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A JOURNALIST TRADES HEADLINES FOR THE STAGE  
IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE WORLD

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ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS

## SEA SICK

WRITTEN BY AND PERFORMED BY ALANNA MITCHELL  
DIRECTED BY FRANCO BONI WITH RAVI JAIN

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**MAY 11 – 22, 2022: IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES**  
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER | JACKIE LIEBERGOTT BLACK BOX  
**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022 @ 8PM: VIRTUAL LIVESTREAM**  
VIA ARTSEMERSON.ORG

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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES FREE OPPORTUNITIES TO  
EXPAND ENGAGEMENT WITH **SEA SICK**:  
**THE PLAY READING BOOK CLUB AND TWO PUBLIC DIALOGUES**

**[Boston, MA – Monday, April 18, 2022]** – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, will be presenting Alanna Mitchell’s **Sea Sick** at the Emerson Paramount Center Jackie Liebergott Black Box from May 11 – 22, 2022. The performance is the story of science journalist Alanna Mitchell’s grand adventure into the ocean to learn its secrets, face its demons, and come to grips with the devastating implications of climate change that threaten our world.

Directed by Franco Boni, with Ravi Jain, **Sea Sick** is a science journalist’s rollicking, true story, refreshingly told in an intimate setting, where Mitchell’s marvelous discoveries are presented with whip smart humor and informed by some of today’s most fascinating scientific discoveries. Inspired by Mitchell’s international bestseller and award-winning book of the same name, this show will leave audiences hopeful and ready to act.



Alanna Mitchell, *Sea Sick*



Alanna Mitchell, *Sea Sick*

Photo credit: Alejandro Santiago

Photo credit: Alejandro Santiago

“I’m so thrilled to be bringing the play to ArtsEmerson’s audiences next month,” Mitchell says. “Our need to fathom just how much we’re endangering the life-support systems of the planet has never been greater. And neither has been our power to push the change we want to see.”

“ArtsEmerson is committed to advancing climate justice onstage and off,” says ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programming Ronee Penoi. “We know the scale of the climate crisis can often feel paralyzing, but with *Sea Sick*, Alanna unlocks a path forward through her unique perspective- offering a much needed dose of inspiration. We couldn’t be more pleased to welcome Alanna’s work - a powerful intersection of storytelling, science, and civic dialogue - to the city of Boston.”

In addition to the opportunity to experience **Sea Sick** in-person at the Emerson Paramount Center, ArtsEmerson is hosting a virtual livestream of the performance on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 8:00PM ET, broadcast live from the Jackie Liebergott Black Box.

Tickets for the **Sea Sick** in-person performances and for the **Sea Sick: Virtual Livestream** performance may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. In-person tickets cost \$60 and the virtual livestream tickets cost \$35. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on “General Public” when you visit [ArtsEmerson’s Offers web page](#).

At the core of ArtsEmerson’s mission is bringing people together from communities throughout Boston to be enriched through art. Overcoming the exclusionary tendencies of art requires building institutions where civic engagement isn’t a program but is the DNA of the organizational infrastructure.

From hosting Play Reading Book Clubs, neighborhood performances, and public dialogues to making tickets affordable and holding Welcome to Boston Cast Parties around the city, ArtsEmerson provides opportunities for people to connect with artists, ideas, and each other. ArtsEmerson is proud to be offering several free **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)** and **Public Dialogue** events taking place in connection with **Sea Sick**.

### **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)**

Registration is now open for ArtsEmerson’s wildly popular **Play Reading Book Club (PRBC)** which will be studying **Sea Sick** from May 2 – 25, 2022. 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.

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 with their communities. The program will allow participants to explore **Sea Sick** over the course of 4 weeks during in-person or online sessions and is facilitated by trained teaching artists from the Emerson College Masters in Theatre Education program and professional Boston theater artists. Participants are also offered the opportunity to special meet & greet conversations with the visiting artists.

### **Public Dialogue**

ArtsEmerson’s mission is not only to present extraordinary artists and performances from around the world, but to engage diverse multi-generational Boston audiences in thinking and talking about issues that address the concerns and challenges of our contemporary moment. ArtsEmerson periodically hosts free public dialogues

and “Citywide Read” events aimed at connecting the work on our stages, our artists, our neighborhood partners, and our audiences through meaningful interactions.

