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[Press Room](#)



Images of *Betroffenheit* (center), Crystal Pite (left) and Jonathon Young (right) are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
BETROFFENHEIT
A COLLABORATIVE DANCE-THEATER WORK BY CHOREOGRAPHER
CRYSTAL PITE AND PLAYWRIGHT/PERFORMER JONATHON YOUNG
FRIDAY–SATURDAY, MARCH 10–11, 2017

Berkeley, January 31, 2017 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the gripping dance-theater work [Betroffenheit](#), a collaboration between two of Canada’s most renowned and imaginative artists, acclaimed choreographer **Crystal Pite** and playwright/performer **Jonathon Young**, on Friday and Saturday, March 10–11, at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. Pite and her company **Kidd Pivot** unite with **Electric Company Theatre**, led by Young, in a captivating exploration of psychological trauma.

Betroffenheit stars Young as a man in the throes of post-traumatic stress disorder, as he copes with loss and addiction, his inner turmoil expressed outwardly through the movement of a cast of five dancers, an unrelenting sound score, and an insistent voiceover of his own thoughts and emotions.

Young performs his script, which grew from coping with his own personal tragedy when his teenage daughter, niece, and nephew died in a fire. Pite, whose work is celebrated internationally for her finely wrought, emotionally volatile choreography, translates Young's grief into mesmerizing, eerie movement that addresses the failure of language in the face of emotional suffering.

"*Betroffenheit* is that rare work that is as emotionally brave and compelling as it is formally stunning and innovative. It scales the walls of human potential through its unblinking view of suffering, a nearly autobiographical journey of loss and redemption from Jonathon Young that carries a message of hope for anyone who has mourned the loss of a loved one, especially in a tragedy," said Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis. "Crystal Pite's insightful direction and exquisite movement so masterfully embed this story in the bodies and situations of the performer that one hardly has time to notice, until it is over, that you've never seen anything like it."

Named after a German word that loosely translates as "shock," "bewilderment," or "impact," *Betroffenheit* has been praised for its emotional honesty and seamless incorporation of movement, poetry, spoken word, humor, and drama: *The Guardian* (London) called it a "raw and riveting drama of mental conflict" in which "words and dance are expertly combined." The performances of *Betroffenheit* conclude the season-long Berkeley RADICAL *Innovation* thematic strand, which highlights the work of artistic trailblazers who continually ask us to perceive, think, and understand in new ways.

About the Artists

Under the direction of internationally renowned Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite, the company [Kidd Pivot](#) integrates movement, original music, text, and rich visual designs in its performances. The company's distinct choreographic language is marked by a strong theatrical sensibility and a keen sense of wit and invention. Pite, who is also associate choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater I and an associate artist at Sadler's Wells, London, has collaborated with celebrated dance artists, theater companies, and filmmakers in Canada, Europe, and the US. Her work and her company have been recognized with numerous awards and commissions. Kidd Pivot tours extensively around the world with productions that include *The Tempest Replica* (2011), *The You Show* (2010), *Dark Matters* (2009), *Lost Action* (2006), and *Double Story* (2004). Kidd Pivot was resident company at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt, Germany from 2010 to 2012.

[Electric Company Theatre](#) is one of Canada's leading creators of live theater, challenging theatrical conventions while preserving a strong sense of story. Formed as a collective in 1996 by Siminovitch Prize-winning director Kim Collier, David Hudgins, Jonathon Young, and Governor General's Award-winning writer Kevin Kerr, the company is currently led by artistic director Jonathon Young. The Electric Company Theatre has created 21 original productions, including *Betroffenheit*, *Tear the Curtain!*, *No Exit*, *Studies in Motion*, *Brilliant!*, and the feature film *The Score*.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Betroffenheit* on Friday–Saturday, March 10–11 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$30–\$86 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at [\(510\) 642-9988](tel:5106429988), at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday & Saturday, March 10–11 at 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street

UC Berkeley campus

Berkeley RADICAL: *Innovation*

Betroffenheit

Kidd Pivot and Electric Company Theatre

Created by Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young

Written by Jonathon Young

Choreographed and directed by Crystal Pite

Program: A collaboration between two of Canada’s most renowned and imaginative companies, choreographer Crystal Pite’s Kidd Pivot and playwright/performer Jonathon Young’s Electric Company Theatre, *Betroffenheit* is a gripping and emotionally visceral exploration of psychological trauma. Named after a German word that loosely translates as “shock,” “bewilderment,” or “impact,” this “rare and staggering” (*Globe and Mail*, Toronto) dance-theater hybrid addresses the failure of language in the face of emotional suffering.

Post-Performance Talk

Zellerbach Hall

Friday, March 10

Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis will moderate a post-performance talk with the artists of Kidd Pivot and Electric Company Theatre, free to all ticket holders.

Berkeley RADICAL: This performance is part of Cal Performances’ Berkeley RADICAL *Innovation* strand, which follows a group of artistic trailblazers, some celebrating key milestones, who continually ask us to perceive, think, and understand in new ways. More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical-innovation.

Tickets: \$30–\$86 (prices subject to change)