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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES 2025/26 SEASON

***PROUDLY CELEBRATING ITS 15th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH NINE THEATRICAL EVENTS, INCLUDING ONE WORLD PREMIERE***

MANUAL CINEMA RETURNS TO ARTSEMERSON TO CONJURE *MACBETH* FROM
A BRAND-NEW PERSPECTIVE WITH
THE 4TH WITCH

ARTSEMERSON WELCOMES BOSTON PREMIERE PRODUCTIONS FROM
AROUND THE U.S. (**FOOD BANK INFLUENCER, HANG TIME, & THE THINGS
AROUND US**), RUSSIA (**SPACEBRIDGE**), CANADA (**NOLI TIMERE**), NORWAY
(**DEAD AS A DODO**) & THE WORLD PREMIERE OF **THE SECRET SHARER** (USA)

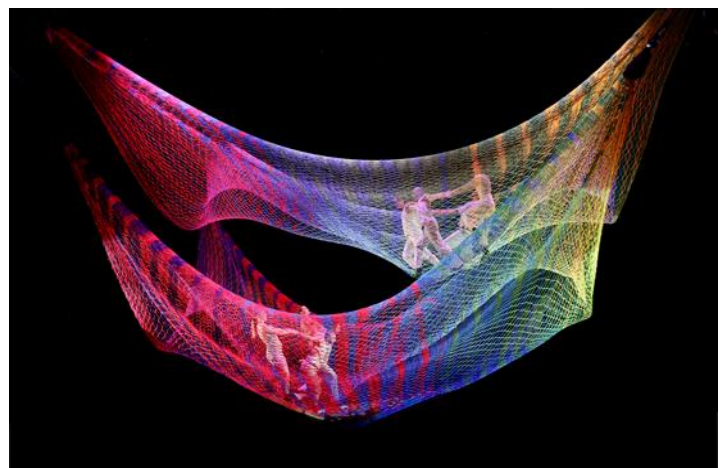
ARTSEMERSON WILL ALSO CO-PRESENT THE PENULTIMATE PIECE OF
MFONISO UDOFIA'S NINE-PART PLAY, **IN OLD AGE**, WITH THE FRONT PORCH
ARTS COLLECTIVE

[Boston, MA – Thursday, May 22, 2025] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film, and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is thrilled to announce its 2025/26 Season, featuring nine live stage events in its 15th anniversary year. As Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater, ArtsEmerson circles the globe to select creative works that challenge and inspire, dazzle, and provoke. The organization's 15th anniversary season offerings continue to celebrate differences, reflecting the vital diversity of our city, and deepening our connection to each other.



Hang Time

Photo by Maria Baranova



Noli Timere

Photo by Julie Lemberger

“For the past fifteen years, ArtsEmerson has been privileged to uplift artists and works from all over the globe that prompt key civic conversations and connect us across difference—and this year is no different,” said Interim Executive Director of the Office of the Arts & ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programming Ronee Penoi. “Boston is an arts city, hungry for diverse work and narratives, and we are committed to delivering on our promise through works that explore and celebrate our collective humanity and resilience.”

The 25/26 season consists of nine theatrical events: **Food Bank Influencer** (Kristina Wong, USA), **Hang Time** (The Flea, USA), **The 4th Witch** (Manual Cinema/Elise Management, USA), **SpaceBridge** (Irina Kruzhilina, Russia/USA), **Noli Timere** (McCarter, Canada/USA), **The Things Around Us** (Ahamefule J. Oluo, USA), **Dead as a Dodo** (Wakka Wakka, Norway/USA), a co-presentation with Front Porch Arts Collective of **In Old Age** (Mfoniso Udofia, USA), and **The Secret Sharer** (DNAWORKS, USA).

ArtsEmerson Season Packages will be available later in the summer. To purchase, visit ArtsEmerson.org or call the ArtsEmerson Box Office at 617-824-8400 (open Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). Those desiring walk-up service may visit the Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) Thu-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET.

