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Contact: Ami Bennitt

617.797.8267

[ami@motormmm.com](mailto:ami@motormmm.com)

*Email for more information, high resolution images, and interviews*

**ARTSEMERSON WELCOMES CHILE'S MOST ACCLAIMED  
PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR OF THE LAST TWO DECADES**

***KISS***

**WRITTEN BY GUILLERMO CALDERON; DIRECTED BY DAVID DOWER**

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**OCTOBER 26 – NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

**EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER'S JACKIE LIEBERGOTT BLACK BOX, BOSTON**

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**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

[Boston, MA—September 18, 2017] ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, proudly announces *Kiss*, the dramatic comedy by Guillermo Calderón, Chile's most acclaimed playwright/director of the last two decades. Through the voice of young, earnest, committed protagonists, *Kiss* accentuates the dangers the comfortably distancing ourselves from the problems of others. Directed by ArtsEmerson's co-artistic director David Dower, *Kiss*'s creative team of actors and designers are comprised of talent from Emerson College.

*Kiss* will be performed at the Emerson Paramount Center's Jackie Liebergott Black Box, located at 559 Washington Street in Boston's downtown theatre district. Tickets, on sale now, are \$60 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. Package, group, student, and senior discounts are available.



When a young, aspirational theatre troupe discovers and performs what they believe is a Syrian soap opera, they come to realize just how much they got wrong. *Kiss* is a brilliant play-within-a-play that shows how misunderstanding cultural cues can reveal blind spots you never knew you had. Chilean playwright and director Guillermo Calderón brings his masterful sensibility to this intense, tightly wound new production where naiveté can turn out to be the kiss of death.

“Kiss is a profound piece of writing,” says ArtsEmerson co-artistic director P. Carl, “from Chilean born playwright Guillermo Calderón about what happens when the most well-intentioned American artists misinterpret a play from Syria. It gets at the heart of the thorny questions around cultural appropriation that divide us in our creative and political lives. It asks if we truly inhabit realities that are not our own?”

“Guillermo's written a sneaky play,” shares director David Dower, “that on the one hand celebrates the power of theater to change the world, and on the other acts like a cautionary tale for young artists wielding that power. I was immediately drawn to the notion of staging the play with student actors from Emerson College, who I see every day here on our campus, and who are filled with the same hope and resolve as Guillermo's characters. I am working again with the same design team that created *Mr. Joy* and *Mala* with me for ArtsEmerson, and we're looking forward to giving both the company and the audience an unforgettable ride.”

### **Kiss Creative Credits**

Playwright	Guillermo Calderon
Director	David Dower
Scenic Designer	Kris Holmes
Assistant Director	Lindsey Hopper
Costume Designer	Tyler Kinney
Lighting Designer	Scott Pinkney
Projections Designer	Ari Herzig
Sound Designer	Arshan Gailus

### **Kiss Performance Schedule**

Thursday, October 26, 2017	7:30pm
Friday, October 27, 2017	8:00pm
Saturday, October 28, 2017	8:00pm
Sunday, October 29, 2017	2:00pm
Thursday, November 2, 2017	7:30pm
Friday, November 3, 2017	8:00pm
Saturday, November 4, 2017	2:00pm
Saturday, November 4, 2017	8:00pm
Sunday, November 5, 2017	2:00pm
Thursday, November 9, 2017	7:30pm
Friday, November 10, 2017	8:00pm
Saturday, November 11, 2017	2:00pm
Saturday, November 11, 2017	8:00pm
Sunday, November 12, 2017	2:00pm
Thursday, November 16, 2017	7:30pm
Friday, November 17, 2017	8:00pm
Saturday, November 18, 2017	2:00pm
Saturday, November 18, 2017	8:00pm
Sunday, November 19, 2017	2:00pm

### **About Playwright Guillermo Calderón**

Guillermo Calderón (Santiago, Chile, 1971) is a screenwriter, playwright and theater director based the USA. His plays include *Neva*, *Diciembre*, *Clase*, *Villa*, *Speech*, *Quake*, *Escuela*, *Kiss*, and *Goldrausch*. Calderón's productions have toured extensively through South America, North America, and Europe. He has been commissioned to write and direct by the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Theater Basel, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, the Royal Court Theater, Center Theater Group, and the Public Theater in New York City, where he also directed *Neva*. His co-written screenplay *Violeta Went to Heaven* won the World Cinema Jury Prize for Drama at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. He co-wrote *The Club*, directed by Pablo Larrain, winner of the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival 2015, and nominated for the Golden Globes in the Foreign Language category. The script won the Silver plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival. He wrote the script for *Neruda*, directed by Pablo Larraín, presented at the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs (The Director's Fortnight) during Cannes Film Festival 2016. He recently directed his play *Villa* in New York City, produced by The Play Company. His new play *B* will be produced at the Royal Court Theater in September 2017.

### **About Director David Dower**

David Dower joined ArtsEmerson as director of artistic programs in 2012 and was named co-artistic director in 2015. He is also co-founder of and a contributing editor to HowlRound. Prior, he served as associate artistic director of Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.); and founded and served as artistic director of The Z Space Studio and co-founded and served as co-artistic director of The Z Collective (San Francisco, CA). With ArtsEmerson he directed Daniel Beaty's *Mr. Joy* and *Breath and Imagination*, Melinda Lopez's *Mala*, *Baritones UnBound*, and Maurice Hines's *Tappin' Through Life*. Dower earned the Inclusive Excellence Award (Emerson College); was a Gerbode Fellow (Gerbode Foundation); was named "MVP of Bay Area Theater" (*San Francisco Chronicle*); and was a Policy Fellow (National Endowment for the Arts). He studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, American University (Washington, D.C.) and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Originally from Westerly, RI, David resides in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Twitter: @ddower

### **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 Co-Artistic Directors, David Dower and P. Carl, and Executive Director, David Howse. This shared leadership model reflects the organization's values — that diverse perspectives are essential to leading a 21st century arts organization. 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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