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**ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage Announces
BREATH & IMAGINATION
By Daniel Beaty, Directed by David Dower
Featuring Elijah Rock as Roland Hayes**

**Emerson/Paramount Center, Boston
January 27 through February 8, 2015**

The press performance is Thursday, January 29 at 7:30pm. Please RSVP via email.

Email for high resolution images.

[BOSTON, MA – December 16, 2014] ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage announces **Breath & Imagination**, by Daniel Beaty, featuring Elijah Rock, directed by David Dower for a two-week limited engagement. Performances take place January 27 through February 8, 2015 at the Emerson/Paramount Center Main Stage (559 Washington Street in Boston’s historic theatre District). Tickets, from \$25-\$79, are on sale now at www.artsemerson.org or by phone at 617-824-8400. Group, student, and senior discounts are available.



Elijah Rock as Roland Hayes. Photos: Michael Lamont.

Before there was Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, there was Roland Hayes – the first world-renowned African-American classical vocalist. Born the son of a slave in Georgia, Roland discovered his voice as a young boy singing spirituals in church. **Breath & Imagination** is a musical play that renders the life of his amazing journey from the plantation in Georgia to singing before kings and queens in Europe and becoming the first African-American soloist to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Employing spirituals and classical

music, **Breath & Imagination** is an inspirational exploration of one man's determination to be an artist despite seemingly insurmountable odds. Created by celebrated artist Daniel Beaty (**Emergency**) and starring award-winning actor Elijah Rock—reprising his role as Roland Hayes for which he received the NAACP Theatre Award for Best Performer in 2014.

About Elijah Rock

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Elijah Rock is an award-winning actor, singer, writer, producer and entrepreneur. He is the 2014 NAACP Theatre Award recipient for Best Male Equity performer in **Breath & Imagination** staged in Burbank, CA. Latest credits include Rock as a recurring guest star in the second season of *Masters of Sex* (Showtime). Rock's short film *Lunch with Jeremiah* is currently making the film festival rounds and he is co-producing and starring in the biopic film *Lincoln Perry* to be directed by the award-winning writer/director, Antwone Fisher. As a recording artist, he released *Elijah Rock Preacher of Love. Vol 1., That First Time*, and *Elijah Rock LIVE in Hollywood*. Also a professional tap dancer, Rock resides both in California and New York.

About Playwright Daniel Beaty

Daniel Beaty is an award-winning actor, singer, writer, and motivational speaker. His critically acclaimed plays *Through the Night*, **Emergency**, *Mr. Joy*, and *The Tallest Tree in the Forest - Paul Robeson*, have been performed at venues ranging from Lincoln Center to the White House, and garnered numerous awards including an Obie Award for writing and performance and two NAACP Theater Awards. Beaty has worked throughout the U.S., Europe, and Africa speaking and performing on programs with luminaries such as Deepak Chopra, Hill Harper, Jill Scott, Donnie McClurkin, and Ruby Dee. In fall 2013, Beaty launched a nationwide initiative using the tools of storytelling to help individuals and communities heal trauma funded by W.K. Kellogg and Ford Foundations among others. He holds a BA with Honors in English and Music from Yale University and an MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theatre. His poem *Knock Knock* became an internet sensation receiving millions of views and has been transformed into a children's book, also titled *Knock Knock*, published by Little Brown Books. Penguin-Random House published his empowerment book *Transforming Pain to Power* in March 2014.

About Director David Dower

Before joining ArtsEmerson in the spring of 2012, David Dower spent six seasons as Associate Artistic Director at Arena Stage, where he directed the Artistic Development team and founded the American Voices New Play Institute (AVNPI), the precursor to The Center for the Theater Commons now located at Emerson College. He served as the Artistic Producer on Arena's offerings from 2007 - 2011, including the Tony/Pulitzer-winning *Next to Normal*. Prior to joining Arena he was the founding Artistic Director of The Z Space (a theatre development center focused on new plays) and a founder of its predecessor, the producing ensemble The Z Collective, both in San Francisco. He has directed plays around the country, including at Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle's Intiman, and dozens of world premiere productions in the Bay Area.

