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**ARTSEMERSON JOINS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
AS A GLOBAL PARTNER OF
THE PUBLIC THEATER'S 17TH ANNUAL
UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL**

WITH FREE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES JANUARY 06-17, 2021 AND PRE-FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING BEGINNING DECEMBER 21, 2020

FESTIVAL INCLUDES 600 HIGHWAYMEN, JAVAAD ALIPOOR, INUA ELLAMS, TRINIDAD GONZÁLEZ, ALICIA HALL MORAN, PIEHOLE, AND WHITNEY WHITE AND PETER MARK KENDALL

INCOMING! WILL FEATURE 2020-2022 DEVISED THEATER WORKING GROUP COHORT MEMBERS: SAVON BARTLEY, NILE HARRIS, MIRANDA HAYMON, ERIC LOCKLEY, RAELE MYRICK-HODGES, MIA ROVEGNO, JUSTIN ELIZABETH SAYRE, AND MARIANA VALENCIA

[Boston, MA – Friday, December 18, 2020] – ArtsEmerson, Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, is excited to be a Global Partner of The Public Theater's 17th annual **UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL** running January 06-17, 2021, with pre-festival programming offered beginning December 21, 2020.

This popular and highly-anticipated festival of The Public's winter season will include artists from across the U.S. and around the world, including Chile, Iran, and the U.K. Curated by **UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL** Director Mark Russell, this year's Festival will feature a robust line-up of digital livestream and streaming on-demand performances, as well as the return of the Under the Radar Symposium: A Creative Summit.

ArtsEmerson Artistic Director David Dower shares: "Mark Russell and Under the Radar filled an important void for touring artists when this Festival first launched, and it's now spawned a whole Festival season in January that has made New York a can't-miss destination for touring artists and arts professionals from around the world. This year we have the opportunity to share the work and conversations with Boston audiences without anyone having to leave their homes. Every year we make important connections with artists at this festival as we're doing our season planning-- artists like last season's Back to Back Theater (*The Shadow Whose Prey The Hunter Becomes*), Guillermo Calderón (*Neva, Kiss*), and Tania El-Khouri (*Gardens Speak*) first came to our attention here. We even saw an early workshop of *Parable of the Sower* in this festival and from that moment sprang the relationship we now have with Toshi Reagon. So, if you want to get an inside look at artists you'll be seeing in Boston in future seasons, drop in on this Festival."

Under the Radar 2021 will feature an exciting mix of innovative artists including 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Javaad Alipoor, Inua Ellams, Trinidad González, Alicia Hall Moran, Piehole, and Whitney White and Peter Mark Kendall.

“The artists in this year’s Under the Radar Festival answer the unprecedented challenges of this time with fearlessness and heart,” shared **UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL** Director Mark Russell. “We have created a festival where presence is necessary – the elusive communal magic that is theater will come through even if you are facing a screen, on the phone, or in your room. These are unique productions, some of them made just for the festival. Immediate, international, and vibrant, the 2021 Under the Radar artists point to a future theater that embraces innovation and transformation.”

The festival will also include the return of the **Under the Radar Symposium: A Creative Summit** on January 07 at 10:00AM ET, a half-day event featuring conversations and panels about the field at this moment in time, as well as a keynote by spoken-word poet, educator, and performer Marc Bamuthi Joseph, who serves as the Vice President and Artistic Director of Social Impact at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Public Theater announced the 2020-2022 Devised Theater Working Group’s cohort members, which include Savon Bartley, Nile Harris, Miranda Haymon, Eric Lockley, Raelle Myrick-Hodges, Mia Rovegno, Justin Elizabeth Sayre, and Mariana Valencia. The Devised Theater Working Group (DTWG) is an artist resource group designed for live arts-makers of all disciplines. Formed as a complementary program to the Under the Radar Festival in 2014, DTWG creates an infrastructure to support collaborative collectives and other untraditional originators as they forge new theater. By offering the dramaturgical, technical, artistic and administrative resources of The Public Theater, DTWG operates as part of Under the Radar Festival, where unique modes of creation and independent theater-making are elevated annually. This year's cohort will be The Public’s first two-year cohort, and the group will collaborate on an INCOMING! video compilation made up of their individual artistic expressions, which will premiere in January’s festival.

