

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MANUAL CINEMA RETURNS TO BOSTON WITH  
*THE END OF TV*  
COMPANY BRINGS ITS INNOVATIVE AND CINEMATIC  
STORYTELLING BACK TO ARTSEMERSON**

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**JANUARY 16 – 27, 2019  
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER  
ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
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***The Press Performance is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:30pm***

[Boston, MA – December 4, 2018] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, is excited to announce the return of Manual Cinema with their production, **The End of TV**. After thrilling Boston audiences with *Ada/Ava* in 2018, the ingenious artists of Manual Cinema cast a theatrical spell through live-action silhouettes, video feeds, overhead projection and a five-piece band performing an original score with their new creation. **The End of TV** runs just two weeks at the Emerson Paramount Center’s Robert J. Orchard Stage located at 559 Washington Street in downtown Boston. Tickets range from \$20-\$80 and can 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.



Photo credit: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Set in a post-industrial Rust Belt city in the 1990s and told through a collection of original 70's R&B-inspired art pop songs, **The End of TV** explores the quest to find meaning amongst the increasingly constant barrage of commercial images and advertising white-noise. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create this immersive experience for audiences. *Chicago Tribune* calls it "the very retro-coolest and most creatively compulsive show."



Photo credit: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

"I love the imagination of artists, and the artists of Manual Cinema specifically," says ArtsEmerson artistic director David Dower. "They've invented a form out of the simplest of tools, animated it with the pure joy and abandon found in child's play, and the result is fresh, fun, and surprisingly moving. The techniques here will be familiar to fans of their earlier work, but they continued to evolve their style with **The End of TV**, introducing new elements to the mix. And they've harnessed it to a timely story that sweeps over us and carries us away. I'm so happy they were able to come back so soon after their debut at ArtsEmerson last season."

### **About The End of TV**

The End of TV depicts the promise and decline of the American rust belt, through the stories of Flo and Louise, both residents of a fictional Midwestern city. Flo is an elderly white woman who was once a supervisor at the thriving local auto plant. Now succumbing to dementia, the memories of her life are tangled with television commercials and the "call now" demands of QVC. Louise, a young black woman laid off from her job when the same local auto plant closes, meets Flo when she takes a job as a Meals-on-Wheels driver. An unlikely relationship grows as Flo approaches the end of her life and Louise prepares for the invention of a new one. Their story is intercut with commercials and TV programs, the constant background of their environment.

### **The End of TV Performance Schedule**

Wednesday, January 16, 2017	7:30pm <b>Press Performance</b>
Thursday, January 17, 2019	7:30pm
Friday, January 18, 2019	8:00pm
Saturday, January 19, 2019	2:00pm
Saturday, January 19, 2019	8:00pm
Sunday, January 20, 2019	2:00pm
Sunday, January 20, 2019	7:00pm

Tuesday, January 22, 2019	7:30pm
Wednesday, January 23, 2019	7:30pm
Thursday, January 24, 2019	7:30pm
Friday, January 25, 2019	8:00pm
Saturday, January 26, 2019	2:00pm
Saturday, January 26, 2019	8:00pm
Sunday, January 27, 2019	2:00pm

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

### Creative Credits

Screenplay by: Kyle Vegter and Ben Kauffman  
 Direction and Storyboards by: Julia VanArsdale Miller  
 Adapted for the screen by: Lizi Breit, Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Julia VanArsdale Miller, Ben Kauffman and Kyle Vegter  
 Music and Lyrics by: Ben Kauffman and Kyle Vegter  
 Sound Design by: Kyle Vegter  
 Puppet Designer: Lizi Breit  
 Associate Puppet Designer and Story Board Artist: Drew Dir  
 Assistant Director: Sarah Fornace  
 Costumes by: Mieka van der Ploeg  
 Lighting Design by: Claire Chrzan  
 Lighting Associate: Shelbi Arndt  
 Masks by: Julia VanArsdale Miller  
 Stage Manager: Shelby Glasgow  
 Sound Engineer: Mike Usrey  
 Puppet build interns: Jeff Katz, Skye Murie, Zofia Lu Ya Zhang, and Kathryn Ann Shivak

### Cast Biographies

**Nora Barton** (Cello, Vocals) is a Chicago-based cellist and educator, Nora is a versatile performer who embraces multiple musical genres. Her collaborations range from experimental improvisation to movement-inspired “marching band” and preparing programs of classical chamber music for community performances with Classical Revolution Chicago. Nora also works as a session musician and performs regularly with local rock bands and songwriters. She holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Roosevelt University. [www.norabarton.com](http://www.norabarton.com)

**Maren Celest** (SFX, Vocals, MC Company Member) is a multi-disciplinary artist and creator with a broad skill set, which she works to channel into many different outputs, including vocal work, musical composition, visual design, and writing. She is looking forward to releasing her first book and solo album in 2018. She has shown her photography and short films internationally, and collaborates with many amazing musicians in Chicago to create visuals on their behalf. [www.marencelest.com](http://www.marencelest.com)

