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ARTSEMERSON CONTINUES ITS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRADITION
DURING ITS YEAR OF EXPERIMENTATION

ANNOUNCING THE PLAY READING BOOK CLUB FOR CHRISTIANE JATAHY'S *JULIA*

CELEBRATING 7 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH DYNAMIC
CONVERSATIONS AND READING PLAYS

[Boston, MA – Friday, January 22, 2021] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, proudly announces that registration is now open for the latest iteration of its wildly popular **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)**, now being offered virtually. 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.

Christiane Jatahy's **Julia** is presented by ArtsEmerson, running February 09 – 22, and this associated **PRBC** will guide members through a reading and study of August Strindberg's 1889 play, *Miss Julie*, which is the source inspiration for Jatahy's hypnotic and audaciously theatrical work. The PRBC will feature 6 online Zoom gatherings which take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between January 26 – February 11. Members activity will include access to writer/director Christiane Jatahy and facilitated conversations with the full PRBC group, access to stream the full performance of **Julia**, as well as activity in more intimate groups within Zoom breakout rooms. Each breakout room will be limited to 30 participants supported by a dedicated Teaching Artist.

Participation in PRBC for **Julia** is free and registration is now open to the public [here](#).



Pictured: PRBC Night reception for **Detroit Red** by Will Power (Photos by Kaitlyn Burke)

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 in a community showcase. The program allows participants to explore a play over 6 sessions throughout the course of a month at a location they choose, and is facilitated by trained teaching artists from the Emerson College Masters in Theatre Education program and professional Boston theater artists. Participants not only study and see the play together, but are offered the opportunity to meet and discuss it with the visiting artists.

"At the core of ArtsEmerson's mission is bringing people together from communities throughout Boston to be enriched through art," shares ArtsEmerson's Executive Director, David C. Howse. "The Play Reading Book Club program creates an environment where audience members build relationships with one another, as well as with artists and staff members, and in so doing, multiplies the benefits of attending a performance -- whether that means coming in person to a theatre or logging in from your own home."

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR *JULIA* PLAY READING BOOK CLUB

Dates:

Tuesday, January 26	6:00PM - 7:30PM ET
Thursday, January 28	6:00PM - 7:30PM ET
Tuesday, February 2	6:00PM - 7:30PM ET
Thursday, February 4	6:00PM - 7:30PM ET
Tuesday, February 9	12:00PM - 1:30PM ET
Thursday, February 11	6:00PM - 7:30PM ET

Venue:

These online sessions will be held virtually over ZOOM. Activity will include discussions with the full PRBC group, as well as activity in small groups within ZOOM breakout rooms. Each breakout room will have a dedicated Teaching Artist.

Ticket Information:

Registration for the **Julia PRBC** is free.

How To Reserve:

Tickets may be reserved online [here](#) or by phone at 617-824-8400 (Hours: Tue-Sat 12-6PM).

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's 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 — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative season of globe-spanning performances, film, and dialogue invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and 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 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 as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. 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. 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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