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ARTSEMERSON PRESENTS
BURGERZ

WRITTEN BY AND STARRING TRAVIS ALABANZA
PRODUCED BY HACKNEY SHOWROOM

APRIL 13 – 24, 2022

EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER | JACKIE LIEBERGOTT BLACK BOX

ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND
THE EXPERIENCE OF **BURGERZ**: A PLAY READING BOOK CLUB
AND A WELCOME TO BOSTON CAST PARTY

[Boston, MA – Monday, March 7, 2022] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, will be presenting Travis Alabanza’s **Burgerz** at the Emerson Paramount Center Jackie Liebergott Black Box from April 13 – 24, 2022. The solo performance, created and performed by Alabanza, explores how trans bodies survive and how, by reclaiming an act of violence, we can address our own complicity.

Directed by Sam Curtis Lindsay, **Burgerz** is a trans reclamation story; after transphobic slurs – and a hamburger – are thrown at theater artist Travis Alabanza, a newfound passion is ignited. They became obsessed with hamburgers: How they are made. How they feel and smell. How they travel through the air. How the mayonnaise feels on your skin. This show is the climax of their obsession. Alabanza presents a performance that is timely, unsettling, hilarious, and powerful.



Travis Alabanza
Photo credit: Elise Rose



Travis Alabanza
Photo credit: Lara Cappelli

"I'm so excited to be bringing my show **Burgerz** to Boston and ArtsEmerson," says Travis Alabanza. "I've had the immense privilege of touring the work around Europe and Brazil, and I'm so glad the show can continue in Boston. Having worked as a college student at Breakthrough Greater Boston during the summer, and previously performing at Harvard for their LGBTQ+ group in 2018, it is a real privilege to return to a city I love with my full show and team. Trans lives are continuing to be debated, when ultimately, we should be the ones speaking - and I'm glad **Burgerz** is part of that wider movement of trans art speaking back."

“We’ve been in conversation with Travis Alabanza, one of the UK’s prominent trans voices, about **Burgerz** since it took the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by storm, and we are pleased to present this brilliant piece of theater,” says ArtsEmerson Executive Director David Howse. “**Burgerz** is a passionate performance full of candor and care, and audiences will want to experience Alabanza’s captivating piece in our intimate Jackie Liebergott Black Box.”

Tickets for **Burgerz** may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on “General Public” when you visit [ArtsEmerson’s Offers web page](#).

Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)

Registration is now open for ArtsEmerson's wildly popular **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)** which will be studying **Burgerz** from March 28 - April 25, 2022. This pioneering theater literacy and community education program deepens the theater-going experience by offering unique and radical access to scripts, artists, and conversations featured at ArtsEmerson, while expanding the social networks of its participants.

Since 2014, ArtsEmerson’s **PRBC** has gathered and formed a theater-going community throughout several Greater Boston neighborhoods to read, discuss, and analyze plays in the ArtsEmerson season prior to seeing them live on stage and then sharing their experience with their communities. The program will allow participants to explore **Burgerz** over the course of 4 weeks during in-person or online sessions and is facilitated by trained teaching artists from the Emerson College Masters in Theatre Education program and professional Boston theater artists. Participants are also offered the opportunity to special meet & greet conversations with the visiting artists.

Welcome To Boston Cast Party

ArtsEmerson marks the first return of its beloved Welcome To Boston Cast Parties since public gatherings were restricted, as **Welcome To Boston: Burgerz** is held on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30pm at CROMA, located at the Arlington Street Church in the Back Bay neighborhood. To welcome and celebrate the arrival of the **Burgerz** company from the United Kingdom, ArtsEmerson will join with Ágora Cultural Architects to assemble local artists and performers who will share cultural offerings to celebrate and welcome with Travis Alabanza and Hackney Showroom.

Instead of making cast parties exclusive and exclusionary, ArtsEmerson has reinvented them as inspirational, inclusive gatherings that are free and open to all. At Welcome to Boston Cast Parties, visiting artists from around the country and the world are welcomed to Boston with special performances by local poets, vocalists, dancers, actors and entertainers before sharing a sneak peek of their own work. Rooted in the tradition of visionary arts leader, humanist, Roxbury native, and Emerson college alumna Ms. Elma Lewis, the cast parties are co-hosted by organizations around the city.

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

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR **BURGERZ**

Dates:

April 13 – 24, 2022

Venue:

Emerson Paramount Center
Jackie Liebergott Black Box
559 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Performance Schedule:

<i>Wednesday, April 13, 2022</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>	<i>Press Performance</i>
Thursday, April 14, 2022	7:30pm	
Friday, April 15, 2022	8:00pm	
Saturday, April 16, 2022	2:00pm	
Saturday, April 16, 2022	8:00pm	
Sunday, April 17, 2022	2:00pm	
Wednesday, April 20, 2022	7:30pm	
Thursday, April 21, 2022	7:30pm	
Friday, April 22, 2022	8:00pm	
Saturday, April 23, 2022	2:00pm	
Saturday, April 23, 2022	8:00pm	
Sunday, April 24, 2022	2:00pm	

Ticket Information:

Tickets for **Burgerz** cost \$60 and may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on "General Public" when you visit [ArtsEmerson's Offers web page](#).

