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ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage presents
HOUSE / DIVIDED
January 30 – February 2, 2014

Press performance is Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Please respond via email to RSVP.

High resolution photos available here:

<https://artsemerson.org/Online/default.asp?BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=mediakit-housedivided>

(BOSTON—January 21, 2014) The fourth season of acclaimed international theatre programming by ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage continues with The Builders Association's **HOUSE / DIVIDED**, a provocative look at the mortgage crisis using passages from Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Performances take place **Jan. 30—Feb. 2, 2014** at The Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre (219 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District). Tickets, from \$25 –\$75, are on sale now at www.artsemerson.org or by phone at [617-824-8400](tel:617-824-8400).

Using John Steinbeck's classic, *The Grapes of Wrath* as a narrative backbone, **HOUSE / DIVIDED** tells contemporary tales of foreclosure, following economic refugees and migrants from two different American eras. Steinbeck's Joads move along the great Dust Bowl migration, while a contemporary house rooted to its site -- yet connected to a web of global finance and investment - becomes a container for stories from the current, evolving crisis. **HOUSE / DIVIDED** explores the changing meaning of home, homelessness, and place both in the present moment and in the broader context of the American mythos.

On stage, **HOUSE / DIVIDED** is built around an archetypal house that is sometimes inhabited, sometimes abandoned, sometimes transformed or broken, and sometimes only imagined or remembered by those who have moved on or lost their homes. In **HOUSE / DIVIDED** this house is more than an image or representation; **it is an artifact of the current upheaval -- the real thing: a foreclosed house from Columbus, Ohio dismantled and carried in pieces to the stage to tell its story.** The house is a tragic character, inhabited and manipulated by the people and institutions that have surrounded it -- from an owner and renter to a local realtor all the way to the trading desk at Goldman Sachs and the Swiss headquarters of reinsurance giant AIG.

Outside the house, on the road, the Joads carry on their eternal journey. Steinbeck's beautiful prose, both stark and lyrical, is used in voiceover as a descriptive soundtrack as we step in and out of their story, illustrating their trials and struggles as they make their way slowly west. They build their world onstage, dreaming of 'home', while the production ghosts forward to our complex and contemporary digital environment.

HOUSE / DIVIDED draws from 'real life' events as source material; the myriad, bizarre, humorous and lamentable stories of the current crisis. **HOUSE / DIVIDED** traces a line from kerosene lamps and makeshift roadside tents to the digital glow of screens under overpasses and in parked cars at Wal-Mart parking lots. **HOUSE / DIVIDED** finds us at our current crossroads: with a radically altering sense of home and stability, community and ownership and a retooling of the American Dream.

About The Builders Association

Founded in 1994, **The Builders Association** is a New York-based, OBIE award-winning performance and media company that creates original productions based on stories drawn from contemporary life. The company uses the richness of new and old tools to extend the boundaries of theatre. Based on innovative collaborations, they blend stage performance, text, video, sound and architecture to tell stories about human experience in the 21st century.

Jan. 30 –Feb. 2, 2014

HOUSE / DIVIDED

The Builders Association (New York)

Directed by Marianne Weems

The Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre

Performances:

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m.

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson was established by Emerson College to program the beautifully restored 590-seat Emerson/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. A new permanent facility on Sunset Boulevard is being constructed for its L.A.-based program, estimated to be completed by January 2014. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu.

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On sale now at ArtsEmerson:

Jan. 10 - Feb. 1, 2014, **WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT A PRESENTATION... - Company One Theatre, Boston**, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre, Emerson/Paramount Center

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

Feb. 13-16, 2014, **RED-EYE TO HAVRE DE GRACE- Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental, Philadelphia** Emerson/Paramount Center Mainstage

Feb. 20-22, 2014, **NO PLACE TO GO-Ethan Lipton, NYC**, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre, Emerson/Paramount Center

Feb. 25-March 2, 2014, **MAN IN A CASE- Baryshnikov Productions, NYC**, Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre

March 6-15, 2014, **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM-Bristol Old Vic, United Kingdom**, Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre

April 1-6, 2014, **NOT BY BREAD ALONE-Nalaga’at Theater Deaf-Blind Acting Ensemble, Israel**, Emerson/Paramount Center Mainstage

April 9-13, 2014, **LEBENSRAUM [HABITAT]-Jakop Ahlbom, The Netherlands**, Emerson/Paramount Center Mainstage

April 17- 27, **THE WHOLEHEARTED-Stein | Holum Projects, NYC**, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre, Emerson/Paramount Center

May 6 - 18, 2014, **SONTAG: REBORN-The Builders Association, NYC**, Emerson/Paramount Center Mainstage

June 6 and 7, 2014, **EUGENE ONEGIN-Vakhtangov State Academic Theatre of Russia, Russia**, Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre