

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Media contact: Darren DeLuca
darren.deluca@gmail.com
603-489-7624

**ARTSEMERSON WELCOMES THE U.S. PREMIERE OF
HAMNET
BY IRELAND'S DEAD CENTRE
SHAKESPEARE'S ONLY SON TAKES CENTER STAGE**

**SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 7, 2018
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER, ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE
TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

The Press Performance is Friday, September 21, 2018 at 8:00pm
email darren.deluca@gmail.com for tickets, more information, images, and select interviews

[Boston, MA – July 20, 2018] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, proudly welcomes Dead Centre's (Ireland) **Hamnet**, co-directed and co-written by Bush Moukarzel and Ben Kidd. A multimedia theatre experience, **Hamnet** brings Shakespeare's only son, who died at age 11 without knowing his famous father, to the stage. A riveting performance carried chiefly by a solo young actor confronts what it means—and what it costs—to be great. The production runs three weeks at the Emerson Paramount Center's Robert J. Orchard Stage, located at 559 Washington Street in downtown Boston. Tickets range from \$20-\$80, and may be purchased online at www.ArtsEmerson.org, by phone at 617.824.8400, or in person at the box office. Student, senior and group discounts are available.

ArtsEmerson and Dead Centre will provide Boston audiences a final chance to see Ollie West perform in the role of 11 year old Hamnet who *The Guardian* calls "riveting [and] completely poised". The companies celebrate West's farewell performance as well as welcoming the young and talented Aran Murphy to take over the role of Hamnet in the final week of performances at the Emerson Paramount Center.



Photo credit: Gianmarco Bresadola

"Hamnet is an entirely ArtsEmerson show in the way it upends convention," shares ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower. "It's a completely surprising, and deeply moving, contribution to the world of Shakespeare. In focusing on his son, a whole new portrait of the

man emerges. And it's audacious, entrusting this emotionally complex story to the care of its young star. Dead Centre is a fresh and rising voice out of Ireland that is emerging on the world stage with this piece. It makes a perfect opening to our 9th season."

About Hamnet

Shakespeare's only son takes center stage. William Shakespeare had one son: Hamnet. While William was away working in London, Hamnet died at 11 years old without ever knowing his famous father. How do our dreams impact our families? Do adults really have it all figured out? Or are we blind to what we could have done better until it's too late? In **Hamnet**, a tour-de-force performance from a young actor confronts what it means—and what it costs—to be great, and how living in the shadow of that greatness can keep one in the dark. In this moving, meticulous, multimedia wonder, ambition clashes with family responsibilities in a way that rivals the stakes of a great Shakespearean tragedy. Running time: 60 minutes.

About Dead Centre

Dead Centre was founded by Bush Moukarzel and Ben Kidd in Dublin in 2012. Their first project **Souvenir** was created for Dublin Fringe Festival 2012 with guest performances following in 2013 in London and New York. **LIPPY** premiered in 2013 in Dublin and has since travelled to New York, Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Young Vic in London, and Schaubühne in Berlin. It was winner of the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Production, a Fringe First, a Herald Angel, a Total Theatre Award and two OBI Awards. Chekhov's First Play premiered in late 2015, and has played in the Schaubühne, Mayfest (Bristol), Baltoscandal, TnBa (Bordeaux), Theatre Vidy and Brisbane Festival. Their most recent project, **Hamnet**, premiered at Schaubühne in F.I.N.D. Festival in April 2017.

Hamnet Performance Schedule

Thursday, September 20, 2018	7:30pm	
Friday, September 21, 2018	8:00pm	Press Performance
Saturday, September 22, 2018	8:00pm	
Sunday, September 23, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday, September 25, 2018	7:30pm	
Wednesday, September 26, 2018	7:30pm	
Friday, September 28, 2018	8:00pm	
Saturday, September 29, 2018	8:00pm	
Sunday, September 30, 2018	2:00pm	
Wednesday, October 3, 2018	7:30pm	
Thursday, October 4, 2018	7:30pm	
Saturday, October 6, 2018	8:00pm	
Sunday, October 7, 2018	2:00pm	

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

Cast

Ollie West (Hamnet) Ollie first worked with Dead Centre on the development of **Chekhov's First Play** when he was eleven. When Bush decided not to cast a child for the full production, he made a promise that they would work together some day. The following year he wrote **Hamnet** for Ollie. They premiered at the Find Festival at the Schaubühne in Berlin and toured to Noorderzon Festival, Holland, Tramway in Glasgow, Dublin Theatre Festival and Southbank Centre in London. He was nominated for Best Actor in the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2018.

