



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ARTSEMERSON IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
CELEBRITY SERIES OF BOSTON PRESENT  
THE NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE OF**

***TRIPTYCH***

***(EYES OF ONE ON ANOTHER)***

**ON THE WORK OF PHOTOGRAPHER AND VISUAL ARTIST  
ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE**

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**FEATURING MUSIC BY ROOMFUL OF TEETH, LIBRETTO BY KORDE  
ARRINGTON TUTTLE, & THE POETRY OF ESSEX HEMPHILL & PATTI  
SMITH**

**FEATURING ORIGINAL SCORE COMPOSED  
BY BRYCE DESSNER, DIRECTED BY KANEZA SCHAAL, SET &  
COSTUME DESIGNED BY CARLOS SOTO, MUSIC DIRECTION BY  
BRAD WELLS, & PRODUCED BY ARKTYPE**

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**FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY  
OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 3, 2019  
EMERSON CUTLER MAJESTIC THEATRE**

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***Press Performance is Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 7:30pm***

**[Boston, MA – April 8, 2019] – ArtsEmerson** in association with the Celebrity Series of Boston are thrilled to present **Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)**, a new performance piece combining music, poetry and photography that seeks to capture the essence of photographer and visual artist Robert Mapplethorpe’s influential body of work. Together, composer Bryce Dessner (guitarist for the universally celebrated band, The National), librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle, director Kaneza Schaal, designer Carlos Soto and music director Brad Wells—in collaboration with Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth and featuring poetry by

Tuttle, Essex Hemphill and Patti Smith—explore the ways Mapplethorpe’s works question how we look at, touch, feel, hurt and love one another.

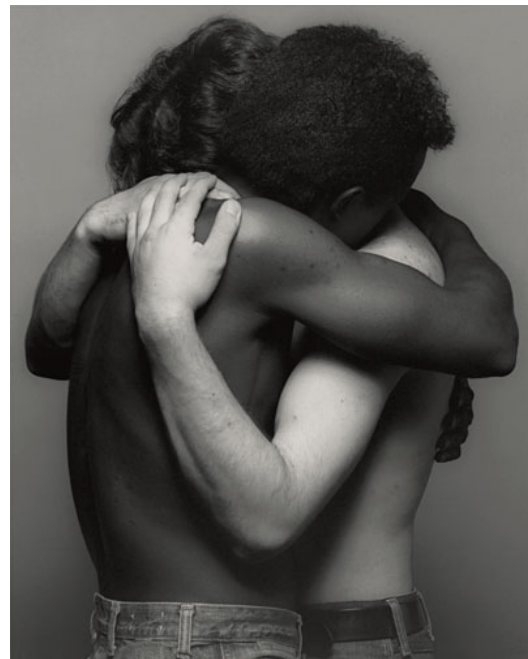
Produced by ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann, **Triptych** is ArtsEmerson’s second offering in its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season (2019/20) and runs for five performances only, October 30 – November 3, 2019, at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre. Tickets can be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson season package starting May 20, 2019 at [www.ArtsEmerson.org](http://www.ArtsEmerson.org), by phone at 617.824.8400 or at the box office. Tickets can also be purchased as part of a Celebrity Series season subscription starting April 10, 2019. Single tickets start at \$25 and will go on sale at a later date.



*Photo by Maria Baranova*



*Credit: Alistair Butler, 1980*



*Credit: Embrace, 1982*

© Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation. Used by permission.

“We are honored to be part of the circle of US presenters commissioning these extraordinary collaborators, says David Dower, Artistic Director of ArtsEmerson. They have made a gorgeous, monumental work that is right on time for the culture, and we are proud to host its Boston performances. Mapplethorpe’s work triggered a ferocious, deafening backlash when these images were first exhibited, and this ensemble of artists has created a space for us to experience them anew, reflect across the distance of decades, and contemplate the facets of this story that were swamped by the original vitriol. The images retain their power to confront us with ourselves, yet these collaborators have shifted the gaze in important ways to reach into different corners of our fascination and discomfort with the photos and the photographer. I look forward to the conversations when the piece arrives in Boston.”

