



ABOUT THE XX AT PARK AVENUE ARMORY

Park Avenue Armory's massive drill hall is transformed into a site-specific and extraordinarily intimate environment for a series of concerts by *The xx*, March 19-29, 2014. The sold out engagement invites a 45-member audience into a dynamic interaction with the band and its music that allows the kind of personal connection not possible in traditional halls or arena-style concerts—bringing *The xx* back to the kind of engagement with its audiences so important to its early development in South London.

Park Avenue Armory's dynamic platforms—from the massive, 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall to the exquisite historic period rooms—catalyze new kinds of experiences for New York audiences that could not be realized in traditional concert halls, theaters, and museum galleries. The Armory's 2014 season includes a mix of presentations and commissions that break new ground for artists and audiences—including the U.S. premiere of Kenneth Branagh and Rob Ashford's visceral staging of *Macbeth*; the second annual recital series in the Armory's exquisitely renovated Board of Officers Room; Mieczyslaw Weinberg's epic opera *The Passenger*, a co-production with Lincoln Center Festival; Peter Sellars' staging of Bach's choral masterpiece *St. Matthew Passion*, a co-production with the Lincoln Center White Light Festival; and the world premiere of the Armory's sixth major visual art commission, a collaboration between artist Douglas Gordon and pianist Hélène Grimaud. More information on the season is available at armoryonpark.org.

The xx

March 19 - 29, 2014

Romy Madley Croft, guitar and vocals

Oliver Sim, bass and vocals

Jamie Smith, drums and synthesizers

Directed by The xx & Molly Hawkins

Creative Designer Tobias Rylander

Show Producer Antony Randall ARE

Staging Supervisor Michael Ferrante ARE

Lighting Direction Michael Straun

Tour Director Chris Connor

Tour Assistant Paige Turner

Audio Rik Dowding & James Landry

Technica/Samuel Hair & Michael Noonan

*Management*Caius Pawson

Originally Commissioned by Manchester International Festival

Wednesday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. (Previews)

Thursday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. (Opening)

Friday, March 21 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.

Monday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Friday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.

The Armory thanks Burberry for their support in this production of The xx. Public support has been provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the NYC Council.

About The xx

The xx exist in a time and space of their own making. In 2009 the south London trio's debut album *xx*—quietly made at night over the course of two years—bled steadily into the public consciousness to become shorthand for newly refined ideas of teenage desire and anxiety. Articulated with maturity beyond their years, its hallmarks were restraint and ambiguity. In the age of the over-share, *xx* was pop with its privacy settings on max. Three years later, Romy Madley Croft, Oliver Sim, and Jamie Smith released a new album, *Coexist*, with a new perspective. The trio has won several awards, including the UK's prestigious Mercury Music Prize, and has earned fans and the admiration of critics on tours of America, Japan, Australia, and mainland Europe. Their music has been used extensively on television and in media such as *24/7*, *Person of Interest*, and NBC's coverage of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The band has cited several artists as influences, including Jimi Hendrix, The Slits, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Joy Division, Yazoo, Eurythmics, New Order, The Cure, Cocorosie, Electrelane, Cocteau Twins, Aaliyah, and The Kills.

About Park Avenue Armory

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York by enabling artists to create—and audiences to experience—unconventional work that cannot be mounted in traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall—reminiscent of 19th-century European train stations—and array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory offers a new platform for creativity across all art forms.

Since its first production in September 2007—Aaron Young's *Greeting Card*, a 9,216-square-foot “action” painting created by the burned-out tire marks of ten choreographed motorcycles—the Armory has organized a series of immersive performances, installations, and works of art that have drawn critical and popular attention. Among the highlights of its first six years are: Bernd Alois Zimmermann's harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved “through the music;” the unprecedented six-week residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company in their own theater rebuilt in the drill hall; a massive digital sound and video environment by Ryoji Ikeda; a sprawling gauzy, multisensory labyrinth created by Ernesto Neto; *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton; the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company across three separate stages; the New York Philharmonic performing Karlheinz Stockhausen's sonic masterpiece *Gruppen* with three orchestras surrounding the audience; and *WS*, by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess, and dystopia.

Concurrent with the development of its artistic program, the Armory is undertaking an ongoing \$200-million revitalization of its historic building, named in 2000 among the “100 Most Endangered Historic Sites in the World” by the World Monuments Fund. Designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron, the multiyear project reinvigorates the Armory’s original design while stabilizing, preserving, and renewing the building for future generations. Recent work includes the renovation and restoration of the Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue façades, including the addition of a new copper mansard roof and the revitalization of two historic Company period rooms on the second floor. During the 2013 season, the Armory reopened its Board of Officers Room, one of the most important historic rooms in America and one of the few remaining interiors designed by Herter Brothers, which has been revitalized and transformed into an intimate space for small-scale performances, recitals, and installations. www.armoryonpark.org.

For Park Avenue Armory, please contact:

Isabel Sinistore
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
isinistore@resnicowschroeder.com
(212) 671-5175

Emily Viemeister
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
eviemeister@resnicowschroeder.com
(212) 671-5177

For *The xx*, please contact:

Lisa Gottheil
lisag@grandstandhq.com
(718) 383-5083