**Kara Davidson** (Flo, Puppeteer) Kara Davidson is an actor and playwright living in Chicago. Previous shows with Manual Cinema include *Ada/Ava*, *Lula Del Rey*, *The End of TV*, *My Soul's Shadow*, *The Electric Stage*, and *Pop-up Magazine*. She is a company member with The House Theatre of Chicago and has also worked with Lookingglass Theatre (Chicago), Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY), Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Aporia Theatre (NYC), and Project Y (NYC), among others. She trains in aerial/circus arts, and does performance and motion capture for video games, most recently *Call of Duty: WWII* and *Injustice 2* (Supergirl). Kara holds degrees in Theatre Performance and French from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Jeffrey Paschal** (Male Ensemble, Puppeteer) Is originally from a town called Corning in Upstate New York. In 2012 Jeff moved to Chicago to go to school at Northwestern University where he majored in Theatre. At Northwestern Jeff was involved with several theatre productions including *Fabulation* directed by Jerrell Henderson and *Anna in the Tropics* directed by Henry Godinez as well as directing and producing several short films through the school's RTVF program. Jeff graduated from Northwestern with a B.S. in Theatre in 2016. He currently lives in Chicago and is represented by Gray Talent Group.

**Marques Toliver** (Violin, Vocals) is an international recording artist, songwriter, producer, violinist, and vocalist from Daytona Beach, Florida. He began to study music at the age of ten and later attended Stetson University's School of Music, where he studied classical violin. A move to New York, where he often busked, led him to performances and recordings with An Albatross, Grizzly Bear, TV on the Radio, Bat for Lashes, Holly Miranda, and Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson. Toliver released the four-track EP *Butterflies Are Not Free* (2011). The single "Magic Look" (2012) followed as a precursor to Toliver's first album, *Land of CanAan*, released in May 2013. In 2016 Toliver composed music for The Public Theater's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Sharaina L. Turnage** (Louise, Puppeteer) is from the notoriously awesome south side of Chicago. She is making her debut at Manual Cinema and couldn't be more thrilled to work with such an amazing company. Sharaina received her B.A. at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where past credits include: *Mayme* (Intimate Apparel), *LaWanda/Topsy* Washington/Normal Jean (The Colored Museum), and *Bernice* (Servy N Bernice 4ever). Recent credits include: *Los Milagros* (Free Street Theater) and *Grey Area* (FYI). Sharaina has researched and performed theater historical done by slaves called Du Theater in Suriname, South America and was amongst one of the first actors to perform Du Theater in the United States. Sharaina thanks her family and close friends for the constant support. "The greatest pleasure in life is DOING what people say you CANNOT do."

**Vanessa S. Valliere** (Female Ensemble, Puppeteer) performs with Manual Cinema in their productions of *Ada/Ava* and *End of TV*. She toured for six summers as a member of an ensemble of performers for *Tour De Fat*, a national touring festival. She has performed in Chicago with the *Neo-Futurists* and *The New Colony* and she has toured with *Theater Unspeakable*, a Chicago based physical theater company. Vanessa has toured nationally with her own clown/puppetry shows and will be featured in the 2018 National Puppetry Slam. She has performed with *Big Nazo Puppet Company* in Providence, RI and she is a proud nerd-cheerleader for Chicago's thirty-piece circus punk marching band: *Mucca Pazza*.

**Kamaria Woods** (Guitar, Keyboard, Vocals) is a producer, multi-instrumentalist, singer, educator, and sister born and raised in Chicago, IL. She cultivates her own sound, allowing pain, joy, and truth to coexist through honest lyricism and her unique style of production. Through an intimate exploration of ancestry and Blk joy, Kamaria creates lullabies for the community and for the self.

**Ryan Zerna** (Flute) is a performer, flutist, and artist living in Chicago. As a performer/curator in the Chicago-based ensemble *Mocrep*, he has experience working in various artistic disciplines such as video editing, music performance, and choreography. He has performed with *Mocrep* throughout the US as well as internationally. Ryan also serves as an educator with *The People's Music School* where he teaches flute in after school programs both at *Gary Comer Youth Center* and *Lara Academy*.

### **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 VanArsdale Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive 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.

Manual Cinema has been presented by, worked in collaboration with, or brought its work to The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), BAM (NYC), The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Kennedy Center (DC), Under the Radar Festival (NYC), La Monnaie-DeMunt (Brussels), The Noorderzon Festival (Netherlands), The Kimmel Center (DC) The O, Miami Poetry Festival, The Tehran International Puppet Festival (Iran), Davies Symphony Hall (SF), The Ace Hotel Theater (LA), The Hakaway International Arts Festival (Cairo), The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and elsewhere around the world. They have collaborated with StoryCorps (NYC), Erratica (London), The Belgian Royal Opera (Brussels), Hubbard Street Dance (Chicago), Pop-Up Magazine (SF), Nu Deco Ensemble (Miami), NYTimes best-selling author Reif Larsen (NYC), three time Grammy Award-winning eighth blackbird (Chicago), NPR's Invisibilia, Topic Magazine and The New York Times.

In 2018, the company had debuts in Holland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

### **About ArtsEmerson**

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. We are dedicated to engaging all communities through stories that reveal and deepen our connection to each other. By cultivating diversity in the arts and in the audience, we ignite public conversation around our most vexing societal challenges as a catalyst for overcoming them. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. We program a full season of performances, film and dialogue that invites each of us to engage in a more contemporary narrative of Boston as a truly global city. 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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