Content:

Recommended for Ages 14+

Content Warning:

We understand that certain types of content could trigger past traumatic experiences for some viewers. Please be aware that this production contains scenes discussing violence and harassment towards trans people and issues sensitive to the LGBTQ+ community. Real meat, haze, and loud music is used in the performance.

Running Time:

70 minutes, no intermission

Public Health Information:

The Theatres of Emerson College firmly believes in the importance of a fully vaccinated community, and the utmost priority is the safety of patrons, program participants, artists, and team members. Efforts will continue to re-evaluate and establish new guidelines to ensure that protocols fulfill the promise of supporting the well-being of all.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry to all events. According to the CDC, "full COVID-19 vaccination" is defined as two weeks after one dose of a single-shot regimen, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after the second dose of an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna. Currently,

booster shots are not required under the new policy. Masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory inside all venues at all times (except for speakers, performers, and musicians while actively participating in a performance or presentation. Based on most recent scientific findings, we are recommending N95, KN95, or well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks; however, any mask with at least 3-ply construction is permissible. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with vents are allowed.

[CLICK HERE TO REVIEW FULL DETAILS REGARDING COVID-19 HEALTH PROTOCOLS.](#)

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR **WELCOME TO BOSTON: BURGERZ**

When:

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:30PM ET

Location:

CROMA @ Arlington Street Church
351 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

About:

To welcome and celebrate the arrival of the **Burgerz** company from the United Kingdom, ArtsEmerson will join with Ágora Cultural Architects to assemble local artists and performers who will share cultural offerings to celebrate and welcome with Travis Alabanza and Hackney Showroom.

Tickets:

Tickets will be available soon via ArtsEmerson.org.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR **BURGERZ PRBC**

BCYF/Jackson Mann Community Center

500 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134

WED, MAR 30 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, APR 06 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, APR 13 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAT, APR 16 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

TUE, APR 19 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WED, APR 20 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Please note: Proof of vaccination is required for entry.

Face masks are required for all BCYF visitors regardless of vaccine status. Visitors may not eat or drink in the community center.

Registration is now open [here](#).

Roxbury Library

149 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119

MON, MAR 28 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

MON, APR 04 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

MON, APR 11 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SAT, APR 16 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

MON, APR 25 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Please note: Proof of vaccination is required for entry.

Face masks are required for all Boston Public Library visitors regardless of vaccine status. Visitors may not eat or drink in the library.

Registration is now open [here](#).

ArtsEmerson: Online

Via Zoom

TUE, MAR 29 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, MAR 31 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TUE, APR 05 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, APR 07 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TUE, APR 12 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THU, APR 14 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

SAT, APR 16 @ 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

MON, APR 25 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Registration is now open [here](#).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

CREATED BY
Travis Alabanza

PRODUCED BY
Hackney Showroom

DIRECTED BY
Sam Curtis Lindsay

SET & COSTUME DESIGN
Soutra Gilmour

ASSOCIATE DESIGNER
Isabella van Braeckel

LIGHTING DESIGN
Lee Curran & Lauren Woodhead

SOUND DESIGN
XANA

MOVEMENT
Nando Messias

DRAMATURGY
Nina Lyndon

Original production supported by Ovalhouse, Marlborough Theatre, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund & Bishopsgate Institute.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Travis Alabanza

Travis Alabanza is an award-winning theatre maker, writer, and performer. A previous member of the Royal Court Young Writers group and Barbican young poets, Burgerz has toured internationally to Sao Paulo, Southbank Centre, Bristol Old Vic, Smock Alley Dublin, HAU Berlin and Edinburgh Festival Fringe where it won the Total Theatre award. Other work includes My White Best Friend & Living Newspaper (Royal Court online), Skype d8 (Bush Theatre online) Overflow (Bush Theatre) and In Tandem (Paines Plough online).

Alabanza has performed their solo work in a range of venues, galleries, and mediums including clubs such as the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Latitude Festival, the V&A museum and universities and colleges including Oxford,

Harvard and Bristol. In 2016/17, Travis was the youngest recipient of the Tate Gallery Workshop residency. Travis has written for Metro, Vice, Gal-Dem, The Independent, Dazed, Gay Times and more.

In 2018/19, Alabanza was listed on the Dazed100 – 100 people defining culture, awarded a Gay Times Honours award for their work in the LGBT+ community, and listed in the Evening Standard 25 Influential people under 25. Recently in The Sunday Times Style Bernadine Evaristo picked Alabanza as a 'trailblazer of the future' to watch.

Sam Curtis Lindsay

Sam Curtis Lindsay is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Hackney Showroom. As a Director recent credits include Class by Scottee at Assembly Festival, HOME and Theatre Centre Canada, The Court Must Have a Queen by Ade Solanke at Hampton Court Palace, and Heartbreak Hotel by Lucy Benson Brown at the Jetty Greenwich. Sam is an honorary research fellow at Queen Mary's University, London and a visiting director at LAMDA.

Hackney Showroom

Hackney Showroom is an award-winning cultural organization which supports exceptional artists to make live performance and brings different people together to be inspired, uplifted and emboldened by great art. Hackney Showroom's hallmark is their support of artists who sit outside the mainstream, developing their craft and carving out a space for marginalized voices who are innovating new forms of performance.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, and its mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and virtual performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theater 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 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 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 as well as its new Global Portals. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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