

**SYDNEY  
FESTIVAL**  
6-28 JAN 2018



# THE TOWN HALL AFFAIR

**DIRECTED BY ELIZABETH LECOMPTÉ**

BASED ON THE FILM *TOWN BLOODY HALL* BY CHRIS HEGEDUS & D.A. PENNEBAKER

THE WOOSTER GROUP | USA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

# THE TOWN HALL AFFAIR

Directed by Elizabeth LeCompte  
Based on the film *Town Bloody Hall* by Chris Hegedus  
& D.A. Pennebaker

**THE WOOSTER GROUP** | USA

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

DRAMA THEATRE, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE  
7–13 JANUARY  
65 MINS

## **THE TOWN HALL AFFAIR** **(IN THE FORM OF A ONE ACT PLAY)**

With Enver Chakartash, Ari Fliakos, Gareth Hobbs, Greg Mehrten,  
Erin Mullin, Scott Shepherd, Maura Tierney, Kate Valk

**Lighting** Jennifer Tipton and Ryan Seelig

**Sound** Eric Sluyter and Gareth Hobbs

**Video and Projections** Robert Wuss

**Additional Video** Zbigniew Bzymek

**Video Cueing System Developed by** Andrew Maillet and  
Wladimiro Woyno

**Costumes** Enver Chakartash

**Assistant Directors** Enver Chakartash and Matthew Dipple

**Stage Manager** Erin Mullin

**Set Building** Silovsky Studios LLC

**Production Manager** Bona Lee

**Producer** Cynthia Hedstrom

**General Manager** Pamela Reichen

## **THE TOWN HALL AFFAIR**

Part 1: Excerpt from *Lesbian Nation*

Part 2: The Play

Part 3: Coda: Excerpt from *Lesbian Nation*

## **PLAYERS**

Kate Valk – Jill Johnston

Ari Fliakos – Norman Mailer

Scott Shepherd – Norman Mailer

Maura Tierney – Germaine Greer

Greg Mehrten – Diana Trilling

Erin Mullin – Jill's Friend / Ruth Mandel

Gareth Hobbs (voice) – Peter Fisher

Enver Chakartash – Usher

Ari Fliakos – Norman, The Director

Scott Shepherd – Rip, The Actor

Maura Tierney – Beverly, The Wife

Greg Mehrten – A Friend

Enver Chakartash – Man In Black

## **SOURCES**

*Town Bloody Hall*, a film by Chris Hegedus and D.A.

Pennebaker, 1979, 88 min, colour. The film documents a 1971 Theater for Ideas debate entitled 'A Dialogue on Women's Liberation'. The film is available from Pennebaker Hegedus Films: [phfilms.com](http://phfilms.com).

Excerpts from the film *Maidstone*, 1970, 110 min, colour, by Norman Mailer, courtesy of the Norman Mailer Estate. *Maidstone* is an independent film directed by Norman Mailer with D.A. Pennebaker as one of the cinematographers. In *Maidstone*, Norman Mailer plays a famous film director, Norman Kingsley, who is running for President while making a movie about his campaign.

Additional text by Jill Johnston from *Lesbian Nation* ('Tarzana from the Trees at Cocktails' and 'On a Clear Day You Can See Your Mother') © Jill Johnston.

## **CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Made possible with support from piece by piece productions.



## ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Wooster Group makes original works for the theatre. The company integrates visual media, sound, architectonic design, and text with live performance. Founded in 1975, it has remained at the forefront of experimental theatre for decades.

The Group's major works include: *Rumstick Road* (1977), *Nayatt School* (1978), *L.S.D. (...Just The High Points...)* (1984), *Frank Dell's The Temptation of St. Antony* (1988), *Brace Up!* (1991), *The Emperor Jones* (1993), *The Hairy Ape* (1996), *House/Lights* (1999), *To You, The Birdie! (Phèdre)* (2002), *Poor Theater* (2004), *Hamlet* (2007), the 360° video installation *There Is Still Time . . . Brother* (2007), the opera *La Didone* (2009), *Vieux Carré* (2011), *The Room* (2016) and *A Pink Chair (In Place of a Fake Antique)* (2017), all directed by Elizabeth LeCompte; and *Early Shaker Spirituals: A Record Album Interpretation* (2014), and *The B-Side: "Negro Folklore from Texas State Prisons," A Record Album Interpretation* (2017) directed by Kate Valk.

The Group was founded in 1976 by Elizabeth LeCompte and Spalding Gray (1941-2004), and joined by Ron Vawter (1948-1994), Kate Valk, Jim Clayburgh, Willem Dafoe and Peyton Smith in 1979. Wooster Group director Elizabeth LeCompte has received fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts Distinguished Artists Fellowship for Lifetime Achievement in the American Theater, as well as the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and the 2016 Dorothy & Lillian Gish Award. Associate director Kate Valk has received the Guggenheim and TCG/Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowships, as well as the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Performing Artist Award. The Group and its members have also won nine Obie Awards, six Bessie Awards, and the National Endowment for the Arts Ongoing Ensembles Grant.

The Performing Garage in the Soho neighborhood of Lower Manhattan is The Wooster Group's permanent home and performance venue. The Group owns and operates the Garage as a shareholder in the Grand Street Artists Co-op, which was originally established as part of the Fluxus art movement. The Group regularly tours its productions throughout the United States and internationally. The Group last performed in Australia in 1986 with *L.S.D. (...Just the High Points...)* at Adelaide Festival and in 2001 with *The Hairy Ape* at Melbourne Festival. More info: [thewoostergroup.org](http://thewoostergroup.org)

## CURRENT COMPANY

Jake Bigelow, Zbigniew Byzimek, Enver Chakartash, Matthew Dipple, Mike Farry, Ari Fliakos, Clay Hapaz, Cynthia Hedstrom, Gareth Hobbs, Elizabeth LeCompte, Bona Lee, Erin Mullin, Michaela Murphy, Pamela Reichen, Scott Shepherd, Eric Sluyter, Kate Valk, Robert Wuss.

## CURRENT ASSOCIATES

Eric Berryman, Matthew Brown, Dennis Dermody, Jim Fletcher, Mia Fliakos, Linus Ignatius, Bruce Jackson, Modesto Flako Jimenez, Ken Kobland, Juliet Lashinsky-Revene, Andrew Maillet, Frances McDormand, Bobby McElver, Jasper McGruder, Greg Mehrten, Bebe Miller, Tommie Mitchell, Philip Moore, Matthias Neckermann, Jamie Poskin, Scott Renderer, Suzzy Roche, Kaneza Schaal, Andrew Schneider, Ryan Seelig, David Sexton, Casey Spooner, Lucy Taylor, Maura Tierney, Jennifer Tipton, Danusia Trevino, Ariana Smart Truman, Victoria Vazquez, Wladimiro Woyno, Omar Zubair.





★★★★★

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A WORK OF GENIUS”

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