Breath & Imagination

JAN 27 – FEB 8, 2015

Featuring Elijah Rock

Written by Daniel Beaty

Directed by David Dower

Emerson/Paramount Center Main Stage

Performance Schedule

Tuesday, January 27, 2015	7:30PM
Wednesday, January 28, 2015	7:00PM
Thursday, January 29, 2015	7:30PM
Friday, January 30, 2015	8:00PM
Saturday, January 31, 2015	8:00PM
Sunday, February 1, 2015	2:00PM
Tuesday, February 3, 2015	7:30PM
Wednesday, February 4, 2015	7:00PM
Thursday, February 5, 2015	11:00AM
Thursday, February 5, 2015	7:30PM
Friday, February 6, 2015	8:00PM
Saturday, February 7, 2015	8:00PM
Sunday, February 8, 2015	2:00PM

2014-2015: ArtsEmerson's Fifth Anniversary Season at a Glance

[Click here to view the season video.](#)

Production	About	Company/Artist
Breath & Imagination Jan 27 – Feb 8, 2015 Emerson/Paramount Center Boston, MA	The musical and heartfelt story of Roland Hayes' journey from the son of a slave to a world-renowned opera singer and the first African-American soloist to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.	Daniel Beaty Featuring Elijah Rock as Roland Hayes
Green Porno, Live On Stage Feb 13 – 15, 2015 Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre Co-presented with World Music/CRASHarts New York, NY	Adapted from the celebrated Sundance Channel series, Art-house luminary Isabella Rossellini reveals the surprisingly kinky and confounding mating rituals of insects and marine life in this cheeky, delightful zoology lesson and one-woman show.	Les Visiteurs du Soir Starring Isabella Rossellini
Tristan & Yseult March 5 – 15, 2015 Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre Cornwall, United Kingdom	A thrill ride of a production that marries gorgeous live music and jaw-dropping theatricality, Kneehigh brings their glorious adaptation of the epic ancient love tale for an irresistible night of love and forbidden desires.	Kneehigh
The Muse and Morros: 30 Years of Revolutionary Comedy Re-mastered March 11 – 29, 2015 Emerson/Paramount Center Los Angeles, CA	The three-man comic hurricane that is Culture Clash returns to Boston to celebrate their 30th anniversary as the most prominent Latino performance troupe in the country.	Culture Clash
Ulysses on Bottles April 9 – 25, 2015	North American premiere of Gilad Evron's poetic and poignant examination of lives in conflict through the story of two unlikely	Israeli Stage

Emerson/Paramount Center Boston, MA	companions and their reactions to Gaza.	Featuring Boston favorites Jeremiah Kissel, Will Lyman and Karen MacDonald.
Needles and Opium April 9-12, 2015 Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre Montreal, Canada	Artistic visionary Robert Lepage brings his acclaimed hypnotic masterpiece that explores the complex relationships between art, love and addiction through the emotional journeys of Jean Cocteau and Miles Davis.	Ex Machina/Robert Lepage
The Grand Parade April 30 – May 3, 2015 Emerson/Paramount Center Ashfield, MA	The world acclaimed company returns to Boston with its wordless mythology of the 20 th century inspired by legendary visual artist Marc Chagall in a kaleidoscopic vision of humanity at play, at war, and at rest.	Double Edge Theatre
Smile at Us, O Lord! June 11 – 13, 2015 Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre Co-presented with Vakhtangov Academic Theatre Russia	Brought to life by the acclaimed team of Vakhtangov’s artistic director Rimas Tuminas, composer Faustas Latenas, and set designer Adomas Yatsovskis, "Smile At Us, Oh Lord" is based on two novels by the Lithuanian-born Israeli writer, Grigory Kanovich.	Vakhtangov Academic Theatre

Well into its 5th Anniversary Season, ArtsEmerson strives to unite artists and Boston’s audiences through the shared experience of live performance, providing the opportunity to engage with the highest caliber of artists from around the globe with 13 daring multi-disciplinary productions from around the globe.

About ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage

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. ArtsEmerson brings both American and international theatre, film and music, providing audiences a global perspective on a local platform its its four distinct venues. For more information, visit www.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 for its L.A.-based program opened in February, 2014. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu.

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