Amy Lam, Artistic Programmer of the Celebrity Series of Boston, says, "Celebrity Series is proud to be a co-commissioner of *Triptych* and to support Roomful of Teeth and Bryce Dessner in their undertaking of this significant theatrical production. We first presented Roomful of Teeth in our inaugural year of Stave Sessions and welcomed them back last season to the delight of our audiences. We're excited to be a part of this powerful work and to collaborate with ArtsEmerson at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre this fall."

### **About Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)**

Robert Mapplethorpe’s legendary life and work have inspired the birth of **Triptych (Eyes of One On Another)**, a contemporary, convention-bending operatic experience. Heavily informed by Mapplethorpe's photography, this soaring oratorio also engages the work of Essex Hemphill, a Poet and Activist working at the forefront of Black, Gay Liberation throughout the 1980s and 90s and poet and muse Patti Smith. Never before placed at the center of a theatrical endeavor, emotionally and aesthetically, **Triptych** examines Mapplethorpe’s photography and archival practice with care and incision via a deftly curated survey of the artist’s body of work.

Composer Bryce Dessner, Librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle, Director Kaneza Schaal, and vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth joined to forces to dream-up this anti-biopic, theatrical piece about photographs.

Librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle takes inspiration from Mapplethorpe’s notorious XYZ Portfolio, and structures the piece in three parts, engaging the work of Essex Hemphill and Patti Smith.

**Triptych** was written for 10 singers (eight members of Roomful of Teeth, soprano Alicia Hall Moran, and tenor Isaiah Robinson), and is scored for a string trio, double percussion, piano, harmonium, clarinet, and horn. The performance features monumental projections of Mapplethorpe’s photographs exhibited to the standards of the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

“As a teenager, I was told by the authorities that I was not allowed to look at Mapplethorpe’s photographs and that these tremendous works of art were not art at all, but pornography,” says Bryce Dessner. “This censorship made a significant impact on my life at the time and on my decision to pursue art and music as a career. Thirty years later, I have decided to respond in my own way and to *look* at these pictures again myself, and through the eyes of my wonderful collaborators, the librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle, Director Kaneza Schaal, and ArkType. This project has challenged me more than any work to date and I am honored to share this journey with this ensemble and our dear partners at ArtsEmerson and Celebrity Series of Boston and their inspiring audiences.”

## Listings Information for Triptych

### **Dates**

October 30 – November 3, 2019

### **Venue:**

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre  
219 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116

### **Performance Schedule:**

Wednesday, October 30, 2019	7:30pm	<b>Press Performance</b>
Thursday, October 31, 2019	7:30pm	
Friday, November 1, 2019	8:00pm	
Saturday, November 2, 2019	8:00pm	
Sunday, November 3, 2019	2:00pm	

### **Ticket Information:**

***On Sale at a later date.***

Online: **ArtsEmerson.org**

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: **Paramount Center Box Office**, open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

*Prices range from \$25-\$90 (subject to change)*

### **Credits**

Directed by Kaneza Schaal

Composed by Bryce Dessner

Libretto by Korde Arrington Tuttle

Music Direction & Conducting by Brad Wells

Set & Costume Design by Carlos Soto

Produced by ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann  
in Cooperation with The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation

Featuring Roomful of Teeth

with Alicia Hall Moran & Isaiah Robinson

Featuring words by Essex Hemphill & Patti Smith

Lighting Design by Yuki Nakase

Video by Simon Harding

Dramaturgy by Talvin Wilks & Christopher Myers

Production Management by William Knapp

Associate Director Lilleth Glimcher

Associate Music Director William Brittelle

Music by Bryce Dessner is used with permission of Chester Music Ltd.

An ArKtype Production, Produced in Residency with and Commissioned by University Musical Society, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. Co-produced by Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel Music and Artistic Director. TRIPTYCH was co-commissioned by BAM; Luminato Festival, Toronto, Canada; Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Athens, Greece; Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati, OH; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA; Stanford Live, Stanford University, Stanford, CA; Adelaide Festival, Australia; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for performance as part of DirectCurrent 2019; ArtsEmerson, Emerson College, Boston, MA; Texas Performing Arts, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX; Holland Festival, Amsterdam; Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; the Momentary, Bentonville, AR, Celebrity Series of Boston, MA, and residency development through MassMOCA, North Adams, MA.

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

### **About ArKtype / Thoman O. Kriegsmann (Producer)**

**ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann (Producer)** is a management and production company specializing in new work development and touring. Over the past 14 years ArKtype's work has grown to encompass renowned artists from thirty different countries, multiple genres and commercial and non-profit support structures resulting in new work for a variety of spaces. His acclaimed work as producer has been seen worldwide, proudly beginning his work in the production, development and touring of emerging ensembles. His work includes projects with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Victoria Thiérrée-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Daniel Fish, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, John Cameron Mitchell, Lisa Peterson, Kaneza Schaal, Peter Sellars, Tony Taccone and Julie Taymor. For three seasons he produced the Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, Florida in partnership with Baryshnikov Arts Center, was Director of Programming for Spiegelworld's South Street Seaport seasons, and most recently served as Director of Programs at New York Live Arts. He recently premiered Sam Green and Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Byron Au Yong and Aaron Jafferis' *Trigger* based in communities nationwide in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre, Kaneza Schaal and Christopher Myers' *Cartography* (Kennedy Center), Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Case*, the US premiere of Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*, and Andrew Ondrejcek & Shara Worden's *You Us We All*. Ongoing collaborations include 600 Highwaymen, Bryce Dessner, John Cameron Mitchell, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers, Noche Flamenca, Aaron Landsman, Brent Green, Rude Mechs, Nona Hendryx / Niegel Smith / Carrie Mae Weems, Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Sam Green, Nora Chipaumire, Adrien M. & Claire B. and Compagnia T.P.O. More information at [arktype](#).

### **About Celebrity Series of Boston**

Celebrity Series of Boston was founded in 1938 by pianist and impresario Aaron Richmond. The Celebrity Series has been bringing the very best performers—from orchestras and chamber ensembles, vocal and piano music, to dance companies, jazz, and more—to Boston's major concert halls for 81 years. The Celebrity Series of Boston believes in the power of excellence and innovation in the performing arts to enrich life experiences, transform lives and build better communities. Through its education initiatives, the Celebrity Series seeks to build a community of Greater Boston where the performing arts are a valued, lifelong, shared experience—on stages, on streets, in neighborhoods—everywhere. [celebrityseries.org](http://celebrityseries.org)

### **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).

### Creative/Artist Biographies

**Bryce Dessner** is one of the most sought-after composers of his generation, with a rapidly expanding catalog of works commissioned by leading ensembles. Known by many as a guitarist with The National, he is also active as a curator—a vital force in the flourishing realm of new creative music. Dessner's orchestral, chamber, and vocal compositions have been commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Metropolitan Museum of Art (for the New York Philharmonic), Kronos Quartet, BAM, Barbican Centre, Edinburgh International Festival, Sydney Festival, eighth blackbird, Sō Percussion, New York City Ballet, and many others. Dessner's music—called “gorgeous, full-hearted” by NPR and “vibrant” by *The New York Times*—is marked by a keen sensitivity to instrumental color and texture. Propulsive rhythms often alternate with passages in which time is deftly suspended. His harmonies are expressive and flexible, ranging from the dense block chords of *Aheym* to the spacious modality of *Music for Wood and Strings*. Dessner appeared at BAM with *The Long Count*, created with Aaron Dessner and Matthew Ritchie (2009 Next Wave); *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry* (2012 and 2013 Winter/Spring seasons); *Planetarium*, with Sufjan Stevens and Nico Muhly (2013 Winter/Spring season); and *Black Mountain Songs* featuring Brooklyn Youth Chorus (2014 Next Wave).

