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**ARTSEMERSON'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON CONTINUES ITS COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT TRADITION  
*ANNOUNCING 2019/20  
PLAY READING BOOK CLUBS***

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**CELEBRATING 6 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY  
THROUGH DYNAMIC CONVERSATIONS AND READING  
PLAYS**  
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**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR *TRIPTYCH & AN ILIAD***

[Boston, MA – September 20, 2019] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, proudly announces that registration is now open for its wildly popular, **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)**. This pioneering theatre literacy and community education program deepens the theater-going experience by offering unique and radical access to scripts, artists, and conversations featured at ArtsEmerson, while expanding the social networks of its participants. Part of ArtsEmerson's neighborhood-based community engagement initiatives, the PRBC is presented in partnership with the Boston Public Library, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Public Library of Brookline, Hosting International and UMass Boston's Osher Life Long Learning Institute throughout the neighborhoods of Allston, Brookline, Dorchester, Roxbury and the Theater District.

Participation in the program is free and registration is now open to the public for plays in the FALL season, *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* and *An Iliad* at [www.ArtsEmerson.org](http://www.ArtsEmerson.org) or by calling 617-824-8400. Registration for the Spring PRBCs for *Detroit Red* and *Metamorphosis* will go live on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Tickets to see the play must be purchased separately and PRBC members receive a discounted rate.



Since 2014, ArtsEmerson's **PRBC** has gathered and formed a theater-going community throughout several Greater Boston neighborhoods to read, discuss, and analyze plays in the ArtsEmerson season prior to seeing them live on stage and then sharing their experience in a community showcase. The program allows participants to explore a play over 4-5 sessions over the course of a month at a location they choose, and is facilitated by trained teaching artists from the Emerson College Masters in Theatre Education program and professional Boston theater artists. Participants not only study and see the play together, but are offered the opportunity to meet and discuss it with the visiting artists.

"The Play Reading Book Club has grown into one of our most energizing and effective tools for creating the type of engaged, diverse audience we're after," says ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower. "And not just for ArtsEmerson. We are working to build this audience for the entire city. We see that audience as a key asset to larger effort in this city to transcend our history of racial and economic segregation. The PRBC gives us ways to connect deeply across differences, in different settings all over Greater Boston. The emergent result is a growing community of people from many backgrounds and neighborhoods all unlocking the capacity of shared experiences of art to lead to both personal and civic transformation."

"At ArtsEmerson we realize that people are always looking for ways to connect and engage in conversations that expand what they know about themselves and each other," says Akiba Abaka, creator and producer of the Play Reading Book Club. "We often say here that the play is a prompt for the conversations. The Play Reading Book Club exemplifies this by allowing audiences to face each other as they face the stage. Another benefit of the program is learning all the theater-going hacks that makes a night out at the theater more accessible and this allows people to go more often."

"As a PRBC teaching artist, I love when the conversation in the room goes to unexpected places, places that are challenging, richly rewarding, and fruitful," shares John Thiel, a MFA candidate in the Emerson College Master in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre program. "PRBC is an experience of enthusiasm for listening to each other, sharing with each other, and I believe, growing together, which in my view is what theatre is all about and what community is all about."

**PRBC Schedule (*Detroit Red & Metamorphosis* registration to be announced at a later date):**

***Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* – learn more [here](#).**

**3 LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM**

LOCATION 1: Emerson Paramount Center, Studio 7

555 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

Session 1: Monday, October 14th 6-9PM

Session 2: Monday, October 21st 6-9PM

Session 3: Wednesday, October 30th @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception- Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre)

Session 4: Thursday, October 31st, 6-8PM

LOCATION 2: BCYF Vine Street Community Center

339 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119

Session 1: Saturday, October 19th, 12-3PM

Session 2: Saturday, October 26th, 12-3PM

Session 3: Wednesday, October 30th @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre)

Session 4: Friday, November 1st, 6-9PM

Session 5: Saturday, November 2nd, 12-3PM

**LOCATION 3: Parker Hill Branch Library**

1497 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120

Session 1: Thursday, October 10th, 4:30-7:30PM

Session 2: Thursday October 24th, 4:30-7:30PM

Session 3: Wednesday, October 30th @ 7:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre)

Session 4: Thursday, November 7th, 4:30-7:30PM

Session 5: Saturday, November 9th, 11:30AM-1:30PM

***An Iliad* – learn more [here](#).**

**4 LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM**

**LOCATION 1: Emerson Paramount Center, Studio 7**

555 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

Session 1: Monday, November 4th, 6-9PM (Emerson Tufte Center, Greene Theatre)

Session 2: Monday, November 11th, 6-9PM

Session 3: Wednesday, November 20th, @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Paramount Center)

Session 4: Monday, November 25th, 6-8PM

**LOCATION 2: BCYF Vine Street Community Center**

339 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119

Session 1: Saturday, November 9th, 12-3PM

Session 2: Saturday, November 16th, 12-3PM

Session 3: Wednesday, November 20th, @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Paramount Center)

Session 4: Friday, November 22nd, 6-9PM

Session 5: Saturday, November 23rd, 12-3PM

**LOCATION 3: BCYF Jackson/Mann Community Center**

500 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134

Session 1: Wednesday, November 6th, 6:00PM-9:00PM

Session 2: Wednesday, November 13th, 6:00PM-9:00PM

Session 3: Wednesday, November 20, @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Paramount Center)

Session 4: Tuesday, November 26th, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Session 5: Wednesday, November 27, 6:00PM-9:00PM

**LOCATION 4: Boston Public Library, West Roxbury Branch**

1961 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Session 1: Saturday, November 9th, 12-3PM

Session 2: Saturday, November 16th, 12-3PM

Session 3: Wednesday, November 20th, @ 5:30PM (PRBC Night at the theatre w/pre-show reception - Emerson Paramount Center)

Session 4: Saturday, November 23rd, 12-3PM

***Detroit Red* – registration opens on November 4th, more details can be found [here](#).**

January 20 – February 8, 2020

***Metamorphosis* – registration opens on November 4th, more details can be found [here](#).**

April 27 – May 23, 2020

**About ArtsEmerson**

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. Our mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire,

celebrating both our differences and common humanity. 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. Our imaginative season of globe-spanning performances, film, and dialogue invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information, visit [ArtsEmerson.org](http://ArtsEmerson.org).

### **About Emerson College**

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at 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 as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. 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](http://Emerson.edu).

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