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**KEITH HAMILTON COBB'S AWARD-WINNING
EXPLORATION OF SHAKESPEARE, RACE, AND
AMERICA RETURNS TO BOSTON**

ARTSEMERSON PRESENTS

AMERICAN MOOR

DIRECTED BY KIM WEILD

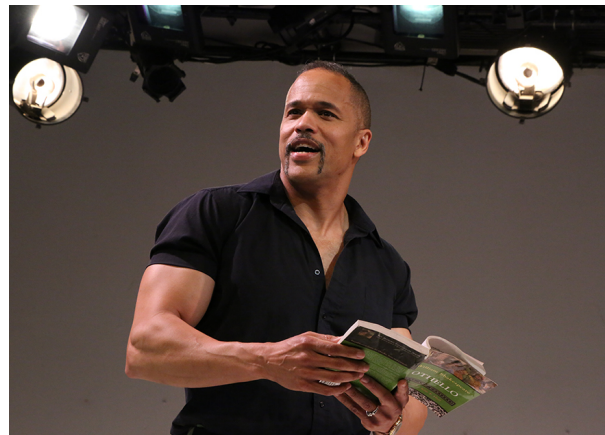
**TWO WEEKS OF PERFORMANCES, APRIL 10 – 21, 2019 AT
THE EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER**

Press Performance is Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30pm

[Boston, MA – February 8, 2019] – ArtsEmerson is honored to host the return of the award-winning **American Moor** written and performed by **Keith Hamilton Cobb**, an urgent solo work examining the experience and perspective of black men in America through the metaphor of William Shakespeare's character, *Othello*. The 2018 IRNE and Elliot Norton award-winning play received wide-spread acclaim from Boston audiences and critics – **American Moor** plays ArtsEmerson for two weeks of performances, April 10–21, at the Emerson Paramount Center Robert J. Orchard Stage.

Tickets for **American Moor** start at just \$20 and may be purchased online at www.ArtsEmerson.org, by phone at 617.824.8400, or in person at the box office. Group, student, and senior discounts are also available.

American Moor challenges the capacity of theatre to fulfill the human longing to be fully visible and embraced; it's a show that poses the question "who gets to perform Shakespeare?" while exploring the inequities of life as a black actor and life as a black man. *The Boston Globe's* Don Aucoin calls it "a deep-from-the-heart spellbinder [that] is a blisteringly eloquent and penetrating meditation on the ever-urgent matter of race in America." *Photographer credit: C. Hovde Photography*



“Keith's got something timelessly entertaining, powerfully urgent and deeply disruptive to say with *American Moor*,” says ArtsEmerson artistic director David Dower. “In his first appearance in Boston he struck a chord that still reverberates. Just like we've done with Daniel Beaty's *Mr. Joy*, Melinda Lopez' *Mala*, and with companies like Whistler in the Dark, Arlekin Players, and Bedlam, we're delighted to create the opportunity for more people to experience an award-winning production. Keith and Kim have continued to evolve the show since last we saw it here, as well, so even its fans will find surprises that reward a repeat visit. With Oregon Shakespeare Festival's *Othello* having just wrapped a visit to A.R.T., it's a perfect time to confront the complexities of that play, its title character, and the American culture -- Keith is absolutely burning to take us there.”

American Moor was previously presented in Boston in 2017 by O.W.I (Bureau of Theatre) at the BCA Plaza black box theatre.

Listings Information for American Moor

Dates

April 10 - 21, 2019

Venue:

Emerson Paramount Center
Robert J. Orchard Stage
559 Washington Street Boston, MA 02116

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday, April 10, 2019	7:30pm	
Thursday, April 11, 2019	7:30pm	Press Performance
Friday, April 12, 2019	8:00pm	
Saturday, April 13, 2019	2:00pm	
Saturday, April 13, 2019	8:00pm	
Sunday, April 14, 2019	2:00pm	
Tuesday, April 16, 2019	7:30pm	
Wednesday, April 17, 2019	7:30pm	
Thursday, April 18, 2019	7:30pm	
Friday, April 19, 2019	8:00pm	
Saturday, April 20, 2019	2:00pm	
Saturday, April 20, 2019	8:00pm	
Sunday, April 21, 2019	2:00pm	

Ticket Information:

