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**ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage Announces
The Only East Coast Engagement of The Broadway Hit
*THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL***

**Featuring Tony Award Winner Cicely Tyson, Vanessa
Williams, Blair Underwood, and Jurnee Smollett-Bell**

**Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston
November 20 through December 7, 2014**

*The press performance is Friday, November 21 at 8:00pm. Please RSVP via email.
Tickets are limited.*

[Click here for downloadable high resolution images.](#)

[BOSTON, MA – October 8, 2014 **Updated November 19**] ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage proudly announces the only east coast engagement of the Broadway hit, Horton Foote’s **The Trip To Bountiful**, directed by Michael Wilson. The three-week production takes place November 20 through December 7, 2014 at the Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre (221 Tremont Street in Boston’s historic theatre district). Tickets from \$25 to \$125 are on sale now at www.artsemerson.org or by phone at 617-824-8400. Group, student, and senior discounts are available.



*L-R: Cicely Tyson, Blair Underwood, Vanessa Williams
Photo: Craig Schwartz*



L-R: Blair Underwood, Vanessa Williams

Cicely Tyson reprises her Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated performance as the frail but feisty Carrie Watts in Horton Foote's beloved American classic **The Trip to Bountiful**, a story of intergenerational family conflict. Living in a cramped apartment in Houston with her dutiful son Ludie (Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood) and bossy daughter-in-law Jessie Mae (Grammy and Tony nominee Vanessa Williams), the elderly Carrie dreams of making one final journey to her hometown of Bountiful, Texas, which she was forced to abandon twenty years earlier. With pension check in hand, her last journey to Bountiful begins. Filled with joyous gospel hymns including an unforgettably moving "Blessed Assurance," this American treasure is a masterpiece of memory, mortality and the undeniable, universal yearning for the warmth of home.

[Click here to watch The Trip to Bountiful video from the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles.](#)

Cicely Tyson | Vanessa Williams | Blair Underwood

The Trip to Bountiful

November 20 –December 7, 2014

By Horton Foote

Directed by Michael Wilson

ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage with Jonathan Reinis Productions

in association with Center Theatre Group (Los Angeles, CA)

Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre

Performance Schedule

Thursday, November 20, 2014	7:30PM
Friday November 21, 2014	8:00PM
Saturday, November 22, 2014	2:00PM
Saturday, November 22, 2014	8:00PM
Sunday, November 23, 2014	2:00PM
Tuesday, November 2, 2014	7:30PM
Monday, November 24, 2014	7:30PM
Friday, November 28, 2014	8:00PM
Saturday, November 29, 2014	2:00PM
Saturday, November 29, 2014	8:00PM
Sunday, November 30, 2014	2:00PM
Tuesday, December 2, 2014	7:30PM
Wednesday, December 3, 2014	7:30PM
Thursday, December 4, 2014	7:30PM
Friday, December 5, 2014	8:00PM
Saturday, December 6, 2014	2:00PM
Saturday, December 6, 2014	8:00PM
Sunday, December 7, 2014	2:00PM

PLEASE NOTE:

Vanessa Williams will not appear in performances on Saturday, December 6.

The Cutler Majestic Theatre does not have an elevator. It is 30+ stairs to the Mezzanine and 60+ stairs to the Balcony levels.

The Trip To Bountiful Cast

Cicely Tyson	Mrs. Carrie Watts
Blair Underwood	Ludie Watts
Vanessa Williams	Jessie Mae Watts
Jurnee Smollett-Bell	Thelma
Devon Abner	Houston Ticket Agent
Wade Dooley	Second Houston Ticket Agent
Arthur French	Roy
Devon Abner	Sheriff

Pat Bowie, Russell Edge,
Dalila Ali Rajah, Keiana Richard,
Duane Shepard, Sr., and
Desean Kevin Terry

Travelers and Houston Bus Station Employees

Cicely Tyson (Carrie Watts)

