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FIVE CONTENDERS. FIVE ROUNDS. YOUR VOTE.

ARTSEMERSON PRESENTS
FIGHT NIGHT

FROM BELGIUM-BASED THEATER COMPANY ONTROEREND GOED
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER
SEPTEMBER 20 – 21, 2024

[Boston, MA – Monday, August 26, 2024] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is excited to present **Fight Night** at the Emerson Paramount Center from September 20 – 21, 2024. A funny and incisive examination of democracy, political passion, and free will, Ontroerend Goed’s **Fight Night** is full of twists and turns that will have audiences rethinking how – and why – they vote. In this interactive work of psychological theater, five performers (“candidates”) will engage in a variety of tactics and topics to win the evening’s popular vote, collected through electronic voting devices held by each audience member. The performance takes shape as real-time election results come in – shifting who is on stage and revealing the unspoken thoughts and opinions of the people around you.



Fight Night

Photo credit: Michiel Devijver

Fight Night takes the audience on a journey to choose the best candidate. As each round progresses, the audience learns more information about each candidate that will inform their vote. Random checks, voting signposts, coalitions, campaigns, debates, consultants, exit polls, spin doctors, opinion gauges, list pushers, and referendums will inform the vote. The host will do anything to derail the candidates’ best intentions. In the brand-new **Fight Night**, the world will remain outside: there are no actual political statements made inside this one-of-a-kind show, only a sharp analysis of how democracy works.

“We are so excited to open our 2024/25 season with this brilliant piece of theater by Ontroerend Goed,” says ArtsEmerson Interim Executive Director Ronee Penoi. “Arriving just in time for the election in November, **Fight Night** is a performance that avoids divisiveness or specific ideologies and forces us to look at the nature of democracy itself. We can’t wait for our audiences to experience the outcome of our two performances.”

“What an incredible moment to be performing **Fight Night** in America,” says Alexander Devriendt, artistic director of Ontroerend Goed and director of **Fight Night**. “When we first created this show ten years ago, we were heavily influenced by American politics, watching debates between Obama and Romney. Later, when we revisited the performance, it was during the debates between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. It has been a joy to watch the show evolve over the years, continuously shaped by diverse audiences and resonating with people from various cultures, from international tours to remakes in Turkey and Kazakhstan. As we stand on the cusp of another significant election, it's challenging to predict how the American audience will respond, but it is truly an honor to be performing here at this moment.”

Tickets for **Fight Night** 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%.

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

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR FIGHT NIGHT

Dates:

September 20 – 21, 2024

Venue:

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

Performance Schedule:

<i>Friday, September 20, 2024</i>	<i>8:00PM ET</i>	<i>Press Performance</i>
<i>Saturday, September 21, 2024</i>	<i>8:00PM ET</i>	

Ticket Information:

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Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 9:00 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](#).

Content:

Recommended for Ages 16+

Running Time:

75 minutes, no intermission

Public Health Information:

Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged at all times while indoors at the theatre but is no longer required for most* performances and events.

For folks who require a socially distanced seating location or who have other questions or concerns, please contact the Box Office by phone at 617.824.8400 or by emailing tickets@artsemerson.org to arrange seating that accommodates your needs. Masks and face shields will also be available at the theatre upon request.

If you or a member of your party is feeling sick, experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or has been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days, please stay home. Our box office will allow you to refund or exchange performance tickets at any time prior to the event. No one should come to the venue if they are not feeling well.

It is within our values to create a safe space for everyone, full stop. All staff at the Theatres of Emerson College are working to ensure the health and safety of all who are sharing these spaces. Maintaining our community's health and safety requires the effort of all involved. By committing to this Shared Code of Conduct, you are not only protecting yourself, but fellow guests, artists, and staff. Please do all you can to help keep all of us safe. We cannot wait to see you at the theater! [Click here to review full info on Health and Wellness information.](#)

COMPANY BIOGRAPHY

Ontroerend Goed

The Belgian theatre performance group **Ontroerend Goed** (a punning name, roughly translated as 'Feel Estate') produces self-devised work grounded in the here and now, inviting their audiences to participate as well as observe. Whether they are performing backwards (*Are we not drawn onward to new erA*), turning spectators into voters who eliminate actors, guiding strangers through a labyrinth of mirrors and avatars to meet themselves, or placing the audience at the controls of the financial system, the company has made it its trade-mark to be unpredictable in content and form.

They first emerged on the international scene in 2007, with *The Smile Off Your Face*, an immersive one-on-one show. Since then, Ontroerend Goed has been touring worldwide, winning numerous awards. They also create remakes of their productions in other languages: there are versions in French, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, and Kazakh, among others.

Ontroerend Goed delivers intense experiences built in the reality of theater. Convinced that life goes on during a performance, the group fabricates possible realities that question how we as individuals position ourselves in the world today.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Aurélie Lannoy

Lannoy trained in drama at the Institut des Arts de Diffusion in Louvain-la-Neuve (2000-2001) and in Lecoq techniques at Kleine Academie in Brussels (2001-2004). She studied actor studio techniques at the Susan Batson studio in New York (2010). In 2004 Aurélie joined Ontroerend Goed. She collaborates with them regularly as an actress, creator and performer and is a core member of the company. Alongside her work with OG, Aurélie works with other groups, notably the musical showgroup Les Vedettes (2016) and the Parisian theater company Les Divins Animaux for the project Flirt (2015), Les Perdants (2019) and Zoo (2021). On screen, Aurélie has featured as a lead character in *Inacia* (2013) by Charlotte Dupont, *Lucha Libre* (2014) by Ann Sirot and Raphael Balboni and in *Coupeur de route* by Christophe Granger (2022).

