

SPRING 2019

Public Programs and Engagement



BLANDINE SAVETIER (PHOTO: JEAN-LOUIS FERNANDEZ), PABLO MANZI, WADDAH SAAB,  
AND BLANCA DOMENECH (PHOTO: LAU ORTEGA)

FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JUNE 14–16, 2019

# The Second Columbia University School of the Arts International Play Reading Festival

Featuring **Blanca Domenech** (Spain), **Pablo Manzi** (Chile),  
and **Blandine Savetier** and **Waddah Saab**, (France)

DIRECTED BY CAROL BECKER AND DAVID HENRY HWANG, THEATRE, THIS MARQUEE  
FESTIVAL PRESENTS READINGS OF THREE PLAYS BY LIVING INTERNATIONAL  
PLAYWRIGHTS ALONGSIDE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PLAYWRIGHTS AND  
TRANSLATORS.

LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
615 WEST 129TH STREET (BETWEEN BROADWAY AND 12TH AVENUE)  
NEW YORK CITY

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**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



"We are thrilled to fulfill the dream of bringing international play readings to Columbia University, the neighborhood, and to the City. We hope to generate enthusiasm for these international plays by playwrights whose work may not as yet be known in New York and to fulfill our mission as a global and local arts center."

–Carol Becker, Dean,  
Columbia University School of the Arts



"In these volatile times, the theatre can play an invaluable role to help us understand and embrace people from around the globe. Yet US theatre for the most part remains dangerously myopic. When was the last time you saw a new non-American play from anyplace besides the UK or Ireland (perhaps Canada or Australia)? With this festival entering its second year, Columbia University School of the Arts starts to fill the void, by bringing exciting international plays by living authors to New York, works which give audiences the opportunity to see our world anew."

–David Henry Hwang, Festival Director

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 7 PM**

# Snow

by Blandine Savetier and Waddah Saab (France)

Translated from French by Taylor Gaines

Directed by Blandine Savetier

Stage Manager:

Featuring:

FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE SPACE, LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

\*Appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

When Ka, a respected poet and journalist living in exile in Germany, returns to his homeland in Kars, Turkey to report on the increase in suicides among young Muslim women, he is swept into a cascade of conflict, corruption, and zealotry among competing factions of the region. This stage adaptation of Nobel Prize Laureate Orhan Pamuk's acclaimed novel captures the great conflicts of our time: Western versus Eastern culture, secularism versus religion, and the lives lost in these struggles.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS



Waddah Saab is a French dramaturg. He has collaborated with Blandine Savetier's theatre company since 2001. Together, they wrote a theatrical adaptation of Orhan Pamuk's novel *Snow*, as well as *L'homme qui voulait être une île* (*The Man Who Wanted To Be An Island*), an adaptation of a short story from an adaptation of Pamuk's *The Black Book* that has been performed at Théâtre National de Strasbourg and Journées Théâtrales de Carthage in Tunis. *Snow* has been presented in China, France, and the United States.



Blandine Savetier is a French actress, director, and playwright. With Waddah Saab, she has written theatrical adaptations of works by Orhan Pamuk. A recipient of the Critic's Choice Award for her production of *The President* by Thomas Bernhard, her work has been performed in Théâtre du Rond-Point and Théâtre National de la Colline in Paris, Théâtre National in Brussels, and Théâtre National de Strasbourg, where she is an associate director. Following her 2017 production in the Théâtre National de Strasbourg and a tour in France, her theatrical adaptation of Pamuk's novel *Snow* drew international attention and praise, with television reportage by ARTE, TV5 Monde, and the BBC. It toured for a month and a half in national theaters in China. She will direct *Odysseus* at the Avignon International Theater Festival in July 2020. Savetier has taught acting for over ten years.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019, 7 PM**

# The Sickness of Stone

by Blanca Domenech (Spain)

