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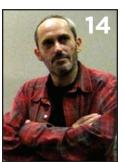
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## theatrebiil

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#### **BACKSTAGE**

#### Behind the scenes in local and national theatre

by Josh B. Wardrop

#### Three is a Magic Number for Theater Fans

Throughout the month of October, the city of Boston may find itself mistaken for the quietly quirky town of Shirley, Vermont, what with all the residents of the fictitious hamlet that'll be appearing onstage at the Boston Center for the Arts. Next month, a landmark collaboration between three of the city's top theater companiesthe Huntington Theatre Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company and Company One—is set to produce the first three plays by breakout playwright Annie Baker in the first-ever festival dedicated to this exciting young voice in American drama.

Each of the shows scheduled to be performed—Circle Mirror Transformation by the Huntington (October 15-November 14 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA), Body Awareness by SpeakEasy (October 22-November 20 at the Calderwood) and The Aliens by Company One (October 22-November 20 at the Calderwood)shines its spotlight on different residents of Baker's fictional town of Shirley, offering humor, poignancy and insight through their well-honed character portraits and depiction of smalltown life.

All three shows will be performed between October 22 and November 14, and on certain days, schedules will be staggered so that theatergoers can, if they so choose, take in all three in one day.

"We are thrilled to team up with the Huntington and Company One to introduce Boston theatregoers to the delightful denizens of Shirley, Vermont," said SpeakEasy Stage Company Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault in a press release issued jointly by the three collaborating companies. "Both the partnership and the plays celebrate the importance and spirit of community."



THREE COMPANIES: The works of playwright Annie Baker get triple exposure this October as Huntington Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage and Company One team up to present plays from her Shirley, Vermont series at the Boston Center for the Arts.

For more information about the Shirley, Vermont visit www.shirleyvtplays.com, www.huntingtontheatre.org, www.companyone.org or www.speakeasystage.com.

#### **ArtsEmerson Adds Programming Staff**

This month sees the arrival of the first slate of shows produced by Boston's newest arts and theater organization, the Emerson College-based ArtsEmerson. As the company's season kicks off with Fraulein Maria—choreographer Doug Elkins' modern, hip-hop dance take on The Sound of Music (refer to What's On Stage, page 6)— ArtsEmerson has added to its team of programmers responsible for lining up future performances at the Cutler Majestic Theater,

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER



AT THE MOVIES: Bringing high-quality films to the Paramount Center's Bright Family Screening Room (pictured) will be the job of Arts Emerson's newly-appointed Director of Film Programming, Rebecca Meyers.

the Paramount Theatre and Emerson's intimate **Black Box Theatre** with a pair of appointments.

Dan Hirsch, former concert program manager for the Museum of Fine Arts and director of music programs for World Music/CRASHarts, was named Director of Music Programs for ArtsEmerson. According to Robert Orchard, Emerson's Executive Director of the Arts, Hirsch will be responsible for bringing innovative national and international musicians to the ArtsEmerson venues.

"Dan was the obvious choice for this position," Orchard said in a statement. "As with the theater programming we announced [previously], the concerts he will bring to ArtsEmerson will be work rarely heard in the community [and] consistent with our desire to enhance the cultural landscape of the city."

Hirsch has been credited with bringing cuttingedge, uber-hip artists to Boston for the first time in his roles with World Music/CRASHarts and the MFA, including performers like Antony and The Johnsons, Vampire Weekend, St. Vincent, Bon Iver and Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings.

Meanwhile, ArtsEmerson also addressed the genre of film with the hiring of Rebecca Meyers as Director of Film Programs. Meyers, the former archive coordinator at the Harvard Film Archive and a filmmaker herself, will be responsible for programming the Paramount Center's 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room, which is expected to include film screenings related to upcoming live ArtsEmerson performances, as well as independent, repertory, foreign and children's films.

"Rebecca Meyers brings a wealth of experience and a range of interests to this position," said Orchard. "As with the work on our stages, we want the films we program to add to the cultural choices for the community."

#### Coming to Broadway: Spiders, **Elves and The Cheshire Cat**

One has to wonder what Cy Coleman, Rodgers and Hammerstein or Irving Berlin would have made of the upcoming crop of musicals making their debuts on Broadway in the coming months. About as far removed from the good old days of a guy, a girl and a plucky bunch of singing, dancing "let's put on a show" types as one can imagine, Broadway's newest stars are set to include an elf from the North Pole, a teenager bitten by a radioactive spider and the otherwordly denizens of one of the most famous children's stories of all time.

On November 2, the stage musical adaptation of the popular Will Ferrell comedy Elf debuts at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. The musi-

#### backstage (continued)

cal closely follows the plot of the movie, in which a man raised by Santa and his elves returns to the outside world to help his human family (hilariously) discover the true meaning of Christmas. No word yet on who'll step into the pointed shoes of Ferrell's Buddy the Elf, but a partial cast has been announced, including Tony Award-winning actress Beth Leavel, Tony nominee Mark Jacoby and George Wendt of "Cheers" fame as jolly old St. Nick himself.

The next month, the long-awaited and oftdelayed musical about everyone's favorite wallcrawling superhero-Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark-is finally set to spring to life at the Foxwoods Theatre on December 21. The show, directed by Julie Taymor (The Lion King) and featuring music and lyrics by U2's Bono and The Edge, stars **Reeve Carney** as Peter Parker/ Spider-Man, Tony nominee Jennifer Damiano

as his girlfriend, Mary Jane Watson, and Broadway veteran Patrick Page as the villainous Norman Osborn/The Green Goblin. Damiano and Page were recently added to the cast to replace Hollywood names Evan Rachel Wood and Alan Cumming, both of whom had to drop out after production on Turn Off the Dark suffered multiple delays.