ArtsEmerson will present two **Public Dialogue** conversations surrounding the **Sea Sick** engagement, the first of which will be a virtual discussion on May 9, 2022. There will be an additional in-person public dialogue on May 25, 2022 – a conversation about climate change.

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

### LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR SEA SICK

**Dates:**

May 11 – 22, 2022

**Live Venue:**

Emerson Paramount Center  
Jackie Liebergott Black Box  
559 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

**Livestream Virtual Venue:**

[ArtsEmerson.org](https://ArtsEmerson.org)

**Performance Schedule:**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022	7:30PM ET	
Thursday, May 12, 2022	7:30PM ET	<i>Press Performance</i>
Friday, May 13, 2022	8:00PM ET	
Saturday, May 14, 2022	2:00PM ET	
Saturday, May 14, 2022	8:00PM ET	
Sunday, May 15, 2022	2:00PM ET	
Wednesday, May 18, 2022	7:30PM ET	
Thursday, May 19, 2022	7:30PM ET	
Friday, May 20, 2022	8:00PM ET	<i>One Night Only: Virtual Livestream via <a href="https://ArtsEmerson.org">ArtsEmerson.org</a></i>
Saturday, May 21, 2022	2:00PM ET	
Saturday, May 21, 2022	8:00PM ET	
Sunday, May 22, 2022	2:00PM ET	

**Ticket Information:**

Tickets for the **Sea Sick** in-person performances and virtual livestream may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400 (Tue-Sat from 12:00PM ET - 6:00PM ET). The Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open for walk-up service Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save up to 30%. In-person tickets cost \$60 and the virtual livestream tickets cost \$35.

Thanks to generous support from Rockland Trust, a limited number of \$10 Mobile Rush tickets will be available at 10:00 AM ET each performance day on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively through the TodayTix mobile app. For more information, please click on “General Public” when you visit [ArtsEmerson’s Offers web page](#).

**Content:**

Recommended for All Ages

**Running Time:**

65 minutes, no intermission

**Public Health Information:**

The Theatres of Emerson College firmly believes in the importance of a fully vaccinated community, and the utmost priority is the safety of patrons, program participants, artists, and team members. Efforts will continue to re-evaluate and establish new guidelines to ensure that protocols fulfill the promise of supporting the well-being of all.

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry to all events. According to the CDC, “full COVID-19 vaccination” is defined as two weeks after one dose of a single-shot regimen, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after the second dose of an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna. Currently, booster shots are not required under the new policy. Masks covering mouth and nose are mandatory inside all venues at all times (except for speakers, performers, and musicians while actively participating in a performance or presentation. Based on most recent scientific findings, we are recommending N95, KN95, or well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks; however, any mask with at least 3-ply construction is permissible. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with vents are allowed. [Click here to review full info on Covid-19 Health and Wellness protocols.](#)

**LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR SEA SICK PRBC****BCYF/Jackson Mann Community Center****500 Cambridge St, Allston, MA 02134**

WED, MAY 04 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

WED, MAY 11 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

WED, MAY 18 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

SAT, MAY 21 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

TUE, MAY 24 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

WED, MAY 25 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET

Face masks are required for all BCYF visitors regardless of vaccine status. Visitors may not eat or drink in the community center.

Registration is now open [here](#).

**Roxbury Library****149 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA 02119**

MON, MAY 02 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET

MON, MAY 09 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET

MON, MAY 16 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET

SAT, MAY 21 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

MON, MAY 23 @ 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET

Face masks are required for all Boston Public Library visitors regardless of vaccine status. Visitors may not eat or drink in the library.

Registration is now open [here](#).

**ArtsEmerson: Online****Via Zoom**

TUE, MAY 03 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

THU, MAY 05 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

TUE, MAY 10 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

THU, MAY 12 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

TUE, MAY 17 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

THU, MAY 19 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

SAT, MAY 21 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET (PRBC NIGHT @ THE THEATRE)

TUE, MAY 24 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

Registration is now open [here](#).

## LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR SEA SICK PUBLIC DIALOGUES

### When:

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7PM ET (Virtual)  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7PM ET (In Person)

### Locations:

Zoom/YouTube Virtual Discussion via [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org)  
Jackie Liebergott Black Box

### Tickets:

Free w/ RSVP; Tickets and additional information will be available soon via [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org)

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

### WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY:

Alanna Mitchell

### DIRECTED BY:

Franco Boni, with Ravi Jain

### SET & COSTUME DESIGNER:

Shawn Kerwin

### LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Rebecca Picherak

### SOUND DESIGNER:

Tim Lindsay

### STAGE MANAGER AND TOURING LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Melissa Joakim

### PRODUCED BY:

The Theatre Centre

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### Alanna Mitchell

Alanna Mitchell (Writer and Performer) is an award-winning Canadian author and journalist who writes about science and social trends. Her international best-selling book *Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis* won the prestigious Grantham Prize for excellence in environmental journalism in 2010. With the help of The Theatre Centre's artistic director Franco Boni and Why Not Theatre's founding artistic director Ravi Jain, Mitchell turned *Sea Sick* into a one-woman nonfiction play that she has performed across Canada and internationally, her first foray into theatre. She has written for the *New York Times* science section, *National Geographic*, *Canadian Geographic*, *GQ Magazine India*, *Maclean's Magazine*, *Broadview Magazine*, *the Globe and Mail Newspaper*, the *Toronto Star Newspaper* and is an award-winning radio documentary-maker for *CBC Radio's Quirks & Quarks*. Her fifth non-fiction book, *The Spinning Magnet*, about the Earth's magnetic field, came out last year. She is working on a play with Boni and Jain based on her fourth book, *Malignant Metaphor: Confronting Cancer Myths*. Its working title: *The Interview*.

## **Franco Boni**

Franco Boni (Director) is the Artistic and Executive Director of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival in Vancouver, Canada. Prior to this, he served as Artistic Director of The Theatre Centre in Toronto for sixteen years. Franco has also served as Festival Director of the Rhubarb Festival at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and Artistic Producer of the SummerWorks Theatre Festival. He is a recognized cultural innovator, facilitator and community builder with a demonstrated track record of restoring financial stability and artistic credibility to local arts organizations and festivals for over two decades. In 2019, he directed *Prophecy Fog* by Jani Lauzon at The Theatre Centre. He is the inaugural recipient of the Ken McDougall Award for emerging directors, was awarded the Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award, for outstanding leadership in the development of arts and culture in the City of Toronto, and in 2013 he received the George Luscombe Award for Mentorship in Professional Theatre.

## **Ravi Jain**

Ravi Jain (Co-Director) is a multi-award-winning artist known for making politically bold and accessible theatrical experiences in both small indie productions and large theatres.

As the founding artistic director of Why Not Theatre, Ravi has established himself as an artistic leader for his inventive productions, international producing/collaborations and innovative producing models which are aimed to better support emerging artists to make money from their art.

In all of his work, exemplified by projects like *A Brimful of Asha* and his reimagining of classics like *Hamlet* and *Salt-Water Moon*, is Ravi's passion to inspire Canadians to look at new ways of representing Canada on national and international stages. Currently he is working on a new adaptation of *The Mahabharata* with the Shaw Festival and a new project with Canadian writer Nicolas Billon on a new play titled *CODE*, which completed a one week residency at the Barbican Theatre in London, UK.

