Theater of War Productions presents readings of classical Greek and contemporary plays as a foundation for building a framework for public dialogue on urgent social issues. *Theater of War*, the company's hallmark project, presents these events to service members and their communities to help initiate conversations about the visible and invisible wounds of war. The readings, which have featured leading film, theater, and television performers such as Jesse Eisenberg, Paul Giamatti, Jake Gyllenhaal,

Brian F. O’Byrne, Martin Sheen, John Turturro, Diane Wiest, Samira Wiley, and Jeffrey Wright, are followed by guided town-hall style audience discussions. To date, over 80,000 service members, veterans, and their families have attended and participated in *Theater of War* events and have spoken openly about their experiences on deployments and at home.

The first *Theater of War* PAIR event will be held at The Greene Space at WNYC in Manhattan on March 20, 2017. The cast will include Paul Giamatti, Frances McDormand, David Strathairn, and Reg E. Cathey reading from Sophocles’ *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*. The event will be live-streamed in full on the Stavros Niarchos Foundation website, and an excerpt of the program will be recorded for *The New Yorker Radio Hour*. The first community-based events have also been scheduled including *Theater of War* at Brooklyn Public Library’s Crown Heights branch (April 6); the Main Auditorium at Susan Wagner High School, Staten Island (April 14); Rockaway Theatre Company in Rockaway, Queens (April 17); and the Pregones + Puerto Rican Traveling Theater in the Bronx (May 6). All events will be free and open to the public.

“It has been profoundly humbling to work with women and men who have lived lives of mythological proportions, who have loved and lost, and who know the meaning of sacrifice,” said **Bryan Doerries, Artistic Director of Theater of War Productions**. “We are deeply honored and grateful for this opportunity to bring our work to veterans and other populations all over the City, using timeless stories to help communities build a shared vocabulary for discussing trauma and isolation, but also resilience and paths toward healing.”

“Brooklyn Public Library contributes to the vibrancy of our community, serving as a forum for education, new ideas, artistic expression, and sharing different perspectives and experiences,” said **Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library**. “Theater of War Productions has established an innovative model that uses theater to address critical issues that we face in our borough, city, and nation, and we are very excited to work with them on this city-wide initiative. Exploring and easing the toll that combat takes on our servicemen and -women is vitally important, and relevant not only for those who have experienced battle, but everyone whose life has been touched by violence or trauma.”

In 2016, Brooklyn Public Library and Theater of War Productions worked together to present a dramatic reading from Euripides’ *Madness of Hercules* to facilitate a community conversation on the social impact of gun violence. BPL’s involvement in the current residency—which includes engaging new audiences, developing related public programs, and helping to identify communities where the events will take place—embodies one of the ways Brooklyn Public Library is defining a new model for the role libraries can play in people’s lives and address vital issues.

Further details on the residency and upcoming events will be announced at a later date on [www.theaterofwar.nyc](http://www.theaterofwar.nyc).

**Generous support for this project is provided by:**



## **ABOUT PUBLIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (PAIR)**

Public Artists in Residence (PAIR) is a municipal residency program that embeds artists in city government to propose and implement creative solutions to pressing civic challenges. Launched by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in 2015, PAIR takes its inspiration and name from the pioneering work of artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles, the first official artist-in-residence with the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), 1977–present.

PAIR is based on the premise that artists are creative problem-solvers. Moving beyond politics and public relations, artists are able to create long-term and lasting impact by working collaboratively in open-ended processes to build community bonds, open new channels for dialogue, and reimagine realities for those who experience and participate in the work. PAIR artists engage both agency staff and the constituency the agency seeks to serve.

This is the second PAIR collaboration between the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Services. Other current PAIR partnerships include Tania Bruguera at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Mary Miss at the Department of Design and Construction, and The Lost NYC at the Administration for Children's Services.

## **ABOUT THE STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION**

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is one of the world's leading private international philanthropic organizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. The Foundation funds organizations and projects that are expected to achieve a broad, lasting, and positive impact for society at large, focusing on vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly, and also exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also seeks actively to support projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare. In 2012, the Foundation, in addition to its standard grant-making activities, embarked on three major grant initiatives totaling \$378 million (€300 mil) aiming to provide relief support against the severe effects of the deepening socioeconomic crisis in Greece, and to help address the critical issue of youth unemployment. Since 1996, the SNF has made grant commitments of [\\$1.9 billion](#) / €1.6 billion, through 3,706 grants to non-profit organizations in [111 nations around the world](#). 2016 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's global philanthropic activity.

