

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

Media Contact: **Darren DeLuca**
darren.deluca@gmail.com | 603-489-7624



ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS

ZOO MOTEL

A LIVE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EXCLUSIVE, INTIMATE EXPERIENCE
NOVEMBER 16 – 21, 2021

THE LONGEST RUNNING LIVE THEATRE WORK PRESENTED ONLINE TO
VIEWERS AROUND THE WORLD BY THADDEUS PHILLIPS

[Boston, MA – Wednesday, November 03, 2021] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theater and film and the professional presenting and producing organization of Emerson College, is excited to present **Zoo Motel**, a virtual theatre offering from November 16 – 21, 2021.

In this live virtual performance, theatre director, designer, and performer Thaddeus Phillips (**Red-Eye to Havre de Grace** in 2014, **17 Border Crossings** in 2017) and artist Steven Dufala (**HOME** in 2017) transport viewers into a magical hotel room where time stops, objects come to life, and stories begin to emerge from across the globe that all illuminate themes of human existence.



Thaddeus Phillips
Photos by Rafael Esteban Phillips Mallarino

“We are thrilled to continue to offer virtual theatre offerings for audiences in our hybrid 2021-22 Season here at ArtsEmerson,” says David Howse, Executive Director at ArtsEmerson. “And what a way to continue presenting virtually with **Zoo Motel**, continuing our long-arc relationship with both Phillips and Dufala, and allowing our audiences to experience the growth and transformation of their artistic expression.”

Zoo Motel is a live theatrical event created for the here and now. Limited to only 25 audience participants nightly who check into virtual rooms, **Zoo Motel** is an exploration of the possibilities at the intersection of live theater and the magic of cinema. **Zoo Motel** opened up its virtual doors in September of 2020 and has since become the longest running live theatre work presented via the World Wide Web to spectators from across the world. Its live transmission comes direct from the studio of theatre director, designer and performer Thaddeus Phillips in Colombia, South America, where he and artist Steven Dufala have transformed the space into a

magical motel room where time stops, mysterious and illuminating stories emerge from across the globe, and analog objects take on their own potent meaning.

"**Zoo Motel** is my translation on how to make a truly live theatrical event performed virtually," explains **Zoo Motel** creator Thaddeus Phillips. "What began as an experiment became a work that we performed over 250 times to all corners of the Earth, and it is absolutely wonderful to be bringing it to ArtsEmerson, a venue that has been my Boston home for many years."

Tickets for **Zoo Motel** 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). For walk-up service, the Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street, Boston) is open Thu-Sat from Noon - 6:00 PM ET. Tickets may also be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson Season Package, featuring discounts up to 40% off. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save 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](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org/offers).

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

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Dates:

November 16 – 21, 2021

Venue:

Virtual Event

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

Performance Schedule:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021	7:30pm (Press Performance)
Wednesday, November 17, 2021	7:30pm
Thursday, November 18, 2021	7:30pm
Friday, November 19, 2021	8:00pm
Saturday, November 20, 2021	2:00pm
Saturday, November 20, 2021	8:00pm
Sunday, November 21, 2021	7:30pm

Ticket Information:

Tickets for **Zoo Motel** may be purchased 24/7 at [ArtsEmerson.org](https://www.ArtsEmerson.org). Phone orders and group sales are available by calling the ArtsEmerson Box Office at 617-824-8400 (open 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 12:00PM ET - 6:00 PM ET. Tickets may also be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson Season Package, featuring discounts up to 40% off. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save 30%. Tickets cost \$35 (subject to change)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

THADDEUS PHILLIPS (Creator & Performer & Cinematography) is a Colorado native who directs theater in Europe, tours with his own work globally and moonlights on TV. Created works include: *17 Border Crossings*, *Red-Eye to Havre de Grace*, *Inflatable Space*, *A Billion Nights on Earth*, *Capsule 33*, *Lost Soles*, *Whale Optics*, *The Earth's Sharp Edge*, *The Melting Bridge*, *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, *Henry 5 Live from Times Square* and *The Incredible . . . Adventures of Barry Seal*. His work has been presented & commissioned by NYTW, BAM Next Wave Festival, Barrow Street Theater, Territory Festival (Moscow), The Broad Stage (Santa Monica) Hong Kong Festival, Buntport Theater (Denver), The Mat, Sibiu International Festival, Miami

Light Project and many other cities., Recent directing includes 3 productions for Teateri (Sweden), and *Antropoceno* for Teatro La Abadia (Madrid). He is a Pew Fellow, A Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, and appeared “*Narcos*” and one of the Spider-Man films.

STEVEN DUFALA (Designer) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Philadelphia and works primarily in collaboration with his brother Billy as the Dufala Brothers. Steven has been working intermittently with dance and theatre as a designer for about 20 years, and over this time has worked with Geoff Sobelle designing *HOME & The Object Lesson*, Pig Iron Theatre Company, BalletX, and anonymous bodies. With his brother Billy, he received an Obie Award for design with rainpan 43’s *machines machines machines machines machines machines machines*, and shared a Bessie award with the entire design team for Geoff Sobelle’s *The Object Lesson* in 2015. Steven and Billy co-teach sculpture at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and are represented by the Fleisher/Ollman gallery in Philadelphia. Their work is in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the West Collection and many private collections.

Tatiana Mallarino

TATIANA MALLARINO (Director) directed *17 Border Crossings & ¡El Conquistador!* at NYTW, played Leila Khaled in Lucidity’s *The Earth’s Sharp Edge*, served as dramaturg for LSI’s *Whale Optics*, *The Melting Bridge*, *Lost Soles*, *Henry V*, and *Barry Seal* projects and served as the dialogue couch for Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz on a “*Loving Pablo*”. She has performed at La Mama Etc, Bunport Theater in Denver and directed an object puppet version of *The Tempest* at the Arcola Theatre in London. She teaches emotional intelligence.

Steve Cuiffo

STEVE CUIFFO (Magic) is one of the leading sleight of hand artists in New York City and creates unique performance, art, theater and magic. He has performed with The Wooster Group, worked with David Blaine, played Lenny Bruce onstage and is a member of *The Elephant Room*. ZOO MOTEL is his first collaboration with Thaddeus Phillips.

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.

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. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).