

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**
Cal Performances
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

Jeanette Peach
Cal Performances
(510) 642-9121
jpeach@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2017
[Press Room](#)



Images of Théâtre de la Ville are available for download from the Cal Performances press room.

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
PARIS' THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE IN
ALBERT CAMUS' *STATE OF SIEGE*, OCTOBER 21–22
LAUNCHING 2017/18 *VAULTING WALLS* PROGRAMMING STRAND**

New post-performance Catharsis Cafés offer audience members the opportunity to gather and discuss challenging works in a casual and welcoming environment

Berkeley, September 7, 2017—Cal Performances opens its diverse 2017/18 season of theater programming with a return visit by Paris' Théâtre de la Ville in a new production of Albert Camus' harrowing political allegory, *State of Siege*, on Saturday, October 21 at 8pm and Sunday, October 22 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall. The performances are the first in this season's Berkeley *RADICAL Vaulting*

Walls programming strand in which select artists bravely challenge our understanding of our existence, vaulting past the limitations of conventional thought and breaking through barriers that confine us. *State of Siege* is directed by Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, who last visited with the company in 2014 with a well-received production of Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

Camus' ominous 1948 play follows two bureaucrats—Plague and his loyal secretary, Death—through a hopeless and sinister landscape of political brutality. Demarcy-Mota has described *State of Siege* as “a distorted mirror of a nightmarish future in which a city is reduced to silence and submission to authority.” In Théâtre de la Ville's production, the director calls our attention to the survivors within the occupied city, and their struggle to grasp the freedom that is denied them. The work is both a cry for political awakening and a call to arms, asking us to reflect on our responsibility as witnesses to history, and the necessity of resistance in the face of authoritarianism. At least five UC Berkeley undergraduate classes—including comparative literature, French, and curation—will attend the performances as part of their academic curriculum.

The four powerful offerings in the 2017/18 *Vaulting Walls* thematic strand—Théâtre de la Ville's *State of Siege* (October 21–22), Kronos Quartet, Rinde Eckert, and Vân-Ánh Võ in *My Lai* (March 4), the Seattle Symphony and music director Ludovic Morlot's performances of nature-inspired music (April 7–8), and Robert Lepage and Ex Machina's *887* (May 4–5)—encourage audiences to ponder some of the greatest concerns of humanity, from who we are and who we strive to be as individuals, to our vast potential for creativity, empathy, and destruction as a species. Each work is grounded in a very specific geography and historical moment— an Andalusian town following WWII, a village during the Vietnam War, extreme environments of ocean and desert today, a shabby apartment in 1960s Quebec City—but grapples with larger issues that resonate far beyond the confines of the stage or concert hall. The composers, musicians, storytellers, and actors in these performances ask us to reconsider how we communicate personal, political, and nature-inspired histories, and challenge us to create new narratives for how we want to move forward.

Related public events planned as part of Théâtre de la Ville's Berkeley engagement offer audiences the opportunity to reflect on and discuss the company's production of *State of Siege*, from both artistic and historic/cultural perspectives. The first two events are Catharsis Cafés planned directly following both performances, on the mezzanine level of Zellerbach Hall. These informal gatherings

provide a means for patrons to join together and process their reactions to artworks that address challenging issues. Catharsis Cafés are free to all ticket holders and will feature a no-host bar. Registration is recommended at calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/. In addition, a round table discussion will be held in Durham Studio Theater on the UC Berkeley campus on Saturday, October 21 at 6:30pm with professors Déborah Blocker and Debarati Sanyal (French, UC Berkeley), and Vanessa Brutsche (PhD, French, UC Berkeley), discussing the historical and literary contexts in which *État de Siège* was written and produced. More information about *Vaulting Walls* can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-vaulting-walls.

Ticket Information

Tickets for Paris' *Théâtre de la Ville* on Saturday, October 21 at 8pm and Sunday, October 22 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$48–\$98 (prices 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 calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, October 21, 8pm

Sunday, October 22, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Theater

Théâtre de la Ville, Paris

State of Siege

Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, director

Program: Under the direction of Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, Paris' Théâtre de la Ville visits Berkeley with a new production based on Albert Camus' allegory about the necessity of resistance in the face of authoritarianism.

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Vaulting Walls* strand in which select artists bravely challenge our understanding of our existence, vaulting past the limitations of conventional thought and breaking through barriers that confine us. More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-vaulting-walls.

Tickets: \$48–\$98 (prices subject to change).

Residency Activities

Round Table Discussion: *État de Siège*
Saturday, October 21, 6:30-7:30pm
Durham Studio Theater, UC Berkeley

A conversation with professors Déborah Blocker and Debarati Sanyal (French, UC Berkeley), and Vanessa Brutsche (PhD, French, UC Berkeley), discussing the historical and literary contexts in which *État de Siège* was written and produced.

Presented in association with the UC Berkeley French Department. Free and open to the public.

Post-performance Catharsis Café
Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine
Saturday, October 21
Sunday, October 22

An opportunity for audience members to join together and discuss the themes of *State of Siege*. Free to all ticket holders, no-host bar. Registration recommended at <http://calperformances.org/learn/calendar/2017-18/>.