Over the last 17 years, The Public’s **UNDER THE RADAR FESTIVAL** has grown into a landmark of the New York City theater season and is a vital part of The Public’s mission, providing a high-visibility platform to support artists from diverse backgrounds who are redefining the act of making theater. Widely recognized as a premier launching pad for new and cutting-edge performance from the U.S. and abroad, UTR has presented works by such respected artists as Elevator Repair Service, Nature Theater of Oklahoma, Tania El Khoury, Belarus Free Theatre, Guillermo Calderón, Toshi Reagon, Taylor Mac, and Daniel Fish. These artists provide a snapshot of contemporary theater: richly distinct in terms of perspectives, aesthetics, and social practice, and pointing to the future of the art form.

Join the conversation on social media by tagging **#UnderTheRadarFestival**.

For production stills, media credentials, and other media kit assets related to Under The Radar Festival, please email Lauren Alexander, Press Manager for The Public Theater:
press@publictheater.org

UNDER THE RADAR AND PRE-FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING LINE-UP

A Thousand Ways (Part One): A Phone Call

December 21-January 17 (Running Time: 60 Minutes)

Live Phone Call

By 600 HIGHWAYMEN (U.S.)

Written and Created by Abigail Browde and Michael Silverstone

Executive Producer: Thomas O. Kriegsmann / ArKtype

Pick up the phone. Someone is on the line. You don’t know their name, and you still won’t when the hour is over, but through this exchange – as you follow a thread of automated prompts – a portrait of your partner will emerge through fleeting moments of exposure. **A THOUSAND WAYS** “takes a simple premise and turns it into magic” (*The New Yorker*).

Under the Radar is thrilled to present **A THOUSAND WAYS (PART ONE): A PHONE CALL**, the first of an eventual three-part series by Obie Award-winning theatermakers, **600 HIGHWAYMEN**, known for exhilarating performances that challenge the very definition of theater.

Taking place around the world, **A THOUSAND WAYS** explores the line between strangeness and kinship, distance and proximity, and how the most intimate assembly can become profoundly radical.

Capsule

January 6-17 (Running Time: 50 Minutes)

Streaming On-Demand

By Whitney White and Peter Mark Kendall (U.S.)

Directed and Produced by Taibi Magar and Tyler Dobrowsky

Inspired by the past year **CAPSULE** is a kaleidoscopic reflection on isolation and longing, about breaking apart and breaking free and the impossible nature of connection. Through original text and music, **Whitney White** and **Peter Mark Kendall** grapple with race, the medium of film, and being caught up in the maelstrom of 2020. In a society that insists on blunt, binary responses to complex questions, **CAPSULE** is a clarion call in favor of curiosity and abstraction.

Espíritu

January 6-17 (Running Time: 35 Minutes)

Streaming On-Demand

By Teatro Anónimo (Chile)

Written and Directed by Trinidad González

Performed in Spanish with English subtitles

Created by **Teatro Anónimo** and directed by **Trinidad González**, **ESPÍRITU** is a journey through diverse stories that happen during the night of an unknown city, that involve anonymous individuals marked by the spiritual crisis unleashed by the wild consumerism of the times and the exploitation of the neoliberal model in people's consciousness, through power and the manipulation of their desires. The lack of answers that transcend money and the offer of material possessions will lead these characters to want to find the hidden devil that inhabits the city, and to catch it in a bottle.

Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran

January 7-10, 14-17 (Running Time: 60 Minutes)

Select Live Performances Online

Written by Javaad Alipoor (U.K./Iran)

Co-Created by Javaad Alipoor and Kirsty Housley

Produced by The Javaad Alipoor Company

The global gap between rich and poor has never been greater. As the world decays, the spawn of the powerful dance like everyone is watching.

Winner of the 2019 Scotsman Fringe First Award, **RICH KIDS: A HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS IN TEHRAN** is a darkly comedic, urgent new play about entitlement, consumption and digital technology, that explores the ubiquitous feeling that our societies are falling apart.

Combining digital theater and a live Instagram feed, it is the sequel to the award-winning *The Believers Are But Brothers*, and the second part of a trilogy of plays from **Javaad Alipoor** about how digital technology, resentment and fracturing identities are changing the world.

Borders & Crossings

January 7-10 (Running Time: 60 Minutes)

Select Live Performances Online

By Inua Ellams (U.K.)

Produced by Fuel

Born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother against a backdrop of sectarian violence, **Inua Ellams** left Nigeria for England in 1996 aged 12, moved to Ireland for three years, before returning to London. An award-winning poet, performer, playwright, graphic artist, and designer, Inua returns to the theme of migration in his work, exploring his own life experiences and wider global and political questions. **BORDERS & CROSSINGS** is an opportunity to get to know Inua and hear some of his poetic and dramatic work on this theme, live and online from London.

