April, 2015

Congratulations! Your application has been accepted for the SITI Summer Workshop at Skidmore College, and we would like to welcome you to our summer theater program. We have planned a stimulating, intensive workshop and are pleased that you will be joining us.

Registration is Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. That evening we will hold an Orientation where you will meet members of the Company, our staff, and fellow workshop participants. The workshop begins Monday morning and will feature daily training in the Suzuki Actor Training Method and the Viewpoints. Afternoon classes include Composition, Dramaturgy, Movement, and Speaking. During evenings and weekends, you will develop short ensemble theater works for Composition class and spend time in rehearsal, symposia, and special presentations with guest artists. Participants registered to take the workshop for graduate credit can expect weekly meetings with SITI Company members to discuss the practical and theoretical concerns of the workshop in dialogue with their personal theater work. The program will culminate in informal showings of student-generated work. Participants should plan to depart campus on Saturday, July 4, before 11 a.m.

The faculty for this summer will be comprised of SITI Company members and guest artists. SITI is pleased to announce that Wendell Beavers will be joining us to teach Movement. Wendell is the creator of Developmental Technique and one of the originators of the Viewpoints with Mary Overlie and Anne Bogart. This summer, SITI Company members Anne Bogart and Barney O’Hanlon will be working at nearby Glimmerglass Opera to stage Verdi’s Macbeth. This means that Anne and Barney’s involvement in the Summer Intensive will be limited. They plan to visit Skidmore several times during the program to view ongoing work and meet the participants, but they will not be in residence for the entire four weeks. We are excited to provide an opportunity for participants to travel to Glimmerglass to see how these two SITI Company members approach this material.

Composition class will focus on Macbeth, and not just the text of William Shakespeare’s play, but a constellation of images and themes which became the source material for a wide variety of artistic works throughout history and across cultures. As a play like Macbeth moves through time, it accumulates various associations and is transformed by the way in which it has been interpreted by history, culture and the various artists who have worked with it. The two major adaptations of Macbeth upon which we will focus are Giuseppe Verdi’s 1847 opera Macbet (Macbeth) and Akira Kurosawa’s 1957 film Throne Of Blood (Throne Of Blood). In preparation for our time together, please familiarize yourself with both of these works. Throne Of Blood is available to stream online and on DVD. Many excellent versions of Verdi’s Macbeth are available, for example: Riccardo Muti’s 1976 recording. The libretto of the opera is available online: http://www.operafolio.com/libretto.asp?n=Macbeth&translation=UK.

Also, please read and familiarize yourself with the Shakespeare play. If you are familiar with it already, please look at it again with fresh eyes. Pursuant to this, we strongly suggest that you read Witches And Jesuits: Shakespeare’s Macbeth by Garry Wills. This will give you some grounding in ideas and theories surrounding the original writing of the play and how subsequent interpretations have evolved away
from it. All of this material is readily available in the United States, but if you have trouble finding it outside of the US, please email us at: composition@siti.org. We welcome you to seek out other scholarship and works of art in any medium that reference or are inspired by Macbeth and to bring these resources with you to Saratoga.

We will focus on Shakespeare’s Macbeth in Dramaturgy class, so please read and bring a copy of the play with you to Skidmore. You may read it in any language, but you must have a hard copy with you during Dramaturgy class for reference. Please also bring materials for writing and taking notes in Dramaturgy, either a notebook or computer or tablet.

For Suzuki training, please bring cotton socks or Tabi (available for purchase online), and shorts or tights/pants that allow us to see the shape of your knees. For Viewpoints, please bring clothes to move in: sweat pants, leggings, Jazz pants or yoga pants are all fine. A packing list is available at Skidmore’s website at www.skidmore.edu/summertheater.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the program is physically demanding and very rigorous. We encourage you to come prepared to challenge your mind and body -- come well rested and in good health. Shortly we will be sending you further information about the workshop and the College. All of this information is also available on the Skidmore College website at: www.skidmore.edu/summertheater/. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Deb Amico at (518) 580-5596 or summertheater@skidmore.edu.

On behalf of the entire SITI Company, we are looking forward to working with you this summer.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Bogart, Leon Ingulsrud and Ellen Lauren
SITI Company Co-Artistic Directors