Finally, Broadway will get a look at a very different kind of Alice when previews of the new musical Wonderland: A New Alice begin on March 21. The show, conceived and composed by Tony and Grammy nominee Frank Wildhorn (Jekyll & Hyde, The Civil War) and directed by **Gregory Boyd**, presents a grownup heroine named Alice, a career woman estranged from her husband and daughter who finds herself in Wonderland, meeting up with characters from Lewis Carroll's classic tale.

## WHAT'S ON STAGE in September

Our picks for the hottest plays and musicals on local stages this month

#### **WICKED**

THE OPERA HOUSE

September 1-October 17 Ever wondered what Oz was like before Dorothy Gale blew into town? The answers can be found at the Opera House when the Tony Award-winning Broadway smash Wicked



returns to Boston. Adapted from the popular novel by Gregory Maguire, Wicked tells the tale of how two childhood frenemies—one pretty and popular, one green-skinned and ostracized-grow up to be two of the most powerful witches in Oz. With a bravura musical score, amazing visuals and a provocative story that peels back the hidden layers of a world you only thought you knew, Wicked is a show that's earned its reputation as a modern masterpiece.

#### **THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

LYRIC STAGE COMPANY

September 3-October 3

Geeks, freaks, brainiacs and oddballs of the world, unite! There's power in words—or, at least, in the proper spelling of them-in this hilarious musical comedy by Rachel Sheinkin and Massachusetts playwright William Finn. The winner of two Tony Awards, Spelling Bee is the tale of a group of intellectually gifted, if socially challenged, schoolkids and the equally quirky adults running the titular competition. You'll laugh until you cry at the hysterical goings-on and the all-too-familiar cruel comedy of tortured adolescence. Who knows? Maybe you'll even be lucky enough to be called from the audience to test your spelling prowess. (That's P-R-0-W-E-S-S, by the way.)

#### FRÄULEIN MARIA

PARAMOUNT THEATRE September 23-October 3

This fall, the hills are alive and well here Boston-but this isn't your mother's Sound of *Music.* Groundbreaking and acclaimed choreog-



rapher Doug Elkins kicks off the inaugural ArtsEmerson performance season with a thoroughly modern take on the beloved Rodgers & Hammerstein classic, updating the story of sweet Austrian governess Fräulein Maria to the 21st century through the use of hip-hop dance and lighthearted gender-bending costuming. The action is all set to the original Julie Andrews soundtrack, creating a multi-generational juxtaposition between the old classic musical and the new and vibrant flavor of Elkins' reimagining.

# Do you dream about one day taking a trip of a lifetime?

On September 30, 2010, it's time to stop dreaming.

Join destination specialists from American Express Travel for an night of "Dream Vacation" planning. Plan your getaway to Europe, the South Pacific, Caribbean—any destination you dream of—with the help of our travel professionals.

Enjoy a sampling of international food and beverages and take our special travel quiz to be entered for a chance to win a \$100 American Express Gift Cheque.

Complimentary parking vouchers available for the first 30 guests who RSVP.

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#### **Artistic Director's Welcome**



Welcome to Alice vs. Wonderland!

I am thrilled to welcome the internationally renowned Hungarian theater and film director János Szász back to our mainstage. János has created a number of stunning productions here at the A.R.T.—most recently Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*—and I am so glad that he has returned to stage this adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

I am especially delighted to showcase the A.R.T. Institute again this season on our mainstage. This production

features graduate actors from the Institute Class of 2011, and was "remixed" by Brendan Shea, a recent graduate of the Institute's dramaturgy program who has tailored the script to this ensemble. Every spring, our first-year Institute students spend three months studying and training at the world-famous Moscow Art Theatre School. *Alice vs. Wonderland* premiered in Russia at the American Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre, where it played for three months to sold-out houses. Now it comes back to Cambridge for its American premiere.

*Alice vs. Wonderland* is a love letter to a classic coming-of-age tale—it provokes, evokes and lets us dream. I am very proud to offer this opportunity to experience the next generation of theater artists as they begin to make their mark on the theater of tomorrow.





The **A.R.T. Ambassadors** are passionate individuals who are ready to light a fire and support the bold, vibrant work of the American Repertory Theater.

Help us connect with our community and lead an audience revolution to experience the A.R.T.

# SPECIAL EVENT SEPT. 25, 2010!

#### **AFTER-PARTY IN WONDERLAND**

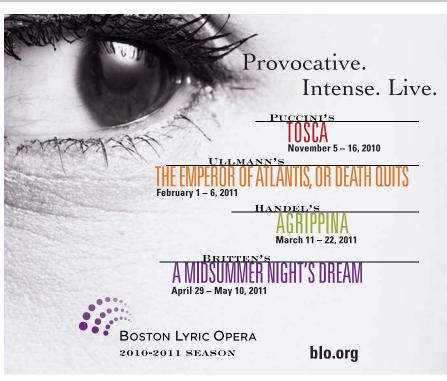
Join us for an evening which promises to get curiouser and curiouser....

Follow your topsy-turvy adventures with Alice directly into a celebration hosted by the A.R.T. Ambassadors at a special post-show party. Featuring a performance by Mighty Tiny.

Party admission FREE with ticket to any performance of *Alice vs. Wonderland*.

For more information on the event please email ambassadors@amrep.org or sign up to be an ambassador at americanrepertorytheater.org/ambassadors





#### AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

The A.R.T. /MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training in association with the Loeb Drama Center

**PRESENTS** 



BASED ON THE STORIES OF LEWIS CARROLL

#### REMIXED BY BRENDAN SHEA

SET DESIGN RICCARDO HERNANDEZ

COSTUME DESIGN

DAVID ISRAEL REYNOSO

LIGHTING DESIGN
MARUTI EVANS

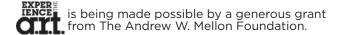
SOUND DESIGN
CLIVE GOODWIN

CHOREOGRAPHY
CHERYL TURSKI

DIRECTED BY
JÁNOS SZÁSZ

Featuring the A.R.T. Institute Class of 2011

The A.R.T. Institute's 2010/11 season is dedicated to the memory of Roman Kozak.



