

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Moinian Group Is Donating Vacant Retail in Midtown Manhattan as Setting for Late January 2020 Dance Theater World Premiere

Sleep No More stars Bordonaro and Kapteyn premiering *The Pigeon & The Mouse* in startling non-theater setting.

Washington, D.C., Thursday, January 9, 2020: The National Performing Arts Funding Exchange today confirmed that because of the generosity of New York City-based Moinian Group, the January, 2020 world premiere of *The Pigeon & The Mouse* will be presented in a one-of-a-kind dystopian-like setting in the heart of Manhattan, just a half block away from Grand Central Station.

An original work of dance-theater conceived, created, produced, and performed by *Sleep No More* stars Tony Bordonaro and Ingrid Kapteyn, *The Pigeon & The Mouse* is a love story about two people forced to leave home in the wake of civil war. Essential to this unusual live visual portrayal of post-war pathos is the stage set itself: one that physically conveys the startling search for life and love in the wake of destructive conflict.

In search of just such a setting, NPAFE last December asked the Real Estate Board of New York whether it could help Bordonaro and Kapteyn locate an unfinished space, unlike a traditional theater, where the starkness of the performers' creative storytelling could best be portrayed.

If that were not enough, would the owners be willing, asked NPAFE, to donate the use of that space? REBNY's Mckenna Warren spread the word, and almost immediately The Moinian Group responded: "By all means yes."

Why would The Moinian Group rise to the occasion as it did?

Since its founding by Joseph Moinian in 1982, The Moinian Group has become one of the few national real estate entities to develop, own and operate properties across every asset category, including office, hotel, retail, condos and rental apartments in major cities including New York, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles.

More importantly, The Moinian Group and the Nazee & Joseph Moinian Foundation, launched in 2015, have been active supporters of the arts, and in more than the Greater New York Metro area. For example, the Group partnered with Paula Cooper Gallery to host Mark di Suvero at a construction site on 220 11th avenue in West Chelsea, and with Ugo Rondinone at an empty retail space at its residential building Sky in Midtown West to host an art gallery pop-up.

The Moinian Group has even installed the Yayoi Kusama "Pumpkin" sculpture on permanent public display in front of Sky. And in Los Angeles, it has hosted the MB Abrams Gallery in an empty retail location at its LA building at 550 South Hill Street.

It was in this tradition that The Moinian Group suggested that *The Pigeon & The Mouse* might premiere at a currently vacant retail space just off premiere Fifth Avenue on East 45th Street a half-block away from Grand Central Station. "How about this?" asked Moinian Senior Vice President Gregg Weisser.

"Let's go see it!" was Bordonaro's and Kapteyn's immediate response, which Moinian staff made possible in a flash. In less than a New York minute came Kapteyn's response on behalf of both performers: "Tony and I absolutely love the space!"

Bordonaro and Kapteyn are among New York City's most gifted creative teams in immersive theater, bringing their powerful imagination not just to the stage but right to and into the audience. They were first inspired to create their sellout *CAMPFIRE*, precursor to *The Pigeon & The Mouse*, by the future-oriented pulse of Shanghai, China, where they were chosen to appear nightly in the original cast of Punchdrunk's Chinese production of *Sleep No More* in 2017.

Says NPAFE's CEO Cliff Brody, "I had heard about *CAMPFIRE*, got one of the last tickets for the January 2019 performances in New York City, and was blown away by what unfolded." At first he thought the dancer-actors' movement of hands, eyes, and body were spontaneous. He learned only later that every last one of the actors' moves, even the tiniest of their gestures, reflected highly-complex choreography portraying aggression, rage, self-preservation, and ultimate reconciliation of enemies-turned-friends.

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"No matter that there wasn't any dialogue," Brody adds. "Everyone in the audience knew exactly what these two were saying in silence about the terror they were facing. This was immersive theater at its best," says Brody, and was the catalyst for NPAFE supporting Bordonaro's and Kapteyn's creative efforts for the long term.

Kapteyn notes: "I am a shameless sucker for stories like *The Hunger Games* and *The Walking Dead*, where the logistics of normal life disappear, and every day is a matter of surviving until tomorrow. Even in fiction, those high stakes show the guts of what humans care about."

Why do Bordonaro and Kapteyn choose to tell stories of movement and dance through physicality so up close and visceral? "So that the audience can feel it in their own minds and bodies," Bordonaro answers, "As dance artists we believe the movement of the body is highly expressive."

