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# AN AMERICAN IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD EXCEPT ONE

ARTSEMERSON PRESENTS THE CULMINATING U.S. TOUR PERFORMANCES OF

# WET: A DACAmented JOURNEY WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY ALEX ALPHARAOH

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NOVEMBER 8 – 25, 2018 EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER JACKIE LIEBERGOTT BLACK BOX TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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The Press Performance is Friday, November 9, 2018 at 8:00pm

[Boston, MA – October 12, 2018] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre, is thrilled to welcome and co-commission the U.S. tour performances of Cara Mía Theatre and Ignite/Arts Dallas's fierce and fast-paced first-person narrative, WET: A DACAmented Journey. Written and performed by award winning actor, writer, and spoken word artist Alex Alpharaoh (LA), WET humanizes the headlines of our current immigration debate by capturing one man's relentless and riveting true story toward becoming a documented citizen. The production runs three weeks at the Emerson Paramount Center's Jackie Liebergott Black Box, located at 559 Washington Street in downtown Boston. Tickets can be purchased for \$60 online at <a href="https://www.ArtsEmerson.org">www.ArtsEmerson.org</a>, by phone at 617.824.8400, or in person at the box office. Student, senior and group discounts are available.





Photo credit: Youthana Yuos

"Alex has undertaken something both brave and immense here, in simply daring to tell his story of living in the liminal space of the DACAmented in this country," says Artistic Director David

Dower. "You think you know this story. You don't know this story. The news is confusing and insufficient to grasp what's happening. And it's overwhelming, tempting us to just go numb to the human consequences of the systems and the policies -- and the lack of systems and the lack of policies -- that hang over even the smallest of decisions our undocumented neighbors face every day. By stepping out, Alex is putting himself both in the crosshairs and in the spotlight, and we're proud that ArtsEmerson can support his effort to inspire us to action, and finally bring him and all DACAmented Americans out of the shadows and into full citizenship."

# **About WET: A DACAmented Journey**

WET: A DACAmented Journey—which rockets between hilarity and heartbreak—will instantly humanize the headlines and take audiences inside the realities of striving for a better life under the extreme conditions of living life as a political football. Alpharaoh, a social worker who knows firsthand the mental, emotional and psychological hardship of this unending process, risks his own freedom to share his story in this nationwide tour.

#### **About the Artist**

**Alex Alpharaoh (Writer and Performer)** is an award-winning stage and film actor, writer, director, producer, spoken word artist, solo performer, and teaching artist from Los Angeles. He has performed in various venues and open mics throughout Los Angeles, including Da Poetry Lounge, Sunday Jump, Washington D.C.'s Busboys and Poets, and New York's renowned Nuyorican Cafe. As a teaching artist, Alpharaoh teaches a highly popular Fundamentals of Spoken Word and Performance Poetry class, advising individuals on how to connect with their deeper selves, using their words and expressions as a form of healing. Alpharaoh is the creator of *SP!T: Spoken Word Theatre*, a series he originally developed at Urban Theatre Movement, where he is a founding member. His last SPIT production *Don't Talk* 

Urban Theatre Movement, where he is a founding member. His last SP!T production *Don't Talk About It, SP!T About It was world premiered* at CASA 0101 Theater in the summer of 2016. *SP!T* continues to grow in popularity, including a special one-night performance that was part of Da Poetry Lounge's 1st Annual L.A. Get Down Festival in April, 2017.

## **About Cara Mía Theatre**

Founded in 1996 as the first Dallas theatre to focus on the Chicano experience, Cara Mía Theatre (CMT) has since expanded its focus to all Latinos living in the United States. As CMT's cultural breadth has expanded over the years, the company's artistic approach has also evolved, especially since the arrival of current Executive Artistic Director David Lozano in 2002. To further expand the company's reach to non-theatre going Latinos, Lozano chose to focus on creating new bilingual plays that were both topical and theatrically unique. Trained in physical theatre, Lozano formed a resident artistic ensemble that created new works utilizing clown and mask performance, poetic movement and collectively created plays that speak to the heart of the local Latino community in Dallas.

# **About Ignite/Arts Dallas**

An initiative of SMU Meadows School off the Arts launched in 2015 to integrate artistic practice and community engagement involving SMU, Dallas and the arts field at large.