#### Cast

Mary Ann/Black Dahlia	ANNIKA FRANKLIN
White Rabbit/Spade #2	VINCENT SELHORST-JONES
	ANGELA GULNER
Door 1/Cheshire Cat	NICK CRANDALL/DEREK LETTMAN
Door 2/Lory/White Knight	ED WALSH
Door 3/Duck/March Hare	JARED EATON
Alice 2	ERIKKA WALSH
Dodo/Tweedledum/Alice 4/Black Dahl:	iaSARAH JADIN
Tweedledee/Alice 4/Spade #5	MEGAN BROTHERTON
Mouse/Spade #7	STEVEN GOOD
Pat/Caterpillar/Knave	CHRISTIAN GRUNNAH
Alice 3	FAITH IMAFIDON
Caterpillar/Mad Hatter	CHRISTOPHER STALEY
Alice 5	JENNIFER SOO
Dormouse/King of Hearts	M. ZACH BUBOLO*
Alice 6/Black Dahlia	RENÉE-MARIE BREWSTER**
Queen of Hearts/Black Dahlia	JORDY LIEVERS
	(*) members of Actors' Equity Association
(**) app	ears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

Stage Manager—KEVIN SCHLAGLE

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Mikhail Barannikov, Ray Caesar, Tatiana Khaikin, Kirill Krok, Julia Propp, Anastasia Razoumovskaya, Julia Smeliansky and Polina Zhzhenova

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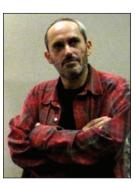
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Carolyn Clay, Boston Phoenix



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#### **Director's Note**



Working with young people is a very important part of my life. I am a teacher in Budapest. For over ten years, I have had a deep relationship with the A.R.T. Institute as both an artist and an educator. It has been my duty to help young actors explore who they are.

The story of *Alice vs. Wonderland* embodies this same idea of exploring oneself. When we premiered this show in Moscow, I saw how this story can communicate across cultures. It was not only through the music we used. The story is really universal. It is the story of a young soul exploring her identity and struggling to understand what she finds. And our ensemble, our storytellers, are young souls going through this same process of self-discovery.

I didn't come to Cambridge with a directorial plan when we started rehearsing *Alice vs. Wonderland* last winter. We needed to take time to explore the Alice story; as we did this, our class of actors was gradually coalescing into a strong ensemble. They were allowed to make brave choices and allowed to fail. In this way, the class had their own story in the course of the development of this project. It was the story of how a group of individual actors became a true ensemble. I told them on the first day of rehearsal: "It's not important that we create a good show together. All I want is to see each of you progress as actors." On opening night in Moscow, when I finally saw these eighteen actors become a team, I felt so incredibly happy.

At our dress rehearsal for our premiere in Moscow last spring, six or seven Russian kids came into the theater and started watching the show. They knew absolutely no English. And they were moved. I was so touched to see this, having children of my own. It's not enough to reach people of my own generation; I want to communicate with people who are twenty or thirty years younger than I am. They are from a different culture. This is what I learned from working with the Institute and with Brendan Shea on this project. I have come to understand this culture and young people so much more. And I understand Alice, finally. I realized I had the same journey as Alice when I was a teenager. Except my music was Deep Purple, not Lady Gaga.

-János Szász



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#### **Author's Note**



I like to describe Alice vs. Wonderland as a "remix," not an adaptation. What is a remix? We hear them on the radio all the time: it's revisiting an old tune in a new context. But a good remix does more than just sound cool. It renews, it refreshes, it reevaluates the original. A remix is always a multilaminated cultural object; it cribs from current musical styles, references old styles and can sample any number of pop culture ephemera. Remixing is evolutionary in effect; by reinserting a song into the cultural consciousness, it survives another generation. Some songs endure without this kind of treatment (a lot of songs, actually). Some animals haven't really evolved since the Stone Age. But there are animals, there are songs and there are stories

that survive through reproduction/remixing/adaptation. Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is one such beast.

Where the recent blockbuster film imagines a sequel to the events of *Alice's Adventures*, in Alice vs. Wonderland the basic structure of Carroll's novel remains: a series of encounters between Alice and a gallery of oddballs. Carroll punctuates each episode with a poem, a satirical revision of a Victorian nursery rhyme; the poems mock popular verses that nannies used to teach morals. Carroll's satire would fall flat with a modern audience; we don't recognize his send-up of Victorian hypocrisy. But juxtaposing Alice with pop culture speaks the modern lingo. From the book, the Disney cartoon or the Burton film we have a notion of who Alice is. We also have an inherent association with pop culture—today's nursery rhymes are not transmitted by nannies, but by TV, radio or YouTube. The collision of Carroll's characters and contemporary pop culture will hopefully spark the same smile of pleasure as Carroll's mash-up of pious nursery rhymes.

Wonderland, to me, represents the gauntlet each of us must go through on our way to adulthood. Leaving childhood behind is not a happy dream, but a struggle. Carroll understood this, on some level. Each of the wacky characters Carroll created plays a role in Alice's journey to self-realization. And they are all adversaries. In order to progress, she must either defeat or evade them. The clash reminded me of a video game, hence the title, Alice vs. Wonderland. Like any work of fiction, video games deal in wish fulfillment. They provide dreams on demand: the player explores a strange world, masters its rules and accomplishes the impossible. Carroll's narrative structure is familiar to anyone who grew up with Super Mario or Mega Man—it's a grab bag of surreal episodes, each with a puzzle to solve or an enemy to defeat.

