



Bard FISHER CENTER

Bard College, PO Box 5000, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000

YEAR 6 | 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

Live Arts Bard (LAB) is the interdisciplinary residency and commissioning program of Bard’s Fisher Center. LAB creates a community of groundbreaking professional artists who work alongside students to create unconventional projects.

Year 6 of LAB supported 37 artists across 9 projects.

Since 2012, LAB has supported 50+ projects.

Projects developed during LAB’s first six years have been performed in more than 70 communities worldwide.

Thank You

Year 6 of Live Arts Bard was made possible by the generous support of the members of the Live Arts Bard Creative Council and the Advisory Board of the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, and by grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Virginia B. Toulman Foundation, the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, the T.S. Eliot Foundation, King's Fountain, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Thendara Foundation, New Music USA, the Leo Shull Foundation for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Gagosian is the lead corporate sponsor of *Four Quartets*. Major support for *Four Quartets* was provided by Rebecca Gold. Major support for *Peter Pan* was provided by Jeanne Donovan Fisher.

The Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

Advisory Board	Live Arts Bard Creative Council	Live Arts Bard Program Staff	
Jeanne Donovan Fisher, <i>Chair</i>	Alicia Davis	Debra Pemstein, <i>Vice President for Development and Alumni/ae Affairs</i>	Kieley Michasiow-Levy, <i>Development Manager</i>
Carolyn Marks Blackwood	Jeanne Donovan Fisher	Bob Bursey, <i>Executive Director</i>	Vincent Roca, <i>Production Manager</i>
Leon Botstein	Dr. Terry S. Gotthelf	Gideon Lester, <i>Artistic Director, Theater and Dance</i>	Hellena Schiavo, <i>Assistant Production Manager</i>
Stefano Ferrari	Richard and Jane Katzman	Caleb Hammons, <i>Senior Producer</i>	Jennifer Lown, <i>Program Administrator, Dance and Theater & Performance Programs</i>
S. Asher Gelman '06	Stephen Simcock	Jesse Heffler, <i>Assistant Producer</i>	
Rebecca Gold Milikowsky	Sarah and David Stack	Jeannie Schneider, <i>Business Manager</i>	
Denise S. Simon		Zia Affronti Morter '12, <i>Assistant Director of Development and Partnerships</i>	
Martin T. Sosnoff			
Toni Sosnoff			
Felicitas S. Thorne			
Andrew E. Zabler			

If you are interested in supporting LAB, please contact Bob Bursey, Fisher Center Executive Director, at bbursey@bard.edu or 845.758.7980.

For further information on LAB artists and commissioned projects, please contact Caleb Hammons, Fisher Center Senior Producer, at chammons@bard.edu or 845.758.7958.

BARD SUMMERSCAPE 2018

T. S. ELIOT
PAM TANOWITZ
KAIJA SAARIAHO
BRICE MARDEN
FOUR
QUARTETS

“The greatest creation of dance theater so far this century” *NEW YORK TIMES*

A major new dance commission, celebrating the 75th anniversary of T. S. Eliot’s crowning poetic achievement, *Four Quartets*. Choreographer Pam Tanowitz, composer Kaija Saariaho, and painter Brice Marden joined forces to create a sublime meditation on time and human consciousness. The performance was developed over three years during a series of LAB residencies, and was commissioned by the Fisher Center, the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA, Barbican (London), and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.





SARAH MICHELSON

SEPTEMBER17A

My work is a result of the constant, never-ending desire to get to the bottom of things. I felt the work I wanted to explore with them about the legacies of dance and studentship was truly manifested in the work they did. The students became part of the deep and irreplaceable fabric of our work. SARAH MICHELSON

“This is by far the best work with students I’ve ever seen.” CLAUDIA LA ROCCO, ART FORUM

Sarah Michelson’s four-year LAB residency concluded with the world premiere of *September17A*, the first incarnation of a major new body of work that she developed with a group of Bard students from their first year through graduation. The performance, which also included several professional performers, occupied three spaces at the Fisher Center, and explored Michelson’s complex relationship with choreographic pedagogy. Subsequent iterations have taken place at The Kitchen, Performance Space New York, Kampnagel (Hamburg), tanzhaus nrw (Düsseldorf), and Walker Art Center (Minneapolis.)