#### **WET: A DACAmented Journey Performance Schedule**

Thursday, November 8, 2018	7:30pm
Friday, November 9, 2018	8:00pm Press Performance
Saturday, November 10, 2018	8:00pm
Sunday, November 11, 2018	2:00pm
Wednesday, November 14, 2018	7:30pm
Thursday, November 15, 2018	7:30pm
Friday, November 16, 2018	8:00pm
Saturday, November 17, 2018	2:00pm
Saturday, November 17, 2018	8:00pm
Sunday, November 18, 2018	2:00pm
Wednesday, November 21, 2018	7:30pm

Friday, November 23, 2018	8:00pm
Saturday, November 24, 2018	2:00pm
Saturday, November 24, 2018	8:00pm
Sunday, November 25, 2018	2:00pm
Sunday, November 25, 2018	7:00pm

For production stills and other media kit assets, click <u>here.</u>

#### **Creative Team**

Brisa Areli Muñoz (Director) is a chicano theatre director, facilitator and educator based out of Brooklyn, New York. Brisa serves as the Artistic Director of Applied Theatre Collective, where she has facilitated work both nationally and internationally in Boston, Colorado, Tennessee, Texas, Chicago, New York City, Iraq and Romania. Brisa has directed and facilitated work for The Public Theater, Carnegie Hall, BRIC Arts Media, Sojourn Theatre, CUNY Creative Arts Team, Hi-ARTS, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, New York City Children's Theater, Vital Theatre, Atlantic Pacific Theatre & Thirteen O'Clock Theatre. She received her MA in Applied Theatre at City University of New York, and is currently an adjunct professor for Brooklyn College's MFA in Performing Arts Management. Brisa serves as Manager of Community Partnerships for the Public Works program at The Public Theater.

Niki Hernandez-Adams (Costume Design) Recent designs include *Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue* (Water Tower Theatre), *Deferred Action Tour* (Cara Mia Theatre Company), *Deferred Action* (Dallas Theatre Center with Cara Mia Theatre Company), *Blood Wedding* (Cara Mia Theatre Company), *Seven Spots on the Sun* (The Cincinnati Playhouse), *Rosmersholm* (The Pearl Theatre Company), *The Glass Menagerie* and *Mere Mortals* (Two River Theatre Company). Past assisting credits include work on; *The Little Mermaid on Broadway, Phantom Las Vegas, Jack Goes Boating* (The Public Theater). Dance design credits include several years of collaborative work with Peter Kyle Dance as well as various projects with Theatre Lila.

Broken Chord (Sound Design) Broadway: Eclipsed, The Parisian Woman. New York: Scarcity. The Lying Lesson (Atlantic Theater); OZET (The Incubator Arts Project); The Insurgents (Labyrinth Theater); Bull in a China Shop (LCT3); When We Were Young and Unafraid (Manhattan Theatre Club); Relevance, Transfers (MCC); Harrison TX, Informed Consent (Primary Stages); The Good Negro, Party People (The Public Theater); Stay, Massacre, Charles Ives Take Me Home (Rattlestick); The Other Thing (Second Stage Theatre); The Dance and the Railroad, Appropriate (Signature Theatre); Lascivious Something, Row After Row (Women's Project). Regional: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Actors Theatre of Louisville); Ruined. Party People (Berkeley Rep); American Buffalo, Pride and Prejudice (Centerstage); Fairfield, How I Learned to Drive (Cleveland Play House); The Tempest, Hair, Deferred Action (Dallas Theater Center); An Enemy of the People (Guthrie Theatre): A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Whipping Man (Hartford Stage); Top Girls, A Raisin in the Sun (Huntington Theatre); Ruined, UniSon (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); A Wrinkle in Time (People's Light); Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare Theatre Company); Melancholy Play: a chamber musical, The Glass Menagerie (Trinity Rep); These Paper Bullets! (Yale Rep). Film: Fall to Rise. www.brokenchord.us

**Aaron Johansen (Lighting Design)** started his professional career eleven years ago with the Dallas Theater Center as the lighting intern in 2007. In 2015 he amicably departed the company as their Lighting Supervisor to pursue a career as a full-time lighting designer. You might have seen his work at Dallas Theater Center, Trinity Repertory company, Dallas Children's Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater (Artistic Company Member), Second Thought Theatre (Artistic associate 2018 season, Resident Lighting Designer 2014-present), Cry Havoc Theater, Uptown Players, Stage West and Theatre Three.

**Bradley Gray (Scenic Coordinator)** Credits include: *The Last Five Years, The Great Distance Home, Lord of the Flies, Ring of Fire, The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles* 

Dickens, and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord, Honk Jr, Bright Half Life (WaterTower Theater); Dogfight (Junior Players); Miss Evers Boy's, Detroit 67, Radio Golf (African American Repertory Theatre); Nobody's Perfect, Old Time Music Hall (Theatre Britain); The Firestorm (Kitchen Dog Theatre-TD); Fully Committed (Amphibian Stage Productions); Spring's Awakening, Batboy (Outcry Theatre). Bradley currently serves as the Production Manager for Cara Mía Theatre.

John Ruegsegger (Production Stage Manager) has been working professionally in theatre and film for nearly 12 years. After graduating from Baylor University, he spent 3 years with the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles as the deck manager and master carpenter. When he moved to Dallas, John performed with several equity houses and became the technical director at Theatre Three. Currently, he enjoys splitting his time between his film career, being the lead carpenter at WaterTower Theatre, and production stage managing for Cara Mia Theatre.

#### 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.

## **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.