As you will see, six actresses play Alice in our production, taking Alice's words literally: "I must have been changed several times since then...." Each Alice evokes a different aspect of teendom. Rebellion against authority. Self-destruction. The mysteries of sex. Alice's identity in Wonderland is kept fluid, and this is meant to invite us in to her private identity crisis, maybe recognizing parts of our own middle-school selves floundering in there. For me, experiencing Carroll's story is not about watching Alice dream—it's about dreaming with Alice.

-Brendan Shea

Brendan Shea is a 2010 graduate of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. He is currently the Artistic/Dramaturgy Fellow at the A.R.T.

STARRING AMANDA PALMER AS THE EMCEE IN SEPT/OCT 2010



#### Cast



#### RENÉE-MARIE **BREWSTER**

Alice 6/Black Dahlia A.R.T: Cabaret (Fritzie). New York theater: Platanos and Collard Greens (Malady), Auction Block (Kleo), Between The Lines;

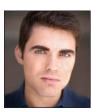
Unscene (Nancy), Ghostlight. Choreographer for Auction Block, Between The Lines. Films: Broken Chains, Mildred Richards, Strawberry Martyr, TV: "As The World Turns." Commercials: OK Cable Time Warner, Sterling Bank, Lucille Roberts, Vo5, MLB Allstar, Herman Miller Furniture Company. Dance: MTV Awards, BET Source Awards, The Miami Heat. B.S. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### MEGAN **BROTHERTON**

Tweedledee/Alice 4/Spade #5 Los Angeles theater: Macbeth (Donalbain/ Young Siward), Circus Theatricals/The Odsyssey

Theatre; Eat Your Heart Out (Mrs. Carter), Rumors (Cassie), UTL Theatre; Token Boy, Ultimate Improv. Film/Television: Who Stole the Electric Car, Abundant Sunshine, Secondary Sources, Mystery ER, The Crew. Commercials: Minute Maid, Target, Best Buy, American Eagle Outfitters, Skil Tools, Livescribe. B.A. in Government/International Relations from Claremont McKenna College. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



M. ZACH BUBOLO

Dormouse/ King of Hearts A.R.T.: The Donkey Show (Cobweb u/s). New York theater: Timon of Athens, Theatre Row. Boston theater: Streamers (Clark) and

Present Laughter, Huntington Theatre Company; Our Town (George), Wellesley Summer; *Progress*, Boston Playwrights Theatre; House, Divided, New Repertory Theatre; Beauty and the Beast (Lumiere) and Thoroughly Modern Millie, Reagle Players; A Midsummer Night's

Dream, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. Graduate of Boston College: Copenhagen (Bohr), A Little Night Music (Carl Magnus), Candide (Maximillian), King Stag (Leander). Television: "Guiding Light." Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### NICK CRANDALL

Door 1/Cheshire Cat Boston theater: Othello (Clown/Soldier 1). Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. Regional theater: All in the Timing (various roles),

Actors' Ensemble of Berkelev: Macbeth (Donalbain/Siward/Murderer), Subterranean Shakespeare; Sadgrrl13 (Jeff), Forgetting (Brother), world premiere productions at The Minneapolis Playwrights' Center; Amanda Tears: Teenage Detective (Oscar), The RedEve Theater, Minneapolis; Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet (Romeo/Iago/Chorus), Theatre Unbound, Minneapolis. Bachelor's degree from The Colorado College: Bash (Iphegenia in Orem), Far Away (Todd), The Threepenny Opera (Jake/Filch), Tongues (The Speaker), The Laramie Project (various roles). Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



JARED EATON

Door 3/Duck/ March Hare Boston theater: Othello, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. Regional theater: The Merchant of Venice

(Bassanio), Macbeth (Donalbain), All's Well That Ends Well, Dallas Shakespeare Company; As You Like It and Based on a Totally True Story (Tyler), WaterTower Theatre, Dallas. B.F.A. in Theater Performance from Baylor University: Macbeth (Macbeth), Hamlet (Laertes), Shape of Things (Phillip). Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



# ANNIKA FRANKLIN Mary Ann/Black Dahlia A.R.T.: Cabaret (Hansel, ensemble, Sally u/s). New York: Jiminy in the Wild City (ensemble). Other theater: Bug (Agnes), The English Channel (Emilia

Lanier), Measure for Measure (Mariana), Omnium Gatherum (Lydia), Despite All Marriages (Assia Weville). B.A. from Oberlin College. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### STEVEN GOOD

Mouse/Spade #7
Regional theater: Mozart's
Le Nozze Di Figaro (Il
Conte), Gian Carlo
Menotti's The Consul (The
Secret Police Agent),
UCSC Opera; Sleeping

Beauty (Prince Charming), Shakespeare Santa Cruz. B.A. in Music Composition and Operatic Voice from UC Santa Cruz. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### CHRISTIAN GRUNNAH

Pat/Caterpillar/Knave Regional theater: The Pillowman (Katurian), Carriage House Players; Aesop's Network (Sir Grass), Berkshire Theatre Festival;

Richard II (Bullingbrook), The Good Woman of Setzuan (Yang Sun), The Cherry Orchard (Trofimov), An Enemy of the People (Dr. Thomas Stockmann), Professor Taranne (Taranne), Overruled (Sibthorpe Juno), American Notes (Tim), The Burial at Thebes (Chorus Leader), To Whom It May Concern (Barlow), Merrily We Roll Along (Joe), Skidmore College. Founding member of The Carriage House Players. Graduate of Skidmore College. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### ANGELA GULNER

Alice 1
Feature film: Oh, Sophia
(Jules, lead), Peresempio
Picture House. Theater:
Great River Shakespeare
Festival—Main Stage: The
Merchant of Venice (Jessica

u/s), Apprentice Company: Pericles (Thaisa); St. Olaf College—Twelfth Night (Viola), The Taming of the Shrew (Kate), The Aerodynamics of Accident (Willa), The Persians (State), The Life of Galileo (Little Monk), Les Belles-Soeurs (Therese), Pippin (Chorus); 5 Guys Theater—Tiny Alice (Miss Alice), Savage/Love (Chorus). B.A. in Theater, Psychology and Women's Studies from St. Olaf College. Currently a second year student at A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University.



