

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ArtsEmerson Announces  
THE WONG KIDS  
IN THE SECRET OF THE SPACE CHUPACABRA GO!  
By New York's Ma-Yi Theater Company**

**February 20 through March 6, 2016  
Emerson/Paramount Mainstage, Boston**

***The press performance is Sunday, February 21, at 1PM. [Click here to RSVP.](#)**  
**Email for high resolution images and interviews.***

**[BOSTON, MA – February 12, 2015]** ArtsEmerson welcomes *The Wong Kids in the Space Chupacabra Go!* by New York's Ma-Yi Theater Company. Performances take place February 19 through March 6, 2016 at the Emerson/Paramount Mainstage, located at 559 Washington Street, in Boston's historic theatre district. Tickets range from \$25-75 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.



*The Wong Kids Photos by Dan Norman*

**About The Wong Kids in the Secret Chupacabra, Go!**

Using a mix of action-driven storytelling, puppetry, and visual magic, *The Wong Kids* transports its audience into the far reaches of the galaxy. Violet and Bruce Wong just don't fit in with the other Earth kids. Sure, they have superpowers, they're just not very good ones. But when an evil beast called the Space Chupacabra appears, intent on universal destruction, The Wong Kids must travel to outer space in order to stop it... if they can only stop bickering. Violet and Bruce ultimately realize that being different isn't just okay, it might just be the most important thing ever. Click [here](#) to view the trailer.

"Exuberantly imaginative...embeds its messages in fun, and its insistence on being extraordinary proves the upside of standing out" —*The New York Times*

“We are thrilled to welcome Ma-Yi Theater Company to Boston,” says ArtsEmerson Co-Artistic Director Polly Carl. “*The Wong Kids’* story is one that celebrates everyone’s differences, which echoes ArtsEmerson’s core values.”

“The themes in *The Wong Kids* are great take-aways for theatre-goers of all ages,” says Co-Artistic Director David Dower. “We encourage folks to bring the whole family to enjoy this theatre adventure; but it’s not just for kids, it’s also for the kid inside us all.”

### **About Ma-Yi Theater Company**

Ma-Yi Theater Company develops new plays that explore and affect Asian-American experiences while challenging the perceptions of what culturally specific theater should be. By producing forward thinking plays by today's emerging playwrights, Ma-Yi Theater Company believes that theater can play an important part in breaking down barriers and increasing the understanding and appreciation of the cultural and ethnic diversity of our contemporary society. Ma-Yi Theater Company has won a number of accolades including the 2010 Special Drama Desk Award for more than two decades of excellence and for nurturing Asian-American voices in stylistically varied and engaging theater. Over the course of its 24-year history, Ma-Yi and its affiliated artists have garnered 9 OBIE Awards, and numerous Henry Hewes Award nominations. Ma-Yi Theater Company is under the guidance of Ralph B. Peña, Artistic Director, and Jorge Z. Ortoll, Executive Director. Click [here](#) for more information on Ma-Yi Theater Company.

### **Creative Credits**

Presented by Ma-Yi Theater Company

Written by Lloyd Suh

Directed by Ralph B. Peña

Co-Created with Children’s Theatre Company

### ***The Wong Kids* Performance Schedule**

Saturday, February 20, 2016 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 21, 2016 1:00 PM

Sunday, February 21, 2016 5:00 PM

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 25, 201 6:30 PM

Friday, February 26, 2016 8:00 PM

Saturday, February 27, 2016 2:00 PM

Saturday, February 27, 2016 8:00 PM

Sunday, February, 2016 1:00 PM

Sunday, February, 201 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 2, 2016 7:30 PM

Thursday, March 3, 2016 7:30 PM

Friday, March 4, 2016 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 5, 2016 2:00 PM American Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Saturday, March 5, 2016 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 6, 2016 1:00 PM

Sunday, March 6, 2016 5:00 PM

### **Playwright Lloyd Suh**

Lloyd Suh is the author of *American Hwangap*, *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra Go!*, *Jesus in India*, *Great Wall Story*, *The Children of Vonderly*, *Masha No Home* and others, produced with Ma-Yi, The Play Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, La Mama ETC, Magic Theatre (SF), ArtsEmerson (MA), Denver Center Theatre Company, Children’s Theatre Company (MN), East West Players (LA), and internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, and with PCPA in Seoul, Korea. He has received support from the NEA Arena Stage New Play Development program, the Andrew W. Mellon Launching New Plays Into the Repertoire initiative via The Lark, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, Jerome Foundation, Theatre Communications Group and Dramatists Guild. His plays have been published by Samuel French, Playscripts, Smith & Kraus, Duke University Press and American Theater magazine. He is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre and The Actors Studio, an alum of Youngblood and the Soho Rep Writer Director Lab, and from 2005-2010 served as Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab. He has served since 2011 as Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark.

### **About Director Ralph B. Pena**

Ralph B. Pena is a founding member and the current Artistic Director of Ma-Yi Theater Company. Recent directing credits include Lloyd Suh’s *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra Go!* (Children’s Theatre Company and Ma-Yi Theater Company; WINNER – Off Broadway Alliance Award), Joshua Conkel’s *Curmudgeons in Love* (EST Marathon), Ruth Magruff’s *Centaur Battle of San Jacinto*, Michael Lew’s *Microcrisis* (EST/ Youngblood and Ma-Yi Theater Company), and Lloyd Suh’s *Children of Vonderly*, and Nicky Paraiso’s *House/Boy* for LaMama ETC, and Dublin Theater Festival. Ralph received an Obie Award for his work on Lonnie Carter’s *The Romance of Magno Rubio*. In addition to Ma-Yi, his work has also been seen at Long Wharf Theater, Kumu Kahua, Northwest Asian American Theater, ASIA Theater, San Diego Asian American Rep, Round House Theater, NAATCO, Lincoln Center, La Mama ETC, Philadelphia Shakespeare, Victory Gardens, Laguna Playhouse, Fox Theater, NYSF/Public Theater, the Odeon Theater in Romania, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He is currently working on a new play about America’s involvement in the Middle East. He is a member of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, and The Ensemble Studio Theater.

### **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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