The Foundation's largest single gift is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center ([SNFCC](#)), in Athens. The project's total budget of \$867 million (€630mil) includes two grants of \$6 million (€5mil) each to the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera respectively, aiming to support the organizations' transition to their new facilities. The project, designed by the architectural firm Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW), includes the new facilities of the National Library of Greece, and of the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park. The SNFCC is a testament and a commitment to the country's future. It is also an engine of short- to mid-term economic stimulus.



**THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS TO STAGE OVER 65 EVENTS  
IN THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONALLY THROUGHOUT 2017**

*Events combine performance and public conversation to  
raise awareness of urgent social issues and promote healthy communities*

*Dramatic readings featuring notable actors spark community conversations about issues  
including gun violence, police and community relations, sexual assault, racial injustice, and the  
enduring impact of war*

New York, April 20, 2017 [Updated August 15, 2017] – In an unprecedented effort to bring arts-based public health projects to communities around the U.S. and globally, Theater of War Productions is partnering with government, community, and educational organizations to stage over 65 events in 2017, in more than 20 cities worldwide. Since its founding in 2009, the social-impact theater company has worked with 200 leading film, theater, and television actors to present dramatic readings of seminal plays—from classical Greek tragedies to modern and contemporary works—followed by public conversations in an interactive program designed to address urgent community-based social issues.

The events, which are presented free to the public, use theater as a catalyst for candid conversations, helping to build a common vocabulary for discussing the impact of a wide range of issues ranging from combat-related psychological injury, police/community relations, and domestic and gun violence to mental health, substance abuse, and end-of-life care.

Notable artists who have led readings include Blythe Danner, Adam Driver, Reg E. Cathey, Jesse Eisenberg, Paul Giamatti, Jake Gyllenhaal, Alfred Molina, Frances McDormand, Samira Wiley, Jeffrey Wright, and many others. The readings form the basis of town-hall discussions that draw out raw and personal reactions to themes highlighted in the plays, underscoring how they resonate with contemporary audiences. The guided discussions break down stigmas and invite audience members to share their perspectives and experiences, helping to foster empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of deeply complex issues. The events also raise awareness of the resources available to help those impacted by these issues, in hope of enabling positive change.

In 2017, Bryan Doerries, artistic director and co-founder of Theater of War Productions, was named NYC Public Artist in Residence (PAIR), a joint appointment with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and Department of Veterans' Services. Over the course of his two-year residency, Doerries will bring more than 60 events to veterans and civilian communities across all five boroughs in collaboration with Brooklyn Public Library, a co-producer of the PAIR events. For the first time, with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, this residency brings Theater of War Productions to scale in one city.

“To date, we have staged more than 500 events, and at every performance, the audience teaches us something new,” said Doerries. “It has been a great honor to learn from communities in which the lives of mythological heroes are eclipsed by the stories shared by the very real women and men who come to our events. It is our hope that the dialogue that begins in auditoriums, libraries, and community halls continues beyond those walls, helping to engender compassion and understanding, activate support systems, and bring about positive change.”

Theater of War Productions has brought events to over 100,000 audience members, presenting diverse projects targeted at different communities dealing with specific issues. Given the needs of each group, each project uses a different theatrical work as the basis for conversation.

Selected projects and issues include:

#### Impact of War and Violence

##### ***Theater of War*** (Sophocles’ *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*)

Rooted in discussions about the invisible and visible wounds of war, the company’s hallmark project is designed to increase awareness of post-deployment psychological health issues, disseminate information on available resources, and foster greater community cohesion.

- Scheduled 2017 events: August 29 (American Probation and Parole Conference; New York, NY); August 30 (Tillary Street Women’s Shelter; Brooklyn, NY); September 7 (University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, OH); September 27 (Queens Borough Hall Atrium; Queens, NY); October 6 (Classical Association of the Atlantic States Conference; New York, NY); October 25 (New York Film Academy; New York, NY).

