



RITHY PANH • HIM SOPHY

DEC 19 – 20 EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE

2017/18 SEASON

WELCOME

Welcome to ArtsEmerson and Emerson College!

Emerson has long been a leader in communication and the arts. We are committed to excellence, diversity and inclusion, and global and civic engagement—institutional priorities that reflect our College's rich history.

Rooted in creativity, expression and innovation, an Emerson education prepares young people to become a creative force in the world. Indeed, expression through the arts has long held a prominent place at the



College. We believe in the infinite value of the arts. The arts connect diverse people, ideas and disciplines, enlightening us in our shared human experiences.

By bringing high-caliber, thought-provoking, contemporary world theatre to Boston, ArtsEmerson is providing a platform for us to reexamine ourselves and our beliefs, and to open our minds to the diverse cultures around us. I can't think of a more productive way to approach the pressing challenges of the 21st century than that.

Thank you for supporting this critical work.

M. Lee Pelton President, Emerson College

ABOUT EMERSON COLLEGE

Located 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 the liberal arts, communications and the arts. The College has approximately 3,500 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 study and internship programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its beautifully restored 14th-century castle in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, D.C.; London; China; the Czech Republic; Spain; Austria; Greece; France; Ireland; Mexico; Cuba; England; and South Africa. The College has an active network of 37,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

Emerson College

LEADERSHIP NOTE

In 2010, the census confirmed what many Boston residents already understood: that there was no longer a cultural majority in our city. We are a city of many minorities. ArtsEmerson was launched in the same moment, and from the beginning, we have been committed to building our organization in a way that both acknowledged and welcomed that reality.

We framed it, then, as a commitment to "putting the world on stage." We knew that this commitment would also ask us to go about things differently as we built the ArtsEmerson audience, so we dedicated the

organization to helping connect across our differences, imagining a thriving world that is fueled by empathy and ignited by art.

Bangsokol is a direct expression of these commitments.

You are here to see the culminating performance of what has been a month-long series of events programmed in partnership with important community organizations serving our Cambodian neighbors. The series has included film, dance, music, performance and work-shops both in the city and in Lowell—all exploring aspects of Cambodian culture. The series was designed with, curated by and featured all of these partners.

Together, we were setting the table for **Bangsokol** with these events. What you will see tonight is built on a Buddhist ritual for the dead. In effect, we are all participants in this ritual, honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide. It's estimated that, 40 years ago, 25% of Cambodia's population perished at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. Tens of thousands more fled Cambodia and settled among us. The Boston area is home to the second-largest population of Cambodian refugees in the nation. The enormity of the loss, and the unthinkably brutal manner of it, live with us today.

Bangsokol is an effort to honor those lost and create a space for those still with us to speak to the unspeakable. We hope you will engage the conversation with your family, your neighbors and with the people you've yet to meet who are here tonight who will be sharing this experience alongside you. We are honored to serve as the host of this one-of-a-kind event.

David Dower Artistic Director

"A HEAVY DOSE OF POLITICAL COURAGE AND MENTAL CLARITY."

- AL-AKHBAR

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PRESENTS



CREATIVE CREDITS FILM AND DESIGN RITHY PANH MUSIC HIM SOPHY LIBRETTO TRENT WALKER STAGE DIRECTION GIDEON OBARZANEK MUSIC DIRECTION AND CONDUCTING ANDREW CYR COSTUME DESIGNER ROMYDA KETH

Musically developed in collaboration with Metropolis Ensemble. Original Idea by Charley Todd.

PERFORMERS

SOLDISTS HIM SAVY and CHHORN SAM ATH CAMBODIAN ENSEMBLE KEO DORIVAN, KEO SONANKAVEI, KEO SOPHY, POV REAKSMEYMONY, SAY TOLA, SNGOUN KAVEI SEREY ROTH TAIPEI PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR LEAD BY YU-CHUNG JOHN KU US ENSEMBLE METROPOLIS ENSEMBLE PERFORMER CHUMVAN "BELLE" SODHACHIVY

PRODUCTION CREDITS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND STAGE MANAGER LIGHTING DESIGNER AND OPERATOR SOUND ENGINEER COMPANY MANAGER

PRODUCER

THE OFFICE PERFORMING ARTS + FILM: RACHEL CHANOFF, LAURIE CEARLEY, LYNN KOEK, NADINE GOELLNER,NOAH BASHEVKIN, DIANE EBER, CATHERINE DeGENNARO

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS STAFF CREDITS

PHLOEUN PRIM ELENA PARK
KAI T. BRENNERT HENG SAMNANG
HERMIONE BROOKS CHOEUN SOCHEATA, KEAT SOKIM HIEK VILA
McKAY SAVAGE MONICA JOUVERT PHARY PHACDEY, GLENN ROSENBERG, ELIZA STAMPS
MARGARET MURPHY, VANNA SEANG, AVIVA ZIEGLER
CHHAYA CHHOUM, EMILY HOWE, KENNY SENG,

The team behind Bangsokol would like to give special thanks to our presenting partners; to Cambodian Living Arts' staff and Board of Directors; and to the many volunteers, supporters and friends who have made this production possible. We are immensely grateful to each individual donor who has contributed to making **Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia** a reality.

