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



## **ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES NEW LIVE AND ON-DEMAND DIGITAL PROGRAMMING THROUGH APRIL 2021**

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### **SELECT PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:**

**A NEW MONTHLY *PROJECTING CONNECTIONS* FILM SERIES,  
A SCREEN CAPTURE OF ACCLAIMED STAGE ADAPTATION OF *THE SEAGULL*,  
THE NEWEST WORK BY CHILE'S GUILLERMO CALDERON,  
THE BOSTON BALTIC FILM FESTIVAL,  
AND MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT IN  
CONVERSATION WITH ARTISTS AND WITH ONE ANOTHER**

**[Boston, MA – Tuesday, March 09, 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 April 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.

ArtsEmerson adds to its March programming schedule with a **Town Hall with David C. Howse** on March 12, followed by the latest **Shared Stories** feature film, **La Chana**, which will be shown in tandem with the short **After Dark** March 24-28, and finishing with Yury Bustusov's frenetic, award-winning production of **The Seagull** March 26-28 (including a live Sunday afternoon conversation with the director).

In April, ArtsEmerson partners with the **Boston Baltic Film Festival** to present 3 weekends of film programming between April 02-18, launches its newest monthly film series, **Projecting Connections: Chinese-American Experiences** with a screening of **Far East Deep South** April 07-11 with opening night artist conversation, and brings to audiences the latest work from the creative genius of Chile's Guillermo Calderón, the micro-documentary **The Return of Dragón** April 10-25. March and April programming also include all remaining Spring 2021 films in the Bright Lights Film Series.



**The Seagull**

Photo: Courtesy of the Satyricon Theatre



**The Return of Dragón**

Photo: Eugenia Paz

“We are excited to continue to present programming that expands the types of stories that can be presented to Boston audiences during our **Year of Experimentation**,” says ArtsEmerson Executive Director David C. Howse. “We are committed to building on and exploring new partnerships and artist residency programs, and to privileging subordinated voices in our works as we continue to experiment with our new digital venue.”

Tickets are Pick Your Price, with free or low-cost options available for all events. 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](#).  
Additional materials to be added to the media kit soon.**

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR MARCH & APRIL PROGRAMMING**

Wednesday, March 10 - Thursday, March 11, 2021

### **Bright Lights Film Series: The Viewing Booth**

*Film*

70 minutes

On-demand: March 10 @ 7PM ET - March 11 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with director Ra'anana Alexandrowicz: March 11 @ 8PM ET

In English, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

Co-presented with Boston Jewish Film

**The Viewing Booth** recounts a unique encounter between a filmmaker and a viewer -- exploring the way meaning is attributed to non-fiction images in today's day and age. In a lab-like location, Maia Levy, a young Jewish American woman, watches videos portraying life in the occupied West Bank, while verbalizing her thoughts and feelings in real time. Maia is an enthusiastic supporter of Israel, and the images in the videos, depicting Palestinian life under Israeli military rule, contradict some of her deep-seated beliefs. Empathy, anger, embarrassment, innate biases, and healthy curiosity -- all play out before our eyes as we watch her watch the images created by the Occupation. As Maia navigates and negotiates the images, which threaten her worldview, she also reflects on the way she sees them. Her candid and immediate reactions form a one-of-a-kind cinematic testimony to the psychology of the viewer in the digital era.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org) website.**

Friday, March 12, 2021

### **Town Hall with David C. Howse**

#### **Marking One Year Since Our Last Live Performance**

**60 minutes**

*Virtual Town Hall*

Join ArtsEmerson in conversation with Executive Director David C. Howse as he checks in with the ArtsEmerson community, takes your questions, and marks one calendar year since the last live performance in our theatres. Over the years ArtsEmerson has found our friends and neighbors that make up our audience to be our strongest collaborators. From focus groups, to town halls, to being pulled aside in the theatre lobby, we shape how we do our work from what we hear from you. While the coming months are sure to bring great promise, our days ahead will not be without challenges, so please join us as we gather (virtually on Zoom) to see one another again, acknowledge the difficulties of the past year, and share great optimism for the future.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org) website.**

