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ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS

ON BECKETT

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY TONY AWARD-WINNING ACTOR

BILL IRWIN

SIX PERFORMANCES ONLY - TICKETS ON SALE ON SEPTEMBER 11
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER
ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE
OCTOBER 26 – 30, 2022

[Boston, MA – Monday, September 12, 2022] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is excited to welcome Tony Award-winning actor and master clown Bill Irwin to Boston for his solo stage piece **On Beckett** which will run six performances only from October 26 – 30, 2022 at the Emerson Paramount Center Robert J. Orchard Stage. In **On Beckett**, Irwin explores a performer’s relationship to the works of legendary playwright Samuel Beckett—widely regarded as one of the greatest dramatists of the 20th century—incorporating passages from various works by the Irish writer, including *Texts for Nothing*, *The Unnamable*, *Watt* and *Waiting for Godot*. **On Beckett** is produced by Octopus Theatricals and premiered at Irish Repertory Theatre in New York City on October 3, 2018.

Irwin’s physical approach to the comic and tragic sides of Beckett’s writing invites audiences to experience the writer’s language as they never have before in this fun, surprising trek through the works of Beckett. In July, the Theatre Hall of Fame announced that Bill Irwin would be among its 2022 class of inductees; the 51st induction ceremony, produced by Terry Hodge Taylor, has been scheduled for November 14, 2022 at the Gershwin Theatre.



Bill Irwin in **On Beckett**

Photos: Carol Rosegg

ArtsEmerson is also thrilled to announce that Bill Irwin is the 2022/2023 Fresh Sound Artist in Residence. Funded by Emerson College's World On Stage Fund - an endowment initiated and funded in part by the Trustees of the Fresh Sound Foundation in honor of Emerson Alumna Helen Rodger Cutherbert, class of 1911 - the Fresh Sound Artist residency is managed by ArtsEmerson in support of its ongoing commitment to give Emerson students access to the iconoclast contemporary theatre artists. Former Fresh Sound artists include Anne Bogart, Suzan-Lori Parks, Ayad Akhtar, Walter Mosley, Claudia Rankine, and Guillermo Calderon.

Bill Irwin's original stage works include *The Regard of Flight*, *The Happiness Lecture*, and *Old Hats*. He won Broadway's Best Actor Tony Award for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and picked up a second statue for *Fool Moon* (created with David Shiner) which earned four Tony nominations. His many television credits include *Elmo's World* (as Mr. Noodle) and *Legion* (Mr. Loudermilk), and his film credits range from *Rachel Getting Married* to *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. His many awards include the MacArthur Foundation's "genius" grant.

"**On Beckett** is an invite — it's a personal invitation — to deep dive into the writing of a man whose work I love AND hate — Mr. Samuel Beckett," explains Bill Irwin. "I think **On Beckett** is a good first entry to the wild and beautiful content that is Mr. Beckett's writing — and it speaks also to those of us who read and re-visit the language often. It's an actor's — and it's a clown's — look at a great writer's language. I look forward to bringing my take on Mr. Beckett's writing to Boston."

"ArtsEmerson has a deep history with the work of Samuel Beckett," says ArtsEmerson Executive Director David C. Howse. "We've presented a classic production of his signature play, *Waiting for Godot*, but we've also showcased radical interpretations as well, such as *Here All Night*, which turned the playwright's words into music, or pairing three short works together in one intense, riveting piece performed by Lisa Dwan. Bill Irwin's **On Beckett** does something entirely new, providing a window into an actor's close relationship with Beckett's words. What struck me most about the piece was how Irwin's journey is delightful and engaging at every turn, and how well it works for both the most dedicated Beckett expert and newcomers. This show will surprise you in the best possible way and I look forward to bringing it to Boston."

Tickets for **On Beckett** performances go on sale on Sunday, September 11, 2022 and may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Tickets start at \$25. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on "General Public" when you visit [ArtsEmerson's Offers web page](#).