ArtsEmerson's international programming is supported by The World On Stage Fund with special thanks for the generosity of Ted & Mary Wendell and Marillyn Zacharis.

Our 2017–2018 Season is dedicated to the life and legacy of Ted Cutler.

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BANGSOKOL IS A VITAL ACT OF MEMORY

Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia is a multi-disciplinary stage production combining music, film, movement and voice. It is the first major symphonic work addressing the years of the Khmer Rouge, and the first collaboration between contemporaries Rithy Panh and Him Sophy, both survivors of the genocide and now at the forefront of Cambodia's cultural renaissance.

Composer Him Sophy's score combines traditional Khmer instrumentalists and smot chanting with a Western chamber orchestra and chorus. Rithy Panh's poetic visuals blend archive footage and abstract and surreal imagery to capture the very essence of Cambodia's culture and history.

In Cambodian culture, a "bangsokol" ceremony is performed as a key part of Buddhist funeral rites. This word references both the white cloth placed over the deceased during a Buddhist funeral and the ritual surrounding the removal of the cloth. It is this act that signifies transmigration into the next life: the ritual through which the spirits of the dead find rest.

Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia hopes to serve as an inspiration for post-conflict societies around the world-to rebuild, transmit and innovate through arts. It offers a space for healing for those who have suffered violent conflict and forced migration, and honors those who have passed away. With a cast of performers from the emerging to the iconic, **Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia** is an essential act of memory, reconciliation and peace.

Cambodian Living Arts is proud to commission this unique piece, based on an original idea by co-founder Charley Todd. **Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia** encapsulates its 20 years of work in the field of arts for transformation and healing, from the revival and transmission of cultural heritage, to nurturing cultural leadership and stimulating creativity.





Photo: Tey Tat Keng

"បង្សុកូល"៖ ការរំឭកដល់កម្ពុជា គឺជាស្នាដៃថ្មីមួយ ដោយរួមបញ្ចូលគ្នានូវបទភ្លេងថ្មី ការបញ្ចាំងកុនឯកសារ ចលនាសម្តែង និងចម្រៀង។ នេះជាស្នាដៃតន្ត្រីដំបូងគេ ដែលបង្ហាញ ពីរបបខ្មែរក្រហម ហើយនេះក៏ជាការសហការគ្នាជាលើកដំបូងរវាង លោកបណ្ឌិត ប៉ាន់ ឫទ្ធី និងលោកសាស្ត្រាចារ្យបណ្ឌិត ហ៊ឹម សុភី ដែលពួកគាត់ទាំងពីរជាបុគ្គលដែលបាននៅរស់រាន មានជីវិតពីរបបមួយនោះ ហើយពេលនេះពួកគាត់កំពុងតែស្តារវប្បធម៌កម្ពុជាដែលបាត់បង់ទៅ ហើយ ឲ្យរស់រានឡើងវិញ។

លោកសាស្ត្រាចារ្យបណ្ឌិត ហ៊ឹម សុភី បាននិពន្ធបទភ្លេងថ្មី ដែលក្នុងនោះ មានការ បញ្ចូលឧបករណ៍ភ្លេងប្រពៃណីខ្មែរ ស្មូត និងវង់តន្ត្រីព្រមទាំងចម្រៀងពួកបែបបស្ធឹមប្រទេស។ ហើយលោកបណ្ឌិត ប៉ាន់ ឫទ្ធី ក៏បានបញ្ចូលការបញ្ចាំងវីដេអូឯកសារសំខាន់ៗជាមួយនឹង រូបភាពនៃការស្រមើស្រមៃ ដើម្បីជាការបង្ហាញពីវប្បធម៌ និងប្រវត្តិសាស្ត្ររបស់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ផងដែរ។