Online: **ArtsEmerson.org**

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: **Paramount Center Box Office**, open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm (also open on Sunday 2/3 beginning at 12noon)

Prices range from \$20-\$80 (subject to change)

Credits

Playwright & Performer: Keith Hamilton Cobb

Director: Kim Weild

Produced by ArtsEmerson in association with Evangeline Morphos

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

About American Moor

American Moor had its first staged reading in March of 2013 under the direction of Brent Buell. It had its first public performance under the direction of Paul Kwame Johnson at Westchester Community College in November of 2013 as a presentation of the WCC Humanities Institute with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Between 2014 and the present it has had multiple presentations contributing to its development. Among the most notable of these were an 11-performance showcase produced by Phoenix Theatre Ensemble at The Wild Project, Manhattan in April of 2015, directed by Paul Kwame Johnson; a production at The Anacostia Playhouse, Washington, DC, in July of 2015, directed by Craig Wallace; and a joint production of O.W.I. (Bureau of Theatre) and Phoenix Theatre Ensemble at Boston Center for the Arts in July of 2017, directed by Kim Weild. The 2015 Phoenix Theatre Ensemble showcase garnered an AUDELCO Award for Outstanding Solo Performance. The Anacostia Playhouse production brought the play to the attention of The Folger Shakespeare Library, the script now a part of the library's permanent collection. The O.W.I./Phoenix production in Boston earned two IRNE (Independent Reviewers of New England) Awards for Best Visiting Production Small Theatre, and Best Visiting Performer Small Theatre, and an Elliot Norton Award (Boston Theater Critics Association) for Outstanding Solo Performance. Most recently **American Moor** was presented on the stage of The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London, England.

AWARDS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **AUDELCO** Award for Outstanding Solo Performance - 2015
- **IRNE** (Independent Reviewers of New England) Awards for Best Visiting Production Small Theatre, and Best Visiting Performer Small Theatre - 2018
- **Elliot Norton Award** (Boston Theater Critics Association) for Outstanding Solo Performance -2018
- The Script of **American Moor** has been inducted into the permanent collection of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. We are dedicated to engaging all communities through stories that reveal and deepen our connection to each other. By cultivating diversity in the arts and in the audience, we ignite public conversation around our most vexing societal challenges as a catalyst for overcoming them. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. We program a full season of performances, film and dialogue that invites each of us to engage in a more contemporary narrative of Boston as a truly global city. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information, visit ArtsEmerson.org.

About 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 3,780 undergraduates and 670 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. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu.

Creative and Cast Biographies

Keith Hamilton Cobb – Playwright & Performer

A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in acting, and most widely known for the roles he has created for television, among those Noah Keefer for ABC's *All My Children*; the galactic mercenary, Tyr Anasazi, for *Gene Rodenberry's Andromeda*; Damon Porter for CBS's *The Young and the Restless*; and Quincy Abrams for the Logo network series *Noah's Arc*, he has also appeared at The Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Denver Theatre Center, The Huntington Theatre Company, The Orlando Shakespeare Festival, The Geva Theatre Center, The Pioneer Theatre, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and on many other regional stages performing both classical and contemporary roles. His life-long love of Shakespeare has seen him cast as Laertes, Tybalt, Tullus Aufidius, Theseus, Oberon, Julius Caesar and other staples of the Poet's canon. The span of his career includes twelve years in Los Angeles where he has guest-starred on multiple television half-hours and dramas including *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Boston Common*, *Suddenly Susan*, *One on One*, *The Twilight Zone*, and *CSI Miami*.

www.keithhamiltoncobb.com, Facebook: @KeithHamiltonCobb, Twitter and Instagram: @KeithHamCobb

Kim Weild – Director

Drama Desk Award nominee, nine NY Innovative Theater award nominations. Her world premiere of Charles Mee's *Soot and Spit* was a NY Times Critic's Pick and received the 2018 NYIT Award for Outstanding Performance Art Production. Weild's work has been seen at: Lincoln Center Theater, Carnegie Hall, Teatro alla Scala, The New York Theater Workshop, Off Broadway's Beckett Theater, Goodspeed Musicals, Primary Stages, New York Live Arts, The Mark Taper Forum, Williamstown Theater Festival, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Boston Center for the Arts among others. In June 2018 she directed Charles Mee's *First Love* at Cherry Lane Theatre with Academy Award nominee, Michael O'Keefe and in the fall of 2018 the world premiere of Liza Birkenmeier's *The Way Out West* commissioned by Carnegie Mellon University. Associate Director Broadway: *Deuce*, *Is He Dead*, *Blithe Spirit*. Writer: *Dusty - London's West End* and the children's book: *How the I Became The We*. Recipient of numerous fellowships/residencies including Foeller Fellow, Kennedy Center, Park Avenue Armory, Shubert Fellow. Two commissions for The High Line. WP Theater alumna. Founding Artistic Director, Our Voices. Faculty Carnegie Mellon. MFA Columbia. Member SDC.