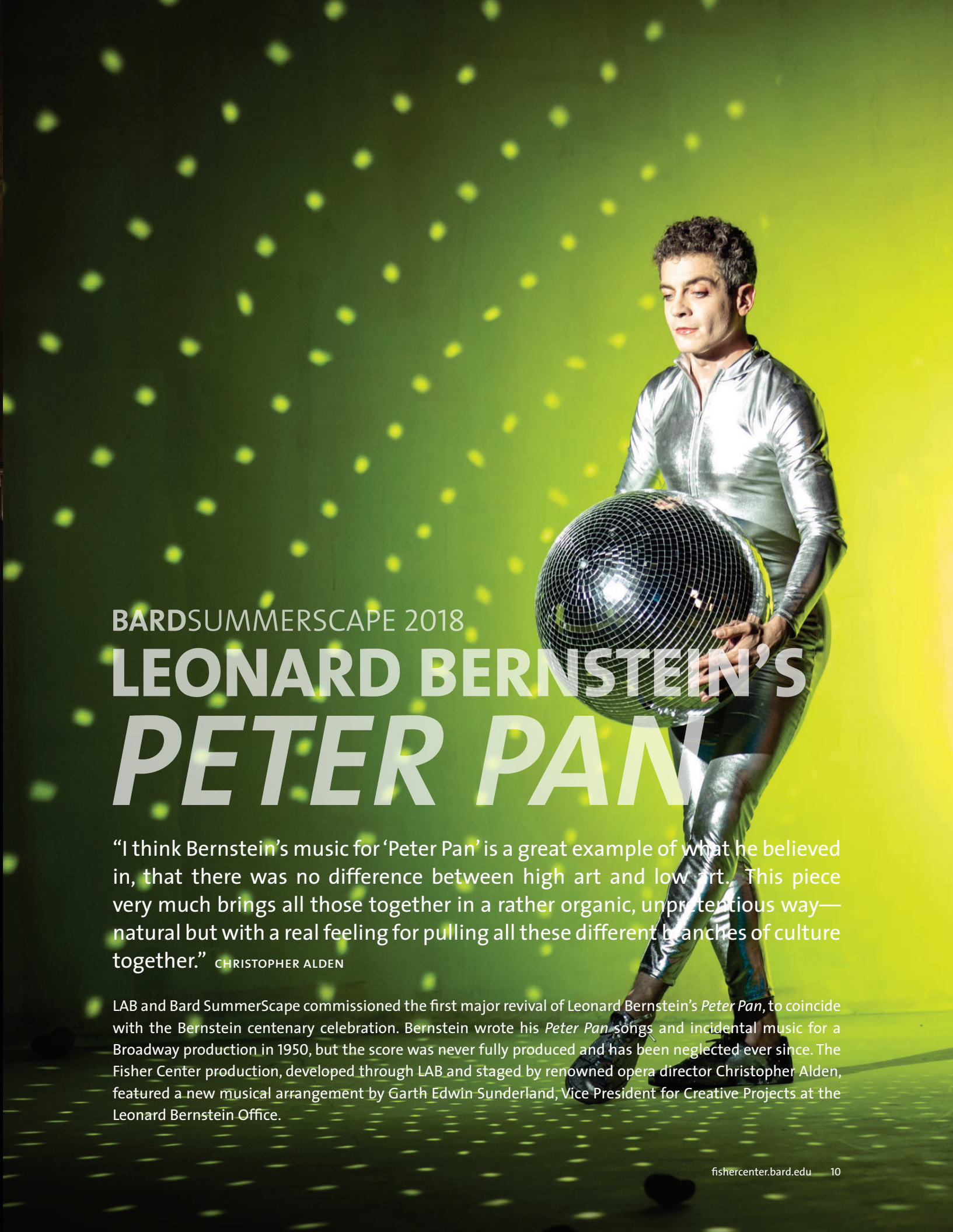
Sarah Michelson was a Live Arts Bard Choreographic Fellow, supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



JUSTIN VIVIAN BOND

“This was the most important course in my time at Bard. Vivian helped me figure out how to express what I wanted to say about my life in ways that would encourage the audience to think about the most important moments in their lives.” NASTASIA FILIAEVA '18

Writer, composer, and cabaret performer Justin Vivian Bond used an early-stage residency to develop music for a “witch opera” about a haunted mansion in San Francisco, exploring, in Bond’s words, “how a space holds the memories of all the people who ever lived there.” Bond and musical collaborator Matt Ray gave a work-in-progress performance of the score for the opera. Bond also taught a semester-long course in Bard’s undergraduate Theater & Performance Program, and completed their fifth summer as emcee and guest curator of the Spiegeltent.



