

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ami Bennett 617-797-8267, [ami@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:ami@ashmontmedia.com)



**ArtsEmerson Announces  
MR. JOY  
Written by Daniel Beaty, Directed by David Dower  
Featuring Tangela Large  
September 22 Through October 18, 2015  
Emerson/Jackie Liebergott Black Box, Boston**

*[The press performance is Thursday, September 24, 7PM. Click here to RSVP.](#)*

[BOSTON, MA – August 31, 2015] ArtsEmerson, under the leadership of Polly Carl, David Dower, and David Howse, announces **Mr. Joy**, written by Daniel Beaty, directed by David Dower, and featuring Tangela Large. **Mr. Joy**, the second production in the playwright’s three-season artist residency at Emerson College, performs September 22 through October 18, 2015 at the Emerson/Jackie Liebergott Black Box located in the Emerson/Paramount Center at 559 Washington Street in Boston’s historic theatre district. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling 617.824.8400 or online at [www.artsemerson.org](http://www.artsemerson.org). Group, student, and senior discounts are available. And, in the tradition of creating opportunities for local artists, for **Mr. Joy**, ArtsEmerson will feature local artists as “opening acts” a half-hour before select performances (details to be announced shortly).



*Tangela Large in Mr. Joy. Photos by Kristi Jan Hoover.*

**About Mr. Joy**

What happened to **Mr. Joy**? A Harlem community is shaken when Mr. Joy, a Chinese immigrant whose shoe repair shop has been a neighborhood pillar for decades, is the victim of an attack. Through the lens of Mr. Joy's customers, from the bubbly eleven-year-old Clarissa (who captured everyone's hearts in Daniel Beaty's **Emergency**) to the sincere and savvy self-described “gangsta granny” Bessie, we learn the profound yet unassuming impact the shop owner has had on each of their lives. Playwright and ArtsEmerson Artist-in-Residence Daniel Beaty (**Breath & Imagination, Emergency**) returns with another moving reflection on transforming pain into power, this time through the virtuosic performance by acclaimed actress Tangela Large. A poignant, funny and stirring solo piece, **Mr. Joy** invites us to consider how we respond to violence as individuals and as a community, and the power of the invisible ties that bind us all.

"The more I read—in the news, in my social media timelines, in current literature," says David Dower, Artistic Director/Mr. Joy Director, "the deeper I slide into an unraveling sense of the world. What is happening? Who, finally, are we? How did it come to this? Or are we just awakening to truths that have ever been so? I am so grateful for Daniel Beaty's work in the midst of all of it. It's on point. It's full of humor and notes of grace. And he's also calling us to dream, to find our higher selves, our shared purpose as a community. And it's that urgency that I am comforted by, and accountable to as an artist."

"Part of Daniel's approach as a playwright is to take on challenging issues through humor and hope," says Polly Carl, Creative Director. "You will definitely be laughing and falling in love with these characters while recognizing their stories as embedded in the struggles of our time."

"ArtsEmerson's work in its entirety is focused on helping us understand our world and our place in it," says David Howse, Managing Director. "In opening with **Mr. Joy** we invite the entire Boston community to begin a season-long conversation with us that explores personal and civic transformation through the shared experience of art."...

Click [here](#) to view the Mr. Joy trailer.

Click [here](#) to view the video of Daniel Beaty discussing Mr. Joy.

### **Mr. Joy**

September 22 through October 18, 2015

Emerson/Jackie Liebergott Black Box at the Emerson/Paramount Center

Written by Daniel Beaty

Directed by David Dower

Featuring Tangelia Large

Setting Consultant: Kris Holmes

Costume Design: Yu Su

Lighting Design: Scott Pinkney

Sound Design: Lindsay Jones

Associate Sound Design: GW Rodriguez

Projection Design: Josh Lehrer

Prop Design: Tony Ferrieri

Stage Manager: Tareena Wimbish

### **Performance Schedule:**

Tuesday, September 22, 2015	7:30PM	
Wednesday, September 23, 2015	7:30PM	
Thursday, September 24, 2015	7PM	
Friday, September 25, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Saturday, September 26, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Sunday, September 27, 2015	2PM	
Wednesday, September 30, 2015	7:30PM	
Thursday, October 1, 2015	7:30PM	
Friday, October 2, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Saturday, October 3, 2015	2PM	
Saturday, October 3, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Sunday, October 4, 2015	2PM	

Wednesday, October 7, 2015	7:30PM	
Thursday, October 8, 2015	7:30PM	
Friday, October 9, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Saturday, October 10, 2015	2PM	
Saturday, October 10, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Sunday, October 11, 2015	2PM	

Wednesday, October 14, 2015	7:30PM	
Thursday, October 15, 2015	7:30PM	
Friday, October 16, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Saturday, October 17, 2015	2PM	
Saturday, October 17, 2015	8PM	post-performance lobby chat
Sunday, October 18, 2015	2PM	

### About the Artists

**Daniel Beaty** is an award-winning actor, singer, writer and motivational speaker. His critically acclaimed plays *Through the Night*, *Emergency*, *Mr. Joy*, and *The Tallest Tree in the Forest - Paul Robeson*, have been performed at venues ranging from Lincoln Center to the White House, and garnered numerous awards including an Obie Award for writing and performance and two NAACP Theatre Awards. Beaty has worked throughout the United States, Europe, and Africa, speaking and performing on programs with luminaries such as Deepak Chopra, Hill Harper, Jill Scott, Donnie McClurkin, and Ruby Dee. In fall 2013, Beaty launched a nationwide initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg and Ford Foundations (among others) that uses the tools of storytelling to help individuals and communities heal from trauma. He holds a BA with Honors in English and Music from Yale University and an MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. For more information visit [www.danielbeaty.com](http://www.danielbeaty.com).

**Tangela Large** was born and raised in East Point, GA, and was most recently seen as Esther in Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* (Chautauqua Institution). Other regional credits include *Serial Black Face* (Long Warf), *Mr. Joy* (City Theatre), *Orpheus Descending* (Intiman Theatre), *Pen/Man/Ship* at the (Magic Theatre), and *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike* (Trinity Rep) which she was nominated for a Motif Award for *Best Supporting Actress*. Tangela earned her MFA in Acting from Brown University in 2014.

**David Dower**, director, is ArtsEmerson's Artistic Director (a role he assumed in January, 2015) and also directed Daniel Beaty's *Breath & Imagination* last season. He also directed the ArtsEmerson's productions of Maurice Hines *Tappin' Through Life* and Marc Kudisch's *Baritones Unbound*, which premiered at ArtsEmerson in 2013 and will run at Chicago's Royal George Theater this December. Before joining ArtsEmerson in the spring of 2012 as Director of Artistic Programs, he spent six seasons as Associate Artistic Director at Arena Stage, where he directed the Artistic Development team and founded the American Voices New Play Institute (AVNPI), from which HowlRound emerged and then relocated to Emerson College. At Arena he was the artistic producer of the multiple Tony-winning productions *Next to Normal* (also the Pulitzer Prize), *33 Variations*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Prior to joining Arena he was the founding Artistic Director of The Z Space (a theatre development center focused on new plays) and a founder of its predecessor, the producing ensemble The Z Collective, both in San Francisco. He has directed plays around the country, including at Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle's Intiman, and dozens of world premiere productions in the Bay Area. He is a frequent contributor to HowlRound and can be followed on Twitter @ddower.

## **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**

Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard, ArtsEmerson is designed to address gaps in Boston's cultural landscape through international programming and inviting new audiences into Emerson College's downtown venues. ArtsEmerson quickly established a reputation for putting great work from around the world 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).

-###-