

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE**

Media Contact: **Darren DeLuca**  
[darren.deluca@gmail.com](mailto:darren.deluca@gmail.com) | 603-489-7624



## **ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES DIGITAL EVENTS FOR JUNE 2021 INCLUDING THE LATEST PERFORMANCE EXPERIMENT FROM ARLEKIN PLAYERS THEATRE, AND PROGRAMMING FOR BOTH OF ARTSEMERSON'S FILM SERIES, PROJECTING CONNECTIONS AND SHARED STORIES**

**[Boston, MA – Friday, May 21, 2021]** – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary stage and screen artistry from around the world and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, is proud to announce new programming through June 2021. During the organization's **Year of Experimentation**, there has been a focus on the development and programming of its new digital venue, and providing support to international artists through reimagined residency programs that support new works, new platforms, and new approaches to process, as well as expanding film programming.

First up, ArtsEmerson will present a live interactive virtual experience, **chekhovOS/ an experimental game/**, in partnership with Arlekin Players Theatre on Sunday evening, June 06 at 8:00PM ET. In this latest workshop from Zero Gravity (zero-G) Virtual Theater Lab, Arlekin's founder and director Igor Golyak fuses film, theater, and video game technology to create a new medium where viewers are able to interact with the performers who include stars Jessica Hecht, Melanie Moore, and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Inspired by Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and drawing from recordings of Chekhov's letters and dreams, this interactive online theater experience accesses the operating system behind both Chekhov's computer and the world in which his characters live, searching for happiness.



**chekhovOS/ an experimental game/**  
*Cast photo: Courtesy of Arlekin Players Theatre*



**A Reckoning in Boston**  
*Photo still: Courtesy of James Rutenbeck*

Both of ArtsEmerson's film series, **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** and **Shared Stories**, will feature screenings in June. Raymond Yeung's feature film **Suk Suk (Twilight's Kiss)** will be available on demand June 09 – 13 as part of **Projecting Connections**, and June's **Shared Stories** series will feature two documentary features which are both included in the 2021 Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm); Lisa Mao's **A Tale of Three Chinatowns** will be available on demand June 23 - 27 and James Rutenbeck's documentary film **A Reckoning in Boston** will be available on demand June 24 - 26.

**chekhovOS /an experimental game/** tickets are free and ArtsEmerson film events are Pick Your Price, with tickets starting at just \$5 and RoxFilm events having price of \$10. Tickets may be reserved 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org) or by calling the ArtsEmerson Box Office at 617-824-8400 (open Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The physical Box Office remains closed at this time.

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

## LISTINGS INFORMATION

**Sunday, June 06, 2021**

**chekhovOS /an experimental game/**

*A Live and Interactive Virtual Experience*

90 minutes

LIVE on Sunday, June 06, 2021 @ 8:00PM ET

Followed by live talkback with members of the cast and creative team moderated by ArtsEmerson's Founder & Creative Consultant, Rob Orchard.

Recommended for Ages 12+

Performed in English and Russian with English subtitles

**chekhovOS /an experimental game/**, is a performance experiment in development by Arlekin Players Theatre's founder and director Igor Golyak, who has been a leading innovator of virtual theater since the start of the pandemic. His recent **State vs. Natasha Banina** was a Critic's Pick in *The New York Times* by Maya Phillips who declared "The verdict is in: the virtual can, in fact, be an effective new stage for theater." Golyak's latest work fuses film, theater, and video game technology to create a new medium where viewers are able to interact with the performers. Inspired by Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and drawing from recordings of Chekhov's letters and dreams, this interactive online theater experience accesses the operating system behind both Chekhov's computer and the world in which his characters live, searching for happiness.

Inspired by *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov

Conceived & Directed by Igor Golyak

Produced by Igor Golyak & Sara Stackhouse

Starring Jessica Hecht

And Anna Baryshnikov, Anna Bortnik, Darya Denisova, Jeffrey Hayenga, Melanie Moore, Nael Nacer & Mark Nelson

With Mikhail Baryshnikov as Anton Chekhov

*chekhovOS /an experimental game/ is made possible by is made possible with generous support from producing sponsor .ART, ArtsEmerson, Baryshnikov Arts Center, BroadBand Collaborative, Cherry Orchard Festival Foundation, Fooksman Family Foundation, Meghan Coleman, Robin Hanley, ZiphyCare, and Aximmetry Technologies Ltd., the official software provider for Arlekin's Zero Gravity (zero-G) Lab. Learn More at [zerogravity.art](https://www.zerogravity.art)*

Free tickets available with reservation [here](#).