តាមបែបសាសនា ពិធី "បង្សុកូល" ដែលគេតែងតែប្រារព្ធឡើងក្នុង ពិធីសពគឺជាពិធី មួយដែលគេយកក្រណាត់សមកគ្របលើសព និងទាញក្រណាត់សនោះចេញពីសពវិញ។ ហើយពិធីបង្សុកូលនេះ គេក៏ប្រារព្ធធ្វើឡើងដើម្បីជាការឧទ្ទិសកុសលជូនដល់វិញ្ញាណក្ខន្ធរបស់ អ្នកដែលបានធ្វើមរណកាលទៅហើយ ឲ្យបានទៅកាន់ឋានសុគតិភពក្នុងបរលោក។

តាមរយៈកម្មវិធីសម្តែងស្នាដៃ បង្សុកូល៖ ការរំឭកដល់កម្ពុជា នេះសង្ឃឹមថាវា នឹងជាជំនឿចិត្តមួយ ដល់សង្គមដែលទើបតែរួចផុតពីសង្គ្រាម ដើម្បីផ្សះផ្សាផ្លូវចិត្តពួកគេក្នុង ការកសាង និងបង្កើតអ្វីដែលថ្មីតាមរយៈសិល្បៈ។ វាក៏ជាឱកាសមួយសម្រាប់ការផ្សះផ្សាចិត្ត មនុស្សទាំងអស់ដែលទទួលរងការឈឺចាប់ពីអំពើហឹង្សានៃសង្គ្រាម និងការកៀសខ្លួន ហើយ ស្នាដៃនេះក៏បង្កើតឡើង ដើម្បីឧទ្ទិសដល់វិញ្ញាណក្ខន្ធរបស់អ្នកដែលបានស្លាប់ទៅហើយផង ដែរ។ ជាមួយនឹងការសម្តែងស្នាដៃ បង្សុកូល៖ ការរំឭកដល់កម្ពុជា នេះគឺជាទង្វើមួយដ៏សំខាន់ ដែលបង្ហាញពីការចងចាំ ការផ្សះផ្សា និងសន្តិភាព។

អង្គការសិល្បៈខ្មែរអមតៈ មានមោទនភាពក្នុងការចូលរួមបង្កើតឲ្យមានស្នាដៃ "បង្សុកូល" នេះឡើង ដែលនេះបានស្តែងឲ្យឃើញពីការងាររបស់ពួកយើងក្នុងរយៈពេល ២០ ឆ្នាំ មកនេះ ពួកយើងធ្វើការក្នុងវិស័យសិល្បៈដើម្បីជំរុញឲ្យមានការអភិវឌ្ឍ និងការផ្សះផ្សា តាំង ពីការថែរក្សាបេតិកភណ្ឌវប្បធម៌កម្ពុជា និងការបង្កើតឲ្យមានការដឹកនាំផ្នែកវប្បធម៌ ក៏ដូចជាការ ថ្នៃប្រឌិតក្នុងវិស័យសិល្បៈផងដែរ។

RITUAL AND TRANSMISSION

Cambodian rituals are always composites; they are woven together from many threads: texts, sounds, objects and people. Indeed, for any Cambodian ceremony, one cannot find a single person who can explain every step involved. The monks have their role, the lay ritual specialists theirs, the laywomen theirs and so forth. The ritual is not complete if it is missing any of these roles, yet no one narrative or narrator captures the whole process. Moreover, Cambodian rituals, just like Cambodian visual and performing arts, are transmitted primarily through example and repetition, rather than through written records and explanations. This intimate transferral of culture relies on the trust between teachers and students, between the old and the young. This process of transmission continues to animate Cambodian culture today, both at home and in diaspora.

KPAL SPEAN

Kpal Spean is an 11th-century archaeological site in the Kulen hills in northern Cambodia. A shallow stream in the jungle reveals an array of stone carvings in and around the riverbed, including various Hindu deities and hundreds of śivalinga, or aniconic representations of Śiva. In some cases these śivalinga are framed by a base, typically known as a yoni. Śaivism, the strand of Hinduism that holds Śiva as the supreme deity, was the dominant religious tradition of the court during the Angkorian period (9th–15th centuries CE). Śivalinga are thus found in many ancient Cambodian temples and were worshipped through chant, flowers and liquid offerings, which would flow out the yoni for collection as blessings. At Kbal Spean, the water of the stream itself flows over the śivalinga, sanctifying one source of nourishment for the metropolis that once thrived in the flatlands below.

CLOTH BANNERS

One of the many art forms Cambodians cultivate in honor of ancestors are elaborate hanging banners, typically fashioned out of cloth and bamboo rods along with decorative sequins and tassels. These banners may be plain white (for funerals) or consisting of many colors (for other temple festivities, including annual rites for the dead). They generally consist of a distinct head, an articulated or limbed midsection, and a split tail, and may be hung from a pole outside of a house or monastic building, or within the sanctuary of a temple. Stories describing their origins abound; in most cases these narratives draw attention to their striking crocodile-like form. The raising of such banners is a ritual event in and of itself, one either signaling the ascension of the departed to a more fortunate realm or simply in celebration of an act of religious merit.

