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## ArtsEmerson Announces the Boston Debut Screening of **SEMBENE!**

With Special Post-Show Discussion with the Director

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Friday, March 18, 2016, 7PM  
Bright Family Screening Room  
at the Emerson/Paramount Center, Boston

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Free, Open to the Public, with RSVP

*Email for high resolution images and interviews.*

[BOSTON, MA – February 18, 2016] ArtsEmerson, in collaboration with other Emerson College departments, announces the Boston debut film screening of *Sembene!*, the documentary about Ousmane Sembene, considered the father of African cinema and creator of the film *Le noire de...* (*Black Girl*). The screening takes place at the Bright Family Screening Room at the Emerson/Paramount Center, located at 559 Washington Street, in Boston’s historic theatre district. Tickets are free with RSVP by calling 617.824.8400 or online at [www.artsemerson.org](http://www.artsemerson.org), on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is a 4-ticket limit per person. Following the screening of *Sembene!*, Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins and Dr. Samba Gadjigo will hold an open discussion/q&a.



### About Sembene!

In 1952, Ousmane Sembene, a dockworker and fifth-grade dropout from Senegal, began dreaming an impossible dream: to become the storyteller for a new Africa. *Sembene!* tells the remarkable, true story of the father of African cinema, the self-taught novelist and filmmaker who fought, against enormous odds, a 50-year battle to return African stories to Africans. *Sembene!* is told through the experiences of the man who knew him best, colleague and biographer Samba Gadjigo. A true-life epic, featuring rare archival footage and more than 100 hours of exclusive materials, Gadjigo brings *Sembene's* story – one of an ordinary man transforming himself into a fearless spokesperson for the marginalized, becoming a hero--to millions.

Starring Ousmane Sembene | Directed by Jason Silverman and Samba Gadjigo  
Format: Blu-ray | Running time: 82 minutes  
Click [here](#) to view the video trailer.

The following departments at Emerson College are co-sponsors of this screening/event:

ArtsEmerson/Office of the Arts, Office of the President, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Academic Affairs, Internationalization & Global Engagement, Institute of Liberal Arts, Visual and Media Arts, Writing, Literature and Publishing, and RTNDA (The Radio Television Digital News Association).

### **About Dr. Samba Gadjigo**

Samba Gadjigo is Professor of French and former Head of the French Department at Mount Holyoke College. He is the world's foremost expert on the life and work of Ousmane Sembene. He is the author of Sembene's official biography, *Ousmane Sembene: The Making of A Militant Artist; Ecole blanche, Afrique noir: L'image de l'école coloniale dans le roman africain francophone*; editor of *Ousmane Sembene: Dialogue with Critics and Writers*, and co-editor of *Un viatique pour l'éternité : hommage à Ousmane Sembène*. He is the director of the documentary *Making of Moolaade* and co-director of ***Sembene!*** an official selection for Sundance 2015 International Documentary Competition. In addition to his course offerings in the French department, Gadjigo is a member of the Mount Holyoke College African American and African Studies program faculty.

### **About Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins**

Dr. Claire Andrade-Watkins is an award-winning historian and filmmaker. She is Professor of Africana and Postcolonial Media Studies at the Institute for Liberal Arts & Interdisciplinary Studies at Emerson College; a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University; and a Fellow at the Swearer Center for Public Service. Her scholarship focuses on French and Portuguese-speaking African cinema. She has published in *Society for Visual Anthropology*, *Research in African Literature*, *The Independent Film and Video Monthly*, *American Historical Review*, and *CinémAction*. Her essays on Ousmane Sembene and his work have appeared in *Ousmane Sembene: Dialogue with Critics and Writers* and *Un viatique pour l'éternité : Hommage à Ousmane Sembène*. Her first feature film, *Some Kind of Funny Porto Rican?": A Cape Verdean American Story* was released in 2006.

### **About ArtsEmerson**

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization of the Office of the Arts at Emerson College. Through its international programming and local community partnerships ArtsEmerson serves the city of Boston, the Emerson community (students, faculty and staff), and the global field of performance practice. Founded in 2010, the same year that the U.S. Census confirmed Boston as a majority-minority city, ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that embraces and reflects the changing demographics of the City of Boston. ArtsEmerson operates from the core belief that the arts are for everyone. For more information on ArtsEmerson, visit [www.artsemerson.org](http://www.artsemerson.org).

### **ArtsEmerson's History**

ArtsEmerson aims to address gaps in Boston's cultural landscape by putting the world on stage and inviting diverse audiences from across the region into its historic downtown venues. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard under the auspices of Emerson College, ArtsEmerson quickly established a reputation for putting great work from diverse cultures on its stages—work that emanates from the language of theater, yet pushes the boundaries into dance, music, and opera.

ArtsEmerson's first seasons focused on building a world-class cultural institution that achieved visibility and a leadership role in the city in short order. By 2012, *Boston Magazine* named ArtsEmerson the Best Theatre in Boston. By December of 2013, WBUR critic Ed Seigel cited in his annual "Best of" round-up, saying: "In four short years, [they] have established ArtsEmerson as one of the most important cultural institutions in New England." In 2015, ArtsEmerson repeated as Boston Magazine's Best Theatre in Boston, this time with a

special citation for our dual focus on quality programming and deep community involvement. ArtsEmerson continues to evolve its practice on both pillars: artistic excellence and civic impact, committed to building an audience for the work that reflects the diversity of Boston’s demographics, and to establishing ArtsEmerson as an active civic partner in Boston.

In 2015 Orchard moved into the role of Creative Consultant. Currently ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower, Creative Director, Polly Carl, and Managing Director, David Howse. This shared leadership model reflects the organization’s values — that multiple voices are essential to leading a 21<sup>st</sup> century arts organization.

### **About Emerson College**

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, with sites in the Netherlands and Los Angeles, 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 3,750 undergraduates and 750 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 study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, London, China and the Czech Republic. The College has an active network of 32,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communications and the arts. For more information, visit [emerson.edu](http://emerson.edu).

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