#### **FAITH IMAFIDON**

Alice 3 ART Institute: CodeSwitch7. A.R.T.: The Donkey Show (Disco Girl u/s). Boston theater: As You Like It (Audrey u/s, Hymen u/s), Commonwealth

Shakespeare Company; Annie Desmond Gets a Tattoo (Margie), SLAMBoston/Another Country Production; The T Plays (2), Mill 6 Collaborative; The Luck of the Irish (Nessa), Boston Playwrights' Theatre; Family Reunion (Alveena), Still I Rise (Sister Helpyourself), Morning Star Drama Ministry. Harvard College: The Space Between (Dr. Hackett), Mnemonic (Ensemble), The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol (Madame Masson), The Colored Museum (Little Girl, Topsy), Before It Hits Home (Reba). Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./ MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### SARAH JADIN

Dodo/Tweedledum/ Alice 4/Black Dahlia New York theater: Edward, My Son, The Late George Apley, The Actor's Company Theatre; As You Like It, The Midtown

Theater Festival. London theater: A Winter's Tale, Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, The Way of the World, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. Regional theater: Yentl, Stages Theater Company, Minneapolis; Twelfth Night, Minnesota Shakespeare in the

cast (continued)

Park, Minneapolis; A Doll House, A Bright Room Called Day, Smith College. B.A. in English Language and Literature and Theater from Smith College. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### **DEREK LETTMAN**

Door 1/Cheshire Cat Member and director of The Collective, the University of Washington's improv troupe, and a founding member of The

Department, a short-lived video and live performance sketch comedy group. B.A. in Drama and Philosophy from the University of Washington in Seattle: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Guildenstern), The Crucible (Danforth), How I Learned to Drive (Peck), Underneath the Lintel (The Librarian) and many other roles. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### JORDY LIEVERS

Queen of Hearts/ Black Dahlia A.R.T.: Cabaret (Helga). Other theater: The Days of '98 Show (Belle), Skagway, Alaska; You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Lucy),

Urinetown (Hope), The Rocky Horror Show (Janet), Once Upon a Mattress (Winnifred), The Music Man (Zaneeta), Peter Pan (Tiger Lily), Columbia University's The 113th Annual Varsity Show. B.A. in Art History and English Literature from Columbia University. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### VINCENT SELHORST-JONES

White Rabbit/Spade #2 Regional theater: The Pillowman (Katurian), The Liar (Dorante), Arcadia (Bernard), Pomona; Once in a Lifetime (Glogauer).

B.A. in Mathematics and Theater from Pomona College. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### **JENNIFER SOO**

Alice 5
New York theater:
Wonderful World
(Jennifer), The Attic; The
Things Tom Left Behind
(Lily), Horsetrade;
Moonchildren (Shelly),

The Attic; T.A.B. (Victoria), HERE Arts; Love's Labor's Lost (Moth), Lovecreek; The Resistible Rise of Fatlinda (Lule/Laundry Girl), Theater for the New City; A Message from Rhonda (Rhonda), Pride No Prejudice; The Child Dreams (Prophetic Child), Chandelier; various ensemble pieces with director Andrew Ondrejcak. Regional theater: And Then They Came for Me (Anne), Georgestreet Playhouse. B.F.A. from NYU: Naomi in the Living Room (Johnna); Fairy Tales (Snow White Fan). Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### CHRISTOPHER STALEY

Caterpillar/Mad Hatter Regional theater: The Laramie Project (Ensemble), Walpole Footlighters; The American Dream (Young Man),

Mansfield Music and Arts Society; Investigation Into the Murder in El Salvador (Stanton), A Dream Play (multiple roles), To Whom It May Concern: Partying (Chris), Signs (Chris), 18–21 (Chris), The Burial at Thebes (Chorus), Old Saybrook (Hal), Skidmore Theater Company. Directing credits: The Pillowman, The Carriage House Players; Blood Wedding, The Insect Play (Assistant Director), The Skidmore Theater Company. Trained with acclaimed director Robert Wilson as well as Anne Bogart and the SITI Company. B.S. in Theater and Psychology from Skidmore College. Currently a secondyear student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



#### **ED WALSH**

Door 2/Lory/ White Knight A.R.T.: Cabaret (Victor). A.R.T Institute: Alice vs. Wonderland (White Knight/Lory). New York theater: Homeward Bound

(Tex), Greenlight Productions; One Tennis Shoe

#### cast (continued)

(Harvey) and It's Not You (John), The Barrow Group Theatre; Mating the Black Widow (Roger), Short Attention Span Theatre. Regional theater: Moon Over Buffalo (Paul), Ivoryton Playhouse; Richard III (Stanly), The Tempest (Boatswain), Penobscot Theatre Company; Spinning Into Butter (Greg), Stamford Theatre Works; Stop Kiss (Det. Cole), Actors Alliance of San Diego. Films: Crash-Down Hearts, Temple City, Troubled Life. Commercial: San Diego County Credit Union. Formerly a US Marine, and currently a second vear student at the A.R.T/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University.