Kapteyn calls *The Pigeon & The Mouse* her "reckoning with forever." At the intersection of dance and theater, abstraction and narrative, sci-fi and fable, the piece asks the age-old question of what happens when two people who love each other cannot stay together. Bordonaro and Kapteyn invite their audiences to join them "in the practice of what homo sapiens do best: use fiction and fantasy as a means to survive."

Apparently, The Moinian Group has been as thrilled as Bordonaro and Kapteyn by the prospect of hosting the premiere of *The Pigeon & The Mouse*. Because of Moinian's generosity, *The Pigeon & The Mouse* will be premiering right on schedule, Friday and Saturday, January 24-25, at 2 East 45th Street in Manhattan. Tickets are on sale right now, at [this Brown Paper Tickets link](#).

About The Moinian Group. Founded by Joseph Moinian, The Moinian Group is among the few national real estate entities to develop, own and operate properties across every asset category, including office, hotel, retail, condos and rental apartments. Since its founding in 1982, The Moinian Group has thrived with a portfolio in excess of 20 million square feet across major cities including New York, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles. The Moinian Group has been a pioneer for the development of state-of-the-art, visually distinguished properties. The firm continues to strive for excellence in their focus on the growth of emerging areas of New York City such as Downtown and the West Side of Manhattan.

About Tony Bordonaro and Ingrid Kapteyn. Tony Bordonaro is a choreographer, director, and performer based in New York. Most notably, Tony performed in Punchdrunk's hit show *Sleep No More* in New York and Shanghai. In 2017, he choreographed and performed in the Oscars® winning student film *Opera of Cruelty*. He has choreographed for commercials, film, and theatre. His love for physical storytelling is the driving force behind his solo work and collaborations like *Passport*, a performance art piece with Guggenheim fellow Robert Whitman, and *CAMPFIRE*, an immersive duet with Ingrid Kapteyn. He has a BFA in Dance Performance/Choreography from Rutgers University - Mason Gross School of the Arts. As a teaching artist he has taught dance technique and improvisation at both Rutgers and Long Island University. tonybordonaro.com @tonybordonaro3

Ingrid Kapteyn is a lifetime student of listening with a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School. She currently swings eight roles in Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More NYC*, and she spent 2017 building and performing a new version of *Sleep No More* in Shanghai. While in China she also conceived, directed, and performed two independent installations called *CAMPFIRE* and *POP*. She went on to present *CAMPFIRE* with Tony Bordonaro at The Tank in NYC in January 2019. Ingrid has performed with Brian Brooks, Danielle Russo, and The Metropolitan Opera, and she was an actor in *Martha Clarke and Alfred Uhry's Angel Reapers* at The Signature Theatre in 2016 along with Clarke's *GOD'S FOOL* workshop in 2018. She has taught internationally, including for Juilliard Global Ventures/Nord Anglia Education (in Shanghai, Dubai, Switzerland, Qatar, and NYC), *FRESH Dance Intensive*, UNC: School of the Arts, and Princeton and Bucknell Universities, and she served for a year as Assistant to the Artistic Director of Springboard Danse Montréal. In January 2014 she cofounded *HEWMAN*, a collaborative collective that reimagines the traditional model of a dance company run by one choreographer by engaging individual artists with distinct voices to collaborate as equals in creative process.

About REBNY - The real Estate Board of New York is New York City's real estate's Advocate, Supporter and Convener. In the last 124 years, it has become the City's leading deal making platform where over 17,000 members have access to the latest real estate trends, policy updates, continuing education and networking opportunities. REBNY works on behalf of its members to promote public and industry policies and frequently speaks before government bodies to expand New York's economy, encourage the development and renovation of commercial and residential property, enhance the city's appeal to investors and residents and facilitate property management. REBNY also undertakes a wide variety of research, studying the current residential and commercial conditions within the city.

About NPAFE - The National Performing Arts Funding Exchange. NPAFE is the country's only not-for-profit partnering exclusively with private sector businesses committed to advancing the performing arts, channeling funding to performing artists acclaimed primarily for compelling original work. This financial support comes from corporate sponsors intent on

associating their brands with performing artists who are applauded by loyal and discerning audiences. NPAFE provides its promotional services to performing artists at no charge.

Media Resources.

- Tony Bordonaro and Ingrid Kapteyn [Website](#); [Tickets to The Pigeon & The Mouse](#)
- The Moinian Group [website](#); contact Michael Mignosi: mmignosi@moiniangroup.com
- The Real Estate Board of New York: <http://www.rebny.org/> McKenna Warren: MWarren@rebny.com
- NPAFE: Reach Cliff Brody at (+1) 202.213.3076 or cbrody@npafe.org for any follow-up.
[NPAFE website: https://www.npafe.org/](https://www.npafe.org/)