

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OUR SECRETS

A TRAGICOMIC EXAMINATION OF THE SINISTER CULTURE
OF MASS SURVEILLANCE

BY HUNGARY'S BÉLA PINTÉR AND COMPANY
WRITTEN BY, DIRECTED BY, AND STARRING BÉLA PINTÉR

IN BOSTON JANUARY 19 THROUGH 22, 2017
EMERSON/PARAMOUNT CENTER'S
ROBERT J. ORCHARD THEATRE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The press performance is Thursday, January 19, at 7:30PM.

Email for press tickets, high resolution images, and interviews.

[Boston, MA – December 9, 2016—updated January 17, 2017] Tickets for Béla Pintér and Company's **Our Secrets** are now on sale. Written and directed by one of Hungary's most prestigious theater artists Bela Pinter, **Our Secrets** explores questions of government surveillance, personal freedoms, and the friction between the two. This special production is co-presented with The Baryshnikov Arts Center and Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center for the Arts and takes place at the at the Emerson/Paramount Center's Robert J. Orchard Stage, located at 559 Washington Street in Boston's historic theatre district. Tickets range from \$10 to \$80 and may be purchased online at www.artsemerson.org or by calling 617.824.8400. Package, group, student, and senior discounts are available. Special "city getaway" hotel/theatre packages are available including overnight accommodations at the Godfrey Hotel Boston. Performed in Hungarian with English supertitles, **Our Secrets** is rated MA for Mature Audiences, as it contains adult language and graphic sexual content.



In 2015, ArtsEmerson Co-Artistic Director David Dower, along with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Founder/Artistic Director of Barishnikov Arts Center in New York first saw **Our Secrets** in Budapest, in consideration of bringing it state-side. According to Baryshnikov, "Béla Pintér is one of the foremost theater makers in Hungary today. **Our Secrets** is a dark and powerful piece, examining the country's politics of 35 years

ago and its staggering resonance with today’s global climate. It is a singular work and the opportunity to share it with U.S. audiences is nothing short of extraordinary.”

About Our Secrets

From George Orwell’s *1984* to Edward Snowden, mass surveillance and its devastating consequences are not just a fictional cautionary tale but are an everyday reality all over the world— whether it be Budapest or America. Today, under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s increasingly nationalist government, Hungary’s cultural scene has been rocked by a rapid return to government control of artistic choice. Director/playwright Béla Pintér and Company have created contemporary productions based on critical and ironic observations of Hungarian society, and *Our Secrets* may be their most poignant work yet.

Its 1980 in Soviet-era Hungary. In a dance hall, a musician confesses his private sexual desire for his seven-year-old step-daughter. And his government is taping his every word. Under threat of being exposed as a pedophile, he is pressured into becoming a government informant which leads to the arrest and murder of his best friend, the head of an underground, anti-Communism newspaper. **Our Secrets** is an epic tale combining folk music, dance, staggering ensemble work and no-holds-barred theatricality to tell a story of what it is like when there is no such thing as a right to privacy, and your deepest secrets are turned against you.

“While the acting styles, music and storytelling are clearly out of Central Europe,” says ArtsEmerson co-artistic director David Dower, “there are moments that this play seem ‘ripped from the headlines’ in the U.S. It makes for an exhilarating mix: the immediacy of our American moment delivered through the lens of another culture. I couldn’t have anticipated the timeliness of this piece, but we are proud to create this particular collision of art and politics.”

Leadership support for the U.S. Tour of Our Secrets provided by the Trust for Mutual Understanding.
Click [here](#) to view the video trailer.

Our Secrets Performance Schedule

Thursday, January 19, 2017	7:30PM	Press Performance
Friday, January 20, 2017	8PM	
Saturday, January 21, 2017	8PM	
Sunday, January 22, 2017	2PM	

Creative Credits

Written and directed by Béla Pintér

Cast:

<u>Character</u>	<u>Actor</u>
István Balla Bán	Zoltán Friedenthal
Dr. Elvira Szádeczky, Comrade Pánczél	Eszter Csákányi
Kata	Hella Roszik
Timike	Éva Enyedi
Bea Zakariás	Zsófia Szamosi
Imre Tatár	Béla Pintér
Szujó, Waiter, Pogány	Szabolcs Thuróczy

Ferenc Tatár, Ági
Borbíró
Konkoly
Musicians:
Gábor Pelva
György Póta
Hella Roszik

Angéla Stefanovics
György Póta
Gábor Pelva

violin, viola, guitar
synthesizer, double-bass, viola
violin

About Béla Pintér and Company

The company was founded in 1998 under the leadership of Béla Pintér, who stages his own plays and performs in them as an actor. It is the artists' intention to create contemporary productions based on critical-ironic observations of society and themselves. The surreal world which generally characterizes their productions is constructed from a combination of reality and dream, of authentic and kitsch, and from sundry elements of Hungarian culture. Thanks to their success, the company is nowadays regarded as one of the most significant and most inventive creative workshops. For more information

The 2016-2017 ArtsEmerson Stage Season

Our Secrets is the sixth production in the 2016/17 ArtsEmerson Season. The season continues with **The Beauty Queen of Leenane** from Ireland's Druid Theatre Company, **Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower: A Concert Performance** with Toshi Reagon (Mar 23-26, 2017), **17 Border Crossings** by Thaddeus Phillips, and **How To Be A Rock Critic** by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen (May 11-21, 2017).

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization of the Office of the Arts at Emerson College, and 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. The organization 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. In 2015, Orchard moved into the role of Creative Consultant. Currently ArtsEmerson is led by Co-Artistic Directors, David Dower and P. Carl, and Executive Director, David Howse. This shared leadership model reflects the organization's values — that multiple voices are essential to leading a 21st century arts organization. Click [here](#) for more information.

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. Click [here](#) for information. ###