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**ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage Announces  
Stage and Screen Artist Blair Underwood to Join  
Tony Award Winner Cicely Tyson and Vanessa Williams  
in One of Only Two Post-Broadway Engagements of  
*THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL*  
Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston  
November 20 – December 7, 2014**

*Email to request high resolution images.*

[BOSTON, MA – Tuesday, August 26, 2014] ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage announces that stage and screen artist Blair Underwood will join Tony Award-winner Cicely Tyson and Vanessa Williams in one of only two post-Broadway engagements of the critically acclaimed, Tony-nominated Broadway revival of Horton Foote's American masterpiece **The Trip to Bountiful** this fall. Performances take place November 20 through December 7, 2014 at the Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre (219 Tremont Street in Boston's historic theatre District). Tickets, from \$25-\$125, are on sale now at [www.artsemerson.org](http://www.artsemerson.org) or by phone at 617-824-8400. Group, student, and senior discounts are available.



[Click here to view \*The Trip to Bountiful\* trailer.](#)

Directed by Michael Wilson, **The Trip to Bountiful** was lauded as one of the most distinguished productions on Broadway in 2013. *The Wall Street Journal's* Terry Teachout said, "I've never been more deeply moved by a theatrical production of any kind. **The Trip to Bountiful** is without flaw!" Ben Brantley (*The New York Times*) cheered, "Book the next bus to Bountiful! Cicely Tyson is remarkable."

David Cote from *Time Out NY* called the show “soul-stirring and flawless. **The Trip to Bountiful** seems as fresh and vibrant as the day Horton Foote finished it.”

“We’re thrilled that Mr. Underwood will join Miss Tyson and Miss Williams,” says ArtsEmerson Founder/Executive Director Rob Orchard. “This production is a great milestone for ArtsEmerson in our 5th Anniversary Season, and we’re honored to have such esteemed artists on our stage.”

“The play – a classic. The cast – outstanding,” says ArtsEmerson Director of Artistic Programs David Dower. “That we will host this dream team during the Thanksgiving season is sure to make lasting memories for intergenerational family audiences throughout Boston’s neighborhoods.”

Blair Underwood, who played Ludie Watts in the recent Lifetime television film *The Trip To Bountiful*, will reprise his role in both fall post-Broadway theatrical productions in Los Angeles at the Ahmanson Theatre (Center Theatre Group) and in Boston. An award-winning actor, director and producer, Mr. Underwood recently appeared as Othello at The Old Globe in San Diego and 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*.

In 2013, Cicely Tyson returned to Broadway for the first time in 30 years. Her tour-de-force performance as Carrie Watts in **The Trip to Bountiful** earned every major theatrical award including the Tony Award for Best Actress, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award. In addition, her performance in the recent Lifetime television movie **The Trip To Bountiful** earned her an Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Movie. Miss Tyson earned double Emmy Awards for “The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman” and was nominated for an Academy Award for *Souder*. She earned her third Emmy Award for “The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All” and was nominated for her performances in “Roots,” “King,” “Sweet Justice,” *The Marva Collins Story* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. Her film credits include *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Hoodlum*, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* and others. Her 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*.

Multi-faceted performer Vanessa Williams achieved critical acclaim as an actress on stage, in film and on television, and she has sold millions of albums worldwide. In addition to **The Trip to Bountiful**, in which her performance as the bossy daughter-in-law was called “wickedly funny” by *Entertainment Weekly*, Williams’ other stage credits include Broadway’s *After Midnight*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Into the Woods* (for which she received a Tony Award nomination) and *Sondheim on Sondheim*, as well as *St. Louis Woman* for City Center’s Encores! As a recording artist, she has garnered 11 Grammy nominations, and she is also known for her three-time Emmy-nominated performance as Wilhelmina Slater in “Ugly Betty” and for her performance as Renee Perry in “Desperate Housewives.”

**The Trip To Bountiful’s** Boston engagement is produced by ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage and Jonathan Reinis Productions in association with Center Theatre Group.

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

### **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](http://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](http://www.emerson.edu).

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