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10-4-2018

## Thank You For Coming : Attendance and Play

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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**PEAK**  
PERFORMANCES

**THE 18/19 SEASON**  
THE HEIGHTS OF IMAGINATION

Faye Driscoll

# *Thank You for Coming: Attendance and Play*



Photo by Hayjim Heron

**October 4–7, 2018**  
Alexander Kasser Theater

**Arts + Cultural  
Programming**



**MONTCLAIR STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President  
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts  
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

**Faye Driscoll**

# *Thank You for Coming: Attendance and Play*

10/4 @ 7:30: *Thank You for Coming: Attendance*

10/5 @ 7:30: *Thank You for Coming: Play*

10/6 @ 7:00, 10/7 @ 3:00: *Thank You for Coming: Attendance AND Thank You for Coming: Play*

## ***Thank You for Coming: Attendance***

Conception **Faye Driscoll**

Choreography **Faye Driscoll** in collaboration with the performers

Performance **Giulia Carotenuto, Sean Donovan, Toni Melaas, Paul Singh, Brandon Washington**

Original Cast **Alicia ayo Ohs, Nikki Zialcita**

Visual Design **Nick Vaughan** and **Jake Margolin**

Sound Design/Original Composition **Michael Kiley**

Lighting Design **Amanda K. Ringger**

Production Manager **Devin Cameron**

Artistic Advisor **Jesse Zaritt**

Choreographic Assistant **Nadia Tykulsker**

Costume Construction and Alteration **Sarah Thea Swafford**

Artistic Fellow **Patricia Rose Suarez**

Produced by **Faye Driscoll**

## ***Thank You for Coming: Play***

Conception and Direction **Faye Driscoll**

Choreography and Text **Faye Driscoll** in collaboration with the performers

Performance **Faye Driscoll, Sean Donovan, Lindsay Head, Paul Singh, Laurel Snyder, Brandon Washington**

Original Cast **Alicia ayo Ohs**

Sound Design **Bobby McElver**

Musical Direction **Bobby McElver** and **Sean Donovan**

Original Compositions **Sean Donovan, Bobby McElver, Faye Driscoll**

Vocal Arrangement **Sean Donovan**

Lyrics **Faye Driscoll**

Additional Lyrics **Sean Donovan**

Set Design **Nick Vaughan** and **Jake Margolin**

Garment and Props Design **Jamie Boyle**

Lighting Design **Amanda K. Ringger**

Production Manager **Devin Cameron**

Artistic Advisor **Jesse Zaritt**

Additional Text and Dramaturg **Amanda K. Davidson**

Tour Garment and Props Supervisor **Angel Favorite**

Artistic Fellow **Patricia Rose Suarez**

Produced by **Faye Driscoll**

## ***Thank You for Coming: Attendance* and *Play* joint performances:**

Sound Design **Michael Kiley, Bobby McElver**

*Play* additional performers **Giulia Carotenuto, Toni Melaas**

Duration: *Thank You for Coming: Attendance*: 1 hour 15 minutes; *Thank You for Coming: Play*: 1 hour 20 minutes

Faye Driscoll is the PeARL (Performing Arts Research Lab) artist-in-residence at Montclair State University.

## About the Artist

**Faye Driscoll** (Artistic Director) is a Bessie Award–winning performance maker who has been hailed as a “startlingly original talent” (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*) and “a postmillennium postmodern wild woman” (Deborah Jowitt, *The Village Voice*). Her work has been presented nationally at the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, the Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston, MCA/Chicago, and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and internationally at La Biennale di Venezia, Festival d’Automne à Paris, Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, Melbourne Festival, Belfast International Arts Festival, Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens, and Centro de Arte Experimental (Universidad Nacional de San Martín) in Buenos Aires. Driscoll has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Creative Capital award, a NEFA National Dance Project Award, MAP Fund Grant, a French-US Exchange in Dance Grant, Jerome Foundation Grant, a Foundation for Contemporary Art Grant, a Doris Duke Artist Award, and a US Artists Doris Duke Fellowship and she is the recipient of the 2018 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award. She recently choreographed for Young Jean Lee’s *Straight White Men* on Broadway and for *Madeline’s Madeline*, a film, currently in theaters, by Josephine Decker.

