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Media contacts: Erik Pepple, 614 688-3261 or epepple@wexarts.org

Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or ksimonian@wexarts.org

SITI COMPANY AND DIRECTOR ANNE BOGART RETURN TO WEXNER CENTER WITH WORLD PREMIERE

SITI COMPANY IS 2004 RESIDENCY AWARD RECIPIENT IN PERFORMING ARTS

The **SITI Company** and director **Anne Bogart** return to the Wexner Center for the world premiere of their latest work, ***Death and the Ploughman***, a haunting play adapted from a 1401 German text detailing one man's journey through the labyrinth of his soul. The show runs **April 21–25** in the Performance Space.

The SITI Company will finalize this production as part of its creative residency at the Wexner Center involving all members of SITI's design and acting team. The residency will also feature open rehearsals for students from OSU's Department of Theatre, as well as a week-long teaching residency for advanced theater students with SITI Company members sponsored by the College of the Arts and the Department of Theatre in conjunction with this creative residency. These model residencies are designed to fulfill the Wexner Center's mission of bringing significant arts opportunities to OSU students and to advance the university's role as a leading research institution.

THE SHOW

Bogart writes: "How do we manage to live full and vibrant lives while death breathes down our neck? *Death and the Ploughman*, a hauntingly beautiful little play written in Germany in 1401, awakens the complex mystery encased in this deeply disturbing question. A man loses his beloved wife in her prime and demands some answers for his ensuing pain. He asks Death to respond. The result is an extraordinarily contemporary exploration of what it means to be alive in the world."

Death and the Ploughman is the story of a man who loses his wife in her prime and demands answers for his ensuing pain. In doing so, he asks Death to respond, resulting in a play that examines the complexities and nuances of life and death.

The production's heady issues and rich dialogue are reinforced by the striking physicality of actors Will Bond, who plays the bereaved ploughman, and Ellen Lauren and Stephen Webber, who embody two different faces of Death. A dynamic and visually arresting work, this new production accentuates the contemporary resonance of this timeless tale.

THE SITI COMPANY AND THE WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center has a rich history of supporting Anne Bogart and SITI. The company first came to the Wexner Center in 1996 with the well-received *The Medium*, inspired by the writings of Marshall McLuhan. Soon after, the Wexner Center provided commissioning and creative residency support for the Obie Award-winning solo show *BOB*, whose text was derived from interviews with theater director Robert Wilson. SITI returned to present the world premiere of *Alice's Adventures*, Bogart's inventive take on *Alice in Wonderland*, which also received commissioning and creative residency support from the Wexner Center. In 1999, the Wexner Center helped to raise development funds for SITI's production of *Cabin Pressure*. The year 2000 found SITI returning with its production of *Room*, a one-woman show inspired by the writings of Virginia Woolf. Most recently, SITI debuted *Score*, based on the life of conductor and music educator Leonard Bernstein, the completion of their trilogy of chamber pieces on important artists.

This ongoing relationship between SITI Company and the Wexner Center has enabled SITI to grow as an independent company and build a body of tourable new works. The Wexner Center's advocacy for the work of SITI Company (as well as other beneficiaries of Wexner creative laboratory support) nationally and internationally extends the center's sphere of influence among peer arts organizations and contributes to the Center's international standing as well as the reputation of OSU and Columbus.

Founded in 1992, SITI (formerly known as Saratoga International Theater Institute) is an ensemble-based company whose three ongoing missions are the creation of new work, a commitment to forming international partnerships, and the training of young theater artists. In conjunction with their Wexner Center performances, Bogart and SITI Company members have conducted a series of teaching residencies and workshops over the years in Ohio State's Department of Theatre.

WEXNER CENTER RESIDENCY AWARDS

Wexner Center Residency Awards are offered every season in the performing, visual, and media arts, providing significant financial resources and technical support for artists to develop and showcase new work, and to provide opportunities for interaction with the Ohio State community and our patrons. This program is an essential part of the Wexner Center's mission to serve as a creative research laboratory. Past years' recipients in the performing arts have included Improbable Theatre, the Wooster Group, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and Elizabeth Streb,

CALENDAR INFORMATION: SITI Company / *Death and the Ploughman*

Description: Wexner Center presents the world premiere of the SITI Company's production of *Death and the Ploughman*, a Wexner Center Residency Award project.

Dates and times: Wednesday–Friday, April 21–23 / 8 pm; Saturday, April 24 / 3 & 8 pm; Sunday, April 25 / 3 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St.

Tickets: \$20 General public; \$16 Wexner Center members; \$10 OSU students; \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students at Ticketmaster outlets.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets 614 431-3600.

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Digital images for press are available upon request; call Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261.

EVENT SUPPORT

The SITI Company is presented by the Wexner Center with support from Altria Group, Inc. and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.