

# REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REDCAT Presents Acclaimed Choreographer TRAJAL HARRELL  
And the West Coast Premiere of  
*Antigone Sr./Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (L)*  
Thursday, April 3 to Sunday, April 6, 2014**



Image credits: "Antigone Sr." by Trajal Harrell (second to right photo by Miana Jun, furthest right photo by lam Douglas).

## **"When Drag and Modern Dance Collide"**

—*The New Yorker*

With a bold theatrical vision and a potent score of remixed pop, electronica and more, Trajal Harrell concocts an intoxicating blend of strutting, voguing, extravagantly outré fashion and irresistible movement in the latest and largest edition of his acclaimed series of works inspired by a provocative question:

*What if the Harlem ball culture of the 1960s had paraded its way into downtown New York's early postmodern dance scene?*

This speculation is smartly brought into a contemporary context through Harrell's choreography for an international ensemble of virtuosic dancers. As a genre-bending exploration of race, gender, sexuality, culture and history, the resulting *Antigone Sr.* is much more than a fierce, all-male take on the classic tragedy. It serves up a revelatory investigation of Sophocles' themes, set to dance music with deep bass.

Harrell says:

*I was stunned to find out that voguing and Judson era postmodern dance starting around the same time in the 1960's—one downtown in Greenwich Village and one uptown in Harlem. So since 2001 my work has been imagining that the two actually came together in dialogue to question and reflect together both politically and aesthetically. By hosting this conversation on the architectural stage space of the fashion runway (an ode to both traditions' use of pedestrianism), I have tried to invent performative strategies oscillating between voguing's "realness" and early postmodernism's "authenticity." Of course, dance history as it has been written speaks about Judson but not voguing. As Gérard Mayen has written: "Judson reunited middle and upper-middle class artists and audiences, white and culturally selective, politicized, and convinced of the*

*democratic scope of their privilege for an everyday gesture and body - one that was neutral and full of 'authenticity.'*

*The voguing ballrooms brought together poorer artists and audiences, non-white, inspired by pop and fashion culture and a search for the 'realness' of gesture. This realness turns out to reveal the artificiality being performed at the root of all social identities. I am most interested in how the imagination can re-think the "omissions" of history. In this way, performance can be a way in which we collectively re-imagine the impossibilities of history and thus make room for new possibilities in the world we make today."*

### **Artist Bio**

Trajal Harrell's work has been presented at venues including The Kitchen, Danspace Project, The New Museum, Dance Theater Workshop, P.S. 122, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Boston, The Margulies Art Warehouse (Miami), The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Art Basel Miami Beach, Dance Mission (San Francisco, CA), Cornell University's Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX), Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and CUNY's Martin Segal Theater and Proshansky Auditorium, among others. Internationally, his work has toured to international festivals in France, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Croatia, and Mexico.

His first full-evening length work *Notes on Less Than Zero* premiered at Danspace Project in June 2004, followed by *Before Intermission*, a half-evening creation, which premiered at The Kitchen in February 2006. *Showpony*, premiered at Danspace Project in January 2007. In 2008, his *Quartet for the End of Time*, premiered at Dance Theater Workshop and was chosen by Time Out New York Magazine as one of the best dances of 2008.

During the fall of 2009, he premiered the first work in a new series titled *Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church* at The New Museum. This work has also been shown in international festivals and at The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. It was also chosen by Time Out New York Magazine as one of the best dances of 2009. Most recently, he premiered *Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church (M)* aka (M)imosa and *Twenty Looks...(XS)* at The Kitchen in February 2011.

### **Reviews**

[When Drag and Modern Dance Collide](#), The New Yorker

[Glimpses of a Rave, Spasms of Distress: Trajal Harrell at Museum of Modern Art](#), The New York Times

[Trajal Harrell: The Next Martha Graham Has Arrived!](#) Huffington Post

[Trajal Harrell's Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church \(s\)](#), BOMB Magazine

[Vogueing in a Playground of Gender, Celebrity and Fashion](#), The New York Times

*[Harrell] left just enough chinks in his armor of struts, jutting hips and commanding gazes to remind us that the most startling power of performance often lives in its exquisite vulnerability. —The New York Times*

*His dances exist on the perilous edge between authenticity and posing, driven by carefully timed tension and a heightened sensitivity. — Time Out New York*

*Harrell's seductive, seditious, subversive shows are as much a commentary on fashions in dance and spectatorship as they are on the industry of glamour and the cult of the star. —The New York Times*

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### **EVENT INFORMATION**

## **TRAJAL HARRELL**

***Antigone Sr./Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (L)***

<http://www.redcat.org/event/trajal-harrell>

**Date(s)/Time(s):**

Thursday, April 3 at 8:30 pm

Friday, April 4 at 8:30 pm

Saturday, April 5 at 8:30 pm

Sunday, April 6 at 8:30 pm

**Ticketing:**

\$20–25 general [\$16–20 for students/members]

**Location:**

631 West 2nd St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

For more information, visit [redcat.org](http://redcat.org) or call the Box Office at 213-237-2800

**ALSO OF INTEREST**

Apr 17–19: [Emio Greco | PC: ROCCO](#)

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**ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER**

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a theater, a gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org).

**Location/Parking:** REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

**Street Address:** 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

**THE LOUNGE** | Open to the public six days a week, the Lounge is a great place to spend an afternoon or grab a drink pre- and post-performance.

**Lounge Hours:** Tuesdays–Fridays from 9am until 8 pm or post-show; Saturdays from noon until 8 pm or post-show; Sundays from noon until 6pm or post-show

**THE GALLERY** | REDCAT's Gallery presents five major exhibitions each year, and publishes artist books and catalogues. Admission to the Gallery is FREE.

**Gallery Hours:** Tuesdays–Sundays from noon until 6 pm and through intermission

**THE THEATER** | Tickets for programs held in the theater are available through the REDCAT Box Office, by phone 213-237-2800 or online at [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org). Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

**Box Office Hours:** Tuesdays–Saturday from noon until 6 pm or two hour prior to curtain

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

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