Disclaimer

January 7-11, 14-17 (Running Time: 60 Minutes)

Select Live Performances Online

Written by Tara Ahmadinejad

Created by Piehole (U.S.)

Disclaimer: This event contains propaganda, vague promises of Persian food, minimally invasive audience participation, and (gasp) MURDER.

Chef Nargis invites you to her virtual cooking class, and if you both do your jobs just right, you'll have more to look forward to than an aromatic dinner. Help prevent a perpetually impending war from the safety of your home! **DISCLAIMER** examines identity and fear, the stakes of cultural (mis)representation, the quest for togetherness, and the seductiveness of a classic whodunnit.

the motown project

January 8-17 (Running Time: 60 Minutes)

Streaming On-Demand

By Alicia Hall Moran (U.S.)

Presented by Joe's Pub

Part of Joe's Pub New York Voices Commission

Executive Producer: Thomas O. Kriegsmann / Arktype

Musical traditions yearning for each other across race, class, and nation grace **Alicia Hall Moran's** meditation on the Motown songbook - a cinematic, movement-based aria fusing Sugar Pie Honey Bunch with Mozart while Marvin Gaye's lyrical pathos finds solemnity in Purcell. Featuring **Thomas Flippin** (guitar), **Steven Herring** (vocals), **Barrington Lee** (vocals), and **Reggie Washington** (bass) in collaboration with choreographer **Amy Hall Garner**, **the motown project** reimagines Motor City poetics in a study of desire and infatuation only soul and opera embodied by one chanteuse could endure.

Devised Theater Working Group's INCOMING!

January 6-17 (Running Time: 30 Minutes)

Streaming On-Demand

By The Devised Theater Working Group Cohort Members: Savon Bartley, Nile Harris, Miranda Haymon, Eric Lockley, Raelle Myrick-Hodges, Mia Rovegno, Justin Elizabeth Sayre, and Mariana Valencia

This year, The Public Theater's **Devised Theater Working Group** was challenged to create individual digital expressions for a group compilation video: **INCOMING!** Immediate, made for the here and now, this 30-minute video will show short pieces from all eight members of this cohort.

All events are hosted by The Public Theater on its website or affiliated platforms.

The public is encouraged to register in advance for all free festival events.

For a full line-up and links to register, please visit [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.arts-emerson.org).

UNDER THE RADAR SYMPOSIUM: A CREATIVE SUMMIT: January 7, 2021

The Under the Radar Symposium: A Creative Summit is a half-day event on January 7, featuring conversations and panels about the field at this moment in time. Artists and arts leaders from around the globe will participate in a virtual summit. Digital attendance at the Symposium is open to all those who would like to participate. For more information on the UTR Symposium, please email utrsymposium@publictheater.org.

JanArtsNYC

Every January in New York City, more than 45,000 performing arts leaders, artists, and enthusiasts from across the globe converge for **JanArtsNYC**. A partnership among 11 independent multidisciplinary festivals, indispensable industry convenings, and international marketplaces, **JanArtsNYC** is one of the largest and most influential gatherings of its kind. For more info visit, janartsnyc.org. Promotional support provided by the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment.

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

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).

The Public Theater

The Public is theater of, by, and for all people. Artist-driven, radically inclusive, and fundamentally democratic, The Public continues the work of its visionary founder Joe Papp as a civic institution engaging, both on-stage and off, with some of the most important ideas and social issues of today. Conceived over 60 years ago as one of the nation's first nonprofit theaters, The Public has long operated on the principles that theater is an essential cultural force and that art and culture belong to everyone. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Eustis and Executive Director Patrick Willingham, The Public's wide breadth of programming includes an annual season of new work at its landmark home at Astor Place, Free Shakespeare in the Park at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, the Mobile Unit touring throughout New York City's five boroughs, Public Forum, Under the Radar, Public Studio, Public Works, Public Shakespeare Initiative, and Joe's Pub. Since premiering *HAIR* in 1967, The Public continues to create the canon of American Theater and is currently represented on Broadway by the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and *Girl From the North Country*. Their programs and productions can also be seen regionally across the country and around the world. The Public has received 59 Tony Awards, 184 Obie Awards, 55 Drama Desk Awards, 58 Lortel Awards, 34 Outer Critic Circle Awards, 13 New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards, 53 AUDELCO Awards, 6 Antonyo Awards, and 6 Pulitzer Prizes. For more information, visit publictheater.org. Connect with The Public on Facebook (Facebook.com/PublicTheater), Twitter (@PublicTheaterNY), and Instagram (@PublicTheaterNY). For media inquiries specific to The Public Theater, please contact Lauren Alexander (E: press@publictheater.org)

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