

big dance theater

Cage Shuffle



Cage Shuffle is a 50 minute dance/theater solo. In *Cage Shuffle* Paul Lazar speaks a series of one-minute stories by John Cage from his 1963 score *Indeterminacy*, while simultaneously performing a complex choreographic score by Annie-B Parson. The stories are spoken in a random order with no predetermined relationship to the dancing, yet chance serves up its inevitable blend of uncanny connections between text and movement. Cage's humor, intellect and iconoclasm find ideal expression in this new work which adds dance to Cage's original performance instructions: *Read stories aloud, paced so that each story takes one minute, using chance procedures or not.*

"Paul Lazar's Cage Shuffle is: Beautiful, profound and hilarious - as all things should be."

— David Byrne

What Artists and Presenters Say About *Cage Shuffle*

“Paul Lazar is a master at channeling bon mots from famous writers while juxtaposing simultaneous and contrasting “moves.” His *Cage Shuffle* of this year is an endearing homage to the idiosyncratic and highly influential composer, writer, and philosopher. John would have loved it.”

– Yvonne Rainer

“One of the most transfixing and delightful experiences I’ve had: an accumulation of small and meaningful revelations. Lazar and Parson create an invigorating spiral of dance and thinking, discovery and refrain. I never knew time travel in multiple dimensions could be so delightful. Lazar builds an uncanny balance of thorny abstraction and sheer presence.”

– Peter Taub, *Director of Performance Programs at The Chicago Museum Of Contemporary Art, 1996 – 2016*

“With irreverence, humor and mastery, the inimitable Paul Lazar brings John Cage’s one-minute stories to 21st Century life, indeterminately combining them with Annie-B Parson’s brilliantly understated choreography. A joyous performance experience that marries conceptual rigor with sheer delight.”

– Philip Bither, *Director and Senior Curator, Performing Arts, Walker Art Center*



“Paul and Annie B's *Cage Shuffle* is one of my favorite pieces ever. The cage stories are good to begin with, amusing in a zen kind of way, but when further randomized and amplified with the dance, and with Paul's voice- well, it becomes no longer a rarified cage piece but is transformed into something that is accessible to everyone. Beautiful, profound and hilarious- as all things should be.”

– David Byrne



Paul Lazar Biography

Contact: p.paul1955@gmail.com

Paul Lazar is a founding member and co-artistic director, along with Annie-B Parson, of Big Dance Theater. He has co-directed and acted in works for Big Dance since 1991, including commissions from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Walker Art Center, Dance Theater Workshop, Classic Stage Company and Japan Society. Outside of Big Dance, Paul directed Christina Masciotti's *Social Security* at the Bushwick Starr in 2015, *Elephant Room* at St. Ann's Warehouse for the company Rainpan 43 in 2012, and Young Jean Lee's Obie Award winning, *We're Gonna Die* in 2011. He directed a new version of *We're Gonna Die* in 2015, featuring David Byrne, at the Meltdown Festival in London. He also directed *Bodycast: An Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra* starring Frances McDormand for the 2014 BAM Next Wave Festival; and *Major Bang* for The Foundry Theatre at St. Ann's Warehouse. Paul is an Associate Member of The Wooster Group, acting in *Brace Up!*, *Emperor Jones*, *North Atlantic* and *The Hairy Ape*. Other stage acting credits include *Tamburlaine* at Theatre For A New Audience, Young Jean Lee's *Lear*, *The Three Sisters* at Classic Stage Company, Richard Maxwell's *Cowboys and Indians* at Soho Rep, Richard III at Classic Stage Company, *Svejk* at Theatre for a New Audience, Irene Fornes' *Mud* at the Signature Theater, and Mac Wellman's *1965 UU*. He has acted in over 30 feature films, including *Snowpiercer*, *The Host*, *Mickey Blue Eyes*, *Silence of the Lambs*, *Beloved*, *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Philadelphia*. His awards include two Bessies (2010, 2002), the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award in 2007, and the Prelude Festival's Frankie Award in 2014, as well an Obie Award for Big Dance in 2000. Paul currently teaches at New York University and in the Theatre, Dance and Media Department at Harvard University (Spring 2018). He has also taught at Yale, Rutgers, Barnard, The William Esper Studio and The Michael Howard Studio.



Text & Movement Workshop

Paul Lazar will teach a master class focusing on the intersection of movement and text. He will set repertory from Big Dance Theater – a portion of *Cage Shuffle* -- on the students. Abandoning the adage, “suit the action to the word...” students will experience a non-literal relationship between words and movement that reveal a wider and more expressive notion of meaning. The nexus of dance and theatre is fertile ground for choreographers, directors, actors, dancers and performance practitioners. Background and experience of the students can vary.



Performance History

January 7 and 8, 2017

Abrons Arts Center, American Realness Festival — New York, NY

March 3 and 4, 2017

Poets House — New York, NY

June 1, 2017

Town Hall — New York, NY

July 27, 2017

The Walker Art Museum Minneapolis, MN

August 14, 2017

A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery Northampton, MA

October 27 and 28, 2017

Notre Dame University Notre Dame, IN

October 22nd, 2017

Links Hall — Chicago, IL

March 2, 2018

Harvard University - Boston, MA

March 9, 2018

NCAT - Northampton, MA