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Contact: Joyce Linehan 617-298-0200, joyce@ashmontmedia.com

**ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage
OPENS FOURTH SEASON WITH
columbinus
September 17—29, 2013**

*Press night is Wednesday, Sept. 18, p.m., and seats are limited. Please respond via email to RSVP.
High resolution photos available on request.*

(BOSTON) The fourth season of acclaimed international theatre programming by ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage opens with *columbinus*, a play about the 1999 Columbine massacre. Performances take place **Sept. 17—29, 2013** at The Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre at the Emerson / Paramount Center (559 Washington St. in Boston's Theatre District). Tickets, from \$25 –\$59, are on sale now at www.artsemerson.org or by phone at 617-824-8400. (Please note: the Sept. 18 performance is SOLD OUT.)

In Littleton, Colorado, in 1999, two teenagers devastated a community and shocked the country when they walked into their suburban high school and killed 12 students and one teacher. Based on interviews with teenagers across the country, as well as with the survivors and community members in Littleton, this poignant drama weaves together these testimonies with excerpts from diaries and home video footage to bring to light the dark recesses of American adolescence. Director PJ Paparelli returned to Littleton, CO ten years later to conduct new interviews and add additional material to this gut-wrenching and highly theatrical production. Without answering, *columbinus* lays out the circumstances and lets the audience grapple with the ultimate question: "why?"

columbinus received some attention in the Boston area in 2011, when Lexington High School canceled a student production because of the language and violence in the work. (The Huntington Theatre Company worked with the student director to present the play.)

According to ArtsEmerson Executive Director Rob Orchard, "A piece like this forces us to confront some very painful ideas. With (Emerson College) President Pelton being on the forefront of the national dialogue about gun safety, and with ArtsEmerson's interest in civic engagement, it makes sense that we use *columbinus* as a jumping-off point for discussion." (See below for background information on other ArtsEmerson activity in the civic engagement realm).

American Theater Company is an ensemble of artists committed to producing new and classic American stories that ask the question: "What does it mean to be an American?" They provide an intimate home for the community to experience meaningful stories by fostering a nurturing environment for artists to take risks and create essential work. ATC produces Chicago's most innovative work by nationally renowned, Pulitzer and Tony-

winning playwrights within an intimate 107-seat space that is truly Chicago's public theatre, a home for diverse audiences.

Sept. 17 –29, 2013

columbinus

American Theater Company (Chicago)

by the United States Theatre Project

Written by Stephen Karam & PJ Paparelli

Dramaturgy by Patricia Hersch

Conceived and Directed by PJ Paparelli

The Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre (?) at the Emerson / Paramount Center

Performances:

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m. (SOLD OUT)

Friday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.

Related Activity at ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson seeks to be at the forefront of discussions of social issues and civic engagement through theatre.

This season, in addition to presenting *columbinus*, *Mies Julie*, an examination of race in a post-apartheid society and *House / Divided*, a work that looks at the foreclosure crisis through the lens of *The Grapes of Wrath*, the organization will host Global Arts Corp. and continue development work on *Common Ground*.

Global Arts Corp. is known for *Truth in Translation*, a work that brought to light stories of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission as told from the point of view of the Commission's young interpreters. They now set their sights on Belfast, and the Northern Ireland peace process, applying the same methods they use in *Truth in Translation*. They will be in residence at ArtsEmerson through most of September. ArtsEmerson also continues work on *Common Ground*, a theatrical response to the seminal book of the same name by J. Anthony Lukas. With the blessing of Lukas' family, a class under the direction of Melia Bensussen and Kirsten Greenidge an investigation of the book in 2011 and presented a workshop performance that December. It is expected that further work on the text will take place in the fall / winter followed by readings in community centers throughout the city.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson was established by Emerson College to program the beautifully restored 590-seat Paramount Center Mainstage; the versatile, intimate Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre ("The Jackie"), which can seat up to 150 people; the state-of-the-art 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room (all located within the Emerson / Paramount Center, a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Boston); and the beloved, historic 1,186-seat Emerson / Cutler Majestic Theatre in the heart of the Theatre District, fully restored by Emerson in 2003. Under the leadership of Rob Orchard, ArtsEmerson gives Boston audiences a new level of cultural choice, bringing live

professional American and international stage work to its four distinct venues as well as films and music. For more information, visit artsemerson.org.

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 communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,660 undergraduates and 829 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 80 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic. The College has an active network of 32,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu.

-30-

On sale now at ArtsEmerson:

Sept. 17—29, 2013, **columbinus – American Theater Company, Chicago**, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre, Paramount Center

Oct. 8 —20, 2013, **BARITONE UNBOUND: CELEBRATING THE UNCOMMON VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN– Marc Kudisch & Friends, New York City**, Emerson / Paramount Center Mainstage

Oct. 10 —12, 2013, **KISS & CRY– Charleroi Danses, Belgium**, Emerson / Cutler Majestic Theatre

Oct. 31—Nov. 10, 2013, **WAITING FOR GODOT– Gare St. Lazare Players Ireland, Ireland**, Emerson / Paramount Center Mainstage

Nov. 7—9, 2013, **STEP AFRIKA! – Step Afrika!, Washington D.C.**, Emerson / Cutler Majestic Theatre

Nov. 13—17, 2013, **SLEEPING BEAUTY– Colla Marionette, Italy**, Emerson / Paramount Center Mainstage

Nov. 30—Dec. 8, 2013, **MIES JULIE– Farber Foundry, South Africa**, Emerson / Paramount Center Mainstage

Jan. 30—Feb. 2, 2014, **HOUSE / DIVIDED –The Builders Association, New York City**, Emerson / Cutler Majestic Theatre

The winter / spring programming season will be announced September, 2013.