

SITI COMPANY: CAFÉ VARIATIONS

Imagine a café. A deft waiter maneuvers among the tables, delivering wine, tea, coffee and delicate sandwiches in a constant ballet. He stops occasionally to catch glimpses of furtive meetings, lingering separations and to hear conversations that evoke longing, desire and loss. Light shifts sensually from day to night and back again, evoking time's transitory nature. As the relationships intensify and develop among the café denizens, this social intercourse accumulates to an intensely symphonic conclusion.

Café Variations weaves longing, lust, lost love, found love, and budding romantic adventure through dance, music and theater within the social arena where anything can happen: a café. The music is from the Great American Songbook, the text is Charles Mee, spinning pathos and humor on a theatrical canvas that is both intimate and public, brought to life by SITI Company's remarkable ensemble of actors and designers.

Cafe Variations will be constructed from fragments of many plays by SITI Company playwright Charles Mee including: *A Walk in the Park*, *Cafe le Monde*, *Memory Palace* and *Night and Day*. The central idea of the project is that each scene, or module, as we are calling them, stands on its own, with a beginning, middle and end, and can be experienced satisfactorily outside of the full scale production of *Cafe Variations*. The interstitial through-line of a head-waiter and his minions weave together the arrangements of the scenes and songs into musical accumulation of events in the context of the cafe.

The initial version of *Cafe Variations* will premiere at ArtsEmerson in April 2012 and will be a large-scale music/theater/dance piece on the stage of the beautiful Majestic, a 1,200 seat newly renovated theater. The production will include SITI Company actors and designers together with Emerson students from the Performing Arts Department.

Cafe options:

In an effort to reach a wider range of Presenters, the company will offer two options of *Cafe Variations* with standard and reduced technical requirements and personnel. Presenter can choose the option that best suits his/her venue and budget.

Café Mezzo (Large Version): 8 Actors and 3 Technical Personnel.

Day before load-in.

Café Piccolo (Small Version): 5 Actors and Lighter Tech Personnel & Requirements.

Same day load –in may be possible.

Residency/Master Class offerings:

Master Classes in Viewpoints and Suzuki Method

Post & Pre Performance Talk

FUNDING:

NEFA/National Theatre Pilot: Presenter support available.

Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation: Application pending for additional support to Presenters in Mid-Atlantic region.