SMOT

Cambodians recite Buddhist texts in a variety of ways. Most often, they chant with a steady, rhythmic monotone, which allows large groups of monks or laypeople to recite texts with unity, clarity and solemnity. For certain occasions, including end-of- life rituals and funerals, Cambodians also perform an exceptionally melodic, expressive and melismatic form of chant known as smot. This vocal style, typically delivered solo, conveys the emotional gravity of the texts most commonly performed in such rituals, namely reflections on the universality of pain, old age and death as well as paeans in honor of our parents, the Buddha and his teachings.

KONG SKOR

In parts of southeastern and northwestern Cambodia, along with Khmer-speaking provinces of northwestern Thailand, funerals may be accompanied not only by smot chanting but also by a three- or four-member ensemble known as kong skor ("drums and gongs") or by various onomatopoeic names, including kantoam ming and tum mong. In some cases, this ensemble is known as trai leak ("The Three Characteristics"), referring to the Buddhist teaching that all things are inherently painful, transient and without essence. The three instrumentalists sit with their backs to one another, symbolizing the dissolution of warmth, vitality and consciousness at death. When a singer joins the ensemble as the fourth member, he or she often uses lyrics drawn from lullabies and traditional wedding songs, whose meaning is reinterpreted in the wake of a loved one's departure.

DIASPORA

Khmer-speakers today live not only in Cambodia but also in Thailand, Vietnam, the United States, France, Australia, Canada and other countries. A few hundred thousand Cambodians fled their homeland during and after the Khmer Rouge regime, with many eventually being resettled in the West after years in refugee camps, largely in Thailand. Cambodians in diaspora, including the children and grandchildren of those who fled in the 1970s and 1980s, engage in a wide variety of ways with their Khmer heritage. In recent decades, the arts have emerged as a powerful legacy for Cambodians abroad who seek to creatively engage with Cambodia, its history and its gifts to humanity.



ARTIST STATEMENTS

RITHY PANH

Bangsokol is a beautiful work, complex and challenging. Him Sophy and I lived through the Khmer Rouge regime, and with this requiem we wanted to present to audiences, both in and outside Cambodia, the country's harrowing modern history through traditional music reinvented.

Bangsokol is an attempt to honor the Khmer Rouge's victims by resuscitating the cultural heritage that the regime nearly wiped out, and passing it on to the next generation. **Bangsokol** may be a requiem, but it is less about death than about bringing the past back to life and restoring dignity to the disappeared. To create is to live. **Bangsokol**—which was conceived, written and performed by Cambodians—is yet more proof that our people's capacity for imagination and creation could never be destroyed.

A German philosopher is sometimes quoted as saying that it is barbaric, or impossible, to write poetry after Auschwitz. It is not. Writing poetry in the face of horror is a right—and to some of us it feels like a duty, toward both the dead and the living. Art helps transcend atrocity by giving expression and meaning to suffering that is too great to explain. Art is more than an act of remembrance; it is an act of resistance, and of healing.

Taking the full measure of the Khmer Rouge's crimes means looking beyond its total casualty toll: at least 1.7 million dead. It means remembering that this vast, anonymous number represents one person's unique story and another's and another's and another's...I hope that **Bangsokol** will allow each member of the audience to remember the dead as individuals, and intimately. Some stars in the night sky are long dead by the time we see their lights. Much like them, the bright souls of the Khmer Rouge's victims are visible through the darkness of history.

HIM SOPHY

In 1970, the Civil War started in my country and my family fled, from one village to another. During day time, we were afraid of bombs, at night we were worried about the Khmer Rouge soldiers asking us for information. We were living in misery and fear.

The Khmer Rouge evacuated people from the city and created a tragedy for the whole country. Not enough food to eat, working like animals in the fields and killing people savagely. In 1976, I was working in a mobile youth camp where I got only 18 kernels of corn to eat. Everyone got the same. I couldn't walk far, I looked like an old man, but I was just a young boy.

I saw through my eyes people being beaten to death with sticks. I saw people pulling carts like a cow, emaciated from working long, tough hours with no food. My eldest brother was killed by Khmer Rouge soldiers—and later my fifth eldest brother was also murdered. There were countless memories from the dark time that was the Khmer Rouge Regime.

Returning back to today, we still see confrontation between world leaders, we see people threatening nuclear war—seemingly without thought for the consequences for people all over the world. My generation in Cambodia experienced war—I lost my family, I saw people killed. I don't want this again, for anyone.

