

For Immediate Release

**Media Contact:** Blake Zidell and John Wyszniwski at Blake Zidell & Associates, [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com) or [john@blakezidell.com](mailto:john@blakezidell.com)

# CROSSING **CT** THE LINE 2012

**French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)  
together with The Chocolate Factory**

presents

## **Brian Rogers, *Hot Box***

Live Performance / Endurance Challenge Inspired by the Extreme Physical Trials of Actors in Films such as Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Werner Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo*

**Previews: Thursday, September 13 & Friday, September 14, 8pm**

**Opening: Saturday, September 15, 8pm**

**Performances: Monday, September 17–Saturday, September 22, 8pm**

The Chocolate Factory

**New York, New York, August 9, 2012**—As part of the sixth edition of FIAF's *Crossing the Line* Festival, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF), New York's premiere French cultural center, and The Chocolate Factory present the world premiere of *Hot Box*, from Brian Rogers. *Hot Box* is a loud, dark, drunken live performance (and endurance challenge) that takes inspiration from Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Werner Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo*—particularly the extreme physical trials the actors underwent in order to create a genuine experience on screen. *Hot Box* features dancer Madeline Best and non-performer Rogers, taking center stage in his own work for the first time.

Performances of *Hot Box* will take place September 13–22 (see schedule below) at The Chocolate Factory. Critics are welcome as of September 14 for an official opening on September 15. The running time is approximately 60 minutes with no intermission. The Chocolate Factory is located at 5-49 49th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens. Tickets, which are \$15, are available online at [www.fiaf.org/ctl](http://www.fiaf.org/ctl) and by phone at 212 352 3101.

Created as a companion piece to Rogers' critically-acclaimed *Selective Memory* (2010), *Hot Box* begins hours before the audience enters the crypt-like basement space at The Chocolate Factory. Rogers and Best will enact a strenuous series of physical tasks, part choreography and part exercise, while drinking alcohol. Much



french institute  
alliance française

22 East 60th Street  
New York, NY 10022

T. 212 355 6100  
F. 212 935 4119

info@fiarf.org  
www.fiarf.org

alcohol. When the audience arrives at 8pm, Rogers and Best will be considerably drunk and extremely exhausted. Then the performance will begin.

Divided into two viewing areas, the audience will witness real-time projected images of Rogers and Best via a live video feed. Using live interactive video technology as its primary vehicle of expression, *Hot Box* expands *Selective Memory's* use of tightly choreographed pans, zooms, and cuts. Disjointed sounds will accompany the images to create a violent, noisy, and chaotic sense of disorder. Within this frenzied environment, Rogers and Best will attempt to create a focused stillness, a place where the audience can view a body coated with an intense physical and emotional residue. At some point, the original, extreme, physical actions, and drinking will begin again and the performers' stillness will try to exist amidst the mayhem.

In addition to creating original work since 1997, Brian Rogers co-founded and serves as artistic director of The Chocolate Factory Theater, which is "one of the most vital arts organizations in Queens," (*The New York Times*, 2010) and "has become a leader among a new generation of scrappy, homespun artist-run spaces and is viewed by some as the spiritual heir to bigger, more entrenched institutions." (*The New York Times*, 2010).

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**About Brian Rogers**

Brian Rogers is a director, video artist, and the artistic director of the Obie and Bessie Award-winning Chocolate Factory Theater, which supports the creation of theater, dance, music and multimedia performances at its 5,000 sq. ft. facility in Long Island City, Queens. Since 1997, Rogers has conceived and/or directed numerous large scale performances at The Chocolate Factory and elsewhere including the Bessie-nominated *Selective Memory (2010/11) redevelop (death valley)* (2009), *2 Husbands* (2007), *Gun Play* (2006), *Audit* (2004), and *Fundamental* (2002).

In addition to his own work, Rogers curates The Chocolate Factory's Visiting Artist Program (now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year), which supports the work of more than 100 theater, dance, music and multimedia artists each year. Rogers co-founded The Chocolate Factory in 2005 with Sheila Lewandowski who serves as executive director.

As a video, sound and performance artist, Rogers has collaborated with numerous artists, including Shaun Irons and Lauren Petty (the horror the horror, Movement Research Festival 2010, Abrons Arts Center 2011), Aynsley Vandenbroucke (Danspace Project, March 2011), Tara O'Con (Danspace Project, January 2009), Jillian Sweeney (September 2009), and the Movement Research Spring 2008 Festival (24x4x4). ). Brian will have his first solo exhibition at Ventana 244 Gallery in November 2012.