25/26 ArtsEmerson Season Overview

ArtsEmerson’s 25/26 Season will premiere with self-proclaimed “Food Bank Influencer” Kristina Wong’s rendition of the American Musical that nobody asked for by celebrating our emergency food system in **Food Bank Influencer** from September 19 – 21, 2025 at the Emerson Paramount Center. Fall offerings continue with Pulitzer-Prize-finalist Zora Howard’s stunning, subversive new piece for three performers, **Hang Time**, from October 9 – 12, 2025 also at the Emerson Paramount Center.

Manual Cinema will return to Boston with their signature stage-magic to conjure *Macbeth* from a brand-new perspective. **The 4th Witch** will come to the ArtsEmerson stage from October 30 – November 9, 2025. Following Manual Cinema and closing out 2025 at the Paramount will be Irina Kruzhilina’s **SpaceBridge** from November 21 – 23, 2025. Conceived and directed by Kruzhilina, eleven Russian refugee children and their American-born friends unite in joyful resistance—offering unignorable anti-war messages and reimagining what it means to belong.

2026 will kick off with a visually stunning modern circus show where brilliantly colored net-sculptures illuminate how human beings connect and catch each other when we fall. With performers suspended as high as 25 feet, **Noli Timere** offers a mesmerizing kinesthetic metaphor and meditation upon the challenges of global interconnection and will be at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre from January 29 – February 1, 2026.

The Things Around Us is a dazzling new work from acclaimed multi-disciplinary artist, Ahamefule J. Oluo, that layers live music and narrative exploration to create an introspective evening about the things that connect us all. It is the third in a trilogy of shows from Oluo, following *NOW I’M FINE* and *SUSAN*. Oluo’s piece will be in Boston at ArtsEmerson from February 20 – 22, 2026 at the Emerson Paramount Center.

From Norway comes Wakka Wakka’s **Dead as a Dodo**, an uplifting musical odyssey into the heart of friendship (and the underworld). **Dead as a Dodo** will be at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre from March 2 – 8, 2026. Next arrives the penultimate piece of Mfoniso Udofia’s nine-part play *Ufot Family Cycle*, **In Old Age** comes to ArtsEmerson from March 21 – April 4, 2026 in partnership with Front Porch Arts Collective as part of a two-year, citywide production of Udofia’s epic in Boston. Abasiama Ufot, still living in the house of her deceased husband, forms an unexpected spiritual bond with Azell Abernathy, a soft-spoken, church-going carpenter. As their connection deepens, and Abasiama’s house—and soul—become clearer, she comes to understand the true nature of love, sending her off on one last journey through life.

The 25/26 season closes out April 24 – May 3, 2026 at the Emerson Paramount Center with the World Premiere of **The Secret Sharer**. DNAWORKS’s bold adaptation of Joseph Conrad’s 1909 novella *The Secret Sharer* transforms the text into a powerful multimedia performance blending dance, music, sound, text, and

video projection. Often considered an early queer text, **The Secret Sharer** tells a powerful tale of two men, outsiders in their societies, who forge a shared, intimate, and ultimately healing connection.

In keeping with DNAWORKS's signature story circle practice, audience members are invited to share their own stories throughout the performance, establishing an open-concept collaborative space where audiences truly co-create the environment.

Commitment to Film and Engagement Programming

The 25/26 Season will continue ArtsEmerson's mission of using the expanded programming of film offerings and screening events at the Emerson Paramount Center's state-of-the-art Bright Family Screening Room. Film programming will include narrative and documentary work screened as part of **Shared Stories** (in partnership with Boston Asian American Film Festival, CineFest Latino Boston, and Roxbury International Film Festival) and **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** (in partnership with Boston Asian American Film Festival).

ArtsEmerson will also continue its longstanding partnerships with many of New England's premiere film festivals, hosting screenings of **Boston Asian American Film Festival**, **CineFest Latino Boston**, **Roxbury International Film Festival**, and **Wicked Queer: the Boston LGBTQ+ Film Festival**.

The **Play Reading Book Club**, a dynamic theatre literacy and community education program that provides unique and radical access to scripts, artists, and conversations, will also be returning, marking its 10th Anniversary.