Angelo Tijssens

Tijssens studied theater in Antwerp. He has been part of Ontroerend Goed for a decade, both as a member of the artistic core and as a performer, with credits in *Fight Night*, *Are we not drawn onward to new erA*, *TM*,

A Game Of You, Loopstation, Internal, £¥€\$, Every Word Was Once An Animal and *A History Of Everything*. He co-wrote several short films, with selections at the Cannes Film Festival and international awards. He was Lukas Dhont's co-writer for the Camera d'Or winning feature film *Girl*. The film went on to be an international arthouse hit, winning awards all over the globe, such as the Queer Palm and a Golden Globe nomination. Together they also wrote Dhont's second feature *Close* (2022), which was nominated for the Oscars. Meanwhile, he has become a member of The Academy, the body that sets the selection for the Oscars. At present, he is working on some new projects. His first novel, *De Randen*, was published in 2022, his second one, *Het einde van de straat*, in 2024. Angelo Tijssens teaches scenario at KASK/School Of Arts in Ghent, and lives and works in Antwerp, with his husband and their cats.

Julia Ghysels

Ghysels graduated in 2015 at the Koninklijk Conservatorium Antwerpen. During her studies, she performed in *De zaak van de dieren tegen de mensen* (2014) by HETPALEIS and *Alsemkomt* (2014) by de Roovers. After graduating, she was in production like 'Othello' (2015) by Toneelhuis and *adult world* (2015) by echo maker MT and Cie Covar. Her collaborations with Ontroerend Goed include *Loopstation, £¥€\$, Fight Night* and *TM*. For director Jetse Batelaan she performed in *Het eind van het begin van het einde* (2020-2021). Her television credits include *Gent-West* (2017) and *Fenix* (2018).

Prince K. Appiah

Appiah is an actor, music artist and writer. He graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp in 2021. His studies include a 7 month stint at The Royal Conservatory of Scotland from 2018 to 2019. He has played in plays like *Vrede Liefde & Vrijheid* and *Kiss & Ride* from Het Nieuwstedelijk. He played the lead in the television miniseries *De Shaq* (2021). Following *Funeral*, *Fight Night* is the second production of Ontroerend Goed in which he can be seen.

Alexander Devriendt

Devriendt is the artistic director and one of the founders of the Belgian theater performance group Ontroerend Goed. His past work includes the creation of the personal theater trilogy (*The Smile Off Your Face, Internal & A Game of You*), the celebrated teenage play (*Once, and for all we're gonna tell you who we are so shut up and listen*). His most recent productions are *£¥€\$, Funeral* and *Are we not drawn onward to new erA*. His plays have won several awards and are performed all over the world, recently performing in Shanghai, USA and Edinburgh.

Jonas Vermeulen

Vermeulen graduated in 2013 at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp. Fans of electronic punk and rock may know him from the band *Psycho 44*. He appeared in several tv-shows such as *Red Light, Studio Tarara, Den 11e van den 11e* and *In Flanders Fields*. In 2022 he made his debut on the big screen as the main character Frank Verstraeten in Robin Pront's feature film *Zillion*. Jonas works most of the time in theatre. With his own concert-theatre performances *The Great Downhill Journey Of Little Tommy* and *The Only Way Is Up*, which he created with partner in crime Boris Vanseveren, he toured around the globe. Jonas can frequently be seen as an actor and musician in the work of companies such as Ontroerend Goed, FC Bergman, Olympique Dramatique, Compagnie Marius, Hetpaleis and many others.

Michaël Pas

Pas has been acting prolifically in film, television and theater, since his graduation from drama school in Antwerp, Belgium. Michaël is multilingual and performs in Dutch, English, French and German. On stage he has worked with ITA director Ivo Van Hove, and for film he collaborated with Lars Von Trier (*Nymphomaniac II*) and Lee Tamahori (*Emperor, starring Adrien Brody*). 'Are we not drawn onward to new erA' was Michaël's first collaboration with Ontroerend Goed.

Bastiaan Vandendriessche

Bastiaan Vandendriessche obtained a master's degree in International Political Sciences before studying Drama at the Conservatory of Antwerp (2013-17). With his controversial debut *De Fuut*, he won the Best International Performance Award at Amsterdam Fringe (2017). Afterwards he toured with the English translation through England and Scotland (*Big in Belgium*, 2018). Later he created five more pieces (*A White Man's Burden, Mono, Mockingbird, Ode aan Buldegart, and Dorian*). *Ode aan Buldegart* was nominated for the

'Playwright award 2020' and has been translated to French in 2022. As an actor, he has been working with Ontroerend Goed since 2017, performing in *£¥€\$, Fight Night, Are we not drawn onward to new erA* and *Every Word Was Once an Animal*. He also collaborated with 4hoog and KVS Brussels. In June 2024 he released his first autofictional novel called *Staat - Op korte en hopelijk erna lange liefde*.

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 Interim Executive Director of the Office of the Arts & ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programming, Ronee Penoi. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

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 approximately 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 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 at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. 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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