www.kimweild.com, Instagram: @kimweild, Twitter: @mmedirector

Josh Tyson – Actor

Tyson studied at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro receiving a B.F.A. in acting. He stars in the independent feature, *No Retreat*, nominated as Best Feature at the Austin Film Festival and now available on Amazon Prime. He has been a featured player in stage roles and film, including NBC television's *Law and Order*, off-Broadway in *Modotti* at the Acorn Theatre, and *Three Sisters* at The Classical Theatre of Harlem. He is a long-time company member of NYC's Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, and he is pleased to be working with the American Moor creative team once again having been involved in the play's development over the past four years.

Wilson Chin – Set/Lighting Design

Chin has earned acclaim for his designs of new plays, including *Next Fall* (Broadway), the Pulitzer Prize winning *Cost of Living* (Manhattan Theatre Club and Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Pass Over* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Lincoln Center Theater), *Wild Goose Dreams* (La Jolla Playhouse and The Public Theater), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons), *Teenage Dick* (Ma-Yi Theater Company and The Public Theater), *Aubergine* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Lewiston* (Long Wharf Theatre), *My Mañana Comes* (The Playwrights Realm), *Mothers and Sons* (Bucks County Playhouse), *Tiger Style!* (Huntington Theatre and Alliance Theatre) and *The Great Leap* (Seattle Repertory Theatre).

Opera designs include *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lyric Opera of Chicago) and *Eine Florentinische Tragodie / Gianni Schicchi* (Canadian Opera Company, Dora Award winner). Mr. Chin recently designed Spike Lee's film *Pass Over*. @wilsonchindesign

Alan C. Edwards – Lighting Design

Off-Broadway: *Harry Clarke* (The Vineyard), for which he received the Lucille Lortel Award; *Kill Move Paradise* (National Black Theatre) [Drama Desk Award nominee]. **Regional:** *Lights Out: Nat King Cole* (People's Light, Geffen); *Dutchman*, *Antigone*, *Macbeth*, *The Tempest* (Classical Theatre of Harlem); *Twisted Melodies*(Centerstage Baltimore); *Henry IV Part 2*, *Fingersmith* (OSF); *Stagger Lee* (Dallas Theatre Center); *We Are Proud To Present* (The Guthrie); *Man of La Mancha* (Westport Playhouse); *Sweeney Todd* (Connecticut Rep); Jeremy McQueen's *Madiba* (The Kennedy Center). **Broadway:** *The Testament of Mary* (Assoc. to Jennifer Tipton). His work has been seen at The Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theatre Center, Center Stage Baltimore, Asolo Rep, Yale Rep, Cleveland Play House, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Miami New Drama, Berkshire Theatre Group, Chautauqua Theatre Company, People's Light, Madison Opera, Mill City Opera and the Kennedy Center. He received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama. www.alancedwards.com

Christian Frederickson – Sound Design

Christian Frederickson is a violist, composer, and sound designer who specializes in live music performance for theater and dance. He was a founding member and one of the principal songwriters of the Louisville, KY-based instrumental band Rachel's, who released 6 albums on Quarterstick Records between 1995 and 2003. As a solo artist, Frederickson has released five albums since 2011 and has played concerts of his own music in New York City, Seattle, Louisville, Nashville, and Zilina, Slovakia. Since moving to New York in 2004, Frederickson has worked primarily in theater and dance at a long list of theaters, notably the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Classic Stage Company, The Public Theater, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, La MaMa, Abingdon, Atlantic Stage 2, as well as regional theaters, primarily Actor's Theatre of Louisville where he has worked on 17 productions and is a regular designer at the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Frederickson was trained as a classical musician, and holds degrees from The Peabody Conservatory and The Juilliard School. www.christianfrederickson.com

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