



Joseph V. Melillo
BAM Executive Producer

Joseph V. Melillo, executive producer since 1999, is responsible for the artistic direction of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). In the years that he has held this role, BAM has enjoyed increases in both programming and audience attendance in its Harvey Lichtenstein Theater, Howard Gilman Opera House, Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé. In addition to continued critical acclaim, BAM was awarded a special OBIE Award in 2003 in recognition of a body of work in international programming and a special Drama Desk Award for bringing works of distinction from around the world to New York audiences. Over the years, Melillo has fostered the work of emerging artists such as choreographer John Jasperse, director Anne Bogart, and musician/composers David Lang, Michael Gordon, and Julia Wolfe while continuing to provide an artistic home for BAM regulars such as choreographer Pina Bausch, directors Jonathan Miller and Sam Mendes, and composer Steve Reich.

Prior to his current role, Melillo served as BAM's producing director, following a six-year tenure as founding director of the Next Wave Festival. During the first festival, Melillo produced the premiere productions of *The Photographer/Far From The Truth* and *The Gospel at Colonus*. He worked closely with Philip Glass and Robert Wilson on the first revival of *Einstein on the Beach* in 1984, a production Melillo considers a professional benchmark. In addition to these productions, Melillo's hand can be seen in broad-ranging Next Wave productions such as *The Mahabharata* and *Nixon in China*.

As part of the 2001 Next Wave Festival, Melillo produced a multi-disciplinary celebration of Australian art and culture entitled *Next Wave Down Under*, which included music, theater, dance, film, and visual arts. In the fall of 2002, he produced BAM's critically acclaimed 20th Next Wave Festival, which featured returning artists Sankai Juku, Meredith Monk, and Robert Wilson, as well as works by festival newcomers such as Osvaldo Golijov, Sasha Waltz, and Tan Dun. During the 25th Next Wave Festival (2007), Melillo inaugurated an international music program entitled *New Voices*, partnered with the PERFORMA biennial of visual art performance, and presented newly-commissioned works by Sufjan Stevens, Kronos Quartet/Erik Sanko, and Daniel Bernard Roumain. As BAM's Spring Seasons have grown in recent years, Melillo has developed innovative and artistically wide-ranging projects such as the complete Monteverdi opera cycle, and has developed artistic partnerships with companies such as The Old Vic and The National Theatre of Great Britain.

In addition to his work at BAM, Melillo has had extensive experience in artistic programming, producing, and general management. In 1990, Melillo served as one of the artistic directors of the second New York International Festival for the Arts. He was general manager of the 1982 New World Festival of the Arts in Miami; theater program director of Foundation for the Extension and Development of the American Professional Theater (FEDAPT); marketing director for the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia; thematic specialist in contemporary American theater for the Institute of International Education, Department of State, USIA; and producing director of the Chelsea Theater Center of New York. He was named a Chevalier (1999) and an Officier (2004) de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the French Legion of Honor. Also in 2004, Melillo was awarded an honorary OBE for his outstanding commitment to British performing arts in America. In 2007, he was appointed Knight of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, in recognition of his role in solidifying ties between the performing arts communities of Sweden and the United States.



Melillo has served on the faculty of the Brooklyn College Graduate Program in Arts Management and on the boards of directors for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and En Garde Arts. He was a panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts Dance Program and the New York State Council on the Arts. Melillo is a lecturer at colleges and universities nationally and internationally. Most recently, he served as Multidisciplinary Panel Chair of the Pew Fellowships in the Arts 2003 and 2007 Awards. Melillo earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and theater at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut and a Masters of Fine Arts in speech and drama at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

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