Aran Murphy (Hamnet) This is Aran Murphy's first professional play. He loves acting and football, he supports Liverpool.

Creative Team

Bush Moukarzel

Master of Philosophy in Psychoanalytic Studies at Trinity College Dublin. Co-artistic director and co-founder of the Irish theatre group Dead Centre. Author, director and actor in various Dead Centre productions such as **Souvenir** (Dublin Fringe Festival, 2012) and **LIPPY** (Dublin Fringe Festival, 2013), both by Bush Moukarzel, **(S)quark!** (New Theatre, Dublin, 2013), **Chekhov's First Play** based on Anto Chekhov (Dublin Theatre Festival, 2015) and **Hamnet** based on William Shakespeare, Ben Kidd and Bush Moukarzel (Co-Production of Dead Centre and Abbey Theatre, Schaubühne, 2017). He worked with theatre companies such as Painted Filly Theatre, Rough Magic Theatre and Druid Theatre Company and toured extensively with the Pan Pan theatre company performing in **Oedipus Loves You** by Simon Doyle and Gavin Quinn (Dublin Theatre Festival, 2005), **The Idiots** by Lars von Trier (Dublin International Theatre Festival, 2007), **The Crumb Trail** by Gina Moxley (Forum Freies Theater Düsseldorf, 2008) and **The Rehearsal: Playing the Dane** after William Shakespeare (Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival, 2010). He appeared in various film and television productions such as **When Harvey Met Bob** (Direction: Nicholas Renton, 2010), **Ripper Street** (Direction: Tom Shankland, 2012), **Foyle's War** (Direction: Stuart Orme, 2013), **Crisis Eile: Das Boot** (Direction: Charlie McCarthy, 2013) and **A Thousand Times Good Night** (Direction: Erik Poppe, 2013).

Ben Kidd

Ben is co-artistic director and co-founder of the Irish theatre group Dead Centre. Co-author and co-director of various Dead Centre productions such as **LIPPY** (Dublin Fringe Festival, 2013), **Chekhov's First Play** (Dublin Theatre Festival, 2015) and **Hamnet** (2017, a co-production of Dead Centre and Abbey Theatre). Other productions as a director include **Spring Awakening** by Frank Wedekind in a new adaptation by Anya Reis (Headlong Theatre, UK, 2014) and **In the Night Time** by Nina Segal (Gate Theatre, London, 2016).

Hamnet Creative Credits

Performers: Ollie West and Aran Murphy
Directors: Bush Moukarzel and Ben Kidd
Producer: Aisling Ormonde
Text: Bush Moukarzel, Ben Kidd and William Shakespeare
Stage Designer: Andrew Clancy
Costume Designer: Grace O Hara
Lighting Designer: Stephen Dodd
Sound Designer: Kevin Gleeson
Video: Jose Miguel Jimenez
Dramaturg: Michael West

Funded in part by Culture Ireland.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. It is dedicated to engaging *all* communities through stories that reveal and deepen connections to each other. By cultivating diversity in the art *and* in the audience, ArtsEmerson ignites public conversation around the most vexing societal challenges as a catalyst for overcoming them. ArtsEmerson is committed to welcoming everyone into its landmark venues, located in Boston's downtown Theatre District, for a diverse program of contemporary theatre, film, and music from around the city and around the world. In addition, ArtsEmerson engages in a range of community partnerships and produces a series of initiatives that make visible the rich diversity of cultural activity in the region. These programs are core to ArtsEmerson's mission and expresses commitment to civic responsibility to create a more cohesive society. 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.

#