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## ARTSEMERSON COMMITS TO 2020/21 AS A “**YEAR OF EXPERIMENTATION**”

### ORGANIZATION EXPANDS DIGITAL PROGRAMMING AND ARTIST RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIPS AS IT COMMITS SUPPORT TO SUBORDINATED ARTISTS

[Boston, MA – Thursday, September 17, 2020] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theatre and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, will commit the 2020/21 season to being the **Year Of Experimentation**, focusing 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.

To support this ambitious undertaking, ArtsEmerson will suspend live events at both the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre and Emerson Paramount Center through June 2021.

During the **Year of Experimentation**, ArtsEmerson will focus its resources specifically on artists from subordinated communities as part of the Jubilee Season, the nationwide theatre festival featuring work generated by those who have historically been excluded – including but not limited to artists of color, Native American and Indigenous and First Nations artists, women, non-binary and gender non-conforming artists, LGBTQIA2+ artists, and artists with disabilities.

David C. Howse, Executive Director of ArtsEmerson, shares, “Our commitment to privileging subordinated voices is an amplification of the work to which we have been committed over the years. The deeply held values of belonging, ambition and curiosity which have become synonymous with the ArtsEmerson brand are the foundation on which our work will continue to grow – even during these incredible times.”

“ArtsEmerson continually scouts the world to find artists producing groundbreaking theater that helps advance our mission back home,” says Artistic Director David Dower. “We’re excited to continue fostering new relationships that expand the types of stories that can be presented to Boston audiences. Thanks to the strong support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Barr Foundation, and Fresh Sound Foundation, we can offer these artists commissions and other tangible resources to advance their new work, especially critical now as we all absorb the changes this era has wrought in our field.”

The resources ArtsEmerson is able to offer include access to rehearsal or performance spaces, strategic business and administrative expertise, dramaturgical support and technical expertise in addition to the cash grants. In 2020/21, ArtsEmerson plans to provide residency support to more than a dozen artists and companies from around the world.

Among the artists developing new work through residencies with ArtsEmerson, and introduced through its digital venue during the **Year of Experimentation**, will be Wang Chong (China), Christiane Jatahy (Brazil), Why Not? Theater (Canada), Somi (USA), Travis Alabanza and Sam Lindsay (UK), Nassim Soleiamanpour (Iran/Germany), Guillermo Calderon (Chile), and Melinda Lopez (USA). The previously announced Parable Path residency, led by Toshi Reagon (USA) and recently named Best Theatre Residency 2020 by Boston Magazine, continues through June 2021 with the continuing support of The Doris Duke Foundation.



Somi



Wang Chong



Nassim Soleiamanpour



Melinda Lopez



Toshi Reagon

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

### About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. Our 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](https://ArtsEmerson.org).

### About 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).

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