

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

Media Contacts:

Darren DeLuca | darren@luca-pr.com | 603-489-7624

Alex DeLuca | alex@luca-pr.com | 603-557-7742



ARTSEMERSON CONTINUES ITS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
TRADITION DURING ITS SPRING 2023 SEASON
**ANNOUNCING SPRING 2023 PLAY READING
BOOK CLUB (PRBC)**

CELEBRATING 9 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH DYNAMIC
CONVERSATIONS AND READING PLAYS
[REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!](#)

[Boston, MA – Friday, February 24, 2023] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, recently announced the schedule for the Spring 2023 **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)**. Now in its 9th season, ArtsEmerson's PRBC has gathered and formed a theater-going community throughout Greater Boston neighborhoods and virtually. This pioneering theatre literacy and community education program deepens the theater-going experience by offering unique and unprecedented access to scripts, artists, and conversations featured at ArtsEmerson, while expanding the social networks of its participants.

The book clubs meet over the course of a month to read, discuss, and analyze plays in the ArtsEmerson season prior to seeing them live on stage, facilitated by trained teaching artists from the Emerson College Masters in Theatre Education program and Boston theater professionals. After seeing the play together, participants have the opportunity to meet and discuss it with artists from the show. Since its inception, the PRBC continues to partner with local hubs of community such as the Boston Public Libraries, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, alongside a newly established virtual space.



Photo courtesy of Play Reading Book Club

Participation in the program is free and registration is now open to the public for the Spring 2023 PRBC for, **Cointelshow, And So We Walked, and Nehanda.**

“Now in our 9th PRBC season, a lot of participants are enjoying being in a room of people (or gathering virtually) and having diverse conversations, not because they’re talking about one culture or the other but people are bringing their diverse experiences to their perspectives on the work,” said Akiba Abaka, Program Director and Creative Producer at ArtsEmerson. “It’s becoming a place where people are going to work things out. The play is the prompt for the conversation and at PRBC, participants are afforded a very detailed experience before, during and after seeing the plays which continues to help us build a sense of community and foster social connectivity.”

The PRBC experience provides a space where people can learn about the plays ArtsEmerson presents and dialogue about the intrinsic impact of these plays on their lives. The program is also accessible by providing participants not only access to scripts and oftentimes playwrights, but also by being available at locations in neighborhoods throughout Greater Boston and by providing a virtual option.

“The plays selected by ArtsEmerson are immensely provoking and engaging, drawing on my emotions, intellect and being,” said PRBC participant Ayoka Drake. “I participated in multiple virtual PRBC sessions during the pandemic which showed that we are a true community. We struggle through life and its challenges and come together to celebrate, cope, heal, share and press on together.”

Participation in the program is free and registration is now open to the public 24/7 at ArtsEmerson.org, or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). Tickets to see the productions must be purchased separately and PRBC members receive a discounted rate.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR COINTELSHOW PRBC

Roxbury Branch Library
700 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116
SAT, FEB 25 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
SAT, MAR 04 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
SAT, MAR 11 @ 8:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)
FRI, MAR 17 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
SAT, MAR 18 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

ArtsEmerson: Online
Via Zoom
TUE, FEB 28 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
THU, MAR 02 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
TUE, MAR 07 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
THU, MAR 09 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
SAT, MAR 11 @ 8:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)
TUE, MAR 14 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Jackson/Mann Community Center
500 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134
WED, MAR 01 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
WED, MAR 08 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
SAT, MAR 11 @ 8:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT)
TUE, MAR 14 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
WED, FEB 15 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR *AND SO WE WALKED* PRBC

Roxbury Branch Library

700 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116

SAT, APR 15 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

SAT, APR 22 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

SAT, APR 29 @ 12:30 PM - 4:15 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

FRI, MAY 05 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAT, MAY 06 @ 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

ArtsEmerson: Online

Via Zoom

TUE, APR 11 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, APR 13 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TUE, APR 18 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, APR 20 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

SAT, APR 29 @ 12:30 PM - 4:15 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

TUE, MAY 02 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Jackson/Mann Community Center

500 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134

WED, APR 12 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, APR 19 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAT, APR 29 @ 12:30 PM - 4:15 PM (PRBC NIGHT)

TUE, MAY 02 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, MAY 03 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Chinatown Branch Library

2 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02116

MON, APR 10 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

MON, APR 17 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SAT, APR 29 @ 12:30 PM - 4:15 PM (PRBC NIGHT)

MON, MAY 01 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR *NEHANDA* PRBC

ArtsEmerson: Online

Via Zoom

THU, MAY 04 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TUE, MAY 09 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, MAY 11 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TUE, MAY 16 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

FRI, MAY 19 @ 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

TUE, MAY 23 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Jackson/Mann Community Center

WED, MAY 10 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, MAY 17 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

FRI, MAY 19 @ 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT AT THE THEATRE)

TUE, MAY 23 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, MAY 24 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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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