#### Community and Police Relations

##### ***Antigone in Ferguson*** (Sophocles’ *Antigone*)

Designed to bridge the growing divide between law enforcement and local communities throughout the United States, *Antigone in Ferguson* is set to gospel music, performed by a diverse ensemble, including police officers, local educators, and community members. With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, *Antigone in Ferguson* is being developed as a full-scale theatrical production to be staged in New York City.

- Scheduled 2017 events: September 15-16 (Dartmouth University; Hanover, NH); September 30 (Williams College; Williamstown, MA); October 1 (College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA)

#### Ethics and the Justice System

##### ***Theater of Law*** (Aeschylus’ *Eumenides*)

Commissioned by New York University’s Forum on Law, Culture, & Society, and designed as a professional development program for legal professionals, as well as for the general public, *Theater of Law* drives conversations about moral justice in the court system. The project is aimed at engaging audiences who have in some way been disenfranchised by the law in constructive, powerful dialogue.

- Scheduled 2017 event: October 28 (New York, NY)



### Domestic Violence

#### **Domestic Violence Project** (Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*)

Addressing the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities, the *Domestic Violence Project* premiered in Maine in April 2013 and will be touring all five boroughs of New York City under the current PAIR residency over the next two years, through a partnership with the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

- Upcoming 2017 events to be announced

#### **The Tecmessa Project** (Sophocles' *Ajax*)

This presentation of Sophocles' *Ajax* focuses on the role of Tecmessa, wife of the warrior Ajax. The dramatic reading will serve to inspire a conversation about the unique challenges faced by military families.

- Scheduled 2017 event: November 9 (Lincoln Center; New York, NY)

### End-of-life Care/Chronic Suffering/Death/Dying

#### **End of Life** (Sophocles' *Women of Trachis* and *Philoctetes*)

In addition to public performances, this project is used as a teaching tool by medical institutions, such as Harvard Medical School, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, and others to prepare medical professionals in the fields of palliative care, hospice, geriatrics, and nursing.

- Scheduled 2017 event: October 26 (NYU Medical School; New York, NY)

### Gun Violence

#### **Hercules** (Euripides' *Madness of Hercules*)

Drawing from an ancient Greek tragedy about a vicious act of violence committed by an angry man with an invincible weapon, this project aims to generate powerful dialogue between concerned citizens, members of the law enforcement community, victims and perpetrators of gun violence, and the general public.

- Upcoming 2017 events to be announced

### Addiction and Substance Abuse

#### **Addiction Performance Project** (Eugene O'Neill's *A Long Day's Journey into Night*) and **The Dionysus Project** (Euripides' *The Bacchae*)

Designed to raise awareness of addiction as a chronic disease, the project is intended to promote dialogue about the ethical and professional challenges posed by treating (and screening) patients and loved ones who are struggling with addiction.

- Upcoming 2017 events to be announced

#### **Rum and Vodka** (Conor McPherson's one-man play of the same name)

This project provokes discussions about alcoholism and addiction within diverse communities.

### Prison Reform

#### **Prometheus in Prison** (Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*)

Addressing the challenges of supervising and rehabilitating prisoners in both correctional facilities and in communities, *Prometheus in Prison* premiered at the Missouri Department of Corrections in 2009, and has since been presented at various forums and correctional facilities worldwide, including the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in June 2011.

- Upcoming 2017 events to be announced



### Racism/Racial Injustice

#### ***The Drum Major Instinct***

Commissioned by BRIC, *The Drum Major Instinct* engages audiences in dialogue about racism, inequality, and social justice. The performance features a dramatization of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final sermon, embodied by prominent actors and supported by a large gospel choir, composed of singers, activists, police officers, and musicians from St. Louis, MO, and Brooklyn, NY.

### Sexual Violence

#### ***Tape*** (Stephen Belber's *Tape*)

*Tape* has been developed as a sexual assault awareness and prevention training program that uses dramatic readings of Stephen Belber's 1999 play to ignite discussions designed to confront community tolerance for sexually inappropriate behavior, particularly in military and university settings.