*Thank You for Coming: Attendance* was made possible by the Danspace Project 2013–14 Commissioning Initiative; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; and Creative Capital with support from The Jerome Foundation, 92Y New Works in Dance Fund, a Headlands Alumni New Works Award, and the assistance of New York State Council on the Arts and is made possible through the sponsorship of The Field. *Thank You for Coming: Attendance* received a production residency at Danspace Project’s venue, St. Mark’s Church, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You for Coming: Attendance* is commissioned by Mass Live Arts through a multiyear residency and presentation commitment. Faye Driscoll received residency support from Park Avenue Armory along with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Extended Life Dance Development program made possible in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Lead commissioner for *Thank You for Coming: Play* is the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University through its Wexner Center Artist Residency Award program. Co-commissioning partners are Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM); Summer Stages Dance at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston; Walker Art Center with support from the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) developed as part of LMCC’s Extended Life Dance Development program made possible in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional commissioning support was provided by Mass Live Arts through a multiyear residency and presentation commitment. *Thank You for Coming: Play* was created with the support of a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship.

*Thank You for Coming: Play* is made possible, in part, by 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, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional project funding provided by Creative Capital’s MAP Fund, which is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You for Coming: Play* is a project of Creative Capital.

Faye Driscoll is the 2016 Harkness Foundation Artist in Residence at BAM Fisher. Additional residency support for *Thank You for Coming: Play* was provided by the Wexner Center, Walker Art Center, the Museum of Arts and Design, The Performing Garage Presents visiting artist series, and a Production Residency grant funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. *Thank You for Coming: Play* was supported, in part, through a generous rehearsal space grant from chashama.

Join us October 18–21 for the world premiere of Liz Gerring’s **Field**, the third in a trilogy of works she has created in collaboration with composer Michael J. Schumacher and designer Robert Wierzel, all commissioned and produced by Peak Performances. In **Field**, Gerring and her team conceive a place in which the elements—movement, sound and light—combine to envelope and engage the audience, and where her magnificent dancers test their physical limits.

“No other American choreographer alive just now is making movement that so marvelously cleanses the palate the way Liz Gerring’s does. ... Its mix of purity and athleticism is strong, clean, bold and exciting. ... The mind that shapes the choreography is warmly modernist: scientific but also passionately and infectiously in love with movement. ... [Gerring’s] dancers look relaxed and galvanized. They hurl themselves into impetuous slides, skim across the stage in nimble footwork, push their way urgently backward on all fours, shimmer in turning or bobbing jumps. ... The work has wit without quirkiness, passion without emotionalism: its moods change like the weather, and its ebbs and flows carry aspects of poetry and excitement.”

—Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*

For tickets, call 973-655-5112 or visit [peakperfs.org](http://peakperfs.org).

## About the Artists (cont'd)

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### Artistic/Production Staff

**Nick Vaughan** and **Jake Margolin** (Visual Design: *Attendance*; Set Design: *Play*) are Houston-based installation artists whose solo shows include *A Marriage: 2 (West-er)* at the Invisible Dog Art Center, New York; *A Marriage: 1 (Suburbia)* at HERE Arts Center, New York, and other venues; *ArtSlant Prize Presents: Nick & Jake*, Chicago; and *Preparations for a Marriage* at Future Tenant Gallery, Pittsburgh. Their collaborations with choreographers include creating the environments for Yoshiko Chuma's *Shredded* and Pavel Zuštiak's *S(even)*. They were twice official finalists for the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and grants from The MAP Fund and mediaThe foundation inc. Vaughan and Margolin are members of the devised theater company TEAM, with whom they created five plays—*RoosevElvis*, *Waiting for You on the Corner of...*, *Mission Drift*, *Architecting*, and *Particularly in the Heartland*—that have won numerous awards and toured throughout the world to venues such as The Shed at the National Theatre and Barbican Centre, London; Public Theater and PS122, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal; and the Hong Kong Arts Festival. As a scenographer, Vaughan has designed more than 70 shows for theater, opera, and dance that have been seen throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Romania, China, Japan, and Oman. While he was the resident designer of Lorin Maazel's Castleton Festival, Vaughan designed 13 productions including a full cycle of Benjamin Britten's chamber operas. He frequently collaborates with choreographer Yoshiko Chuma and designed the last two installments of her ongoing Page Out of Order series. For dance company Palissimo, he created sets and costumes for pieces including *Le Petit Mort* and *The Painted Bird Trilogy: Amidst*.

