

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

2026

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ROBERT WILSON / ISABELLE HUPPERT

DARRYL PINCKNEY / LUDOVICO EINAUDI

A PRODUCTION BY THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE-PARIS

Mary Said What She Said

6 - 8 MAR / FESTIVAL THEATRE



Credits

Direction, set and light design **Robert Wilson**

With **Isabelle Huppert**

Text by **Darryl Pinckney**

Music **Ludovico Einaudi**

A production of **Théâtre de la Ville-Paris**

Costumes **Jacques Reynaud**

Associate director **Charles Chemin**

Associate set design **Annick Lavallée-Benny**

Associate light design **Xavier Baron**

Associate costume design **Pascale Paume**

Collaboration for movement **Fani Sarantari**

Sound design **Nick Sagar**

Make up design **Sylvie Cailler**

Hair design **Jocelyne Milazzo**

Translation from English **Fabrice Scott**

Assistant to the associate director **Agathe Vidal**

Assistant costume design **Alix Descieux Read**

Collaboration for music **Gianluca Mancini**

Video design **Tomek Jeziorski**

Technical Supervisor **Cyril Claverie**

Stage manager **Anne Lebouvier**

Lighting Supervisor **Simon Gautier**

Electricians / Followspots **Fabio Bozzetta,**

Benoît Saint-Denis

Stage masters **Léo Cortesi, Marion Pauvarel**

Wardrobe **Charline Radigois**

Tour and company manager **Kristine Grazioli**

Production manager **Simona Fremder**

Production coordinator **Romane Reibaut**

Communication/presse **Audrey Burette**

Photos **Lucie Jansch**

Set and props made by **Atelier Espace et Compagnie**

Costumes made by **Atelier Caraco** and **Théâtre de la Ville-Paris**

Shoes made by **Repetto**

Produced by **Théâtre de la Ville-Paris**

Coproduced by **Wiener Festwochen, Teatro della Pergola – Florence, Internationaal Theater Amsterdam, Thalia Theater – Hamburg**

In association with **EdM Productions**

Premiered on May 22, 2019 at the **Théâtre de la Ville – Espace Cardin**

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Mary Stuart

Milestones

1542

Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland and of France, is born at Linlithgow Palace. The daughter of Mary of Guise and James V of Scotland, she becomes queen six days after her birth, following the death of her father. Regency shared between various rivals in Scotland. Rather than attack Scotland, King Henry VIII of England proposes a marriage between Mary and his son and heir, Edward.

1543

A treaty is signed that accommodates Scotland's demands. But Henry fails to respect the treaty and is met with the Catholic opposition of Cardinal Beaton, who with the backing of 2,500 soldiers moves Mary and her mother to the safety of Stirling Castle, where she is crowned queen on September 9. She is one year old at the time, and her crown, sceptre and sword are borne by others. The Parliament of Scotland relies on France (Catholic arrangement against the Protestants).

1547

Deaths of Francis I and Henry VIII. Edward VI becomes King of England; he dies in 1553. Henry II reigns at the French court. Hostile to England and influenced by the Guise, the parents of Mary Stuart, he considers a union between her and his son Francis.

1548

Mary Stuart, promised to the Dauphin of France, sets sail for France via Ireland, accompanied by four young companions, all named Mary. She is educated in France (horsemanship, falconry, lute, literature, dance, philosophy and poetry, writing some fine poems indeed). The Queen Dowager of Scotland, Mary of Guise, her mother, arrives in France and is received with great pomp and circumstance in Rouen by Henry II.

1558

The wedding between Mary and Francis II is held at the Louvre on April 19 and then at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. They are both fifteen years of age. Death of Mary I of England (Mary Tudor, i.e. 'Bloody Mary'). She is succeeded by Elizabeth I even though, in the eyes of the Pope, she is considered illegitimate, being the daughter of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, who was divorced from Catherine of Aragon. As the senior legitimate descendant of Margaret Tudor and elder sister of Henry VIII, Mary Stuart is a rightful pretender to the English throne. Henry II of France thus proclaims Mary Stuart Queen of England, Ireland and Scotland.