Wednesday, March 17 - Thursday, March 18, 2021

### **Bright Lights Film Series: Morgana**

*Film*

71 minutes

On-demand: March 17 @ 7PM ET - March 18 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with directors Josie Hess and Isabel Peppard: March 18 @ 8PM ET

Co-presented with ReelAbilities Boston, Wicked Queer: The Boston LGBT Film Festival, the Boston Women's Film Festival, The Center for Women's Health and Human Rights, and the Boston Underground Film Festival **Morgana** is an artistic character portrait of a 50-year-old housewife, who re-invents herself as a sex-positive feminist porn star. After 20 years as a dutiful housewife stuck in a loveless, sexless marriage, Morgana has had enough of her dreary life. Desperately lonely and starved of intimacy, she books a male escort for one last hurrah before ending it all. Her final night takes an unexpected turn when her relationship with the escort opens up a new world of personal and sexual freedom. After hearing about a competition for first time erotic filmmakers, Morgana directs and stars in a film about her own story, 'Duty-Bound'. Unexpectedly her film wins, catapulting her into the international Feminist Porn community. Life merges with art as Morgana uses erotic filmmaking as a tool for creative catharsis, while struggling with demons from her past.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Wednesday, March 24 - Thursday, March 25, 2021

**Bright Lights Film Series: Crutch**

*Film*

98 minutes

On-demand: March 24 @ 7PM ET - March 25 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with directors Sacchi Cunningham and Chandler Evans, protagonist Bill Shannon and Dance Umbrella co-founder Jeremy Alliger '75: March 25 @ 8PM ET

Co-presented with ReelAbilities Boston, the Boston Underground Film Festival and the Boston Women's Film Festival

Two decades of exclusive access, plus a lifetime of archival footage, depict Shannon from his early years, to his rise as an award-winning dancer and cutting-edge performance artist whose work finds outlet at prestigious venues worldwide.

**Crutch** examines Shannon's controversial street performances as he exposes the hidden world of assumptions disabled people encounter in public, on a daily basis. While the film questions his early exploitation of strangers' good Samaritan impulses, it also marvels at Shannon's ability to create solutions and empower others to navigate similar challenges. From childhood "cripple" to international provocateur, **Crutch** is an emotional story of an artist's struggle to be understood.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Wednesday, March 24 - Sunday, March 28, 2021

**Shared Stories: La Chana** (followed by **After Dark**)

*Film*

106 minutes (combined running time)

On-demand: March 24 – March 28

Opening Night: March 24 - Stream @ 7PM ET and then join a live conversation with filmmakers

Directors – Lucija Stojevic (**La Chana**) & Laura Sanchez (**After Dark**)

ArtsEmerson presents **Shared Stories**, a monthly film series in collaboration with the Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF), Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF), and the Roxbury International Film Festival (RoxFilm) seeking to build community, shared conversation, and experiences through cinema. This pilot series aspires to create a shared space to find commonality across experiences, and encourage the exchange of stories and ideas.

**La Chana** brings us under the skin and into the mind of a talented Gypsy flamenco dancer as she returns to the stage to give a final seated performance after a 30-year break. Along the way, La Chana reveals the secret behind her disappearance when she was at the peak of her career. Post-film conversation with filmmakers.

*Mature content: Abuse, sexual violence and mental health references*

**After Dark** is a multimedia short-film that combines flamenco with poetry, visual art, drama and creative expression. This was born as an artistic response to all emotional states that I experienced as a woman, artist, mother, immigrant and trauma survivor during quarantine. This short film was created to inspire hope in difficult times and create awareness about racial discrimination, climate change and mental health.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Friday, March 26 - Sunday, March 28

### **The Seagull**

*Screen capture of stage play*

215 minutes

On-demand: March 26 @ 9AM ET – March 28 @ 1PM ET

Live Q&A: March 28 @ 1PM ET

Director – Yury Butusov

Set Designer - Alexander Shishkin

Music - Faustas Latenas

Lighting Designer - Anatoly Kuznecov

Sound - Ekaterina Pavlova and Dariya Kascheeva

Stage Manager - Angelika Ramazanova

Recommended for ages 16+ - *Artistic scenes of suicide and blood*

*Performed in Russian with English subtitles*

Presented in participation with Stage Russia and Moscow's Satyricon Theatre.