**Michael Kiley** (Sound Design/Original Composition: *Attendance*) is a Philadelphia-based sound designer, composer, performer, and educator working in theater, dance, and public installation. He creates his own work under his name as well as the moniker The Mural and The Mint. Currently, he is being supported by The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage to create an evening-length work steeped in his original vocal practice, *Personal Resonance*, to premiere in the FringeArts Festival in September. He is the creator of two soundwalk applications for iPhone, *The Empty Air* and *Animina*, which use GPS to control what you hear based on your location. Other original works include *As the Eyes of the Seahorse* (HERE Arts Center), *With Happiness for You*, *World* (American Composers Forum commission), *Kuerner Sounds* (Brandywine River Museum), and *(In)determinate Duet* and *Elegy for a Home* (The Grey Space Gallery). Kiley is a three-time Barrymore Award nominee, and winner for his work on Ayad Akhtar's *The Invisible Hand*. His work has also been supported by The Independence Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Hacktory, and the Wyncote Foundation. Past collaborators include Luciana Achugar, The Play Company, Pig Iron Theatre, Lars Jan, and Nichole Canuso Dance Company.

**Bobby McElver** (Sound Design: *Play*) is a sound designer and composer for theater and dance. Based in New York City for almost 10 years, he is now living in the Berkshires near Williamstown, MA. He has recently been in residency at EMPAC, developing spatial audio content and presenting on techniques using Wave Field Synthesis. He was a company member of The Wooster Group in New York from 2011 to 2016. His credits with The Wooster Group include *The Room*; *Early Shaker Spirituals*; *Cry, Trojans!*; *Early Plays*; *Vieux Carré*; and *Hamlet*. Additional New York City credits include Faye Driscoll, Andrew Schneider, New York City Players, Half Straddle, Young Jean Lee, Palissimo, and Erin Markey. He also designs interactive audio-visual technology for installations and events. McElver was nominated for a 2015 Bessie for Outstanding Music Composition/Sound Design. [bobbymcelver.com](http://bobbymcelver.com)

**Jamie Boyle** (Garment and Props Design: *Play*) is a visual artist who frequently collaborates on the creation of material stuff for performances. Recently she has worked on projects with Ann Hamilton and SITI Company, Jennifer Lacey and Wally Cardona, Faye Driscoll, Ursula Eagly, and Meg Shevenock. From 2017 to 2018 she was an artist-in-residence at the Textile Arts Center in New York. [jamieboyleandfriends.com](http://jamieboyleandfriends.com)

**Amanda K. Ringger** (Lighting Design: *Attendance* and *Play*) has lived in New York since 1997, designing locally, nationally, and internationally with artists such as Faye Driscoll, Doug Elkins, Cynthia Oliver, Molly Poerstel, Jennifer Archibald, Julian Barnett, Nora Chipaumire, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Laura Peterson, Donnell Oakley, Kota Yamazaki, 10 Hairy Legs, Darrah Carr, and cakeface, among others. She received a BA from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD, and an MFA in Lighting Design from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She is the recipient of a 2009 Bessie Award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard* at HERE Arts.

**Devin Cameron** (Production Manager: *Attendance* and *Play*) is based in New York City, where he creates for theater, dance, and live events. Recent credits in design and management include Drama Desk Award-winning *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (National Theatre Scotland), *Parable of the Sower*—International Tour (Toshi Reagon), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* with Tony Award-winning director Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Billie Holiday Theatre), *Water±*—National Tour (National Public Radio), *Dream Machine* (Free Play), and resident lighting designer at the critically acclaimed immersive theater experience *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk). [devincameron.com](http://devincameron.com)

**Jesse Zaritt** (Artistic Advisor: *Attendance* and *Play*) is a Brooklyn, NY–based dance artist. He is an assistant professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, having previously been the inaugural 2014–16 Research Fellow in the university’s School of Dance. Zaritt has performed his solo work in Uruguay, Russia, Korea, Germany, New York, Japan, Mexico, Israel, and throughout the United States. His solo “Binding” is the recipient of three 2010 New York Innovative Theater Awards: Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Solo Performance, and Outstanding Performance Art Production. He has been commissioned to create original choreographic works for numerous American college programs; he has also created choreography for the Seminar HaKibbutzim College (Israel) and the Acco Theater Festival (Israel). He currently dances in the work of Netta Yerushalmy (NYC/since 2009). Zaritt has also performed in the work of Faye Driscoll (NYC/2010–15) and works as an artistic adviser for her current projects. He has taught at Bard College (NY), the American Dance Festival (NC), Hollins University (VA), and Pomona College (CA), as well as at schools and festivals in Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and Russia. Zaritt received an MFA in Dance from Hollins University/The American Dance Festival (2008) and a BA from Pomona College (2000).