As a composer, as well as a human being, I want to share these feelings through **Bangsokol:** A Requiem for Cambodia. It is dedicated to all those who died during the war in Cambodia,

ARTIST STATEMENTS (CONT.)

and in wars and conflicts around the world. May their souls and spirits rest in peace. I wrote **Bangsokol** to help bring peace to the world, today and in the future.

TRENT WALKER

Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia offers several Buddhist ways of responding to the horrors of the Khmer Rouge. The most common response to death in Buddhism is to contemplate it directly. The libretto invokes impermanence, suffering and the loss of all we think of as "I" or "mine" as inexorable forces in human life. Buddhist rites for the dead emphasize the importance of recognizing our own mortality and reorienting our life in this light. Many Cambodians believe that such reflection on death brings wisdom to the living and benefits that can be dedicated to the deceased for their easeful passage to the next world.

Cambodian *bangsokol* rituals are traditionally performed for the sick as well as the dead. Such "skin-shedding" (*bok sbaek*) rites assume that the gift of the white shroud—the gift of one's own body—embodies the regenerative power of life and the body's capacity to heal. By taking on the part of a corpse, shedding their skin and facing death with open eyes, the living may find peace. The libretto brings us face-to-face with violence and loss, providing an opportunity to remember, contemplate and begin anew.

The libretto ends, as do most Buddhist rituals, with prayers of goodwill for all beings. This boundless compassion for all, including those who have harmed us, is an essential Buddhist response to violence. Such an extension of kindness is not the same as forgiveness and is not a replacement for justice. It is a recognition that hatred ceases only through love.

Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia honors the countless private rituals and acts of memorializing performed by Cambodians since 1979. Many of these rituals were *bangsokol* rituals performed on behalf of those who suffered and died under the Khmer Rouge. The requiem is therefore by no means entirely new or unique. It gives voice and respect to what Cambodians have already done over the past four decades to reflect on suffering, death, healing, goodwill and the memory of those who perished.

QUOTES:

"**Bangsokol** is really emotional for me...I just cannot imagine what my dad looked like, how and where he died...it reminds me of the suffering and trauma of my people and the separation of families during the Khmer Rouge. When I perform it on stage, I put myself in a position where it is so painful that I almost can't move on with the chanting and singing." –*Him Sophy*

"Bangsokol is a vital act of memory. It is an attempt to give dignity to the dead; to reconcile with our own past; to give a face and a name to the victims, to give their souls peace." –*Rithy Panh*

"When I composed the requiem I relived the feelings I had during the Khmer Rouge times. It was hell on earth. It is important for the requiem to be shown around the world so that everyone can see that tragedy is a shared experience. There is hope in creation. I always tell people, 'Remember, never forget. Protect the future from repeating the past." —*Him Sophy*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

RITHY PANH (Director, Designer, Filmmaker/ Cambodia) was born in Phnom Penh, but expelled from the capital by the Khmer Rouge as a 11-year-old child in 1975. He escaped to Thailand in 1979, and lived for a time in a refugee camp in Mairut. He later made his way to Paris, France, and graduated from the Institut des hautes études cinématographiques. He returned to Cambodia in 1990, and now splits his time between Paris and Phnom Penh. An internationally acclaimed documentary director and screenwriter. he was named Asian Filmmaker of the Year by the Busan International Film Festival in 2013. He is the first Cambodian filmmaker ever to be nominated for an Oscar. for The Missing Picture in 2013. In the same year he received a prize in the "Un Certain Regard" category at the Cannes Festival. His documentary S-21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine was awarded the prestigious Albert Londres Prize in 2004. Most recently, he worked as producer for Angelina Jolie's film First They Killed My Father, based on Loung Ung's memoir, released in September 2017. Panh is also the founder of the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center in Phnom Penh. which makes film. photography and sound archives on Cambodia publicly available, and trains a new generation of Cambodian filmmakers and multimedia technicians.

HIM SOPHY (Composer/Cambodia) was born into a musical family in Prev Veng Province. Cambodia in 1963. He started learning the piano in 1972 in Phnom Penh, but was forced out of the city in 1975 for the duration of the Khmer Rouge regime. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge, he returned to his musical studies at Cambodia's Secondary School of Fine Arts. In 1985, he won a scholarship to the Moscow Conservatory of Music, where he studied and gained his PhD. He returned to Cambodia in 1998, and opened the Him Sophy School of Music in 2013. His previous works, including the acclaimed rock opera Where Elephants Weep, have demonstrated an unparalleled facility for bringing Western and Khmer musical worlds into intimate conversation. This time. Sophy combines a Western chamber orchestra and chorus with Khmer instrumentalists and vocalists. These traditional musical forms are crucial for honoring the dead: unfortunately, live performances are seldom heard in the capital and rapidly disappearing in the countryside.