**Wednesday, June 09 – Sunday, June 13**

**Suk Suk (Twilight's Kiss)**

Part of the **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** series

*Film*

92 minutes

On-demand: June 09 @ 7:00PM ET – June 13 @ 10:00PM ET

Q&A with filmmaker to follow the screening

Recommended for Ages 13 + | *Mature Content: Sexual scenes and references, mild language*

Screened in Cantonese with English subtitles. Captioning available for Q&A

**Suk Suk** presents the story of two closeted married men in their twilight years. One day PAK, 70, a taxi driver who refuses to retire, meets HOI, 65, a retired single father, in a park. Despite years of societal and personal pressure, they are proud of the families they have created through hard work and determination. Yet in that brief initial encounter, something is unleashed in them which had been suppressed for so many years. As both men recount and recall their personal histories, they also contemplate a possible future together. **Suk Suk** was the Jury Award Narrative Feature Winner for Boston's 2020 Wicked Queer Festival and received the Hong Kong Film Award for Best Screenplay and Best Director in 2020. This screening is part of ArtsEmerson's **Projecting Connections: Chinese American Experiences** film series. Using film as a lens to reflect on the vast lived experiences of the Chinese in the Greater Boston Area, this special series features films and post-show curated discussions designed to build and foster meaningful community conversation.

#### **About the Director:**

Raymond Yeung has directed two feature films including the award winning film "Front Cover" which was selected as the Audience Choice Winner for the 2017 Boston Asian American Film Festival. He has also written and directed eight short films. As a director and art director for television commercials, Ray has worked for clients including 7-Eleven, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and HSBC.

**Pick Your Price tickets available [here](#).**

### **Wednesday, June 23 – Sunday, June 27** **A Tale of Three Chinatowns (@RoxFilm)**

#### Boston Premiere

Part of the **Shared Stories** series

*Film*

90 minutes

On-demand: June 23 @ 8:00PM ET – June 27 @ 10:00PM ET

*Screening as part of the 23rd Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm)*

Q&A with filmmakers to follow the screening

**A Tale of Three Chinatowns** explores the survival of urban ethnic neighborhoods. Specifically examining Chinatowns in three American cities, the film looks at the forces altering each community and the challenges that go with them. The film profiles Chinatowns in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Boston and features the voices of residents, community activists, developers, government officials, and others who have a connection to this ubiquitous neighborhood. Through these perspectives, the film presents the present day pressing topic of urban development and gentrification through the eyes of those on the frontlines. Chicago's Chinatown is a story of growth where the Asian-American population has increased and its borders have expanded. In contrast, Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown has dwindled to an estimated population of 300 residents of Chinese descent. The Chinatown neighborhood in Boston finds itself somewhere in between these two extremes as various groups fight for the land on which it sits. This screening is part of ArtsEmerson's **Shared Stories** film series, presented in collaboration with the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF), and the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm). **Shared Stories** seeks to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema by creating a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and by encouraging the exchange of stories and ideas.

#### **About the filmmakers:**

Lisa Mao, Director, is a documentary producer, writer and director. Her credits include the award-winning documentary "Through Chinatown's Eyes: April 1968", Travel Channel's "Man Vs. Food Nation," and "Ultimate Factories" on National Geographic Channel. In addition to her Executive Producer role at the Travel Channel and programming role at Discovery Channel International, Mao has headed program development for various production companies. She is responsible for the launch of over 500 hours of programming on channels including National Geographic Channel, HGTV, History Channel, Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, PBS, Smithsonian Channel, and Reelz. Throughout her work, Mao is committed to helping people share their stories to reveal the complex and unique fabric of the human condition.

Penny Lee, Producer is a documentary producer, director and film/video editor. Through more than 25 years in editing and creating original content, she has worked on documentaries, feature and short films, reality television series, promotional infomercials, and educational videos for cable networks, corporate organizations, and associations. Lee produced, directed and edited the award-winning documentary “Through Chinatown’s Eyes: April 1968”. In addition to her network projects, her passion for storytelling continues to drive her to create content highlighting the immigrant experience in the United States, with a primary focus on the Chinese-American voice.

Tickets available May 26 at [artsemerson.org](http://artsemerson.org).

## Thursday, June 24 – Saturday, June 26 A Reckoning in Boston (@RoxFilm)

Part of the **Shared Stories** series

*Film*

83 minutes

On-demand: June 24 @ 5:00PM ET – June 26 @ 5:00PM ET

*Screening as part of the 23rd Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm)*

Q&A with filmmakers to follow the screening

Recommended for Ages 13+ | *Mature content due to gun violence*

In **A Reckoning in Boston**, a White filmmaker comes into a Black community looking for transformation in the lives of low-income adults enrolled in a night course in the Humanities. As he spends more time with the students, he’s awakened to the violence, racism and gentrification that threaten their very place in the city. This screening is part of ArtsEmerson’s **Shared Stories** film series, presented in collaboration with the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF), and the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm). **Shared Stories** seeks to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema by creating a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and by encouraging the exchange of stories and ideas.