Ravi has been shortlisted for the prestigious Siminovitch Prize (2016 and 2019) and won the 2012 Pauline McGibbon Award for Emerging Director and the 2016 Canada Council John Hirsch Prize for direction. He is a graduate of the two-year program at École Jacques Lecoq. [www.theatrewhythnot.org](http://www.theatrewhythnot.org)

## **Shawn Kerwin**

Shawn Kerwin (Set and Costume Designer) Set and Costume Designs include: *The Bakkhai* (Stratford Festival), *A Tender Thing*, *Great Expectations*, *Our Town*, (Soulpepper), *The Soldiers Tale* (Signal Theatre), *Dead Metaphor* (Canadian Rep. Mirvish Productions), *Master Harold and the Boys* (1000 Islands Playhouse), *The Monument* (Obsidian), *Heaven*, *The Tempest*, *Habitat* (Canadian Stage), *A Killing Snow*, *Salt Water Moon*, *Leaving Home*, *Harvest*, *Spirit of the Narrows*, *Drawer Boy*, *Another Season's Harvest* (Blyth Festival), *Brothel #9*, *And So It Goes*, *Suburban Motel*, *Better Living*, *Escape From Happiness*, *Beyond Mozambique*, *Home Is My Road* (Factory Theatre).

Set designs include: *Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, *After Image*, *Oil & Water* (Artistic Fraud); *Colours in the Storm*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Grand Theatre).

Costume designs include: *If Truth Be Told* (Blyth Festival), *Alls Well That Ends Well* (Canadian Stage Dream in High Park), *Communion*, *How It Works* (Tarragon Theatre), *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Miracle on 34th St.* (Grand Theatre). Set & Costume Design/Co-Creator: *float* (Choral Canada), *Between Breaths* (Artistic Fraud). Shawn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre, York University, where she served as Chair from 2003–2009.

## **Tim Lindsay**

Tim Lindsay (Sound Designer) Tim is a Toronto-born sound designer & full-time technical director at The Theatre Centre, where he designed their touring production of the award-winning play *This Is the Point*. Most recently, he designed the world premieres of *Clitoria: A Sex-Positive Superhero!* and *Emotional Labour* at Toronto Fringe 2019, and *C'mon, Angie!* and *The Chance* for Leroy Street Theatre. His other favourite designs

include: six plays for Kat Sandler/Theatre Brouhaha, most recently *Bright Lights* at Toronto Fringe 2016; four shows for Cue6 Theatre including award- winner pool (no water); back-to-back international Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl Fringe runs and tours for Rebecca Perry Productions; *Titus Andronicus* for Hart House Theatre; *Othello* for Driftwood Theatre; *Red Light Winter* for Unit 102; and *After Miss Julie* for Red One Theatre Company. He also co-produced and designed BFL Theatre's acclaimed productions of *Hedwig & The Angry Inch*, and *Hard Core Logo: Live* in its 2017 Toronto debut.

### **Melissa Joakim**

Melissa Joakim (Stage Manager & Touring Lighting Designer) is a lighting and projection designer and stage manager in Toronto, Canada. She holds a BFA Spec. Hon.s from York University. She has been nominated for Dora Awards in Lighting Design and Scenic Design and for the Pauline McGibbon Award. Recent credits include: Environmental Design: *Prophecy Fog* (Theatre Centre and Paper Canoe Projects) *Space Cats Invade the Earth* (Nuit Blanche North). Lighting and Projection Design: *This is the Point* (Ahuri Theatre with Theatre Centre); *A Side of Dreams* (Paper Canoe Projects). Lighting Design: *2 Odysseys* (Soundstreams and Signal Theatre); *Isitwendam* (Native Earth Performing Arts and Theatre Northwest); *Balaklava Blues* (Self Conscious Productions at Luminato and Latitude Festivals). Projection Design: *Dissidents* (ARC Stage Company), *Flashing Lights* (Bad New Days and Ahuri Theatre); *Alien Creature* (Theatre Passe Muraille). She is grateful to be part of this poignant and deeply relevant show.

### **The Theatre Centre (Producing Company)**

The Theatre Centre is a nationally recognized live-arts incubator, café and community hub nestled in Toronto's West Queen West neighborhood offering a home for creative, cultural and social interactions to invent the future. The Theatre Centre's Residency Program is at the heart of everything they do. Residency is a structured two-year program (sometimes longer!) providing groups/artists with the necessary space, funding and mentorship to craft ideas still in their infancy into finished works that are provocative, innovative, and ambitious. Residency facilitates a highly collaborative artistic process that supports new work led by directors, designers, composers, choreographers, architects, visual artists, or even neurologists.

## **PRESENTER INFORMATION**

### **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 Theater 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).