

**The Wallis Presents the West Coast Premiere of the sensational
Complicite/Simon McBurney Production of**

The Encounter

**Simon McBurney directs and performs in the ground-breaking theater
experience's 12-show limited engagement from April 6 – 16**

Opening Night set for Friday, April 7

(Beverly Hills, CA March 28) *The Encounter*—among the most compelling theatrical experiences ever staged on Broadway and in London—will make its West Coast debut in April at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. Called ‘a high-tech head trip’ by *The New York Times*, *The Encounter* is a one-of-a-kind experience, directed and performed by Complicite’s Simon McBurney. Combining superb storytelling with binaural technology (3D audio), McBurney takes audiences on a theatrical journey from the intimacy of his home in London to deep into the Amazon rainforest. Performances begin April 6 with the opening night set for Friday, April 7. The 12-performance limited engagement runs through Sunday, April 16.

“When I first saw *The Encounter* at the Bristol Old Vic, it blew me away,” said Paul Crewes, The Wallis’ Artistic Director. “*The Encounter* combines Simon’s remarkable storytelling with cutting-edge technology that allow audiences to have a unique shared theatre experience that is unlike anything people have ever had before.”

Single tickets are now available for \$25 – \$100. Subscriptions are available for purchase starting at \$79. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TheWallis.org/Encounter, 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 Encounter* at The Wallis:

Inspired by the book *The Encounter: Amazon Beaming* by Beverly Hills resident Petru Popescu, *The Encounter* follows the true story of National Geographic photographer Loren McIntyre as he finds himself lost in a remote area of Brazil in 1969, leading to a startling encounter that changed his life.

Each seat in The Wallis’ Bram Goldsmith Theater will be equipped with a pair of Sennheiser headphones. Audience members will put them on and experience ground-breaking sound design, plugging into the power of the imagination while engaging everyone in new and breathtaking ways as McBurney leads listeners on an epic journey deep into the Amazon rainforests. As McBurney’s mesmerizing tale about McIntyre reaches its climax, this extraordinary performance asks some of the

most urgent questions of today: about how we live and what we believe to be true.

“Astonishing,” said Ben Brantley in *The New York Times* during *The Encounter’s* recent Broadway run. “This production from the genre-bending Complicite company is one of the most fully immersive theater pieces ever created.”

The Encounter is directed and performed by Simon McBurney. Kirsty Housley is the co-director and Jemima Jones is Associate Director. Design is by Michael Levine, sound by Gareth Fry and Pete Malkin, lighting by Paul Anderson and projections designed by Will Duke.

The Encounter is a Complicite co-production with Edinburgh International Festival, the Barbican, London, Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens, Schaubühne Berlin, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne and Warwick Arts Centre. Supported by Sennheiser and the Wellcome Trust.

About Complicite:

London-based Complicite was last seen in L.A. with *Shun-kin* (2013), *Strange Poetry* (2004) and *The Noise of Time* (2002). 2016 saw the launch of Complicite Associates, a new program to support theatre makers and artists. Bryony Kimmings was the inaugural Complicite Associate and *A Pacifist’s Guide to the War on Cancer* was its first production which played at the National Theatre in London. Recent productions include *Ungeduld des Herzens (Beware of Pity)*, a co-production with the Schaubühne, Berlin; *Lionboy*, its first show for young people and families; and *The Master and Margarita*, *A Disappearing Number* and *The Elephant Vanishes*. The company is also known for its award-winning Creative Learning program, which provides innovative opportunities for audience engagement. www.complicite.org

About Simon McBurney:

Simon McBurney is a multi-Olivier Award-winning, Tony and SAG Award-nominated actor, writer, director and one of Europe’s most original theatre makers. He is co-founder of Complicite, “...Britain’s most innovative theatre company” (*New Statesman*). His directing credits with Complicite include *Ungeduld des Herzens (Beware of Pity)*, a co-production with the Schaubühne, Berlin, *The Master and Margarita*, *Shun-kin*, *A Disappearing Number*, *Measure for Measure*, *A Minute Too Late*, *The Elephant Vanishes*, *Strange Poetry* and *The Street of Crocodiles*. Other directing credits include *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, *All My Sons* on Broadway and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* with Al Pacino in New York. Opera credits include *The Magic Flute* and *A Dog’s Heart*, both produced by De Nederlandse Opera and English National Opera in collaboration with Complicite.

He is a prolific film, television and radio actor and has appeared in movies, including *The Theory of Everything*, *Magic in the Moonlight*, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, and most recently *The Conjuring 2*, *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation* and *Allied*.

About Petru Popescu:

Beverly Hills resident Petru Popescu is Romania’s best-known novelist. In his homeland, he wrote mordant anti-communist prose that put him in direct conflict with dictator Ceaușescu. When invited to the International Writers’ Workshop of the University of Iowa, Popescu defected to the West. He has travelled extensively, including to Amazonia, where he met Loren McIntyre, who shared his life story with the writer. Mesmerized by Loren’s accounts of being kidnapped by elusive tribes and of discovering the source of the giant river, Popescu wrote *The Encounter: Amazon Beaming*. He

followed it with *The New York Times* bestsellers *Almost Adam* and *The Oasis*. He is currently working on a new novel.

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

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

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TICKET INFORMATION:

- What:** *The Encounter*
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210
- When:** Thursday, April 6 – Sunday, April 16, 2017
Performance Schedule: Tues – Fri at 8pm; Sat at 2pm & 8pm; Sun at 2pm
- Tickets:** Single tickets: \$25 – \$100 (prices subject to change)
Online – TheWallis.org/Encounter
By Phone – 310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

Press Contacts:

Sarah Jarvis, The Wallis Communications Manager
310.246.3800 | sjarvis@thewallis.org

Gary W. Murphy, The Wallis Public Relations Consultant
310.914.0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com