Rogers has served as a panelist and/or recommender for numerous organizations including NYSCA, Queens Council on the Arts, ART/NY Nancy Quinn Fund, DTW Outer/Space, the A.W.A.R.D. Show, NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs, Fresh Tracks, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, MacArthur Foundation, Made Here, Creative Capital and others; and is a graduate of Bennington College.

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**About Crossing the Line 2012**

*Crossing the Line* is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIARF)'s annual fall festival presenting interdisciplinary works and performances created by artists from around the world in New York. The festival provides opportunities for New Yorkers to explore the dialogue between artist and participant, examine how artists help re-imagine the world, and engage in the vital role artists play as critical thinkers and catalysts for social evolution. Curated by Lili Chopra, Artistic Director of FIARF, Simon Dove, Director of the Herberger Institute School of Dance at Arizona State University, and Gideon Lester, Director of Theater Programs at Bard College, *Crossing the Line* is initiated and produced by FIARF in partnership with leading cultural institutions and takes place this year from September 14–October 14, 2012.



french institute  
alliance française

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Inaugurated in 2007, *Crossing the Line* has enjoyed increasingly strong audience response from diverse segments of the New York City area, as well as critical acclaim. The festival was voted “Best of 2009” and “Best of 2010” by *Time Out New York*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. *The New York Times* has said, “The French Institute Alliance Française’s annual *Crossing the Line* has carved out a particular identity as an invigorating, unpredictable, occasionally provocative mix of genres and disciplines...It’s the artistic equivalent of a splash of water on the face.”

### About The Chocolate Factory

The Obie Award-winning Chocolate Factory Theater values the process of creation and the spirit of experimentation; and is a leading incubator for new developments in experimental performance. The Factory's 5,000 square foot facility is home to new work by the company's Founding Artists; and provides support to over 100 Visiting Artists each year. The work of The Chocolate Factory's founding artists emphasizes multi-disciplinary collaboration combining movement, music, video and text to devise a means of storytelling that is immediate, collage-like, highly visual, and dependent on new technologies. When successful, the work is not easily categorized as theater, dance, new music, or video art and is rather a thorough intermingling of these disciplines. By extension, its curatorial values when it comes to Visiting Artists leads to work that exists across or between disciplines-work that requires new methods, more time, and a new kind of audience.

[www.chocolatefactorytheater.org/](http://www.chocolatefactorytheater.org/)

### About FIAF

FIAF's mission is to create and offer New Yorkers innovative and unique programs in education and the arts that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French cultures. FIAF seeks to generate new ideas and promote cross cultural dialogue through partnerships and new platforms of expression. [www.fiaf.org](http://www.fiaf.org)

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### Merci!

FIAF would like to thank the following for their generous support of *Crossing the Line* 2012:

Nespresso, Presenting Sponsor of *Crossing the Line* 2012.

American Airlines, the Official Airline of FIAF; 972, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Institut français; Florence Gould Foundation; The French-American Fund for Contemporary Theater, a Program of FACE; FUSED (French-U.S. Exchange in Dance); Fondation d'entreprise Hermès; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; The Enoch Foundation; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation; Interaudi Bank; The Museum for African Art; Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques; Netherlands Cultural Services; The Netherland-America Foundation; APAP Cultural Exchange; and Robert de Rothschild

Special thanks to Arizona State University.

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### LISTING SUMMARY

**What:** *Crossing the Line* 2012: Brian Rogers' *Hotbox*  
**When:** Previews: Thursday, September 13 & Friday, September 14, 8pm  
Opening: Saturday, September 15, 8pm  
Performances: Monday, September 17–Saturday, September 22, 8pm  
**Where:** The Chocolate Factory  
5-49 49th Avenue, L.I.C., NYC  
**Admission:** \$15



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**Tickets:** [fiaf.org/ct](http://fiaf.org/ct) | 800 982 2787

**Information:** [fiaf.org/ct](http://fiaf.org/ct) | 212 355 6160

**Transportation:** Subway: 7 to Vernon/Jackson, G to 21st Street/Van Alst

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