Best known for her groundbreaking double Emmy Award-winning performance as Jane in *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, Ms. Tyson was also nominated for an Academy Award for the film *Souther*. Her third Emmy Award was for *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and she was nominated for her performances in *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Roots*, *King, Sweet Justice*, *The Marva Collins Story* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. Her many film credits include *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Hoodlum*, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, *Madea's Family Reunion*, *Why Did I Get Married Too?*, *The Help* and *Alex Cross*. In 2013, Ms. Tyson returned to the Broadway stage after a 30-year hiatus as Mother Carrie Watts in Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*. This role not only garnered rave reviews, but earned Ms. Tyson the triple crown of theatre awards: the Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards for Best Actress in a Play. In addition to a record number of NAACP Image Awards, in 2010, Ms. Tyson became the 95th recipient of the prestigious Spingarn Medal, the highest honor presented by this esteemed organization. This year Ms. Tyson added additional Honorary Doctorate degrees from both Columbia University and American Film Institute for her artistry to her impressive list honors. Other Broadway credits include *The Corn Is Green*, *Trumpets of the Lord*, *A Hand is on the Gate*, *Tiger*, *Tiger Burning Bright*, *The Cool World* and *Jolly's Progress*. In 1997, Hollywood honored Ms. Tyson with a star on the world famous Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 1995 a middle school in East Orange, NJ, was named for Ms. Tyson and following her continued active involvement, she was able to open a new \$143 million state-of-the-art, 300,000 sq. ft. campus renamed the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts to educate students kindergarten through high school.

Vanessa Williams (Jessie Mae Watts)

After starring on Broadway last season as Jessie Mae Watts in the Tony and Emmy Award-nominated adaptations of Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*, Vanessa is thrilled to bring her wickedly funny performance to the Ahmanson Theatre! She also reprised her role for Lifetime's television adaptation, which was nominated for a 2014 Emmy Award. Throughout her career, Vanessa has maintained a reputation as one of the most respected and multi-faceted entertainers in the world. She has conquered the musical charts, Broadway, television and motion pictures. She has sold over 20 million records worldwide and has garnered 11 Grammy nominations. She received a Tony nomination for her portrayal of *The Witch in Into the Woods*, and starred in the seven-time Tony-nominated musical *After Midnight*. Her other stage credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman* on Broadway and *St. Louis Woman* for Encores. Her TV credits include her three-time Emmy-nominated performance as Wilhelmina Slater in *Ugly Betty*, Renee Perry in *Desperate Housewives* and Olivia Doran in *666 Park Avenue*. Her movie credits include *Soul Food*, *Dance with Me*, *Eraser*, *Johnson Family Vacation* and *Tyler Perry's Temptation*. A proud mother of four children and bestselling author with her own mother Helen for their memoir *You Have No Idea*, Vanessa is living her dream.

Blair Underwood (Ludie Watts)

Award-winning actor, director and producer Blair Underwood, who recently appeared as Othello at The Old Globe in San Diego, is equally at home in the worlds of theatre, film and television. He made his Broadway debut as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* for which he received a 2012 Drama League Distinguished Performance Award nomination. His many film and TV credits include *Just Cause*, *Deep Impact*, *Something New*, *The Event*, *Dirty Sexy Money*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, *Sex and the City*, *In Treatment* (Golden Globe nomination) and *L.A. Law* (Golden Globe nomination), among many others. He starred in the Lifetime TV movie *The Trip to Bountiful* with Cicely Tyson and Vanessa Williams and received a Critics Choice Television Award for his performance. He is a Grammy Award-winner for the audiobook of *An Inconvenient Truth*. He made his feature directorial debut with *Bridge to Nowhere*.

Jurnee Smollette-Bell (Thema)

Jurnee Smollett-Bell is an award-winning actress and activist. She played an integral role in this past season of NBC's critically-acclaimed series *Parenthood*, and most recently costarred in HBO's *True Blood*. Jurnee also starred in Tyler Perry's 2013 film *Temptation*, was seen in the last two seasons of NBC's Emmy Award-winning series *Friday Night Lights* (alongside Connie Britton and Kyle Chandler) and starred opposite Jim Belushi and Jerry O'Connell in CBS' *The Defenders*. Jurnee also starred in *The Great Debaters* (NAACP Image Award, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Motion Picture) with Forest Whitaker and Denzel Washington, who also directed the film. *The Great Debaters* was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Picture. She made her breakthrough performance at the age of 11, starring in *Eve's Bayou* opposite Samuel L. Jackson.