BARD SUMMERSCAPE 2018

LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S *PETER PAN*

“I think Bernstein’s music for ‘Peter Pan’ is a great example of what he believed in, that there was no difference between high art and low art. This piece very much brings all those together in a rather organic, unpretentious way—natural but with a real feeling for pulling all these different branches of culture together.” CHRISTOPHER ALDEN

LAB and Bard SummerScape commissioned the first major revival of Leonard Bernstein’s *Peter Pan*, to coincide with the Bernstein centenary celebration. Bernstein wrote his *Peter Pan* songs and incidental music for a Broadway production in 1950, but the score was never fully produced and has been neglected ever since. The Fisher Center production, developed through LAB and staged by renowned opera director Christopher Alden, featured a new musical arrangement by Garth Edwin Sunderland, Vice President for Creative Projects at the Leonard Bernstein Office.

TERE O'CONNOR

LONG RUN

"This experience expanded the way I approach my choreographic work and my confidence in my own creative abilities."

LILA KLAUS '18

Choreographer Tere O'Connor and his company developed and premiered a significant new dance performance, *Long Run*, at the Fisher Center during a multi-week LAB residency. O'Connor also taught a semester-long composition and theory course, "Choreographic Shift," in Bard's undergraduate Theater & Performance Program. *Long Run* was subsequently presented at the American Dance Festival and at NYU Skirball.

Tere O'Connor was a Live Arts Bard Choreographic Fellow, supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ABBY Z & THE NEW UTILITY

ABANDONED PLAYGROUND

"The facilities, crew and support staff at the Fisher Center are unbelievable, and so responsive to what I need in order to produce the work I do. The students were so engaged; they had such nuanced readings of the piece we were working on. I think they came away with something useful; it was more like tapping into what lies dormant in them than a codification of my work." ABBY Z

Choreographer Abby Zbikowski and her company gave two performances of her work *abandoned playground*, which won the 2017 Juried Bessie Award. Zbikowski's choreography is kinetic and intensely disciplined, combining influences from her background in hip-hop, tap, punk, West African, and postmodern dance styles. While at LAB Zbikowski taught workshops in Bard's undergraduate dance program and community youth classes at the Center for Creative Education in Kingston, NY.

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH & LISA FISCHER

“The whole process was so gentle and supportive. Collaborating with Anna was pure heaven.” LISA FISCHER

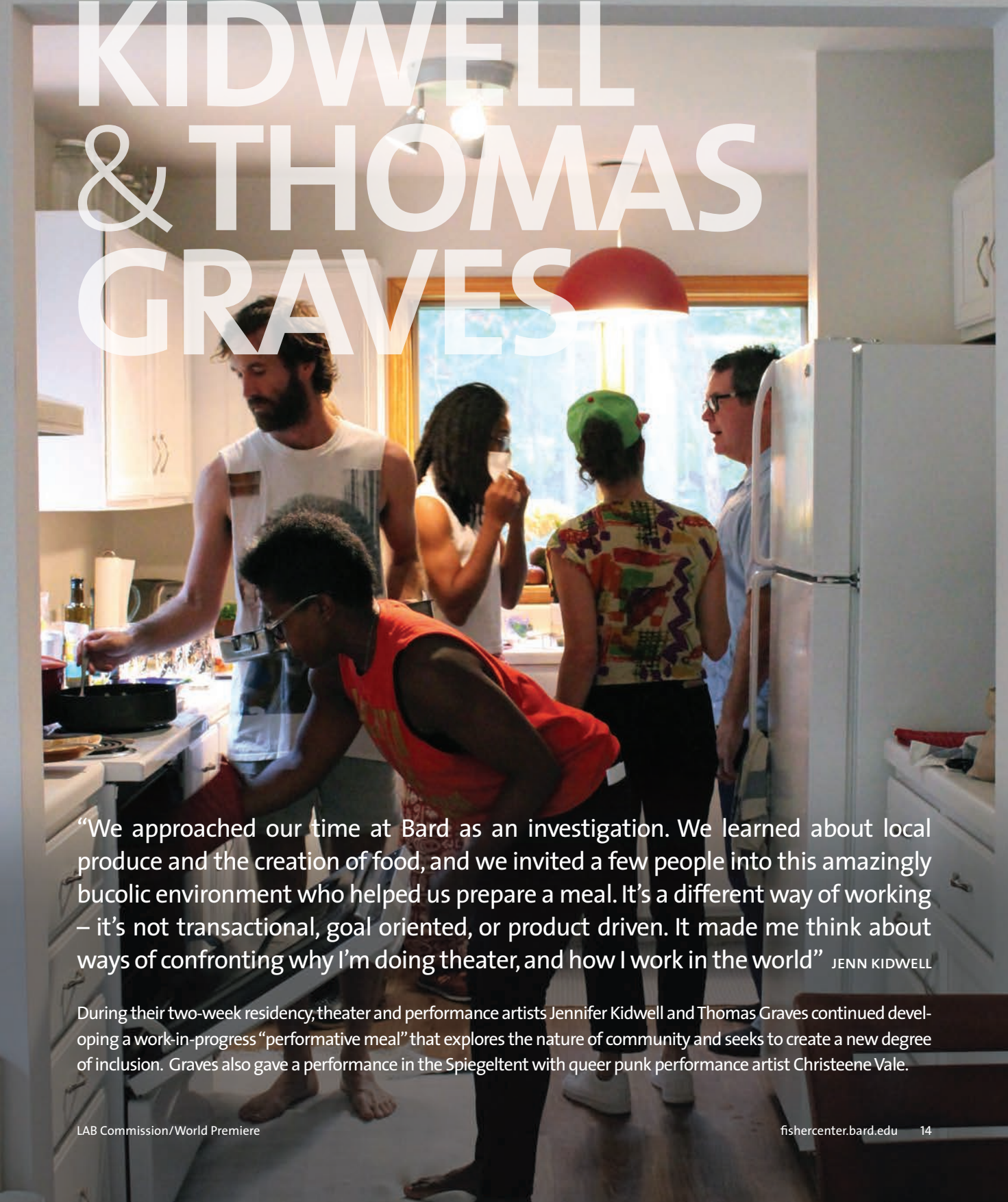
Acclaimed writer/performer Anna Deavere Smith and singer Lisa Fischer used their LAB residency to begin developing a new performance collaboration. They also worked on the music soundtrack for an HBO television film of Deavere Smith’s play *Let Me Down Easy*, which had its broadcast premiere in spring 2018. To conclude the residency, Fischer performed a one-of-a-kind dance concert in the Spiegeltent.