TRENT WALKER (*Librettist/USA*) is a young scholar of Southeast Asian Buddhist music. Trained in jazz and Western classical music, he spent several years in Cambodia studying with vocal masters Prum Ut, Koet Ran and Yan Borin while working with Cambodian Living Arts. A former Buddhist novice monk, he regularly performs and gives lectures on the Cambodian Dharma song (smot) tradition of Buddhist chant. At present he is a Ph.D. student in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where his research focuses on Southeast Asian Buddhist liturgies in Khmer, Lao, Pali and Thai.

GIDEON OBARZANEK (Director of Staging/ Australia) is a director, playwright and choreographer. He is also an Artistic Associate with the Melbourne Festival, Chair of the Melbourne Fringe and board member of Critical Path-choreographic research centre based in Sydney. In 1995, he founded the Australian dance company Chunky Move and was CEO and Artistic Director until 2012. Under his leadership the company established itself as one of the country's most innovative, awarded and internationally recognized performing arts companies. Awards include Best Short Documentary for Dance Like Your Old Man (Melbourne IFF, Cinedans Festival), a New York Bessie Award for Outstanding Choreography and Creation, and Australian Helpmann Awards for Glow and Mortal Engine.

ANDREW CYR (Music Director/USA). The Grammynominated conductor and "prominent influence in the world of newly emerging music" (Washington Post) is a leader in the rapidly growing contemporary music scene. His passion for creating new platforms for outstanding emerging composers and performing artists led him to found Metropolis Ensemble in 2006. His work as conductor has been described by Esa-Pekka Salonen as "precise, rhythmically incisive and fluid. He made complex new pieces sound natural and organic." Championing new work from the next generation of composers, recent engagements include The Melbourne Festival, The Colorado Symphony, Radio City Music Hall and a new opera by David Bruce at New Victory Theatre.

YU-CHUNG JOHN KU (Conductor TPCC) is the Music Director of Taipei Philharmonic Chorus, and an assistant professor in the Chinese Culture University. He represents Taiwan in the International Federation of Choral Music. and is one of the members of the IFCM Asia-Pacific working committee. He has conducted concerts around the world, including in the USA (Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony Hall, etc.), China (National Performing Arts Center of Beijing, etc.), Canada, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Hong Kong, Macao, Philippines, Singapore and so on. He is an adjudicator in the World Choir Games (the former "Choral Olympics"). Oriental Concentus International Competition. Bali International Choral Competition, North Sumatra International Choir Competition, Singapore International Choral Competition and several other competitions. He has led master classes and workshops in many countries. Yu-Chung John Ku is a doctoral candidate at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. and holds a master degree from Temple University.

HIM SAVY & CHHORN SAM ATH (Soloists/ Cambodia). Him Savy is a singer, flutist and teacher at the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. Chhorn Sam Ath is a well-known singer and actor, who also teaches at the Royal University of Fine Arts

ABOUT THE ARTISTS (CONT.)

in Phnom Penh. In 2007, Sam Ath was invited to perform at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Both singers hail from famous artist families and performed extensively in Cambodia, New Zealand and the US.

KEO DORIVAN, KEO SONANKAVEI, KEO SOPHY, POV REAKSMEYMONY, SAY TOLA, SNGOUN KAVEI SEREY ROTH (*Cambodian Ensemble/ Cambodia*). The ensemble features some of the leading instrumentalists and vocalists in Cambodia, who have travelled and performed extensively around the world, as well as some emerging musicians. Previous performances took members of the ensemble to China, Korea, Singapore and the United States. At present, some ensemble members work as independent artists while others teach at the Faculty of Music at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh.

CHUMVAN "BELLE" SODHACHIVY (Performer & Assistant to the Director Staging/Cambodia) is a dancer/choreographer of Amrita Performing Arts, a contemporary dance and producing organization from Cambodia. Trained in Cambodian classical dance, Belle graduated in 2007 from the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA) in Phnom Penh. With Amrita, Belle has participated in numerous contemporary dance workshops and residencies around the world and has been a featured dancer in many works by international directors and choreographers including Peter Sellars. Currently, Belle is also a dance lecturer at RUFA's Faculty of Choreographic Arts.

