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Media contact: Darren DeLuca
darren.deluca@gmail.com
603-489-7624

**ARTSEMERSON'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
OPENS WITH THE U.S. PREMIERE OF
*PASSENGERS***

BY THE 7 FINGERS

**MONTREAL'S WORLD RENOWNED CIRCUS TROUPE
CREATED & DIRECTED BY SHANA CARROLL**

**THREE WEEKS ONLY, SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 13, 2019 AT
THE EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE
FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

Press Performance is Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 7:30pm

[Boston, MA – March 28, 2019] – ArtsEmerson is honored to open its 10th Anniversary season with the U.S. premiere of **Passengers**, marking the return of **The 7 Fingers** (*Reversible, Cuisine & Confessions, Traces, Sequence 8, PSY*) and their signature electrifying – and endearing – mix of circus, theatre, illusion, music and dance. The production illuminates our fascination with trains both in terms of nostalgic dreams of another era or another land, and as metaphor for the twists and turns of life among fateful encounters with strangers. We all must board to fulfil our destiny. Directed by The 7 Fingers founder and award-winning Cirque du Soleil choreographer Shana Carroll, **Passengers** runs at ArtsEmerson for three weeks of performances, September 25 – October 13, 2019, at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre. View the official teaser trailer [HERE](#).

Tickets for **Passengers** start at just \$25 and may be purchased online at www.ArtsEmerson.org, by phone at 617.824.8400, or in person at the box office. Package, group, student, and senior discounts are also available.

Photographer credit: Alexandre Galliez



Passengers premiered in Montreal on November 2018 and since then has traveled to Russia, Chili, France, Scotland and Germany; the Boston engagement kicks off the U.S. tour. *Le Devoir* (Canada) raves that **Passengers** “Marries imagery, music and acrobatic performances in an evocative and inspiring whirlwind.”

Creator, director, and choreographer Shana Carroll will be making her return to Boston as well having directed ArtsEmerson’s past engagements of *Cuisine & Confessions*, *Séquence 8*, *Traces* and *Psy*. Carroll has frequently collaborated with Cirque du Soleil, most recently as director of their first show on ice *Crystal*, and previously as acrobatic designer and choreographer of *Paramour* (Broadway).

“As one of our earliest supporters and programmers, ArtsEmerson has been critical in launching our American tours,” says The 7 Fingers co-founding artistic director Shana Carrol. “Returning to Boston each time is like a home away from home; we are lucky to now have circus-educated audiences who have followed our trajectory and embrace our hybrid form of acrobatic theatre.”

“When we sat down to plan our 10th season it was completely obvious that we would kick it off with the latest from The 7 Fingers,” says ArtsEmerson artistic director David Dower. “This company has been such a terrific and consistent partner in the unfolding story that is ArtsEmerson and we’ve enjoyed watching the Fingers evolve with each new offering. With **Passengers**, they continue to invent and discover new contours in their performance. The design of this show is singular and gorgeous. The live music is infectious. The skills, of course, are jaw-dropping and once again there are elements of performance that we’ve never seen in a contemporary circus show. And, as always, the cast is so appealing you are cheering for them from the opening moments.”

[Listings Information for Passengers](#)

Dates

September 25 – October 13, 2019

Venue:

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116

Performance Schedule:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday, September 25, 2019 | 7:30pm | <i>Preview</i> |
| Thursday, September 26, 2019 | 7:30pm | Press Performance |
| Friday, September 27, 2019 | 8:00pm | |
| Saturday, September 28, 2019 | 2:00pm | |
| Saturday, September 28, 2019 | 8:00pm | |
| Sunday, September 29, 2019 | 2:00pm | |
| Tuesday, October 1, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Wednesday, October 2, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Thursday, October 3, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Friday, October 4, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Saturday, October 5, 2019 | 2:00pm | |
| Saturday, October 5, 2019 | 8:00pm | |
| Sunday, October 6, 2019 | 2:00pm | |
| Sunday, October 6, 2019 | 7:00pm | |
| Tuesday, October 8, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Wednesday, October 9, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Thursday, October 10, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Friday, October 11, 2019 | 7:30pm | |
| Saturday, October 12, 2019 | 2:00pm | |
| Saturday, October 12, 2019 | 8:00pm | |
| Sunday, October 13, 2019 | 2:00pm | |

Ticket Information:

Online: **ArtsEmerson.org**

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: **Paramount Center Box Office**, open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

