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# FIRST BOSTON VISIT FROM AUSTRALIA'S ACCLAIMED BACK TO BACK THEATRE!

## ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS *THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES*

SIX PERFORMANCES ONLY  
JANUARY 23 – 26, 2020  
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER

[VIEW TRAILER HERE](#)

[Boston, MA – December 23, 2019] – ArtsEmerson is excited to welcome one of Australia's most recognized and respected contemporary theatre companies, Back to Back Theatre, in their first Boston visit with **The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes**, the fifth show in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

This imaginative work brings together a group of actors with perceived intellectual disabilities who present a frank, funny and challenging conversation that jumps from topic to topic — factory farming, human rights, the social impact of automation — the presence of an artificial intelligence in the room expands, begging the question: *Who precisely is the fittest to survive in the age of AI?* **The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes** takes audiences on a journey to remind us all that no one is completely self-sufficient. Back to Back Theatre brings audiences into the world of accessibility and inaccessibility via performers whose real lives intersect with those precise issues on a daily basis.

**The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes** plays six performances only, January 23 – 26 2020, at the Emerson Paramount Center Jackie Liebergott Black Box. Tickets may be purchased at [ArtsEmerson.org](http://ArtsEmerson.org), by phone at 617.824.8400 or at the box office.



Photographer credit: Jeff Busby



Tickets may also be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson Season Package, featuring savings up to 25%. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save 20%-30%. For more information, contact the box office at [Tickets@ArtsEmerson.org](mailto:Tickets@ArtsEmerson.org) or 617.824.8400.

“We have been in conversations at ArtsEmerson about bringing Back to Back to Boston for years,” says ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower. I'm so delighted the day is finally here. The company has built an extraordinary body of work that has been little seen in the US, and never in our city. It is all the sweeter for the fact that they are arriving as part of our ongoing 10th season celebration, and in a project that ArtsEmerson has co-commissioned. Back to Back's work disrupts conventions on many different levels, and always smart, funny, deeply moving and utterly unexpected. When we say we invite you to explore new worlds and discover your own, Back to Back is the very best guide for the journey.

### **Bruce Gladwin, Director's Statement**

***The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes** is a story about a public meeting, the type of meeting you would hope to happen in a certain kind of democracy.*

*How do we come together to make decisions that are in the best interest of a civic society? This is a play about individual and collective responsibility.*

*Created intermittently over many months and even years, through conversations and improvisation, Shadow's performers are also its co-authors and dramaturgs.*

### **About Back to Back Theatre**

Back to Back Theatre creates new forms of contemporary performance imagined from the minds and experiences of a unique ensemble of actors with a disability, giving voice to social and political issues that speak to all people.

Based in the regional centre of Geelong, the company is one of Australia's most globally recognized and respected contemporary theatre companies.

In addition to its professional practice Back to Back collaborates intensively with communities around the world, with a focus on artistic excellence and elevated social inclusion for people with disabilities.

### **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).

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES**

### **Dates:**

January 23 – 26, 2020

### **Venue:**

Emerson Paramount Center  
Jackie Liebergott Black Box  
559 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

### **Performance Schedule:**

Thursday, January 23, 2020	7:30pm	<b>Press Performance</b>
Friday, January 24, 2020	8:00pm	
Saturday, January 25, 2020	2:00pm	
Saturday, January 25, 2020	8:00pm	
Sunday, January 26, 2020	2:00pm	
Sunday, January 26, 2020	7:00pm	

### **Ticket Information:**

Online: [ArtsEmerson.org](http://ArtsEmerson.org)

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: **Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street)** open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm. *Note: The box office will be closed Dec. 23-Jan 1, but will resume normal hours on Jan. 2.*

*General Admission - Tickets are \$50 (price subject to change)*

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

## **CREATIVE/CAST LISTINGS & BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Sarah Mainwaring: Actor**

Sarah joined the Back to Back Theatre ensemble in 2007. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Performing Arts) from Victoria University. She has developed a number of original solo performances including FOREIGN BODY (directed by John Bolton) and I'M ME AND I'M OK and OUT ON A LIMB (directed by Lloyd Jones). Sarah played the lead role of Lesley in Back to Back Theatre's FOOD COURT and has toured both nationally and internationally with the DEMOCRATIC SET RESIDENCY and LADY EATS APPLE. Sarah has played a collaborative role in the creative development of GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH, SUPER DISCOUNT and will do so for THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES.