TAIPEI PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR was founded in 1972 and has cultivated a reputation as one of the most prestigious choirs in Taiwan. From the 140 members of the larger Chorus, a 30-voice professional group, Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir (TPCC), was established to perform more selective musical works. They have been to all continents of the world, performed in more than 40 cities. They are now one of the most known choral ensembles of the world. and often represent Taiwan, or even Asia, in several international events, such as International Chamber Choir Festival in Latvia, the World Symposium on Choral Music, Festival Vancouver, Asia-South-Pacific Symposium on Choral Music, Oregon Bach Festival, ACDA National Conventions, Polyfollia Festival, among others. In 2016, TPCC was invited to perform in the "Holy Mass and Canonization of Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta" at the Vatican. TPCC's recent projects include concert tours in Philippines. Russia and performances of Bangsokol in Australia and the USA.

METROPOLIS ENSEMBLE is a dynamically evolving 21 st-century orchestra. Dedicated to creating a future for classical music that is of and for the time we live in, the Ensemble's driving force is its founder, Grammy-nominated conductor Andrew Cyr. Metropolis Ensemble, through its unique collaborative process, exists to support ascending contemporary classical performers and composers and has been presented by Lincoln Center, The Met Museum, Creative Time, Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute, Wordless Music, Celebrate Brooklyn, BAM, and (Le) Poisson Rouge. Metropolis has won international recognition for its studio recordings, winning Canada's prestigious Juno Award for Best Classical Composition in 2013 and in 2010, received its first Classical Grammy Award nomination. Metropolis is excited to embark upon its 11th season, including a new recording with New Amsterdam Records, concerts at Symphony Space, BAM and The Met Museum. Learn more at metropolisensemble.org.

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS (Commissioner). For almost 20 years, Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) has worked tirelessly to regrow Cambodia's arts sector and provide opportunities for artists to write the story of the country's future. Founded in 1998 by genocide survivor, musician and peace advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, they initially focused on the preservation of endangered art forms and rituals. As 90% of Cambodia's artists did not survive the Khmer Rouge regime, the arts that had been transmitted between generations were in danger of being lost forever. Over the following two decades, the work of CLA evolved with the development of Cambodia and its rapidly re-emerging arts sector. They began to offer scholarships and fellowships, to create jobs for artists and to support research, international exchanges and networking. CLA's mission today is to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. They are working to integrate arts and culture into the Cambodian education system, and to build links with arts communities around the region. Aiming to foster creativity and innovation in the sector, CLA sees arts and cultural expression as essential to a thriving future for Cambodia.

THE OFFICE PERFORMING ARTS + FILM

(Producer). is an independent curator and production company based in New York and London. It works in ongoing partnerships with festivals, venues and institutions to create cultural programming that is unique and mission-specific, with a particular emphasis on serving communities. Across all of its projects, it aspire to create new cultural platforms that resonate with audiences of all shapes and sizes. The Office is the Curator of Performing Arts and Film at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art; programs the BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival, New York's longest-running free outdoor performing arts festival: and created and programs the CenterSeries at the Williams College '62 Center for Theatre and Dance. The past year has brought many wonderful and diverse highlights. In its continuing work with



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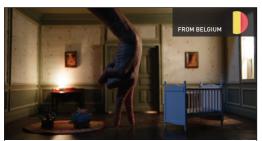
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS (CONT.)

South African artist William Kentridge, it had the pleasure of producing his expansive project Triumphs and Laments: A Project for Rome, which revitalized the banks of the Tiber River with a semi-permanent 500-meter frieze. It is also in the midst of producing Carrie Mae Weems' powerful new piece Grace Notes, which examines themes of race and identity in our current political moment. Its projects are united by its commitment to the close link between art-making. community building and social justice.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

16 May 2018 Paris, France: Cité de la musique, Philharmonie de Paris. Concert Hall

2019 (details tbc) Phnom Penh, Cambodia-40 years since the fall of the Khmer Rouge

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A free and open platform for theatre-makers worldwide that amplifies progressive, disruptive ideas about the art form and facilitates connection between diverse practitioners.

From the journal

In the classroom—where we not only encounter but commit to shaping young voices and visions we still rely on plays in which women are underrepresented.

- Katherine McGerr, "It Starts in the Classroom: Approaching Gender Parity through Actor Training"



The World Theatre Map is a user-generated directory and real-time map of the global theatre community.

HowlRound.com

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> - Fred Lowery. ArtsEmerson Donor

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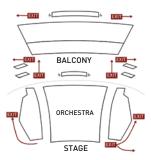
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ABOUT ARTSEMERSON

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. We are dedicated to engaging *all* communities through stories that reveal *and* deepen our connection to each other. By cultivating diversity in the art and in the audience, we ignite public conversation around our most vexing societal challenges as a catalyst for overcoming them.

