

For Immediate Release

# CROSSING **CTL** THE LINE 2012

## FIAF'S 2012 **CROSSING THE LINE** FESTIVAL PRESENTS THREE UNIQUE LECTURE PERFORMANCES

One-Night-Only Events Feature Faustin Linyekula & Peter Sellars, Sarah Michelson, and Jack Ferver

**New York, New York, August 12, 2012**—As part of the 2012 *Crossing the Line* festival, its annual interdisciplinary festival of contemporary arts, the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) presents the *Lecture/Performance Series* information as performance, and vice-versa.

Defying the conventions of the lecture as simply a source of knowledge and the performance as a presentation of a way of seeing the world, the *Lecture/Performance Series* offers adventurous artists a unique platform to convey new ideas in an engaging and inspiring way. Often with a minimum of means, this format has proven to be highly stimulating for both the artist and audience alike. Participants in these one-night-only events include **Peter Sellars & Faustin Linyekula** along with **Sarah Michelson** and **Jack Ferver**.

Additional information including venue details and ticket prices can be found below. Please visit [fiaf.org/ctl](http://fiaf.org/ctl) or call 212.355.6160 for more information.

### **Faustin Linyekula & Peter Sellars, Dialogue (World Premiere)**

Co-presented with the Museum for African Art, Monday, September 17 at 8pm  
FIAF, Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th Street (between Park and Madison Avenue)  
Advance \$20, Day-of \$25, FIAF Members \$15, Student Rush \$10

Artistic collaborators and friends, director and choreographer **Faustin Linyekula** and director **Peter Sellars** come together on the first anniversary of Occupy Wall Street to speak about each others' work and the power of the arts as an agent for social and political change.

Through his innovative interpretations of classic works from Mozart to Sophocles, Peter Sellars has reshaped the way artists and audiences view performance. Faustin Linyekula has gained critical acclaim worldwide for his provocative work addressing the legacy of war and atrocities in his native Democratic Republic of the Congo where he remains a singular voice in contemporary performance.

### **Sarah Michelson, Not a Lecture/Performance (World Premiere)**

Thursday, October 4, at 8pm  
FIAF, Tinker Auditorium, (55 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison Avenue)  
Advance \$20, Day-of \$25, FIAF Members \$15, Student Rush \$10

Following her acclaimed residency at the 2012 Whitney Biennial, choreographer and director Sarah Michelson neither lectures, nor performs about the myriad layers that comprise her work. Please note this event is not open for review.

### **Jack Ferver, Mon Ma Mes (World Premiere)**

Saturday, October 6 at 8pm  
FIAF, Le Skyroom, 22 East 60th Street (between Park and Madison Avenue)  
Advance \$20, Day-of \$25, FIAF Members \$15

*The New York Times* has described choreographer, writer, and performer Jack Ferver's work as "restless, visceral, and often painful... as sympathetic as it is biting corrosive." The flimsy membrane between what part is real and what part is fiction is one of the disarming traits of Ferver's work. In this unique performance, Ferver scrutinizes his life through a stylized question-and-answer format. He will also perform one of his works while simultaneously deconstructing it. All while a documentary is being shot of him. The layered combination of self-analysis and performance creates an intimacy with the audience that reveals as much as it presents.

### **About the artists**

**Jack Ferver** has been creating full-length works since 2007. He has been presented at The Kitchen (NYC), The Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, MA), PS 122 (NYC), The New Museum (NYC), The Museum of Arts and Design (NYC), Diverse Works (Houston, TX), Danspace Project (NYC), Abrons Art Center (NYC), Dixon Place (NYC), and Théâtre de Vanves in France. Shorter and solo works have been presented at MoMA/PS1, Andrew Edlin Gallery, and NP Gallery (all NYC). His work has been written about in *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Artforum*, *Modern Painters*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Dance Magazine*. As an actor, credits include the film *Gayby*, *Strangers With Candy* (Comedy Central), and numerous other film and theatre projects. His writing has been published in the magazine *Novembre*. He has curated for Danspace Project, Center for Performance Research, and Dance New Amsterdam. He teaches privately as well as at New York University and has set choreography at The Juilliard School.

Dancer and choreographer, **Faustin Linyekula** lives in Kisangani, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, former Zaire, former Belgian Congo, and former independent state of Congo. In his work, he regularly addresses the legacy of decades of war, terror, fear, and the continued efforts of the nation to rebuild itself, physically, psychologically, and materially. In 2001, he created Studios Kabako in Kinshasa, a space dedicated to dance, theatre, music, film, and video. Studios Kabako supports training programs, research, and the production and touring of new work by young Congolese artists. With Vienna-based architect Bärbel Müller, Linyekula is working on a series of three cultural centres meant to stimulate new ideas and creativity among residents of Kisangani, which will open in 2015. Among his recent creations are *more more more... future* (2009) (presented as part of *Crossing the Line* 2011), his first solo work *Le Cargo* (2011), (presented as part of *Crossing the Line* 2012), and *La création du monde (1923-2012)*, a collaboration with the Ballet de Lorraine in Nancy (France). He is the recipient of the Principal Award of the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development and is associate artist to the KVS Theater, Brussels.

**Sarah Michelson's** work has been presented and commissioned by BAM, Performance Space 122, The Kitchen, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Danspace Project, Movement Research in NYC; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; On the Boards, Seattle; ODC Theater, San Francisco; Chapter

Arts, Cardiff, Wales; and has toured to Cutting Edge Festival, Frankfurt; Venice Biennale; SommerSzene, Salzburg; Tanz im August Festival, Berlin; and Zuercher Theater Spektakel, Zurich. She has created several evening-length works and modular works including *Devotion Study #1: The American Dancer* (2012); *Devotion* (2011); *Dover Beach* (2008); *DOGS* (2006); *Daylight, Daylight (for Seattle)* and *Daylight (for Minneapolis)* (2005). Michelson has been awarded two Bessies for choreography and one for Visual Design; a Doris Duke Artist Award, the 2012 Bucksbaum Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award, the 2006 Alpert Award in Dance; support from Creative Capital, Jerome Foundation, NYFA Fellowship, BUILD, Mid-Atlantic's USAI, AMC Live Music for Dance, the MAP Fund, NDP, NPN, the Sophie and Leonard Davis Fund, and the Yellow House Fund.

Opera, theater, and festival director **Peter Sellars** is one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the performing arts in America and abroad. A visionary artist, Sellars is known for groundbreaking interpretations of classic works. Recent Sellars projects have included a concert staging of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion* with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, stagings of *Nixon in China* for the Metropolitan Opera and George Crumb's *The Winds of Destiny* for the Ojai Music Festival and Cal Performances, and new productions of Handel's *Hercules* in Chicago, Vivaldi's *Griselda* in Santa Fe, and a double bill of Tchaikovsky's *IOLANTA* and Stravinsky's *PERSEPHONE* in Madrid. *Desdemona*, a collaboration with novelist Toni Morrison and Malian composer and singer Rokia Traore, was performed in Vienna, Brussels, Paris, Berkeley, New York, and Berlin.

Sellars has led several major arts festivals. In 2006 he was Artistic Director of New Crowned Hope, a festival in Vienna for which he invited international artists, including Faustin Linyekula, from diverse cultural backgrounds to create new work in the fields of music, theater, dance, film, the visual arts, and architecture for the city's celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

Sellars is a professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA and Resident Curator of the Telluride Film Festival. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Erasmus Prize, the Sundance Institute Risk-Takers Award, and the Gish Prize, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### **About Crossing The Line 2012**

*Crossing the Line* is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)'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 FIAF, 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 FIAF in partnership with leading cultural institutions and takes place this year from September 14–October 14, 2012.

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 Museum for African Art**



french institute  
alliance française

22 East 60th Street  
New York, NY 10022

T. 212 355 6100  
F. 212 935 4119

info@fiaf.org  
www.fiaf.org

The Museum for African Art is dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of the arts and cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora. Founded in 1984, the Museum is internationally acknowledged as a preeminent organizer of exhibitions and publications related to historical and contemporary African art, with programs that are as diverse as the continent itself. Throughout the Museum's history it has been heralded as a leader in the field, pioneering the way African art is presented and interpreted. Find out about upcoming programs and exhibitions at [www.africanart.org](http://www.africanart.org).

### **About the French Institute Alliance Française (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)

### **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; 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; Institut français / Paris / Afrique en créations; Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques; NRW Kultursekretariat Wuppertal; Netherlands Cultural Services; The Netherland-America Foundation; FUSED (French-US Exchange in Dance) Program; The Hemispheric Institute; APAP Cultural Exchange Fund; the Consulate General of France in Quebec; Anonymous; and Robert de Rothschild.

Special thanks to Arizona State University.

**Press Contacts: Blake Zidell and John Wyszniowski at**

**Blake Zidell & Associates: 718.643.9052, [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com) or [john@blakezidell.com](mailto:john@blakezidell.com).**

###