**Korde Arrington Tuttle** is a multi-disciplinary artist from Charlotte, NC. He is writer for the forthcoming series *Mixtape* (Netflix) and *THEM: COVENANT* (Amazon). His play *graveyard shift*, inspired by the legacy of Sandra Bland, will have its world premiere at the Goodman Theatre, in Chicago, in 2020. Korde is a recipient of New York Stage and Film's 2018 Founders' Award, 2018 Falco/Steinman Commission Award at Playwrights Horizons, 2018 Playwrights Initiative Fellowship at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and was selected as a finalist for both the 2017 Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Contest + City Theatre National Award for Short Playwriting Contest. Korde is a playwright-in-residence at Lincoln Center Theater, Resident Artist at Ars Nova, and Middle Voice Theatre Company member at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre. His debut collection of haiku + photography, *falling is the one thing i*, was published by Candor Arts, in May 2018. Korde completed his undergraduate studies at UNC Chapel Hill and received his MFA in Playwriting at The New School. Follow his work on Instagram via @heykorde.

**Kaneza Schaal** is a New York City-based theater artist. Her recent work *JACK &* showed in BAM's 2018 Next Wave Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Walker Arts Center, REDCAT, On The Boards, Center for Contemporary Art Cincinnati, and Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. Schaal received a 2018 Ford Foundation *Art For Justice Bearing Witness* award, a 2017 MAP Fund award, and a 2016 Creative Capital Award. Schaal's *GO FORTH* premiered at Performance Space 122's COIL Festival. She has worked with The Wooster Group, Elevator Repair Service, Richard Maxwell/New York City Players, Claude Wampler, Jim Findlay, and Dean Moss. She is an Arts-in-Education advocate and has collaborated nationally and internationally with recent teen immigrants and asylum seekers; on intergenerational exchange between elders and teens; and on workshops and talks at Princeton University, Yale University, Emerson College, and her alma mater Wesleyan University.

**Brad Wells** is the founder and artistic director of the Grammy Award-winning new music vocal group Roomful of Teeth (praised by WQXR as “the future of vocal music”). Wells has led the ensemble in premieres of over 75 works by many of today's leading composers including Judd Greenstein, Caroline Shaw, Rinde Eckert, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Missy Mazzoli, Glenn Kotche, Terry Riley, Ted Hearne, and Julia Wolfe, among others. Roomful of Teeth's debut recording (2012), directed by Wells and praised as “sensually stunning” by the *New York Times*, included the Pulitzer-winning composition, “Partita for 8 Voices,” written by ensemble member Caroline

Shaw. His own compositions—featured on the group’s Grammy-nominated second album, *Render* (2015) – have been described as “objectively and subjectively gorgeous” (*I Care If You Listen*). Wells’ permanent sound installation *Silo Songs*, featuring the earliest vocal music of the Shakers, opened at Hancock Shaker Village in 2018. Since 1999 Wells has been Artist in Residence in Vocal Music at Williams College. He has held conducting and teaching positions at Yale University, Trinity College, and University of California at Berkeley. A champion of Estonian choral music, he has led the US premieres of works by Estonian composers including Raimo Kangro, Jüri-Ruut Kangur, and Lembit Veevo. He has lectured and published articles on the physiology and acoustics of non-classical vocal styles. As a singer he has performed and recorded with such ensembles as *Theatre of Voices* and *Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra* (under Nicholas McGegan and Philip Brett).

**Roomful of Teeth** is dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. Through study with masters from vocal traditions the world over, the eight-voice ensemble continually expands its vocabulary of singing techniques and, through an ongoing commissioning process, forges a new repertoire without borders. Founded in 2009 by **Brad Wells**, Roomful of Teeth gathers annually at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts, where they’ve studied with some of the world’s top performers and teachers in Tuvan throat singing, yodeling, Broadway belting, Inuit throat singing, Korean *P’ansori*, Georgian singing, Sardinian *cantu a tenore*, Hindustani music, Persian classical singing, and Death Metal vocals. Commissioned composers include Rinde Eckert, Fred Hersch, Merrill Garbus (of tUnE-yArDs), William Brittelle, Toby Twining, Missy Mazzoli, Julia Wolfe, Ted Hearne, and Ambrose Akinmusire, among many others.

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