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

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR ON BECKETT

Dates:

October 26 – 30, 2022

Venue:

Emerson Paramount Center
Robert J. Orchard Stage
559 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday, October 26, 2022	7:30PM ET	Press Performance
Thursday, October 27, 2022	7:30PM ET	
Friday, October 28, 2022	8:00PM ET	
Saturday, October 29, 2022	2:00PM ET	
Saturday, October 29, 2022	8:00PM ET	
Sunday, October 30, 2022	2:00PM ET	

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Content:

Recommended for Ages 10+

Running Time:

90 minutes, no intermission

Public Health Information:

The Theatres of Emerson College firmly believes in the importance of a fully vaccinated community, and the utmost priority is the safety of patrons, program participants, artists, and team members. Efforts will continue to re-evaluate and establish new guidelines to ensure that protocols fulfill the promise of supporting the well-being of all.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry to all events. According to the CDC, "full COVID-19 vaccination" is defined as two weeks after one dose of a single-shot regimen, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after the second dose of an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna. Currently, booster shots are not required under the new policy. Masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory inside all venues at all times (except for speakers, performers, and musicians while actively participating in a performance or presentation. Based on most recent scientific findings, we are recommending N95, KN95, or well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks; however, any mask with at least 3-ply construction is permissible. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with vents are allowed. [Click here to review full info on Covid-19 Health and Wellness protocols](#).

CREDITS

Bill Irwin

Bill Irwin is a Tony Award winning actor, director, writer, and clown. Original works include *The Regard of Flight*; *Largely New York* (Four Tony Nominations); *Fool Moon*; *Old Hats*, *The Happiness Lecture*; and others. He has played in many Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional stage productions, including, ON BECKETT, an evening of passages from Samuel Beckett's work at Irish Repertory Theatre, *The Iceman Cometh*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play), *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*; *Waiting For Godot* (2009 for a Drama Desk Award nomination); *Endgame*; *The Tempest*; *Texts for Nothing*; *Garden of Earthly Delights*; *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*; *Showboat* – and the Tony Award winning *Fool Moon*, which he created with David Shiner.

On television, Irwin appears as Mr. Noodle of "Elmo's World" and Carey Loudermilk of "LEGION". The Regard of Flight (PBS) with Doug Skinner, Michael O'Connor, and Nancy Harrington. Film credits include "Rachel

Getting Married”, “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas”, “Eight Men Out”, “Interstellar”, “Stepping Out”, “Unsilent”, and more.

Irwin was an original member of Kraken, a theatre company directed by Herbert Blau, and was also an original member of the Pickle Family Circus of San Francisco with Larry Pisoni and Geoff Hoyle. Irwin is the grateful recipient of MacArthur, Guggenheim, Fulbright, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships.

Octopus Theatricals (Producer) Founded by creative producer Mara Isaacs, Octopus Theatricals collaborates with artists and organizations to foster an expansive range of compelling theatrical works for local and global audiences. Current projects include: *Hadestown* by Anaïs Mitchell (Broadway, 8 Tony Awards including Best Musical; Grammy Award, Best Musical Theater Album); Gabriel Byrne’s *Walking with Ghosts* (Broadway); *Goddess* created by Saheem Ali, Jocelyn Bioh and Michael Thurber; *Bhangin’ It* by Rehana Lew Mirza, Mike Lew and Sam Willmott; *Dreaming Zenzile* by Somi Kakoma; (...*Iphigenia*), a new opera by Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding; *In The Same Tongue* created by choreographer Dianne McIntyre with music by Diedre Murray; *The Social! Dance Club* conceived by Steven Hoggett, Christine Jones & David Byrne; *And So We Walked* by DeLanna Studi; Theatre for One (in person and virtual) and many more. Octopus Theatricals is also home to the Producer Hub, an online resource supporting independent producers in the experimental and performing arts sectors. Octopustheatricals.com

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, and its 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 — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and virtual performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theater 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 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 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. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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