1559

Henry II dies from injuries sustained in a joust. His son Francis, King of Scotland along with Mary Stuart, becomes Francis II, King of France, and Mary becomes Queen of France. France recognises Elizabeth as Queen of England, much to Mary's displeasure.

1560

Death of Mary of Guise deposed by the Protestant Lords. Death of Francis II, from ill health. He is succeeded by his brothers Charles IX (St. Bartholomew's Day massacre), then Henry III in 1574, who is murdered in 1589.

1561

Mary returns to Scotland where she faces a Protestant opposition fomented by John Knox, the Scottish Protestant reformer, who reproaches her for her elaborate lifestyle and her fondness for dancing.

1565

Mary marries Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, her Catholic half-cousin. Protestant opposition. Her private secretary is David Rizzio. Darnley conspires with rebel nobles.

1566

Liaison between Mary and James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, an adventurer. Mary suffers a serious illness (porphyria).

1567

Mary is in Edinburgh, recovering from her illness. Henry Stuart dies in an explosion. Bothwell is suspected of being behind the attack, with Mary complicit. He forces her to marry him. Arrested by Scottish nobles, she is imprisoned in a castle on an island. She miscarries. She abdicates in favour of her son James, born in Edinburgh in 1566, who on Elizabeth's death will become King of Scotland, England and Ireland and reigns until 1625.

1568

She escapes with a small army and flees to England where she is taken into protective custody by officials under Elizabeth's command, first in Carlisle, then in Bolton. She utters the phrase: 'In my end is my beginning.' Elizabeth orders a commission of inquiry, which is held in York. Discovery of supposedly compromising letters. The court does not find her guilty. Elizabeth has Mary confined for eighteen years under the guard of George Talbot. Bothwell dies in prison in 1578.

1587

Coded letters exchanged with her partisans are intercepted. Her enemies make use of the letters, thus contributing to her death sentence. On the eve of her execution, she writes a letter in French to her brother-in-law Henry III of France, a letter that has been preserved. She is executed at Fotheringhay Castle on 8 February 1587. She wears a crimson gown. The executioner, who is drunk, has to strike three blows with his axe before her head is severed from her body and held aloft to the crowd. She now lies at rest in Westminster Abbey, just a few steps away from the tomb of Elizabeth.





Image: Watermill Center © Lovis Osterrik

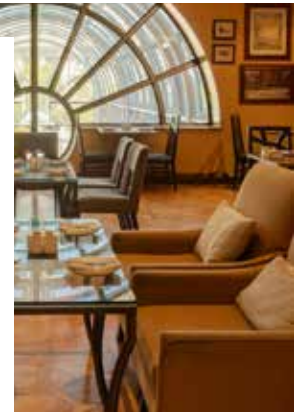
The Watermill Center

Founded in 1992 by avant-garde visionary Robert Wilson, The Watermill Center is an interdisciplinary laboratory for the arts and humanities situated on ten acres of Shinnecock ancestral territory on Long Island's East End. With an emphasis on creativity and collaboration, The Center offers year-round artist residencies and education programs, providing a global community with the time, space, and freedom to create and inspire.

The Watermill Center's rural campus combines multifunctional studios with ten acres of manicured grounds and gardens, housing a carefully curated art collection, expansive research library, and archives illustrating the life and work of Artistic Director, Robert Wilson. The Center's facilities enable Artists-in-Residence to integrate resources from the humanities and research from the sciences into contemporary artistic practice. Through year-round public programs annually serving over 1,000 community members, The Watermill Center demystifies the artistic process by facilitating unique insight into the creative process of a rotating roster of national and international artists.

The Byrd Hoffman Water Mill Foundation Thanks:

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