**Amanda K. Davidson** (Additional Text and Dramaturg: *Play*) is the author of the prose chapbooks *Arcanagrams: A Reckoning* (Little Red Leaves, 2014), *The Space: Fragments for a Family* (Belladonna, 2014), and *Apprenticeship* (New Herring Press, 2013) as well as “The Conditions of Our Togetherness,” an online serial comic on *Weird Sister Magazine*. A 2014 New York Foundation for the Arts fellow in poetry, she has been a writer-in-residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, MacDowell Colony, Millay Colony for the Arts, I-Park Foundation, Inc., and Art Farm in Nebraska. She teaches writing and movement at Evergreen State College.

**Patricia Rose Suarez** (Artistic Fellow: *Attendance* and *Play*) is a multifaceted performance artist, having a BFA in Dance and a minor in Musical Theater from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. There she performed in works by Jesse Zaritt, Kyle and Dinita Clark, Sidra Bell, Andrea Miller, Tommie-Waheed Evans, and Yasmeen Godder. Suarez currently resides in Brooklyn, NY, where she is making and teaching various art forms under the dance and acting umbrella as well as spending too much time on the subway.

## Performers

**Giulia Carotenuto** (*Attendance*) is a New York City–based dance artist hailing originally from Rome, Italy. In 2004 she moved to the United States to attend Chapman University in southern California, graduating *magna cum laude* with a BFA in Dance Performance. She made the big move to New York in 2008 and, during her first couple of years, had the honor and pleasure of working with artists including Mark Dendy, Douglas Dunn, Catherine Miller, and Kate Fisher. In 2011 she became a member of Palissimo, directed by Pavel Zuštiak, with whom she created and performed *Strange Cargo*, the third part of the *The Painted Bird Trilogy*. Later that same year she joined Monica Bill Barnes & Company and toured, taught, and performed in venues including the Joyce Theater, Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. It was in 2012 that she joined the fantastic Faye Driscoll Group, and she could not be more thrilled to be performing *Thank You for Coming: Attendance* all over the world! Most recently, Carotenuto also became a member of New York City–based Third Rail Projects, where she can be seen in their critically acclaimed production *Then She Fell*. She would like to thank her loved ones for their constant and unwavering support. Without them, none of this would be possible.

**Sean Donovan** (*Attendance* and *Play*) is a New York actor, dancer, and writer. He has been working with Faye Driscoll since 2013. As a performer he has also worked with Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort and Company, The Builders Association, Witness Relocation, 600 Highwaymen, Jennie Marytai Liu, John Jesurun, and others. In New York, he has performed at such places as Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Kitchen, the Joyce Theater, Danspace Project, PS122, New York Live Arts, La MaMa, The Chocolate Factory, HERE Arts Center, The Duke, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and others. He creates performances in collaboration with Sebastián Calderón Bentin under the collaborative title Donovan & Calderón. Original works include *The Reception* (2017) at HERE Arts Center; *18 ½ Minutes* (2013) at JACK, NYC; *The Climate Chronicles* (2011) at the Incubator Arts Project, NYC; and *Se Vende* (2008) at the FAE Festival in Panama. He is currently an artist-in-residence at HERE Arts Center. Donovan received his BFA in Theatre from New York University’s Experimental Theatre Wing. He has trained and performed internationally in France, Holland, Romania, Poland, Russia, Panama, Argentina, Croatia, Canada, Thailand, and Japan, working with the highly acclaimed ildi ! eldi of France and Sankai Juku Butoh company of Japan. He has also performed at theaters and universities throughout the United States and abroad.

**Lindsay Head** (*Play*) graduated from the University of Florida with a BFA in Dance in 2014. She is currently collaborating on Andrew Schneider’s *NERVOUS/SYSTEM*, premiering in the 2018 Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Next Wave Festival, and performed in Schneider’s previous work, *AFTER*, at the 2018 Under the Radar Festival at The Public. She is currently touring Faye Driscoll’s *Thank You for Coming: Play*, which premiered at the 2016 BAM Next Wave Festival and has since toured across the country. When she’s not in rehearsal she can be found rock climbing, sleeping, or trying to hang out with your dog. For more information just come say hi, or visit [yeslikeyourhead.com](http://yeslikeyourhead.com).