Prices range from \$25-\$90 (subject to change)

Credits

Original idea: Shana Carroll

Direction and choreography: Shana Carroll

Assisted by: Isabelle Chassé

Coproducer

TOHU (Montreal, Canada)

ArtsEmerson (Boston, USA)

Commissioning Partners

Moscow Musical Theatre (Moscow, Russia)

The artists: Sereno Aguilar, Louis Joyal, Maude Parent, Samuel Renaud, Brin Schoellkopf, Sabine Van Rensburg, Conor Wild, Freyja Wild

Scenography: Ana Cappelluto

Musical Director: Colin Gagné

Video Designer: Jhonny Ranger

Lighting Designer: Éric Champoux

Costume Designer: Camille Thibault-Bédard

Head Coach: Francisco Cruz

Music, Lyrics, sound design and arrangements: Colin Gagné

in collaboration with

Jean-Sébastien Leblanc (arrangements Contorsion, HulaHoop et Trapèze)

Boogát (paroles Jonglerie)

Freyja Wild (paroles Roaming Song)

Jérôme Guillaume (arrangements Jonglerie)

For production stills and other media kit assets, [click here.](#)

About Passengers

Departure vs. transit vs. arrival. Chance vs. choice vs. destiny. Stillness vs. acceleration.

Reflection vs. transparency. Familiar vs. foreign. Private vs. public. Confinement vs. border-crossing. Bright headlights vs. tunnel-darkness. Past vs. future...

Our fascination with trains is both a nostalgic one — dreams of another era, another land — and a symbolic one: life happens along this track of sorts, twisting and turning through valleys and plains. We speed through lands all the while staring out the window, at the reflection of our very own eyes superimposed upon the shifting landscape. Tearful goodbyes, anticipatory reunions. Fateful encounters inside the cabin. A community of strangers with one thing in common: we all have somewhere to go. Our reasons for leaving may differ but we are joined in a moment of suspended limbo between two lives, as we say goodbye to one and prepare for another.

About The 7 Fingers

The 7 Fingers is an arts collective unlike any other. In 2002, the 7 founders set out to redefine circus by stripping down the spectacle to its thrilling essence.

The contemporary company tells stories using death-defying acrobatics with a life-affirming theatricality that is unique to The 7 Fingers. Since its inception, the company has expanded from its own signature touring shows to creating theatrical experiences as diverse as the very artistic directors themselves: original productions varying from intimate one-man shows to large-scale arena performances, Broadway musicals, artistic collaborations with renowned international artists and companies, production design and direction, special events, Olympic ceremonies, televised performances, fashion, art and music events, immersive experiences and much more.

Every one of these projects carries The 7 Fingers' unequivocal mark. The company has consistently spread its horizons by mixing genres and exploring new ways to tell stories. Fascinated by the human condition, The 7 Fingers create performances that celebrate our world, our time and our humanity. Their shows tour the globe and bring audiences to their feet wherever they go.

In 2018, The 7 Fingers opened their very own Centre of Creation and Production. Situated in the heart of Montreal's downtown theater district, the new centre houses all of the company's activities, departments and dreams under one roof.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. We are dedicated to engaging all communities through stories that reveal and deepen our connection to each other. By cultivating diversity in the arts and in the audience, we ignite public conversation around our most vexing societal challenges as a catalyst for overcoming them. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. We program a full season of performances, film and dialogue that invites each of us to engage in a more contemporary narrative of Boston as a truly global city. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information, visit ArtsEmerson.org.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu.

Creative and Cast Biographies

Shana Carroll – Director & Choreographer

As co-founding artistic director of The 7 Fingers, Shana Carroll directed and/or co-directed *Passagers*, *Cuisine & Confessions*, *Séquence 8*, *Traces*, *Psy*, *Loft*, *La Vie*, *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*, and *FeriAmuse*. Through 7 Fingers collaborations and special projects, she created the circus component of *Queen of the Night* at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York City and co-designed the medieval segment of the Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. Shana is well known for her acrobatic and circus choreography. She has frequently collaborated with Cirque du Soleil, most recently as co-director of their first show on ice *Crystal*, and previously as acrobatic designer and choreographer of *Paramour* (Broadway) and *Iris* (Los Angeles), and as choreographer of their performance at the 2012 Academy Awards. Shana has received Best Choreography nominations at the 2008 Drama Desk Awards (*Traces*) and the

2003 San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards (*Circumstance*). She choreographed four gold medal-winning numbers at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris. Originally from Berkeley, California, Shana began her career as a trapeze artist with San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus and went on to a 20-year career in the air with Cirque du Soleil before founding The 7 Fingers.