Sarah joined the Back to Back Theatre ensemble in 2007. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Performing Arts) from Victoria University. Sarah has a particular interest in avant-garde and physical theatre. She has developed a number of original solo performances including FOREIGN BODY (directed by John Bolton) and I'M ME AND I'M OK and OUT ON A LIMB (directed by Lloyd Jones). Sarah played the lead role of Lesley in Back to Back Theatre's FOOD COURT (2008) and has toured both nationally and internationally with the DEMOCRATIC SET RESIDENCY and LADY EATS APPLE. Sarah has played a collaborative role in the creative development of GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH (2011) and LASER BEAK MAN.

**Scott Price: Actor**

Scott began working with THEATRE OF SPEED in 2005 and joined the Back to Back Ensemble in 2007. He has co-devised and performed in FOOD COURT, GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH, SUPER DISCOUNT, LADY EATS APPLE and the upcoming work SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES. In 2015 Scott co-created the video-blog series PRICE for which Scott interviewed nine Australian and international artists, performers, political leaders and activists. PRICE was a finalist in the 2016 Australian Multicultural Marketing Awards.

Scott began working with Back to Back's community performance – making group THEATRE OF SPEED in 2005 and joined the Back to Back ensemble in 2007. Scott's forte is in devised performance, improvising text and characters such as the young man in FOOD COURT (2008) and God in LADY EATS APPLE (2016). Since joining the touring Ensemble, Scott has co-devised and performed in TOUR GUIDE, which premiered in Linz, Austria in 2009, GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH (2011) which has toured to 31 cities internationally, SUPER DISCOUNT (2013) and LADY EATS APPLE (2016). In 2015 Scott created PRICE with filmmaker Rhian Hinkley and director, Tamara Searle. A video blog where Scott interviews nine Australian and international artists, performers, political leaders and activists, PRICE was a finalist in the 2016 Australian Multicultural Marketing Awards and was Scott's attempt to answer those who might misunderstand Back to Back's provocation as merely shock tactics.

**Simon Laherty: Actor**

Simon's involvement with Back to Back Theatre started in 1999 with his participation in THEATRE OF SPEED. He joined the Ensemble in 2003. He has performed in and co-created works including SMALL METAL OBJECTS, LADY EATS APPLE, GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH and the upcoming work THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES. Simon recently played a lead role of Des in Back to Back's first foray onto the little screen, ODDLANDS, and played Lucky Phil in Matthew Saville's AFI nominated feature film, NOISE.

Simon Laherty is one of Australia's most well-known and well-regarded actors with a disability. Apart from his incredible performances with Back to Back Theatre, he is recognised for his work in film and television including Matthew Saville's feature film *Noise*. Simon's involvement with Back to Back Theatre started in 1999 with his participation in its community performance-making group, THEATRE OF SPEED.

Since joining the Ensemble in 2003, Simon has made an enormous contribution to the company's major works catalogue, particularly in the role of Steve in *small metal objects* (2005), which has travelled to 36 cities around the world. Simon is also a co-devisor and performer in the critically acclaimed GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH (2011) and LADY EATS APPLE (2016) and co-starred in Back to Back's first foray into film ODDLANDS (2017) which won the Audience Award for Best Short Film at Adelaide Film Festival in 2017.

**Michael Chan: Actor**

Michael first connected with Back to Back Theatre in 2016 through CAMP and THEATRE OF SPEED. He undertook the Writing & Acting for Film & TV project to further develop his skills behind the camera and on stage. Michael was an extra in the film ODDLANDS (2017). In 2019 Michael was appointed as a guest artist with the Ensemble to act as an understudy for the new work THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES, then landing himself a role as a permanent performer in the cast. In August 2019, Michael will be the Artist on tour with a residency in Hong Kong of the repertoire work, THE DEMOCRATIC SET.

Michael obtained a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting & Finance from Deakin University in 2009.

**Alice Nash: Executive Producer**

Alice Nash is the long-standing Executive Producer & Co-CEO of Back to Back Theatre, having worked for the company since 2000.

Alice is a co-founder of Theatre Network Australia, the Australian peak body for the small-to-medium theatre sector and independent performance artists, and was its Deputy Chair from its inception until 2017. Alice is a member of the Victorian Government's Creative State Advisory Board, convened by the Minister for Creative Industries.

Alice is passionate about supporting exemplary artistic practice as vital to democratic civil society.

**Bruce Gladwin: Director**

Bruce Gladwin is an Australian artist and performance maker. He has been the Artistic Director of Back to Back Theatre since 1999, creating MENTAL (1999), DOG FARM (2000), SOFT (2002), SMALL METAL OBJECTS (2005), FOOD COURT (2008), THE DEMOCRATIC SET (2009), GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH (2011), SUPER DISCOUNT (2013), and LADY EATS APPLE (2016).

Bruce's works with Back to Back Theatre have toured extensively, including presentations at the world's preeminent contemporary arts festivals and cultural venues. In 2015, Bruce was awarded the Australia Council for the Arts' Inaugural Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre.

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