### **About the filmmakers:**

James Rutenbeck, Director, has screened his nonfiction films at various forums including Cinema du Reel, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery and the Flaherty Film Seminar. James is a two-time recipient of the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Journalism Award for his work as producer of the PBS series *Unnatural Causes* and *Class of '27*, which is streaming as the Editor's Pick of the Atlantic.

Carl Chandler, Producer, is a Boston-born first time filmmaker whose ancestry is Black, Indigenous American and western European. Because he felt that his people were not respected or embraced by America, Carl made the calculation early in life to opt out of chasing the material excesses of the so-called “American Dream.” Throughout his life, he has given lectures and presentations on indigenous culture in southern New England as his small contribution to the education of young people until he found the Clemente Course in the Humanities, giving him new direction.

Kafi Dixon, Producer, has worked as a gravedigger, fishmonger, retail merchant, Boston bus driver, community organizer and mother of three. She is certified as an urban farmer by the City of Boston. A former Clemente Course student, Kafi has worked closely with the film’s director James Rutenbeck for the last three years. She is currently lead organizer for the Common Good Cooperative, an urban farm and cooperative for poor and working-class women of color in Dorchester, Massachusetts. This is her first film.

Tickets available May 26 at [artsemerson.org](http://artsemerson.org).

## PRESENTER 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 — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and digital 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](https://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](https://Emerson.edu). For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: [Michelle\\_Gaseau@emerson.edu](mailto:Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu), O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

**Arlekin Players Theatre**, founded by Artistic Director Igor Golyak, was created in Boston in 2009 and has since toured to New York, Chicago, and Hartford, as well as to international festivals in Russia, Armenia, Ukraine, and Monaco. It's production of *State vs Natasha Banina* has received world-wide acclaim, including the *New York Times Critics' Pick*. Arlekin has received multiple awards for its work including four 2020 Elliot Norton Awards from the *Boston Theater Critics Association* for its recent productions of *The Stone* and *The Seagull*. Arlekin takes strong pride in their emphasis on self-identity; they are a company of immigrants performing works that play on the ideas of cross-culture, home, and traditions, challenging the idea of nationality, and finding common themes that unite us all. In 2020, Arlekin launched it's *Zero Gravity (zero-G) Virtual Theater Lab* to explore new theater possibilities for a new time. The company makes its home in Needham, MA. For more information, visit [www.arlekinplayers.com](http://www.arlekinplayers.com) and ZeroGravity.ART.

**.ART** is the art world's digital domain of choice. Not bound by geographical location or industrial constraints it aims to support, empower and generate value for the creative community. It is also intending to be an innovation activator with its own solutions as well as promoting the ones of others creative community members. .ART is a space where artists, institutions, professionals and creative can register a clear and concise website address that reflects their passion, occupation and belonging to the art world.

**Cherry Orchard Festival Foundation** ([www.CherryOrchardFestival.org](http://www.CherryOrchardFestival.org)), a registered 501c (3) arts organization, is a leading independent international arts organization with a solid reputation for presenting musical performances, theatrical productions, multidisciplinary performing and visual arts attractions by a stunning array of global artists to audiences in the US. Founded by executive producer Maria Shclover and artistic director Irina Shabshis in 2012, the festival has presented over 60 unique world class events, concerts, and theatrical performances to over 150,000 audience members across the US. The presentation of "Cherry Orchard" at the Baryshnikov Arts Center will be the second collaboration between the Festival and Arlekin Theatre, after the successful online run of *The State vs. Natasha Banina* in 2020. The ongoing mission of the Cherry Orchard Festival is to introduce and promote global cultural activity and exchange of ideas, aiming to enlighten and engage audiences through educational entertainment programs and events. For more information about the festival, please visit [cherryorchardfestival.org](http://cherryorchardfestival.org).

**Boston Asian American Film Festival**

The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community. BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. [www.BAAFF.org](http://www.BAAFF.org)

**Boston Latino International Film Festival**

Since its inception in 2001, the Boston Latino International Film Festival has been committed to using the power of film to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together and reveal the complex issues that affect the Latinx community in the United States, Latin America and Spain. [www.bliff.org](http://www.bliff.org)

**Roxbury International Film Festival**

The Roxbury International Film Festival is the largest festival in New England that celebrates people of color. Our mission is to support diverse filmmakers by providing an opportunity for audiences to view their works and experience the stories often overlooked in mainstream media. RoxFilm continues to showcase and honor the works of emerging filmmakers of color as well as established filmmakers, and has become the largest festival in New England dedicated to this genre. [www.roxfilmfest.com](http://www.roxfilmfest.com)

# # #