JENNIFER KIDWELL & THOMAS GRAVES

“We approached our time at Bard as an investigation. We learned about local produce and the creation of food, and we invited a few people into this amazingly bucolic environment who helped us prepare a meal. It’s a different way of working – it’s not transactional, goal oriented, or product driven. It made me think about ways of confronting why I’m doing theater, and how I work in the world” JENN KIDWELL

During their two-week residency, theater and performance artists Jennifer Kidwell and Thomas Graves continued developing a work-in-progress “performative meal” that explores the nature of community and seeks to create a new degree of inclusion. Graves also gave a performance in the Spiegeltent with queer punk performance artist Christeene Vale.



FREEHAND NEW YORK

In 2017 LAB launched a unique creative partnership with the new Freehand Hotel in New York City's Gramercy district. The partnership includes two programs:

Freehand Art Commissions, through which 17 Bard students and alumni/ae created original artworks for the hotel's public spaces and all 394 guest rooms.

Freehand Fellowships, providing residency and financial support to four artists a year – two Bard MFA alumnae and two artists affiliated with Live Arts Bard. Fellows have exclusive access to the hotel's rooftop studio and present public programs and exhibitions in the hotel.

The 2018 Freehand Fellows are choreographer and performer **Miguel Gutierrez**; sculptors **Fawn Krieger** and **Abraham McNally**; and composer and performer **Dane Terry**.

FISHER CENTER in NYC

Claudia Rankine/Will Rawls/John Lucas

What Remains

(LAB Commission 2016)

Presented by Danspace Project and FIAF's Crossing the Line Festival in September 2018.

The piece will travel to Chicago, Boston, Minneapolis, and New Haven in the 2018-19 season.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!

Directed by Daniel Fish

(Bard SummerScape 2015)

Presented by St. Ann's Warehouse and Eva Price in September 2018.

Tere O'Connor

Long Run

(LAB Commission 2017)

Presented by NYU Skirball in October 2018.

John Heginbotham & Amy Trompetter

Fantasque

(Bard SummerScape 2016)

Presented by NYU Skirball in November 2018.

LAB Year 7 Preview: 2018-19

Commissions

Andrew Schneider: *NERVOUS/SYSTEM*

Ron K. Brown/EVIDENCE with Meshell Ndegeocello: *Mercy* (Bard SummerScape 2019)

Residencies

New Saloon (Milo Cramer '12, Morgan Green '12, and Madeline Wise '12)

Adrienne Truscott

Erin Markey

Live Arts Bard 2019 Biennial

Where no wall remains

A performance festival about borders in New York, Berlin, and East Jerusalem

Co-curated by Tania El Khoury and Gideon Lester
November 2019

With new commissions from artists including Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Tania El Khoury, Emilio Rojas, Palestine Hosting Society, and others.