

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2014

CONTACT:
Rusty Barnes 510.642.9121
rbarnes@calperformances.org

[Images Available Here](#)

[Exclusive Video Available Here](#)

**ROBERT WILSON RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
WITH THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF THE OLD WOMAN
STARRING MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV AND WILLEM DAFOE
NOVEMBER 21–23 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community

BERKELEY, October 13, 2014—Returning to Cal Performances for the first time since his highly regarded *Einstein on the Beach* in 2012, acclaimed experimental theater director and designer **Robert Wilson** brings his new production, [The Old Woman](#), to Cal Performances for its Bay Area premiere on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. *The Old Woman* is an absurdist black comedy, an adaptation by **Darryl Pinckney** of Soviet author **Daniil Kharms**'s 1930s political novella, featuring Oscar-nominated actor and Wooster Group founding member **Willem Dafoe**, and legendary performer **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, as a dapperly dressed odd couple who struggle to make sense of a darkly nonsensical universe. [Watch Mikhail Baryshnikov in an exclusive video interview with Cal Performances here.](#) Wilson's production, with music by acclaimed producer **Hal Willner**, incorporates visual elements from Kharms's novella, and employs sculptural stage sets and meticulous lighting design to reveal the unsettling pathos hovering just below the surface of the script's madcap comedy. Baryshnikov and Dafoe, in clown-like white faces, deal with an unexplained and unwanted houseguest; they perform "with the kind of synchronicity associated with Stan and Ollie, the Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote, and even Fred and Ginger" (*The New York Times*).

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community. For the most current information, visit <http://calperformances.org/learn/discover-engage/programs.php>.

[Robert Wilson](#), "a towering figure in the world of experimental theater" (*The New York Times*), is among the world's foremost theater artists and directors. His many celebrated works for the stage integrate a wide variety of artistic media, including dance, movement, lighting, sculpture, music, and text. He has collaborated on theatrical works with Philip Glass, Tom Waits, Susan

-MORE-

Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed, and Jessye Norman, among many others, and has been honored with numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, two Premio Ubu awards, the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale, and an Olivier Award. Wilson is the founder and Artistic Director of the Watermill Center, a laboratory for performing arts in Watermill, New York.

Mikhail Baryshnikov's far-ranging career began as one of the world's most distinguished and beloved dancers, and in recent decades has grown to include the roles of arts impresario, actor, and champion of American modern dance. Baryshnikov was Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre from 1980-1990, then co-founded the White Oak Dance Project with choreographer Mark Morris in 1990, where he served as director and principal dancer until 2002. In 2005, he opened the Baryshnikov Arts Center, a creative home for local and international artists to develop and present work in New York City. Among Baryshnikov's many awards are the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Honor, the Commonwealth Award, the Chubb Fellowship, the Jerome Robbins Award, and the 2012 Vilcek Award.

Stage and screen actor Willem Dafoe, a founding member of the New York experimental theater collective Wooster Group, has appeared in more than 80 Hollywood and independent films, in the United States and abroad. He has collaborated with directors Wes Anderson, Martin Scorsese, Spike Lee, Julian Schnabel, David Cronenberg, David Lynch, Werner Herzog, Oliver Stone, and Lars von Trier, as well as onstage with directors Richard Foreman and Robert Wilson. Dafoe's work has been recognized with two Academy Award nominations, and one nomination for a Golden Globe Award.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Old Woman* on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$40.00 to \$150.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

#

Cal Performances' 2014—2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Residency

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community. For the most current information, go to <http://calperformances.org/learn/discover-engage/programs.php>.

#

Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Special Events

The Old Woman

Robert Wilson, director, set designer, lighting concept

Mikhail Baryshnikov, actor

Willem Dafoe, actor

Program:

Following the story of a struggling writer who cannot find peace with himself, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Willem Dafoe star in Robert Wilson's pitch-black comedy *The Old Woman*, based on Daniil Kharms's 1930s political novella.

Tickets: Prices range from \$40.00 to \$150.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

– Cal Performances –