



the watermill center
a laboratory for performance

robert wilson, artistic director

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**THE WATERMILL CENTER -
A LABORATORY FOR PERFORMANCE:
ROBERT WILSON'S LEGACY**
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*The Watermill Center –
A Laboratory For Performance:
Robert Wilson's Legacy*
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and Jörn Weisbrodt*
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New York, NY, September 23, 2011 — The Watermill Center and Daco-Verlag are pleased to announce the upcoming release of *The Watermill Center - A Laboratory for Performance: Robert Wilson's Legacy*. The book is published to coincide with **Wilson's 70th birthday** and the **20th anniversary of Watermill's founding** and is comprised of almost 100 newly written texts by over 80 contributors and more than 450 images, most never-before published. There will be a special event held in conjunction with the book's release at the New York Public Library on Friday, September 30th at 7:00pm.

The Watermill Center on Long Island, New York, is a unique laboratory for performance for young and emerging artists from around the world to explore new ideas and in the study and development of the arts. Since its founding in 1992 by the internationally renowned theater and visual artist Robert Wilson, Watermill has fostered interdisciplinary collaborations between established and emerging artists in a natural setting that combines art making and daily life, drawing from all of the arts as well as social, human, and natural sciences.

This compendium of documents, texts and images includes forwards by **Jessye Norman** and **Pierre Bergé** and contributions by artists **Marina Abramovic** and **Jonathan Meese**, long-time Wilson collaborators **Lucinda Childs** and **Philip Glass**, performers **Isabella Rossellini** and **Isabelle Huppert**, curators **Chrissie Iles** and **Elisabeth Sussman**, singer-songwriter **Rufus Wainwright**, scholars **Antonio Damasio** and **Bonnie**

Marranca, collector **Jean Paul Barbier-Mueller**, writers **Jay McInerney** and **Barbara Goldsmith**, as well as many Watermill Center alumni artists.

Covering every aspect of life at the Center, Wilson's summer workshops, the year-round residency programs, the extensive-collection, outreach programs with community, landscaped gardens, and architecture, this is the first extensive glimpse into the world of Watermill and an intimate look at Wilson's artistic process and the legacy he is creating for future generations.

For more information about the event at the New York Public Library, please visit: [Robert Wilson NYPL Event](#)

ABOUT THE WATERMILL CENTER

Watermill is a laboratory for performance founded by Robert Wilson as a unique environment for young and emerging artists from around the world to explore new ideas. Watermill draws inspiration from all the arts and cultures as well as from social, human and natural sciences. Watermill is a global community of artists. Living and working together among the extensive collection of art and artifacts lies at the heart of the Watermill experience. Watermill is a haven for the next generations of artists, supporting their work among a network of international institutions and venues that embrace new interdisciplinary approaches.

Watermill is unique within the global landscape of experimental theatrical performance, and regularly convenes the brightest minds from all disciplines to do, in Wilson's words, "what no one else is doing." Watermill offers a wide range of programs and activities throughout the year. For the well-known International Summer Arts Program, Wilson invites 60-80 artists who come from over 25 countries—48 countries so far—for 4-5 weeks of intense creative exploration. For the Center's Fall and Spring Residency programs, which take place from September to June, a high-profile committee of practitioners in the arts and humanities this year selected 17 groups, individual artists and scholars to be in residence and workshop their own creations.

Sherry Dobbin and Jörn Weisbrodt are the Directors of The Watermill Center.

ABOUT ROBERT WILSON

Robert Wilson, Founder/Artistic Director, works integrate a wide variety of artistic media, combining movement, dance, lighting, furniture design, sculpture, music and text into a unified whole. His images are aesthetically striking and emotionally charged, and his productions have earned the acclaim of audiences and critics worldwide. Wilson's awards and honors include two Guggenheim Fellowship awards ('71 and '80), the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship award ('75), the nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama ('86), the Golden Lion for sculpture from the Venice Biennale ('93), the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for lifetime achievement ('96), the Premio Europa award from Taormina Arte ('97), election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters ('00), the National Design Award for lifetime achievement ('01), and Commandeur des arts et des lettres ('02). A native of Waco, Texas, Wilson was educated at The University of Texas and arrived in New York in 1963 to attend Brooklyn's Pratt Institute. Soon after, Wilson set to work with his Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds and together with this school developed his first signature works including *King of Spain* ('69), *Deafman Glance* ('70), *The Life and Times of Joseph Stalin* ('73), and *A Letter for Queen Victoria* ('74). Regarded as a leader in Manhattan's burgeoning avant-garde, Wilson turned his attention to large-scale opera and, with Philip Glass, created the monumental *Einstein on the Beach* ('76), which received worldwide acclaim and altered conventional notions of a moribund form. After *Einstein*, Wilson worked increasingly with European theaters and opera houses. In collaboration with internationally renowned writers and performers, Wilson created landmark works that were featured regularly at the Festival d'Automne in Paris, the Schaubühne in Berlin, the Thalia Theater in Hamburg, and the Salzburg Festival. At the Schaubühne he

created *Death Destruction & Detroit* ('79) and *Death Destruction & Detroit II* ('87); and at the Thalia he presented the groundbreaking musical works *The Black Rider* ('91) and *Alice* ('92). He has also applied his striking formal language to the operatic repertoire including *Parsifal* in Hamburg ('91) and *Houston* ('92), *The Magic Flute* ('91), *Madame Butterfly* ('93), and *Lohengrin* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York ('98). Wilson recently completed a new production, based on an epic poem from Indonesia, entitled *I La Galigo*, which toured extensively and appeared at the Lincoln Center Festival in the summer of 2005.

For more information about Watermill Center or *The Watermill Center - A Laboratory for Performance: Robert Wilson's Legacy*, please visit www.watermillcenter.org

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