



# BILL T. JONES ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT OVERVIEW

### *A Meditation on The Rite of Spring*

2013 is the centennial of the premiere of Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Arguably the most important score to be written in the twentieth century, the premiere was a watershed moment in cultural history and marked the birth of modernism, liberating artists in every field.

To mark the occasion, Carolina Performing Arts (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) has commissioned Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and Anne Bogart's SITI Company to create new works on the theme. Jones and Bogart decided to collaborate to create a joint project.

The piece is tentatively titled *A Meditation on the Rite of Spring* and will premiere in Chapel Hill in January 2013.

The project will combine the talents of Bill T. Jones and Anne Bogart, acclaimed American artists who have long admired each other's work but never worked together. This will be an unprecedented collaboration between two leading directors and their companies.

The cast will comprise five actors from SITI Company and nine dancers from Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

Jones and Bogart will co-direct the project, with Jones overseeing choreography and Bogart creating the script. Lighting design will be by Robert Wierzel, sound design will be by Darron L. West.

The score will likely include a piano transcription of *Rite*. The directors do not plan to use the orchestral version in the piece (recorded nor live).

Bill T. Jones, Anne Bogart, and key collaborators were in residence at Chapel Hill in April 2011 to begin developing the project. The companies will rehearse together and conduct joint-residencies to create the work over the next eighteen months.

#### **Artists' statement:**

Our intention is to create a meditation upon the phenomenon of the encounter with Igor Stravinsky's music and with the history that the piece carries upon its back. We are taking the work apart and putting it back together again in a way that we both hope will speak to audiences everywhere. The music is prime and the social-historical context is a point of departure as is the community created by the joining of our two companies. We both believe that the work allows us the opportunity to reflect upon the human condition: sacrifice; creative and spiritual rebirth; the individual against or with the community. Much of the spoken text will be by Jonah Lehrer from his chapter on Stravinsky in his bestselling book *Proust Was a Neuroscientist*. The result will not be a re-construction of the performance and subsequent riot at the infamous Parisian premiere, but rather a deconstruction of the music and its impact upon the development of the human mind. - **Anne Bogart & Bill T. Jones**

**World Premiere:** January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Carolina Performing Arts, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Premiere Tour:** January-February, 2013. Currently seeking co-commissioners, tour presenters, and residency partners.