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GRAMMY AWARD®-WINNING BAND **THE HAWTPLATES** INVITE AUDIENCES INTO A HYPNOTIC JOURNEY THROUGH THE SUBCONSCIOUS

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ARTSEMERSON PRESENTS

DREAM FEED

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A GENRE-DEFYING LIVE EXPERIENCE BLENDING MUSIC, THEATER, AND THE SURREAL WORLD OF DREAMS

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY TWO-TIME GRAMMY AWARD®-WINNING THEATRICAL FAMILY BAND

THE HAWTPLATES

PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE AT EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER JACKIE LIEBERGOTT BLACK BOX THEATRE

NOVEMBER 19 – 22, 2026

[Boston, MA – Thursday, October 29, 2026]– ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, presents **Dream Feed**, a genre-defying, electro-acoustic theatrical experience from two-time Grammy Award®-winning family band The HawtPlates, at the Emerson Paramount Center's Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre from November 19–22, 2026.

Part concert, part theatrical event, **Dream Feed** invites audiences into a mesmerizing world where the boundaries between dreams and waking life begin to dissolve. Through an inventive fusion of live vocals, atmospheric soundscapes, and imaginative storytelling, The HawtPlates explore the mysteries of the subconscious, transforming the fleeting images, emotions, and sensations of dreaming into a shared musical experience.





Dream Feed
Photo Credit: Daniel Vasquez

What do our dreams reveal about who we are? How do memories, aspirations, and imagination intertwine when we sleep? And can the dreams we experience individually connect us to something larger? These questions form the foundation of **Dream Feed**. Rather than following a conventional theatrical narrative, the production immerses audiences in a shifting dreamscape, capturing the unpredictable and deeply personal nature of the dreaming mind.

Written and performed by Jade Hicks, Kenita Miller-Hicks, and Justin Hicks, The HawtPlates are known for their distinctive approach to vocal performance, breaking down familiar musical forms and reconstructing them through improvisation, composition, and experimentation. Drawing from their shared family history, individual artistic experiences, and a wide range of musical influences, the trio creates richly layered performances that explore the connections between sound, memory, identity, and human experience.

Dream Feed is being produced by HERE Arts Center and was developed as a 2023 HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP) commission, with additional co-commissioning support from the Under the Radar Festival. Directed by Phillip Howze, the production premiered at HERE Arts Center in New York City in January 2026 as part of the Under the Radar Festival. The work continues The HawtPlates' exploration of music as a powerful vehicle for theatrical storytelling, inviting audiences to experience the familiar and the extraordinary through an entirely new lens.

“It's always exciting for us to connect with audiences away from home and see how the various communities receive the work,” shares The HawtPlates. “Boston is sort of an incubator city for musicians and for theater makers, as well as an integral historical site, so it will be really interesting to see what those energies bring to the room. Hopefully, **Dream Feed** is enticing to a cross section of the population here, and allows people to drop the rigor and routine of the day, and feel held by something that's mysterious and surprising.”

"**Dream Feed** is a beautiful example of the kind of boundary-pushing artistry we are passionate about bringing to Boston," says Ronee Penoi, ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programming. "The HawtPlates are extraordinary musicians and storytellers who have created something that defies easy categorization. It's a concert, a theatrical experience, and an invitation to explore the imagination all at once. What I find especially compelling is how this work takes something as personal as our dreams and transforms it into a collective experience. It reminds us that even in the most unexpected corners of our subconscious, there is so much that connects us to one another."

The HawtPlates' artistic collaborations span music, theater, and multidisciplinary performance, including work with acclaimed artists and organizations such as Meshell Ndegeocello, Abigail DeVille, Kaneza Schaal, Hilton Als, Helga Davis, the National Black Theatre, The Public Theater, Performance Space New York, and the Park Avenue Armory. Their distinctive musical creations, which the group describes as "sonic one-pots," draw on personal histories and artistic traditions while exploring experiences that resonate across communities and generations.

Dream Feed is also supported in part by ArtsEmerson's Gaining Ground Fund, an initiative established in 2017 to support ambitious new work reflecting the African Diasporic experience in America. Through the fund, ArtsEmerson provides resources for artists to develop and realize bold creative visions while maintaining artistic ownership of their work.

The production features scenic design by Kent Barrett, lighting design by Tuçe Yasak, and sound design by Sean Davis.