### Women's Mental Health

#### ***Medea*** (Euripides' *Medea*)

*Medea* timelessly depicts how scorned passion can lead to revenge and, sometimes, unthinkable violence. This project, which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in June 2016, delves into under-discussed mental health issues that affect women and their families.

### Natural Disaster

#### ***Book of Job*** (Stephen Mitchell's translation of *The Book of Job*)

Developed in collaboration with PopTech, *The Book of Job* was created to promote healing dialogue within the community of Joplin, which was devastated by a tornado in May 2011. The project has since been presented all over the country and the world, from New York City (Hurricane Sandy), to Pascagoula, MS (10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina), to Tokyo (Fukushima).

*For a calendar of events, please see next page.*

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## **ABOUT THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS**

Theater of War Productions is a social-impact company that uses a combination of theater and guided public dialogue to help communities address pressing public health and social issues such as combat-related psychological injury, suicide, end-of-life care, police/community relations, prison reform, gun violence, political violence, natural and manmade disaster, domestic violence, substance abuse, and addiction. Theater of War Productions was co-founded in 2009 by Bryan Doerries and Phyllis Kaufman, who served as producing director from 2009 to 2016. Doerries currently serves as the company's artistic director. For more information, please visit: [www.theaterofwar.com](http://www.theaterofwar.com)

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**Theater of War Productions  
Calendar of Events  
(April – December 2017)**

**April**

April 6: *Theater of War*  
Brooklyn Public Library,  
Crown Heights Branch; Brooklyn, NY

April 17: *Theater of War*  
The Post Theatre, Fort Tilden;  
Rockaway Point, NY

April 27: *Hercules in the Bayview*  
Bayview Opera House; San Francisco, CA

April 30: *The Drum Major Instinct*  
(World Premiere)  
BRIC OPEN Festival; Brooklyn, NY

April 30 – May 13:  
*Theater of War: South Korea Tour*  
18 performances at nine U.S. military bases, including the DMZ

**May**

May 3: *Theater of War*  
Milbank Chapel, Columbia University;  
New York, NY

May 6: *Theater of War*  
Pregones Theater + Puerto Rican Traveling Theater; Bronx,  
New York

May 11: *Theater of War*  
Colchester Garrison; Essex, UK

May 19: *Theater of War*  
Washington State Medical Association Leadership  
Development Conference;  
Lake Chelan, WA

May 28: *Theater of War: Fleet Week Performance*  
Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum;  
New York, NY

**June**

June 22: *Antigone in Ferguson*  
Summer Nostos Festival, Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
Cultural Center; Athens, Greece

June 28: *Theater of Law* (World Premiere)  
New York University Law School;  
New York, NY

**July**

July 15: *Antigone in Ferguson*  
Brooklyn Public Library, Brownsville Branch; Brooklyn, NY

July 19: *Theater of Law*  
New York County District Attorney's Office  
New York, NY

**August**

August 29: *Theater of War*  
American Probation and Parole Conference; New York,  
NY

August 30: *Theater of War: Philoctetes*  
Tillary Street Women's Shelter;  
Brooklyn, NY

**September**

September 7: *Theater of War*  
University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, OH

September 15-16: *Antigone in Ferguson*  
Dartmouth University; Hanover, NH

September 17: *Theater of War*  
Brooklyn Book Festival; Brooklyn, NY

September 22: *Theater of War*  
Rochester, NY

September 27: *Theater of War*  
Queens Borough Hall Atrium; Queens, NY

September 30: *Antigone in Ferguson*  
Williams College; Williamstown, MA

**October**

October 1: *Antigone in Ferguson*  
College of the Holy Cross; Worcester, MA

October 6: *Theater of War*  
Classical Association of the Atlantic States Conference;  
New York, NY

October 19: *Theater of Law*  
Georgetown Law School; Washington DC

October 25: *Theater of War*  
New York Film Academy; New York, NY

October 28: *Theater of Law*  
Forum on Law, Culture, & Society; New York, NY

**November**

November 9: *The Tecmessa Project –  
NYC Veterans Week Program*  
Lincoln Center; New York, NY

November 15: *Theater of War: Female Warrior Program*;  
First Person Arts Festival; Philadelphia, PA

*More events to be announced soon.*