Specific programming and scheduling for these and additional civic engagement activities will be announced at a later date.

For production stills and other media kit assets for the 2025/26 season, click [here](#).

25/26 SEASON THEATRICAL EVENTS

Food Bank Influencer

September 19 – 21, 2025

Emerson Paramount Center, Robert J. Orchard Stage

Kristina Wong, USA

Kristina Wong, #FoodBankInfluencer

Written and Performed by Kristina Wong

Directed by Jessica Hanna

Self-proclaimed "Food Bank Influencer" Kristina Wong offers her rendition of the American Musical that nobody asked for by celebrating our emergency food system. Having experienced food distribution (or lack thereof) from New York to the Navajo Nation, Wong shares irreverent commentary while illuminating American food insecurity and the subsequent national pastime that is collecting and giving away free food. But how will she pull this off with humor? It's a SNAP! (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, that is!) Join us for the sing-a-long show you never knew you needed (you'll even leave with some food to take home).

Hang Time

October 9 – 12, 2025

Emerson Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box

The Flea, USA

Three brothers chew the fat under an old, wide tree. In this exploration of intergenerational bonds, we peek into the interiority – the great loves and bitter blues – of Black men in America. **Hang Time** is a deeply moving and subversive work by Pulitzer Prize Finalist Zora Howard.

Hang Time premiered off-Broadway at The Flea Theater on March 15, 2023. Directed by playwright Zora Howard, the production featured Cecil Blutchter, Dion Graham and Akron Watson.

The 4th Witch

October 30 – November 9, 2025

Emerson Paramount Center, Robert J. Orchard Stage

Manual Cinema/Elisa Management, USA

Manual Cinema returns to ArtsEmerson with **The 4th Witch**, a tale inspired by *Macbeth* that chronicles the story of a girl who escapes war and seeks protection from three witches. They agree to take the girl on as an apprentice, on the condition that she must never use her powers for revenge. Consumed by grief and rage, the girl comes to realize that it was Macbeth who killed her father – and that she must choose between reconciliation or vengeance.

Told through inventive practical effects executed in plain sight, the troupe brilliantly employs shadow puppetry, live music and silhouette actors, to create an entire new world in **The 4th Witch**. Manual Cinema has built a devoted fanbase in Boston over the course of their thrilling past productions at ArtsEmerson including *Ada/Ava* and *Frankenstein*. Do not miss their triumphant return this fall!

SpaceBridge

November 21 – 23, 2025

Emerson Paramount Center, Robert J. Orchard Stage

Irina Kruzhilina, Russia/USA

Inspired by the 1983 peace mission to the USSR led by 12-year-old American activist Samantha Smith, who bridged the gap between American and Russian children, and the satellite-mediated “citizens’ debates”, known as “spacebridges” between the US and the USSR, this performance tracks the struggles of children now living in New York’s shelter system whose families were forced to escape Russia because of their antiwar views.

Director Irina Kruzhilina’s piece centers the children we seldom think of – the Russian children who’ve been affected. After observing how Russian children struggle to integrate into American society and are met with suspicion, Kruzhilina set out to create a piece using theater making tools to disrupt social bias, hate, and violence.

Bringing together 11 young Russian refugees between nine and 14 years old with eight American-born peers, **SpaceBridge** features creative workshops to share stories, foster connections, and envision an alternative future where intercultural friendships were embraced and supported.

Noli Timere

January 29 – February 1, 2026

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre

McCarter, Canada/USA

Noli Timere is a soaring aerial performance featuring eight extraordinary, multidisciplinary performers moving over and within a custom designed net sculpture, suspended up to 25 feet in the air. Conceived by Guggenheim Award-winning choreographer Rebecca Lazier in partnership with world renowned sculptor Janet Echelman, **Noli Timere** presents a seamless, symbiotic interaction between movement and sculpture in which both are continually reshaped and transformed by one another. Created with original music by acclaimed Quebecoise composer Jorane, **Noli Timere** fuses contemporary dance and avant-garde circus with art installation and advanced engineering, to question how one navigates an unstable world.

