



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ARTSEMERSON WELCOMES CHICAGO'S MANUAL CINEMA'S  
*ADA/AVA*  
ONE WEEK ONLY | JANUARY 10-14, 2018  
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER'S ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

*The Press Performance for Ada/Ava is January 10, 2018 at 7:30pm*  
email [ami@motormmm.com](mailto:ami@motormmm.com) for tickets, more information, images, and select interviews

**[Boston, MA—December 7, 2017]** ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, proudly welcomes Chicago-based Manual Cinema's **Ada/Ava** - a tale of life and death between twin sisters tending a New England lighthouse – told through a multi-media artistic lens of live-action cinema, shadow puppetry and theatre. The production runs for one week only, January 10 through 14, 2018 at the Emerson Paramount Center's Robert J. Orchard Stage, located at 559 Washington Street in Downtown Boston. Tickets range from \$20-90, and may be purchased online at [www.ArtsEmerson.org](http://www.ArtsEmerson.org), by phone at 617.824.8400, or in person at the box office. Student, senior and group discounts are available.



Click here to view the video trailer: <https://youtu.be/FC0i7o-giH0>

Delightfully gothic, beautiful and emotionally complex, **Ada/Ava** utilizes special effect techniques from the early age of cinema — shadow puppetry, live-action silhouettes and overhead projection — to conjure a magic spell of multimedia storytelling, complete with a live musical score. Driven by innovation, the masterful technicians of Chicago-based Manual Cinema are one of the hottest rising ensembles in America, with audiences marveling at their creations even as their methods are plainly revealed.

Beside a lighthouse somewhere on the New England coastline, twin sisters tend to the tower's guiding light and to each other, until Ava unexpectedly dies. Here, the unrestrained imagination moves the melancholy act of mourning through of journey across the thresholds of life and death.

"Manual Cinema is one of the fastest rising young companies in the country at the moment," shares ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower, "and we're delighted to be letting Boston audiences in on the fun. **Ada/Ava** is actually part of a cluster of work this season that explores the startling versatility and imagination of the many artists around the world working in the intersection of performance and film. Alongside this season's **Torrey Pines** and **In Cold Blood**, and in the tradition of **Kiss & Cry** and **Historia de Amor**, these Chicago artists are blurring the lines between the disciplines in ways that surprise and charm in equal measure. Plus, with a story set in a lighthouse, Manual Cinema's **Ada/Ava** tells a tale tailor made for New England audiences."

### **Ada/Ava: Creative Credits**

Directed by: Drew Dir  
Score and Sound Design by: Kyle Vegter and Ben Kauffman  
Designed by: Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, and Julia Miller  
Additional Drums, Synthesizer, and Piano by: Michael Hilger  
Wigs and Costumes by: Mieka van der Ploeg  
Mask Design by: Julia Miller  
Production Manager/Sound Engineer: Mike Usrey  
Company/Stage Manager: Shelby Glasgow

### **Cast**

Ada/Puppeteer: Julia Miller  
Ava/Puppeteer: Lizi Breit  
Puppeteer: Drew Dir  
Puppeteer: Sam Deutsch  
Puppeteer: Sarah Fornace  
Vocals/Clarinet/Live Sound Effects: Maren Celest  
Synthesizer/Guitar: Ben Kauffman  
Cello/Keyboard: Alexander Ellsworth

### **Ada/Ava: Performance Schedule**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018	7:30pm	Press Performance
Thursday, January 11, 2018	7:30pm	
Friday, January 12, 2018	8:00pm	
Saturday, January 13, 2018	2:00pm	
Saturday, January 13, 2018	8:00pm	
Sunday, January 14, 2018	2:00pm	

### **About Manual Cinema**

Manual Cinema is a performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive visual stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality. To date Manual Cinema has created five original feature length live cinematic shadow puppet shows (*Lula Del Ray*, *ADA/AVA*, *Mementos Mori*, *My Soul's Shadow*, *The Magic City*); a live cinematic contemporary dance show created for family audiences in collaboration with Hubbard Street

Dance and the choreographer Robyn Mineko Williams (*Mariko's Magical Mix*); an original site-specific installations (*La Celestina*); an original adaptation of *Hansel & Gretel* created for the Belgian Royal Opera; music videos for Sony Masterworks, Gabriel Kahane, three time Grammy Award-winning eighth blackbird, and *New York Times* best-selling author Reif Larson; a live non-fiction piece for *Pop-Up Magazine*; a self-produced short film (*Chicagoland*); a museum exhibit created in collaboration with the Chicago History Museum (*The Secret Lives of Objects*) a collection of cinematic shorts in collaboration with poet Zachary Schomburg and string quartet Chicago Q Ensemble (*FJORDS*); and live cinematic puppet adaptations of StoryCorps stories (*Show & Tell*).

<http://manualcinema.com/company/>

### **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](http://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](http://emerson.edu).

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