**Toni Melaas** (*Attendance*) is a dance artist and a teacher of wellness practices through her company Hatch NYC ([hatchnewyork.com](http://hatchnewyork.com)). Melaas has had the sincere pleasure of working with Faye Driscoll intermittently over the past 14 years and has performed with dance companies including Netta Yerushalmy/Dancing People, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Gerald Casel Dance Company, Alexandra Beller/Dances, PearsonWidrig Dancetheater, Melissa Briggs Dance, David Dorfman Dance, and choreographers/directors Satoshi Haga and Nancy Bannon, among others, performing at New York City venues including the State Theater at Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music Harvey, New York Live Arts/Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, The Kitchen, PS122, La MaMa, Alvin Ailey Theater, HERE Arts Center, The Duke, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the John Jay Auditorium, and abroad. Theater

work includes *Agamemnon* with the Aquila Theatre including Olympia Dukakis; *L'Histoire du soldat*, directed by Will Kerley and Faye Driscoll with Maestro Lorin Maazel conducting at the Castleton Festival; and *Grimm* with M.U.D. Productions, directed by Otis Cook. SAG film work includes *Across the Universe*, directed by Julie Taymor, and *The Hottest State*, directed by Ethan Hawk. Music videos include "Fire to the Ground" for The National and "Secret Room" for Joan Osborne. Gratitude to the light and loves of my life, Deano and Tom.

**Paul Singh** (*Attendance* and *Play*) earned his BFA in Dance from the University of Illinois. He has danced for Gerald Casel, Jane Comfort, Risa Jaroslow, Douglas Dunn, Christopher Williams, and Will Rawls and was part of Punchdrunk Theatre Company's American debut of *Sleep No More*. Last year Singh was a dancer in Peter Sellars's new opera *The Indian Queen* and most recently danced for Peter Pleyer (with collaborators Meg Stuart, Sasha Waltz, Eva Karczag, and Jeremy Wade) in a large-scale improvisation work in Berlin. He has presented his own work at the Judson Memorial Church, New York Live Arts, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, and La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, and in 2004 his solo piece "Stutter" was presented at the Kennedy Center. Singh has taught contact improvisation around the world during CI training festivals in Israel, Spain, Ukraine, Germany, France, Finland, and India. He currently teaches for Movement Research, Sarah Lawrence College, and The Juilliard School. While in New York he continues dancing and choreographing for his company, Singh & Dance.

**Laurel Snyder** (*Play*) is a dance artist, educator, and musician based in New York City. Since receiving her BFA in Dance from New York University Tisch School of the Arts in 2009, Snyder has performed with artists such as Faye Driscoll, Tere O'Connor, Tatyana Tenenbaum, and Kendra Portier at New York City venues including Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Chocolate Factory, Danspace Project, and The Kitchen. Snyder's choreography has been presented most recently by New York City venues Triskellion Arts, Center for Performance Research, Chez Bushwick, Movement Research at Judson Church, and The Tank. Snyder is passionate about teaching movement and vocal practices. In addition to her current position as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University, she has been invited by local and international organizations such as Colby College, Dancewave, Leviathan Studios (BC), Gibney Dance, and Dance Exchange as a guest teaching artist. Snyder has also acted as a vocal consultant for choreographers Nadia Tykulska and Ivy Baldwin.

**Brandon Washington** (*Attendance* and *Play*) is a native of Chesapeake, VA, and received his BFA from the University of Florida. He has been collaborating with Faye Driscoll since 2012. Washington is also currently working on projects with Ryan McNamara, Dana Katz, and Robin Becker. In New York he has performed at various venues including Lincoln Center, MoMA's PS1, the Guggenheim, New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, the French Institute Alliance Française, 92nd Street Y, Danspace at St. Mark's Church, Dixon Place, and Judson Memorial Church, among others. He has performed internationally with Driscoll and others in Vietnam, Argentina, France, and Croatia. He has previously collaborated with Mark Dendy, Alicia Ohs, Burr Johnson, Jen McGinn, Neta Pulvermacher, Lauren Bakst, Megan Kendzior, Daria Fain, and Germaul Barnes.

## Acknowledgements

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The **Office of Arts + Cultural Programming** (ACP) enhances the cultural, creative, and academic life of the Montclair State campus and the broader community. Its signature program, Peak Performances, features innovative works by international contemporary artists of exceptional merit, and by the next generation of great artists training at Montclair State University's College of the Arts. Through its Cultural Engagement program, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

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