We are committed to welcoming everyone into our landmark venues, located in Boston's downtown Theatre District, for a diverse program of contemporary theatre, film and music from around our city and around our world. In addition, ArtsEmerson engages in a range of community partnerships and produces a series of initiatives that make visible the rich diversity of cultural activity in our region. These programs are core to our mission and express our commitment to our civic responsibility to create a more cohesive society.

OUR LANDMARK VENUES

Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre

Built in 1903 as the second performance venue in Boston's historic Theatre District, the Cutler Majestic Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The venue was purchased by Emerson College in 1983 and magnificently restored through the support of Ted and Joan Benard-Cutler in 2003. It combines state-of-the-art theatre facilities with Old World charm, serving the Boston community by showcasing first-class performing arts in its exquisite 1,200-seat auditorium.

Emerson Paramount Center

The Emerson Paramount Center is a comprehensive performing arts hub, including three venues serving the public: the 565-seat Robert J. Orchard Stage, the 125-seat Jackie Liebergott Black Box, and the 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room. Originally a 1930s cinema palace, The Paramount was one of the first movie houses in the city to screen film with synchronized sound. Recognized as a Boston Historic Landmark, it remained closed for three decades before being entrusted to Emerson College to restore in lively Art Deco style, reopening to the public in 2010.

OUR HISTORY

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization of the Office of the Arts at Emerson College. Founded by Robert J. Orchard in 2010, ArtsEmerson identified gaps in the Boston cultural landscape and created an arts institution intentionally designed to fill them. By December of 2013, *WBUR* critic Ed Siegel cited ArtsEmerson in his annual "Best of" round-up, noting: "In four short years, [they] have established ArtsEmerson as one of the most important cultural institutions in New England." In both 2012 and 2015, *Boston Magazine* named ArtsEmerson "Best Theatre in Boston." ArtsEmerson is currently led by Artistic Director David Dower and Executive Director David C. Howse.



DAVID DOWER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

David Dower joined ArtsEmerson as director of artistic programs in 2012 and was named artistic director in 2015. He is also co-founder and a contributing editor to HowlRound. Prior, he served as associate artistic director of Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.); and founded and served as artistic director of The Z Space Studio and co-founded and served as co-artistic director of The Z Collective (San Francisco, CA). With ArtsEmerson he directed Daniel Beaty's **Mr. Joy** and **Breath and Imagination**, Melinda Lopez's **Mala**, **Baritones UnBound**, and **Maurice Hines's Tappin' Through Life**. Dower earned the Inclusive Excellence Award (Emerson College); was a Gerbode Fellow (Gerbode Foundation); was named "MVP of Bay Area Theater" (*San Francisco Chronicle*); and was a Policy Fellow (National Endowment for the Arts). He studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, American University (Washington, D.C.) and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Originally from Westerly, RI, David resides in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Twitter: @ddower



DAVID C. HOWSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David C. Howse joined ArtsEmerson as executive director in 2015, and is fiscally and administratively responsible for multiple cultural venues in Downtown Boston. Prior he served as executive director of Boston Children's Chorus, where he was instrumental in helping grow BCC from a pilot project serving 20 kids in 2003 to a vibrant organization educating more than 500 singers in 12 choirs in 5 locations. David earned the Social Innovation Forum Achievement Award (Root Cause) and was included in the "40 Under 40" (Boston Business Journal). He serves in many capacities in the community, including as a trustee for Forbes House Museum; on the board of corporators for Eastern Bank; the board of Associated Grant Makers; the boards of directors for Chorus America and the Social Innovation Forum; on the board of overseers for the Museum of Fine Arts; the advisory council for the New England Foundation for the Arts; and as a member of the corporation of the Community Music Center of Boston. David earned degrees from Bradley University (Peoria, IL) and New England Conservatory of Music (Boston, MA) and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Next Generation Executive Leadership Program. He teaches at the Institute of Nonprofit Practice. Originally from Murfreesboro, TN, he resides in Milton, MA. Twitter. @dchowse

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Dayna Peck Sydney Post Jonah Puskar Renee Richard Lily Richards Nina Rodriguez Ana Rosal Mia Rosenfeld Trisdon Runnels Amy Russo Madison St. Amour Carolina Saverin Patrick Scanlon Christina Maria Scherban Willa Segar-Reid Audrey Seraphin Derek Siegel Sydney Skora Kayla Smith Samuel Solomon Nicholas Sparks Lauren Squier Zachary Eli Stetson Destini Stewart Samuel Swagert

Mariah Terry Chelsey Thomas Nicholas Tsandaris Brian Vlasak Audrey Vonborstel Dylan Walton Emma Weeks Nathan S. Weinreich Kimberly Wilborn Ashley Yung Molly Zalman Danielle Leigh Zappi Brendan G. Zinser Marni Zipper

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