Michael Wilson (Director)

Michael Wilson directed the 2013 Broadway revival, as well as the 2014 Emmy-nominated Lifetime/Ostar Productions movie, of Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*, which garnered a Tony Award for Best Actress for Cicely Tyson. Over a two-decade collaboration with Foote, Wilson directed *Dividing The Estate* (Broadway), the premieres of *The Carpetbagger's Children* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Day Emily Married* (Primary Stages), *The Death of Papa* (Hartford Stage) and *The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre), for which he received 2010 Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Also on Broadway, he has directed Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *Enchanted April*, and *Old Acquaintance* (Roundabout Theatre Company). Off-Broadway, he has directed numerous plays, including last season's premiere of Foote's *The Old Friends*. Internationally, he directed Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* for the 1995 Venice Biennale. He has directed at our nation's major theatres, including Hartford Stage, where as Artistic Director from 1998 to 2011 he commissioned and developed numerous new works, including Quiara Alegria Hudes' 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner *Water By the Spoonful*.

Horton Foote (Playwright)

HORTON FOOTE (Playwright) created *The Trip to Bountiful* as a live television drama in 1953 starring Lillian Gish and Eva Marie Saint, who reprised their roles in Foote's Broadway stage adaptation. The play became an Oscar-winning film in 1985 (Best Actress, Geraldine Page), earning Foote his third Academy Award nomination. The play was revived on Broadway in 2013 (winning a Best Actress Tony Award for Cicely Tyson), and became an Emmy-nominated Lifetime television movie in 2014. For his epic nine plays *The Orphans' Home Cycle*, Foote received the New York Drama Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Lortel Awards for Best Play. He received two Academy Awards, one for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and another for *Tender Mercies*. In 1995, he received both an Emmy Award for his teleplay of William Faulkner's *Old Man*, and the Pulitzer Prize for his play *The Young Man from Atlanta*. In 1998, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, receiving their Gold Medal of Drama. In 2000, he was bestowed the National Medal of Arts Award by President Clinton. In 2008, his play *Dividing the Estate* won Obie and Outer Critics Circle Awards, as well as a Best Play Tony nomination. Mr. Foote's memoirs, *Farewell* and *Beginnings*, are published by Scribners.

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

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

<u>Production</u>	<u>Company/Artist</u>	<u>Region</u>
Traces	Les 7 doigts de la main	Montreal, Canada
King Lear	Shakespeare's Globe	London, United Kingdom
The Magic Flute	Isango Ensemble	Capetown, South Africa
The Old Man and the Old Moon	PigPen Theatre Co.	New York, NY
The Trip to Bountiful	Center Theatre Group	Los Angeles, CA
Breath & Imagination	Daniel Beaty	Boston, MA
Green Porno, Live On Stage	Les Visiteurs du Soir	New York, NY
Tristan & Yseult	Kneehigh	Cornwall, United Kingdom
The Muse and Morros: 30 Years of Revolutionary Comedy Remastered	Culture Clash	Los Angeles, CA
Ulysses on Bottles	Israeli Stage	Boston, MA
Needles and Opium	Ex Machina/Robert Lepage	Montreal, Canada
The Grand Parade (of the 20th Century)	Double Edge Theatre	Ashfield, MA

Now entering 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 12 daring multi-disciplinary productions from around the globe.

Patrons may become ArtsEmerson Members for only \$60 and receive a free ticket. Members also enjoy additional savings, preferred seating, discounted parking and invitations to exclusive events throughout the season. Tickets and packages may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 617.824.8400 or by visiting www.artsemerson.org.

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. 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 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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