

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE**

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



# ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES RONEE PENOI AS DIRECTOR OF ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

\*\*\*\*\*

## PENOI WILL BE THE COMPANY'S THIRD ARTISTIC LEADER

**[Boston, MA – Wednesday, July 21, 2021]** – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization housed at Emerson College, is thrilled to announce **Ronee Penoi** as Director of Artistic Programming. Penoi (Laguna Pueblo/Cherokee) is a well-respected leader and producer in the American Theater and will begin her work with ArtsEmerson starting August 02, 2021.

Penoi is no stranger to ArtsEmerson's aesthetic and values. ArtsEmerson has collaborated with her for years through her most recent role as Producer at Octopus Theatricals, with whom ArtsEmerson has collaborated to bring many boundary-pushing artists to its audiences. As Director of Artistic Programming, she will oversee the strategies, programs, activities, and outcomes of ArtsEmerson's signature work in artistic and civic engagement and she will lead the Artistic Engagement and Guest Experience teams in their continued effort to build meaningful collaborations, relationships and opportunities.



**Ronee Penoi**

Photo: Courtesy of Amber Wilkie

"After an extensive search process that attracted national and international candidates, I am excited to welcome Ronee Penoi to ArtsEmerson, to Emerson College, and to the City of Boston," says David C. Howse, ArtsEmerson's Executive Director. "Ronee is an accomplished and well-respected producer in the American Theater. Her track record of centering artists, her artistic curiosity, and her commitment to racial justice and climate justice are just a few ways that she exemplifies our shared values here at ArtsEmerson. I am energized by the idea of what will come of Ronee's collaboration with the team and our community!"

As Producer with Octopus Theatricals, Penoi advanced the work of Cherokee artist DeLanna Studi (*And So We Walked*), Phantom Limb Company (*Falling Out*), Ripe Time (*Sleep*), Homer's Coat (*An Iliad* by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson), Theatre for One, and more. She is a two-time ISPA (International Society of Performing Arts) Global Fellow, and has been an APAP (Association of Performing Arts Professionals) Leadership Fellow and TCG (Theatre Communications Group) Rising Leader of Color. Ronee is a Founding Member of The Industry Standard Group (TISG), a commercial investment and producing organization with an intentional focus on increasing the presence of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) investors and producers in the commercial producing field.

Penoi's artistic practice and advocacy draws from her Indigenous background. Her father was enrolled with both the Cherokee Nation and Pueblo of Laguna (her mother is white, of Polish ethnicity). Her great-grandfather, Mark Penoi, attended Carlisle Indian School, and Penoi is passionate about sharing how the legacy of that traumatic boarding school experience has shaped her and other descendants' lives.

"ArtsEmerson is known internationally for its ambitious artistic work, culture of care, and integrity," shares Ronee Penoi. "I couldn't be more excited to work with David Howse and the incomparable ArtsEmerson staff to continue this work while pressing ahead to address the next set of challenges - how does our arts practice and impact re-story our past and decolonize our future? I'm indebted to Rob Orchard and David Dower's extraordinary artistic leadership that has paved the way."

ArtsEmerson recently announced its 2021/22 [Season](#).

## BIOGRAPHIES & MORE INFORMATION

### Ronee Penoi

Ronee Penoi (Laguna Pueblo/Cherokee) was most recently a Producer with Octopus Theatricals, where she advanced the work of Cherokee artist DeLanna Studi (*And So We Walked*), Phantom Limb Company (*Falling Out*), Ripe Time (*Sleep*), Homer's Coat (*An Iliad* by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson), Theatre for One, and more. She is a two-time ISPA (International Society of Performing Arts) Global Fellow, and has been an APAP (Association of Performing Arts Professionals) Leadership Fellow and TCG (Theatre Communications Group) Rising Leader of Color. Ronee is a Founding Member of The Industry Standard Group (TISG), a commercial investment and producing organization with an intentional focus on increasing the presence of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) investors and producers in the commercial producing field. She is also part of the consortium leadership of First Nations Performing Arts, a proud NEFA (New England Foundation for the Arts) National Theater Project Advisor, serves on Western Arts Alliance Committees, and leads the Creative and Independent Producer Alliance (CIPA) Programs Committee. Ronee is a two-time recipient of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Individual Artist Fellowship as well as additional awards for her musical composing work with collaborator Annalisa Dias on *#Resist* and *The Carlisle Project*. She is also Co-Founder and collaborator with Groundwater Arts Collective dedicated to climate justice in the arts. Previously, Ronee was NNPN Producer-in-Residence at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Senior Producing Fellow and Directing Fellow at Arena Stage, and toured nationally with Anna Deavere Smith's *Let Me Down Easy*. She spent three years with the Consensus Building Institute, a non-profit specializing in facilitation and mediation services. Her current anti-racism practice builds upon a decolonization framework and embraces systems change as a key component of that work. She graduated with honors from Princeton University with a degree in Music with certificates in Vocal Performance and Theatre & Dance. She has been invited to guest lecture on producing at Princeton University, CalArts, Howard University, and for American University's graduate Arts Administration program.

### 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](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 3,700 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](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).

# # #