#### ERIKKA WALSH

Alice 2 New York theater: Blood Wedding, Woodshed Collective; Urban Death, Zombie Joe's Underground Theater Group. Regional theater:

Romeo and Juliet, Pericles, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival; Rigoletto, Center City Opera Theater, Philadelphia; Hugging the Shoulder, Sidewalk Cafe, Represented Theater Co., Philadelphia; Die Fledermaus, Gulf Coast Symphony, Florida; Comedy of Errors, And the World Goes Round, Holmdel Theater Company, New Jersey. Graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Art (NY) and Temple University. Currently a second-year student at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.



# Creative Team

#### **BRENDAN SHEA**

Author

A.R.T.'s Dramaturgy/Artistic Fellow and a 2010 graduate of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training. He previously collaborated with János Szász as Assistant Director on Szász's production of *The Seagull*, and was Dramaturg of last season's production of *Johnny Baseball*. At the A.R.T. Institute he was the Dramaturg for *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Aloha Say the Pretty Girls*. Mr. Shea recently collaborated with local rocker Jahn Sood on the premiere of a new folk opera, *The Disappearing Man & Other Sad Songs*. He is a founding member of Boston-based mime troupe, Ellipsis.

#### JÁNOS SZÁSZ

Director

A.R.T.: The Seagull, Desire Under the Elms, Uncle Vanya, Marat/Sade and Mother Courage and Her Children. A.R.T. Institute: Spring Awakening, Alice vs. Wonderland (Moscow). He was the Director of the A.R.T. Institute and a faculty member from 2001-03. Theater work in his native Hungary includes Sophocles' The Oedipus Cycle, Master and Margarita, Ghosts, The King Stag, A Streetcar Named Desire, Uncle Vanya, Baal, Mother Courage and Marat/Sade, among many others. He has directed several productions in Oslo, Norway and A Streetcar Named Desire for Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. His films include Opium (presented at various festivals in Europe and winner of several prizes), Woyzeck (Hungarian nominee for the Oscars), The Witman Boys (official selection of the Cannes Film Festival and winner of several awards), and Eves of the Holocaust, a documentary film about the Hungarian holocaust produced by Steven Spielberg for the Shoah Foundation, presented at the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival. He is a member of the European Film Academy.

#### RICCARDO HERNANDEZ

Set Designer

A.R.T.: Has collaborated with Szász on the Moscow performances of Alice vs.

Wonderland, as well as The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Desire Under the Elms and Marat/Sade. Also designed Best of Both Worlds, Julius Caesar, Britannicus, Romeo and Juliet, The Miser, Full Circle, Enrico IV, Phaedra and Othello among others. Broadway

credits include Tony Kushner's Caroline, or Change; Topdog/Underdog (also Royal Court, London); Elaine Stritch at Liberty (also West End's Old Vic, London and national tour); Parade (Tony and Drama Desk nominations); Noise/Funk (also national tours and Japan); The Tempest; over a dozen productions at New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater and all over the United States.

#### DAVID ISRAEL REYNOSO

Costume Designer

A.R.T: Cabaret, Sleep No More (with Punchdrunk U.K.), Trojan Barbie, Copenhagen, No Man's Land, The Keening, Resident Crafts Artisan. A.R.T. Institute: Hamletmachine, Ajax in Iraq, Abigail's Party. Other: Othello, The Comedy of Errors (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Design), Commonwealth Shakespeare; Dead Man's Cell Phone, Lyric Stage; The Woman in Black, Gloucester Stage; Training Wisteria, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Kennedy Center; Little Wing, NYC Fringe Festival; A Midsummer Night's Dream, B.U. Opera Institute. Music Video Art Direction: Juan Son's Mermaid Sashimi (Universal Music); Porter's Host of a Ghost (Universal Music, Tercer Piso Records).

#### **MARUTI EVANS**

Lighting Designer

Has worked as lighting and set designer in opera, theater, and dance for the last twelve vears. His work includes The Oresteia at Classic Stage Co, Exit Stage Left at Parallel Exits at Lincoln Center, The Traveling Lady at Ensemble Studio Theater (Obie Award for Best Revival), In Paradise at Cherry Lane Theater/INTAR Theater, and others. He has designed several productions at the 59E59 Theaters, Ensemble Studio Theater, The Duke New 42 Theater, Lincoln Center and Stonybrook University. He has been nominated for the Drama Desk Awards in Outstanding Lighting Design in 2007, 2008 and 2009 for the 59E59 productions: In the Heat of the Night, Slaughterhouse 5 and Blindness. Also a nominee for Audelco Awards Best Lighting and Set Design (Relativity with Ensemble Studio Theater and Noon Day Sun with Diverse City Theater) and a nominee for Bessie Awards Best Lighting and Set Design (Relativity with Ensemble Studio Theater).

creative team (continued)

#### **CLIVE GOODWIN**

Sound Designer

A.R.T.: Paradise Lost, Sound Designer. Sound Design credits: London: BBC: "Dancing With The Stars," "Later with Jools Holland," "The Sound of Musicals," "Friday Night with Jonathan Ross." ITV: "Parkinson." Music: Radiohead, Jamiroquai, Paolo Nutini, Orbital, Sparks, The Waterboys, Glastonbury Festival, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal College of Music. Woodhouse Players: The Dresser, Wyrd Sisters, Dracula—The Vampire Strikes Back. Work on numerous shows including work at: Brooklyn Academy of Music, Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden, Royal Festival Hall, Avignon Festival.

