



**ARTS  
EMERSON**



**A TRANS COOKING SHOW  
WITH A RECIPE FOR RECLAMATION.**

# **BURGERZ**

**Travis Alabanza/Hackney Showroom / UK**

**APR 13—24**

**EMERSON PARAMOUNT  
CENTER**

**welcome**

**show credits**

**about the artists**

**land acknowledgment**

## WELCOME



Dearest ArtsEmerson Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome Travis Alabanza—one of the UK’s leading artists and trans voices—to ArtsEmerson. **Burgerz** heralds the return of international work to our stages after recent years of travel restrictions and closed borders. We remain incredibly grateful to our patrons, audiences, and staff that allow us to continue our commitment to presenting outstanding contemporary international artists like Travis here in Boston.

**Burgerz** also explores another kind of border—that between bystander and hate crime. Six years ago, a burger and transphobic slur was thrown at Travis in broad daylight in front of over a hundred people on Waterloo Bridge in London. This horrific moment inspires the play you are about to experience. Our trans and non-binary friends, family and loved ones are under attack every single day. We see it in our streets and in the laws being passed at this very moment across this country and around the globe.

**Burgerz** is a deeply personal work that confronts our society’s complicity in these actions, and recognizes the resiliency of the trans community. We love how it inspires and challenges those of us who are cisgender, to do better.

We are incredibly grateful to Travis for being here and sharing their experience with us.

**Burgerz** is a powerful and joyful story of trans reclamation that must be seen and heard.

Sincerely,



David C. Howse, Executive Director



Ronee Penoi, Director of Artistic Programming

# SHOW CREDITS

HACKNEY SHOWROOM and ARTSEMERSON PRESENT

# BURGERZ

**DIRECTED BY  
SAM CURTIS LINDSAY**

**SET & COSTUME DESIGN  
SOUTRA GILMOUR**

**ASSOCIATE DESIGNER  
ISABELLA VAN BRAECKEL**

**LIGHTING DESIGN  
LEE CURRAN and LAUREN WOODHEAD**

**SOUND DESIGN  
XANA**

**MOVEMENT  
NANDO MESSIAS**

**STAGE MANAGEMENT  
BETH LEWIS**

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

*Running time approx 70 mins*

*No Interval*

*Suitable for ages 14+*

## **WARNINGS**

Real meat used on stage. Contains haze, loud noises and themes of harassment and assault.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council/Reopen Creative Boston Fund, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**TRAVIS ALABANZA** is an award-winning theater 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* and *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's* Bernadine Evaristo picked Alabanza as a “trailblazer of the future” to watch. In 2021, Travis was featured in *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 Europe for Arts & Culture.

**SAM CURTIS LINDSAY** is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Hackney Showroom. As a director, recent credits include *Tomorrow Is Already Dead* by Ms Sharon Le Grand at Hackney Showroom; *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** is an award-winning cultural organisation 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 marginalised voices who are innovating new forms of performance.

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

At Emerson College's Office of the Arts, we hold ourselves accountable to the work of undoing oppression and advancing equity to overcome our city's bitter history of segregation and racial inequality. As part of this work, we must start by acknowledging that we are residing on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusett people, whose name was appropriated by this Commonwealth.

We pay respect to the Massachusett elders past, present and future, the traditional custodians of the lands on which we make and present our art. We acknowledge the truth of violence perpetrated in the name of this country and make a commitment to uncovering that truth through dialogue, partnerships and learning.