Tickets for **Dream Feed** may be purchased 24/7 at 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 $49.50. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

For production stills and other media kit assets, click here.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR **DREAM FEED**

Dates:
November 19 – 22, 2026

Venue:
Emerson Paramount Center
Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre
559 Washington St
Boston, MA 02111

Performance Schedule:

Thursday, November 19, 2026	7:30PM ET	*Press Performance*
Friday, November 20, 2026	8:00PM ET	
Saturday, November 21, 2026	2:00PM ET	
Saturday, November 21, 2026	8:00PM ET	
Sunday, November 22, 2026	2:00PM ET	

Ticket Information:
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Running Time:
90 minutes, no intermission.

CREDITS & BIOGRAPHIES

The HawtPlates (Creators and Performers)
The HawtPlates are a two-time Grammy Award-winning theatrical family band known for creating innovative live vocal performances that break down vernacular musical forms and reconstitute them through improvisation and composition. Their works, which they describe as "sonic one-pots," honor their lineage and personal histories while exploring the shared human experience.

Comprised of Drama Desk-nominated composer and performer Justin Hicks, his sister, singer-songwriter Jade Hicks, and his wife, Tony Award-nominated actor and singer Kenita Miller-Hicks, the group works across musical, theatrical, and interdisciplinary forms.

The HawtPlates have collaborated with numerous artists and organizations, including Meshell Ndegeocello, Abigail DeVille, Kaneza Schaal, Hilton Als, Helga Davis, Steffani Jemison, Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and The D.R.E.A.M. Ring, National Black Theatre, Charlotte Brathwaite, The Public Theater, Performance Space New York, and the Park Avenue Armory.

Written and Performed by: Jade Hicks, Kenita Miller-Hicks, Justin Hicks
Directed by: Phillip Howze
Scenic Designer: Kent Barrett
Assistant Scenic Designer: Michelle Gabrielle
Lighting Designer: Tuçe Yasak
Sound Designer: Sean Davis
Production Coordinator: estrellita beatriz
Audio Engineer: Robin Margolis
Production Manager: Cheyanne Williams

"Mustard Anthem" written by Dawn Meredith Smith, arranged by The HawtPlates.

Dream Feed was developed through the 2023 HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), with additional co-commissioning support from the Under the Radar Festival. The production premiered at HERE Arts Center in January 2026.

HERE Arts Center
Since 1993, HERE Arts Center has been one of New York's most prolific arts organizations. Today, it stands at the forefront of the city's cultural scene, producing and presenting daring, new, multidisciplinary performance experiences. From our home in Lower Manhattan, HERE builds an inclusive community that nurtures artists of all backgrounds as they disrupt conventional expectations to create innovative performances in theatre, dance, music, puppetry, media, and visual art. By providing these genre-blending artists with an adaptive, flexible home for developing and producing their work, we share a range of perspectives reflective of the complexity of our city. HERE welcomes curious audiences to witness groundbreaking performances, responsive to the world in which we live, at free and affordable prices.

Under the leadership of Co-Directors Jesse Cameron Alick, Annalisa Dias, and Lanxing Fu, HERE continues to evolve as a home for artists and audiences alike. Appointed by the Board in 2024, the Co-Directors collaboratively lead the artistic and executive functions of the organization, shaping its vision, programming, and community engagement. HERE strives to create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive home in which all people have fair access to the resources they need to realize their visions. We acknowledge structural inequities that exclude individuals and communities from opportunities based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography, and seek to counter those inequities in our work. Through mindful actions on sustainability and regenerative practices, we work toward climate justice, and a safe, livable planet for present and future artmakers and audiences.
www.here.org

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. ArtsEmerson's artistic vision is led by Ronee Penoi, who since 2021 has championed extraordinary artists from Bill Irwin to Mfoniso Udofia, and from Belgium's Onterend Goed to Wampanoag Nation. Through imaginative and globe-spanning live performances, films, and conversations, ArtsEmerson invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College
Emerson College is an institution uniquely dedicated to the arts and communication, Emerson educates and elevates extraordinary artists, communicators, scholars, and professionals for the betterment of humanity through world-class teaching, practice, performance, and discovery that are experiential, innovative, and inclusive. Emerson creates storytellers and artists who impact and advance creative industries and media throughout the world. 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. For more information, visit emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact mediarelations@emerson.edu.

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