#### CHERYL TURSKI

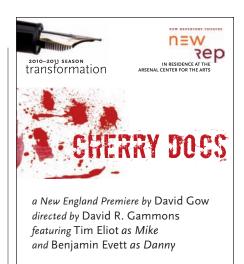
Choreographer

Cheryl Turski is a former dance instructor and choreographer for the A.R.T. Institute. Past Institute productions include Winter's Tale, The Discreet Charm of Monsieur Jourdain, Killing Game and Zoya's Apartment. Regional acting credits include The Donkey Show (A.R.T.), *Proof* (Seacoast Repertory Theatre), Private Lives (Wellesley Summer Theatre), The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Foothill Theatre) and Hay Fever (The Publick Theatre). In addition, also created and directed 47 Ways to Die and O.D.B.: OBERON Dance Battle for OBERON. She is a graduate of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training and the University of Notre Dame, where she is currently part of the acting and movement faculty.

#### **KEVIN SCHLAGLE**

Stage Manager

Third-year B.F.A. Stage Management Candidate (Boston University). Regional: Arden Theatre Company of Philadelphia, Westport Country Playhouse, Huntington Theatre Company, Boston Playwrights' Theatre. BU School of Theatre and Opera Institute selections: Cosi fan tutte, Susannah, Machinal. Upcoming: Ruined with the Huntington Theatre Company and Prometheus Bound with the A.R.T.



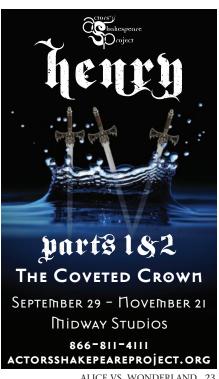
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Diane Paulus, Artistic Director

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is one of the country's most celebrated resident theaters and the winner of numerous awards—including the Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize and numerous local Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. In 2002 the A.R.T. was the recipient of the National Theatre Conference's Outstanding Achievement Award, and in May of 2003 it was named one of the top three theaters in the country by *Time* magazine.

Founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, during its 30-year history the A.R.T. has welcomed major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes new American plays, bold reinterpretations of classical texts and provocative new music theater productions. The A.R.T. has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide in 21 cities in 16 countries on four continents. It has presented over 200 productions, over half of which were premieres of new plays, translations and adaptations.

The A.R.T. is also a training ground for young artists. The theater's artistic staff teaches undergraduate classes in acting, directing, dramatic literature, dramaturgy, design and playwriting at Harvard University, and in 1987 the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. In conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class graduate level training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

In 2009, the A.R.T. welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus. Under her leadership, the Theater has developed a new initiative, EXPERIENCE THE A.R.T., that seeks to revolutionize the theater experience through a sustained commitment to empowering the audience. This initiative recognizes that theater is not just a play on the stage, but also a social occasion for people to come together and experience community. This audience-driven vision speaks directly to the A.R.T.'s core mission—"to expand the boundaries of theater." By expanding its focus to include the audience's total theater experience, the A.R.T. seeks to give audiences a voice, a sense of ownership and a feeling of importance in the theatrical event.

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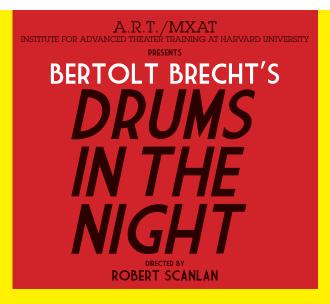
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The Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard was established in 1987 by the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) as a training ground for the professional American theater. Its programs are fully integrated with the activities of the A.R.T. In the summer of 1998, the Institute commenced a historic joint program with the Moscow Art Theater (MXAT) School. Students engage with two invaluable resources: the work of the A.R.T. and that of the MXAT, as well as their affiliated schools. Together, this exclusive partnership offers students opportunities for training and growth unmatched by any program in the country.

The core program features a rigorous two-year, five-semester period of training in acting, dramaturgy, or voice pedagogy, during which students work closely with the professionals at the A.R.T. and the MXAT as well as with the best master teachers from the United States and Russia. At the end of the program, students receive a Certificate of Achievement from the faculty of the American Repertory Theater and an M.F.A. Degree from the faculty of the Moscow Art Theater School.

Further information about this new program can be obtained by calling the Institute for a free catalog at (617) 496-2000 or going to our web site at www.americanrepertorytheater.org.

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- · Single ticket buyers may exchange for a transaction fee of \$10.

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Diane Paulus, A.R.T. Artistic Director, puts the audience on stage at the **Best of Both Worlds**Opening Night Party. PHOTO: Gretjen Helene.

# **GUIDE** to LOCAL THEATER

#### September/ October 2010

#### DOWNTOWN/THEATRE DISTRICT

BLUE MAN GROUP, Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., 617-931-2787 or 617-426-6912. *Ongoing*. This giddily subversive off-Broadway hit serves up outrageous and inventive theatre where three muted, blue-painted performers spoof both contemporary art and modern technology. Wry commentary and bemusing antics are matched only by the ingenious ways in which music and sound are created. The show has recently been updated with new performance pieces and music.

ROCK OF AGES, The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., 617-931-2787. Oct 6-17. Tony Award nominee and "American Idol" finalist Constantine Maroulis reprises his acclaimed performance as Drew in the first national tour of the smash-hit musical. In 1987 on the Sunset Strip, a small-town girl falls in love with a big city rocker in L.A.'s most famous rock club. This love story is told through the hits of Journey, Night Ranger, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Poison and many more.

SHEAR MADNESS, Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton St., 617-426-5225. Ongoing. This hilarious Boston-set whodunit, where the clues change every night and the laughs come fast and funny, is a worldwide phenomenon filled with up-to-the-minute spontaneous humor and quicksilver improvisation where the audience becomes part of the action and gets to solve the crime.

WICKED, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St., 617-931-2787. Sep 1-Oct 17. Long before that girl from Kansas arrives in Munchkinland, two girls meet in the land of Oz. One-born with emerald green skin-is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. How these two grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good makes for "the most complete-and completely satisfying-new musical in a long time" (USA Today).