Translated from Spanish by William Gregory

Directed by Nana Dakin

Stage Manager: Jessi Cotter

Featuring:

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Blanca Domenech is an award-winning Spanish playwright. She is the recipient of the Calderón de la Barca National Award and the Spanish Playwrights Association Prize (AAT). Her plays include *Vagamundos (The Globetramp)*; *La Musa (The Muse)*; *Punto Muerto (Dead Point)*; *El mal de la piedra (The Sickness of Stone)*; *Boomerang*, and *Hydra*, which was commissioned by the BBVA Foundation Research Fellowship and developed at the NeuroTechnology Center of Columbia University. Her plays have been performed at the National Dramatic Center (Madrid), The Young Vic Theatre (London), Art Theatre of Moscow (Moscow), IATI Theater (New York), and the Latin American Center for Creation and Theater Research (Buenos Aires). She earned her Bachelor Degree in Playwriting from The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art of Madrid.

FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE SPACE, LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

\*Appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

Decades on, and a former dictator's self-mythologizing mausoleum is crumbling from within. Hired by the government of today, a young researcher spends scrupulous hours seeking ways to keep it standing. But as Right and Left clash in the outside world and the political debate creeps violently towards the door of the monument, her attempts at professional distance are quickly challenged. Trapped inside with a guard whose motives are unclear, she can no longer escape her own hypocrisy, and her once-proud arguments are dangerously threatened from every corner.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019, 2:30 PM

# You Shall Love

By Pablo Manzi (Chile)

Translated from Spanish by Cristóbal Pizarro

Directed by Ellie Heyman

Stage Manager:

Featuring:

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Pablo Manzi is a Chilean playwright, director, and actor. He is the recipient of the Santiago Municipal Literature Award and the José Nuez Martín award, as well as accolades from the Chilean Arts Critics Circle and the Chilean Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Heritage. In 2013, he co-founded BONOBO theatre company, producing *Amansadura* (2014), *Donde Viven los Bárbaros* (*Where the Barbarians Live*, 2016), and *Tu Amarás* (*You Shall Love*, 2018). Manzi has held residencies at the Baryshnikov Art Center and the Royal Court Theatre of London. His work has been presented in Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, Peru, and Spain.

FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE SPACE, LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

In the near future, a group of facilitators in the surgical community build a presentation about how to break down the cultural and racial bias against Amenites—a newly-arrived alien species. The project turns out to be more complex than any of them could have guessed, revealing their own prejudices against one another, the lure of othering, and the power of cultural stigmas.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019, 4:00 PM**

## Translator Panel Discussion: How Did This Play Get into English?

THE LANTERN, LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Translating for the stage is a special skill, and sometimes plays pass through several hands on their way from their original language (such as French or Spanish) into English. In this brief conversation, Taylor Gaines (translator of *Snow* by Blandine Savetier and Waddah Saab) and Caridad Svich (playwright and translator of many plays from Spanish) will speak about the challenges of bringing the Festival's three plays into English. Moderated by Susan Bernofsky, Writing.

### ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS



Susan Bernofsky's literary translations include eight works of fiction by the great Swiss-German modernist author Robert Walser, as well as novels and poetry by Jenny Erpenbeck, Yoko Tawada, Franz Kafka, Hermann Hesse, Uljana Wolf, and others. A Guggenheim fellow and former chair of the PEN Translation Committee, she co-edited (with Esther Allen) the Columbia University Press anthology *In Translation: Translators on Their Work and What It*

*Means*. Her translation of Jenny Erpenbeck's novel *The End of Days* won the 2015 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, The Schlegel-Tieck Translation Prize, the Ungar Award for Literary Translation, and the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize. Her translation of Yoko Tawada's novel *Memoirs of a Polar Bear* (2016) won the inaugural Warwick Prize for Women in Translation. She is currently completing work on a biography of Robert Walser for Yale University Press and blogs about translation at [www.translationista.com](http://www.translationista.com).