Sereno Aguilar Izzo

Mexico

Discipline: Juggling, Duo Trapeze

Training: Estudio Búsqueda de Pantomima-Teatro (Mexico 2005-2015) | National Circus School of Montreal (2015-2018)

Previous Shows: Barok XXI (National Circus School of Montreal, 2018) | Hangar des Possibles (National Circus School of Montreal, 2017) | Orchestra Longueuil (National Circus School of Montreal, 2017) | Circus Harmony (St. Louis MO 2016-2017) | Immigration (Estudio Búsqueda de Pantomima-Teatro, 2008) | The Fun Show (Estudio Búsqueda de Pantomima-Teatro, 2006)

Louis Joyal

Quebec, Canada

Discipline: Russian Cradle | Hand to Hand

Training: National Circus School of Montreal (2012-2017)

Shows: Colibri (National Circus School of Montreal, 2016) | L'amour et les extraterrestres (National Circus School of Montreal, 2017) | Boréal (by Claudel Doucet / Zip Zap Academy, Cape town, 2017) | Big Top Academy (TV Show, 2017/2018)

Recognition: Selected for the 39th Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain (inability to perform due to injury, 2018)

Maude Parent

Quebec, Canada

Discipline: Aerial Hoop | Contorsion

Training: National Circus School of Montreal (2009-2013)

Previous Shows: Croisé (Johanne Madore, 2012) | Queen of the Night (Les 7 Doigts, 2014-2015) | La Putain de Babylone (Nadère arts vivants, 2015) |

Filament (Short Round productions, 2017) | La Rakete et La Strasse (Broadway Varieté, 2016-2017) | Conférence du rire (Les 7 Doigts, 2018)

Samuel Renaud

Quebec, Canada

Discipline: Russian Cradle | Hand to hand

Training: National Circus School of Montreal

Previous shows: Annual shows of the National Circus School Colibri (2016) and L'Amour et les extraterrestres (2017)

Sabine van Rensburg

South Africa

Disciplines: Aerial Silks | Duo Trapeze | Chinese Pole

Training: Young Adult Formation at Zip Zap Circus School (South Africa, 1998-2015) | National Circus School of Montréal (2015-2018)

Previous Shows: Opening of the 33rd Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain avec Zip Zap Circus (France, 2012) | Guest performer at Red Bull Hanger 7 (Austria, 2007) | L'amour et les extraterrestre (National Circus School of Montréal, 2017) | Barok XX1 (National Circus School of Montréal, 2018) | Les Minutes Complètement Cirque - Montréal Complètement Cirque (2016/ 2017)

Brin Schoellkopf

United States

Discipline: Tight wire

Training: National Circus School of Montreal

Previous shows: Circus Smirkus | Les Minutes Complètement Cirque - Montreal Completément Cirque | Les Soirées Carte Blanche - Cirque Eloize | Coup de Coeur - Annual shows of the National Circus School

Conor Wild

United Kingdom

Discipline: Chinese Pole

Training: The Circus Space, London | National Centre for Circus Arts

Previous Shows: Ravel / Le Sacre du Printemps - Circa & L'Orchestre National de Lyon | Model Citizens - Circus Oz | Beyond - Circa | Beyond Beyond - Circa | Landscape With Monsters - Circa | Spanish Baroque - Circa & The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra | Troppo - Circa | Carnival of the Animals - Circa | How Like an Angel - Circa | Wunderkammer - Circa | ID - Cirque Éloize | Floating Point - Nike/UVA/Ella Robson Guilfoyle | 2012 Olympic Torch Relay - Lloyds TSB | Hip Circ Europ - Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde | Der Rosenkavalier - English National Opera | We All Fall Down - Square Peg | Square Peg - Square Peg | Narcissus - Square Peg

Freyja Wild

Australia

Discipline: Hula Hoops

Training: The Flying Fruit Fly Circus School (Australia)

Previous shows: The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Backyard Barbecue, Les Clowns Triste, 3WayXChange, Circus Girl, C!RCA, Chroma, ...By The Light Of Stars That Are No Longer..., C!RCA, 61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes, Wunderkammer, Opus, S, Carnival Of The Animals, Splash, Crossroads, French Baroque - Circa | Model Citizens, Stacks On - Circus Oz

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