Yury Bustusov's award-winning frenetic production of **The Seagull** delves deep into the throes of artistic creation and the struggle of finding your own voice amidst the chaos of it all. The cast of characters, Boris Trigorin, Nina, Irina Arkadina, and Konstantin Treplev, are portrayed by a myriad of actors switching roles, shedding light on the idea that greatness is precariously close to mediocrity while suggesting that the opposite is also true. Moscow's Satyricon Theatre's bold interpretation of Anton Chekov's classic play, as captured on film by Stage Russia, and with a follow up live Zoom discussion with the director and revered Russian theater historian, Anatoly Smeliansky, is an event not to be missed.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Wednesday, March 31 - Thursday, April 01, 2021

### **Bright Lights Film Series: The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel**

*Film*

105 minutes

On-demand: March 31 @ 7PM ET - April 01 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with directors Joel Bakan and Jennifer Abbot: April 01 @ 8PM ET

Co-presented with the Boston Women's Film Festival, IFFBoston, Living on Earth podcast and SEIU local 888

**The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel** reveals how the corporate takeover of society is being justified by the sly rebranding of corporations as socially conscious entities. From gatherings of corporate elites in Davos, to climate change and spiraling inequality; the rise of ultra-right leaders to COVID-19 and racial injustice, the film looks at corporations' devastating power. Countering this is a groundswell of resistance worldwide as people take to the streets in pursuit of justice and the planet's future. In the face of spiraling inequality, climate change, and the hollowing out of democracy, **The New Corporation** is a cry for social justice, deeper democracy, and transformative solutions.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Friday, April 02 - Sunday, April 18, 2021

### **Boston Baltic Film Festival**

*Film Festival Partner*

**Tickets available soon at [ArtsEmerson.org](#)**

April 02-04

### **Self Made Cameraman**

90 minutes

On-demand: April 02 @ 10AM ET - April 04 @ 10PM ET

Q&A with director Hardi Volmer

In 1912, the first Estonian filmmaker, Johannes Pääsuke, was commissioned to capture life and people in a far corner of Estonian countryside: Setomaa. He returned with more than 1300 photos, but only 7 minutes of film footage. What happened to the rest of it? **Self Made Cameraman** is a comedy that tries to propose a version. Johannes Pääsuke and his assistant Harri Volter, a Baltic German medical student, played by prominent Estonian comedians Ott Sepp and Märt Avandi, travel by train and on horse carriage from Tartu to Petseri and

Värška and end up in most surreal adventures leading them to one conclusion: a man has to do what a man has to do. A year later, in 1913, Johannes Pääsuke filmed the very first Estonian feature film: Bear Hunt in the Pärnu County.

April 09-11

### **A to B Rollerski**

98 minutes

On-demand: April 09 @ 10AM ET - April 11 @ 10PM ET

Q&A with director Arnis Aspers and biathlete Raimonds Dombrovskis

**A to B Rollerski** is a feature documentary film that tells the story of Raimonds Dombrovskis' epic rollerski journey from Arctic to Baja back in 1988, covering 4200 miles in 90 days. Raimonds is a Latvia-born US Olympic biathlete whose sudden life-threatening health condition forces him out of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. Instead of giving up on his dreams, Raimonds recovers and embarks on a 90-day rollerski trip from Inuvik, Canada, to Baja, Mexico. Fast forward 26 years, and Raimonds, now an experienced adventure traveler in his 50's, is back to Inuvik to relive the trip, try to find the same people, and reflect on how his life turned out after A to B. **A to B Rollerski** is a film about what it takes to choose life goals and fulfill them against all odds.

April 16-18

### **I Want to Live**

110 minutes

On-demand: April 16 @ 10AM ET - April 18 @ 10PM ET

Q&A with director Justinas Krisiunas

**I Want to Live** is a romantic drama set in late 20th century Lithuania. With its verdant scenery, the movie takes the audience back in time to just before the internet and smartphones took over our daily lives.

A young and promising sprinter, Saulius, is racing in a 200-meter race as everyone's favorite. Approaching the finish line, Saulius unexpectedly collapses holding his chest. His parents bring their defiant and sharp-tongued teen to a sanatorium hoping for a quick recovery. Saulius is not fond of being surrounded by "corpses".