The culmination of a 5-year collaboration, **Noli Timere**, Latin for 'be not afraid', uniquely renders interconnectedness visible and tangible—demonstrating, like the Butterfly Effect, how a change in one element generates cascading reverberations throughout a whole system. **Noli Timere** offers a mesmerizing kinesthetic metaphor and meditation upon the challenges of global interconnection.

The Things Around Us

February 20 – 22, 2026

Emerson Paramount Center, Robert J. Orchard Stage

Ahamefule J. Oluo, USA

The Things Around Us is a dazzling, funny, and introspective new work from acclaimed musician, artist, and storyteller Ahamefule J. Oluo. In this one-person-show, Oluo builds layers of live, looped music and then tells us revealing, personal stories to create an introspective evening about strangers, acquaintances, and friends—and how all three might be more similar to each other than we often think. It is the third in a trilogy of shows from Oluo, following *Now I'm Fine* and *Susan*.

Using looping technology, trumpet, vocals, cardboard shipping boxes for drums, and other instruments, Oluo creates an expansive symphony that becomes the perfect soundtrack to Oluo's personal reflections, laugh out loud stories, and universal observations about life. **The Things Around Us** is an evening that will draw you in and remind you of the beauty that surrounds all of the people and places we hold dear.

Dead as a Dodo

March 2 – 8, 2026

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre

Wakka Wakka, Norway/USA

Deep within the underworld, a skeleton Dodo and boy dig daily for fresh bones to replace their deteriorating ones, desperately trying to keep from disappearing. But one day, the Dodo miraculously sprouts feathers—and everything changes.

The transformation sends the two friends into a chaotic journey as they flee the wrath of the Skeleton King and fight to stay together as they are drawn into the heart of an epic battle between life and death.

From Wakka Wakka, **Dead as a Dodo** is an inspirational musical odyssey about true friendship and the will to survive against all odds. Together, the impossible can become the possible.

In Old Age

Presented in Collaboration with Front Porch Arts Collective

March 21 – April 04, 2026

Emerson Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box

Abasiama Ufot, still living in the house of her deceased husband, forms an unexpected spiritual bond with Azell Abernathy, a soft-spoken, church-going carpenter. As their connection deepens, and Abasiama's house—and soul—become clearer, she comes to understand the true nature of love, sending her off on one last journey through life.

The penultimate piece of Mfoniso Udofia's nine-part play *Ufot Family Cycle*, **In Old Age** comes to ArtsEmerson in partnership with Front Porch Arts Collective as part of a two-year, citywide production of Udofia's epic in Boston.

The Secret Sharer

World Premiere

April 24 – May 3, 2026

Emerson Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box

DNAWORKS, USA

DNAWORKS's bold adaptation of Joseph Conrad's 1909 novella **The Secret Sharer** transforms the text into a powerful multimedia performance blending dance, music, sound, text, and video projection. Often considered an early queer text, **The Secret Sharer** tells a powerful tale of two men, outsiders in their societies, who forge a shared, intimate, and ultimately healing connection.

In keeping with DNAWORKS's signature story circle practice, audience members are invited to share their own stories throughout the performance, establishing an open-concept collaborative space where audiences truly co-create the environment.

This world premiere event is an exploration of the shared bond between two outsiders in the face of violence and discrimination - showing how vulnerability and intimacy can still exist even in times when forging human connection feels nearly impossible.

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

Emerson College is uniquely dedicated to the arts and communication, educating and inspiring storytellers and artists to impact and advance creative industries and media throughout the world. Distinguished faculty spearhead a dynamic curriculum, and guide several thousand undergraduate students and more than 400 graduate students to exhibit an unyielding spirit of creativity, professionalism, and critical thought, to transform lives, and make a profound impact on our community and beyond.

Based in the world-class city of Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theater District, the College offers experiential learning programs in Boston and across the globe: at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands, and at 28 global programs. Emersonians, including 58,000+ alumni, carry forth the College's founding motto "Expression Necessary to Evolution" to shape industries, inspire change, and amplify voices that redefine our culture. 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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