Taylor Gaines is a French to English translator and theatre maker based in Brooklyn. Her translation of the theatrical adaptation of *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk previously received a staged reading at the Segal Center. Her supertitles have appeared at the Seuls en Scène festival at Princeton University and in the recent independent theatre production *Fragments of a Star*.



Caridad Svich is a playwright, translator, editor and publisher. She received the 2012 OBIE for Lifetime Achievement.

Sponsored by the Columbia University School of the Arts Writing Program/Literary Translation at Columbia

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 4:45 PM**

## Playwright Panel Discussion

THE LANTERN, LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Playwrights Blanca Domenech (Spain), Pablo Manzi (Chile), and Blandine Savetier and Waddah Saab (France) in conversation with Columbia University School of the Arts International Play Reading Festival Director David Henry Hwang, Theatre.

Followed by a reception.

### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL DIRECTORS

Carol Becker is Professor of the Arts and Dean of Columbia University School of the Arts. She received her PhD in English and American Literature from the University of California, San Diego. She is the author of numerous articles and several books including: *The Invisible Drama: Women and the Anxiety of Change* (Prentice Hall & IBD, 1987); *The Subversive Imagination: Artists, Society and Social Responsibility* (Routledge, 1994); *Zones of Contention: Essays on Art, Institutions, Gender, and Anxiety* (State University of New York Press, 1996); *Surpassing the Spectacle: Global Transformations and the Changing Politics of Art* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002); *Thinking in Place: Art, Action, and Cultural Production* (Paradigm Publishers/Routledge, 2009); and her most recent long essay/memoir, *Losing Helen* (Red Hen Press, 2016). She travels widely, often lecturing on art, artists, their place in society, and feminist theory. She works closely with the World Economic Forum's program on art, culture, and leadership.

David Henry Hwang is a playwright, screenwriter, television writer, and librettist, whose stage works includes the plays *M. Butterfly*, *Chinglish*, *Yellow Face*, *Kung Fu*, *Golden Child*, *The Dance and the Railroad*, and *FOB*, as well as the Broadway musicals Elton John & Tim Rice's *Aida* (co-author), *Flower Drum Song* (2002 revival) and Disney's *Tarzan*. Hwang is a Tony Award winner and three-time nominee, a three-time OBIE Award winner, and a two-time Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He is also America's most-produced living opera librettist, whose works have been honored with two Grammy Awards, and he co-wrote the Gold Record Solo with the late pop star Prince. Hwang is currently a Writer/Consulting Producer for the Golden Globe-winning television series *The Affair*. His screenplays include *Possession*, *M. Butterfly*, and *Golden Gate*, and he is currently writing a feature for Dreamworks Animation in Shanghai.

Recent honors include 2011 PEN/Laura Pels Award for a Master American Dramatist, the 2012 Inge Award, the 2012 Steinberg Distinguished Playwright "Mimi" Award, a 2014 Doris Duke Artist

Award, and a 2015 Ford Foundation "Art of Change" Award. He serves on the Board of the Lark Play Development Center, and as Chair of the American Theatre Wing, which founded and co-presents the Tony Awards. Hwang was a Residency One Playwright at Signature Theatre, which produced a season of his plays, and *M. Butterfly* was recently revived on Broadway. His opera *An American Soldier*, with composer Huang Ruo, will premiere in June 2018 at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and his newest play with music, *Soft Power*, with composer Jeanine Tesori (*Fun Home*), premiered in May 2018 at Los Angeles' Ahmanson Theatre.

#### **FESTIVAL DIRECTORS**

Carol Becker, Professor of the Arts and Dean, Columbia University School of the Arts  
David Henry Hwang, Concentration Head, Playwriting, Theatre

#### **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Susan Bernofsky, Director, Literary Translation at Columbia, Writing  
David Henry Hwang, Concentration Head, Playwriting, Theatre  
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