However, his demeanor changes when he sets his eyes on Milda, an attractive female patient who is waiting for a heart donor.

**I Want to Live** is a warm story about friendship, love, and one's deep will to live as well as fear of living.

Wednesday, April 07 - Thursday, April 08, 2021

### **Bright Lights Film Series: Her Socialist Smile**

*Film*

93 minutes

On-demand: April 07 @ 7PM ET - April 08 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with director John Gianvito: April 08 @ 8PM ET

Co-presented with The Center for Women's Health and Human Rights, ReelAbilities Boston, and SEIU local 888

In his new film, Gianvito meditates on a particular moment in early 20th-century history: when Helen Keller began speaking out passionately on behalf of progressive causes. Beginning in 1913, when, at age 32, Keller gave her first public talk before a general audience, **Her Socialist Smile** is constructed of onscreen text taken from Keller's speeches, impressionistic images of nature, and newly recorded voiceover by poet Carolyn Forché. The film is a rousing reminder that Keller's undaunted activism for labor rights, pacifism, and women's suffrage was philosophically inseparable from her battles for the rights of the disabled.

**Tickets available [here](#) on the ArtsEmerson.org website.**

Wednesday, April 07 – Sunday, April 11

### **Projecting Connections: Chinese-American Experiences - Far East Deep South**

*Film*

76 minutes

On-demand: April 07 – April 11

A recorded conversation with filmmakers will follow the on-demand streaming of the film.

Director – Larissa Lam

ArtsEmerson announces a brand new monthly film series, **Projecting Connections: Chinese-American Experiences**. Using film as a lens to reflect on the vast lived experiences of the Chinese in the Greater Boston Area, this new film series will feature monthly films and post-screening curated discussions designed to build and foster meaningful community conversation.

**Far East Deep South** explores the seldom-told history of early Chinese immigrants living in the American South during the late 1800s to mid-1900s. The film provides lessons on immigration, race and American identity that current and future generations can glean from this challenging time in history.

Tickets available soon at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://ArtsEmerson.org)

Wednesday, April 10 - Thursday, April 25

### **The Return of Dragón**

*Micro-Documentary*

23 minutes

Weekend screenings on April 10 & 11

*Will include post-screening LIVE conversations*

On-demand: April 12 - 25

*Followed by recorded post-show conversation*

Director – Guillermo Calderón

**Dragón**, Guillermo Calderón's latest stage play, is a story about a group of artists who meet to begin creating the work that should anoint them as undeniable forces of nature in the avant-garde theater community. The plot provides a window, a reflection, on opportunism and violence written by the internationally renowned Chilean playwright and director. In **The Return of Dragón**, Calderón has developed a new audiovisual vision that adopts the format of a micro-documentary, expressly made in the context of the new circumstances of confinement. The action is set against the compelling topics **Dragón** introduces as well as the artistic and cultural references at the core of the show, while juxtaposing them against the context of Chile's current political revolution compounded by the consequences of the pandemic.

*\*This video was recorded during the quarantine in Santiago de Chile in June 2020, and it includes records from mobile phones.*

Tickets available soon at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://ArtsEmerson.org)

Wednesday, April 14 - Thursday, April 15, 2021

### **Bright Lights Film Series: Generation Green New Deal**

*Film*

45 minutes

On-demand: April 14 @ 7PM ET - April 15 @ 8PM ET

Live Q&A with director Sam Eilertsen and activists: April 15 @ 8PM ET

Co-presented Boston Jewish Film, Living on Earth podcast, and SEIU local 888

For decades, the American political system has seemed incapable of taking on climate change at the scale necessary to address the growing crisis. In November 2018 the youth-led organization Sunrise Movement and the youngest Congresswoman-elect in history, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez occupied Nancy Pelosi's office. Their demand: a "Green New Deal". It set off a firestorm, birthing both an ascendent political movement and intense opposition. **Generation Green New Deal** looks at the revolutionary political idea and the people behind it, featuring Naomi Klein, Bill McKibben, Varshini Prakash, Rhiana Gunn-Wright, David Wallace-Wells, Abdul El-Sayed and more.

Tickets available [here](#) on the [ArtsEmerson.org](https://ArtsEmerson.org) website.

## 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](http://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](http://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).

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