

Arts & Ideas: Conversations @ The Wallis

**The Wallis and the Ojai Music Festival Present
An Evening with Peter Sellars,
2016 Ojai Festival Music Director,
with Alex Ross**

Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:30pm

(Beverly Hills, CA March 23, 2016) The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts joins forces with the Ojai Music Festival for the first time to present a lively *Arts & Ideas* conversation between groundbreaking opera and theater director **Peter Sellars** and *The New Yorker* music critic **Alex Ross**. The conversation will take place on the stage of the Bram Goldsmith Theater on Monday, May 16 at 7:30pm.

Sellars, Music Director of the 2016 Ojai Music Festival in June, has gained international renown for his transformative interpretations of artistic masterpieces such as John Adams' *Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*, as well as for his distinctive collaborations with an extraordinary range of artists including Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, dance pioneer Reggie Gray and Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison. Ross, a 2008 MacArthur Fellow, is the author of *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Listen to This*.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Peter and Alex to our stage for the first time," said Paul Crewes, The Wallis' new Artistic Director who takes the reins full time next month in April 2016. "Our *Arts & Ideas* series has enjoyed great success this season, and our new collaboration with partner Ojai Music Festival will surely deliver a captivating discussion between these two brilliant men."

"We are delighted to be collaborating with The Wallis for this exciting event with Peter Sellars, our 2016 Music Director and a passionate advocate for the intersection of music and community, and Alex Ross, music critic of *The New Yorker* and acclaimed writer on music of our time," expressed Thomas W. Morris, Artistic Director of the Ojai Music Festival.

Tickets for *An Evening with Peter Sellars* are now available for \$25 – \$35. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TheWallis.org, call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change.

About the Ojai Music Festival

The Ojai Music Festival marks its 70th year this June with Peter Sellars, one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the arts both in America and abroad, as Music Director. Sellars' partnership with Ojai dates back to 1992, when he directed a daring version of Stravinsky's *Histoire du soldat* with Music Director Pierre Boulez. He returned to Ojai in 2011 to direct the critically acclaimed world premiere of the staged production of George Crumb's *The Winds of Destiny* with Music Director Dawn Upshaw. The milestone [70th Ojai Music Festival](#) (June 9-12, 2016) pays tribute to a defining hallmark of the Festival – reimagining each year by affording the appointed music director creative freedom to explore their artistic interests and collaborations. Sellars' vision for the upcoming Festival honors its long-held spirit of challenging audiences musically and intellectually.

The Festival welcomes Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho and showcases her works including the American premiere of the chamber version of *La Passion de Simone*. Highlights include a commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*, and the world premiere of *Josephine Baker: A Personal Portrait* with arrangements and music by multi-instrumentalist/composer Tyshawn Sorey. For the complete program, visit www.OjaiFestival.org. Following the 70th Festival in Ojai, Cal Performances' Ojai at Berkeley takes place from June 16 to 18.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children's programs to an ever expanding audience. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe. The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/Press.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

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TICKET INFORMATION:

What: Arts & Ideas: Conversations @ The Wallis
The Wallis and the Ojai Music Festival present
An Evening with Peter Sellars
2016 Festival Music Director
with Alex Ross

Where: Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

When: May 16, 2016

Tickets: Prices: \$25 – \$35 (prices subject to change).
Online – TheWallis.org
By Phone – 310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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