#### LOCAL/REGIONAL THEATRE

AFTERMATH, New York Theatre Workshop, Paramount Theatre, 559 Washington St., 617-824-8000. Oct 27-31. From the award-winning creators of The Exonerated comes this jarring, illuminating and unforgettable play that gives voice to the upheaval of everyday life in Iraq through the words of 35 people who fled the chaos and violence that befell Iragi society in 2003 for the relative safety of Jordan.



ROCK OF LOVE: Fans of '80s rock can revisit the sounds of Journey, Poison, Styx and more with the hit Broadway musical Rock of Ages at the Colonial Theatre October 6-17.

ALICE VS. WONDERLAND, American Repertory Theater, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. Sep 18-Oct 9. Lewis Carroll meets Lady Gaga in this fantastical update of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. This new adaptation seamlessly blends the lyrical whimsy of Alice with modern pop music and high-octane physical theater, resulting in a fresh, funny and emotional remix of Carroll's classic coming-of-age tale.

THE ALIENS, Company One, Plaza Theatre, Hall A, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Oct 22-Nov 20. In the town of Shirley. Vermont. two 30-something dropouts hang out by the dumpster behind the coffee shop where they meditate on music, philosophy, shrooms and Bukowski. When a teenage employee asks them to relocate, these disillusioned young men find the disciple they've been waiting for in Annie Baker's funny and heartening look at friendship, ritual and small-town New England, part of the Shirley, Vermont series of plays.

ANNIE, Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, 617-879-2300. Oct 22-Nov 21. This classic American musical about a spunky red-headed orphan, with its commentary on big business and the gap between rich and poor, is reinvigorated to inspire a new generation.

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, The Footlight Club, Eliot Hall, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain, 617-524-3200. Sep 17-Oct 2. Joseph Kesselring's madcap black comedy tells the story of two

#### guide to local theater (continued)

sweet, lovable sisters who poison lonely old men for their pensions. Will they be stopped by their nephew Mortimer, his brother (who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt), and murderous older brother Jonathan, who wants to use the house for his own purposes?

BODY AWARENESS, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Oct 22-Nov 20. "Body Awareness" week on a Vermont college campus is the setting for this smart and touching comedy that forms part of the Shirley, Vermont series of plays. When Phyllis, the organizer, and her partner, Joyce, agree to host a photographer famous for his female nude portraits, a firestorm erupts that could break apart their unconventional family.

BOSTON MARRIAGE, New Repertory Theatre, Charles Mosesian Theater, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, 617-923-8487. Sep 12-Oct 3. In this biting comedy by David Mamet, Anna and Claire, two "women of fashion" who have long resided together, scheme to obtain the objects of their desire. Anna maintains their upper-middle class Victorian lifestyle as the mistress of a wealthy man who provides her with a healthy income, but when Claire's attentions stray from Anna, Anna devises the "perfect plan" that grows in outlandishness.

BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY, Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton, 617-244-0169. Sep 3-19. This musical celebrates the life of legendary singer/songwriter Buddy Holly, who shot to stardom in 1957, only to die in a plane crash two years later alongside Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper.

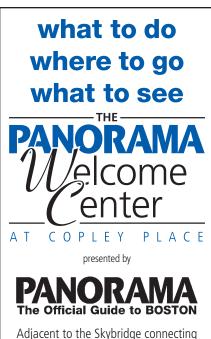
BUS STOP, Huntington Theatre Company, Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., 617-266-0800. Sep 17-Oct 17. A snowstorm strands a bus outside of Kansas City, and its passengers-including a stubborn, lovestruck cowboy and the nightclub singer he hopes to marry—seek shelter and warmth at a roadside diner. The motley crew spends one night together, filled with bluster, heartache and laughter. Former Huntington artistic director Nicholas Martin returns to direct this classic American comedy by William Inge.

CABARET, American Repertory Theater, Oberon, 2 Arrow St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. Through Oct 29. As singer Sally Bowles and writer Cliff Bradshaw pursue a life of pleasure at the Kit Kat Klub in Weimar-era Berlin, the world outside the nightclub begins to splinter. Sally and Cliff are faced with a choice: abandon themselves to the pleasures promised by the cabaret, or open their eves and face the coming storm. Presiding over the debauched party is former Dresden Doll Amanda Palmer as the magnetic Emcee.

CHERRY DOCS, New Repertory Theatre, Charles Mosesian Theater, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, 617-923-8487. Oct 17-Nov 7. When a Jewish lawyer is assigned to defend a young skinhead accused of brutally killing an immigrant, he must alter his preconceived notion of humanity in order to discover forgiveness. In this New England premiere, David Gow dares audiences to examine their capacity for compassion and asks: Is there atonement for all crimes?

CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION, Huntington Theatre Company, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston





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#### guide to local theater (continued)

Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. *Oct 15–Nov 14*. Four students in Marty's creative drama class experiment with theatre games as hearts are quietly torn apart and tiny wars of epic proportions are waged and won. This gentle and beautifully crafted new comedy by breakout writer Annie Baker—part of the Shirley, Vermont series of plays—mixes antic sadness and hilarious detail.

CONFESSIONS OF A PRAIRIE BITCH, Gold Dust Orphans, Theater Machine, 1254 Boylston St., 800-838-3006.

Oct 22-31. Comic, outspoken activist and former child star of "Little House on the Prairie," Alison Arngrim makes her Boston debut in this uproarious evening of storytelling, stand-up and multi-media about life as everyone's favorite toxic pre-teen brat, Nellie Oleson, complete with petticoats and ringlets.

**DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS,** North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly, 978-232-7200. **Sep 21–0ct 10**. This hysterical musical, based on the hit 1988 movie, follows two very different con artists working their schemes on the French Riviera. Their high jinks result in a friendly competition to see which one can swindle an innocent heiress out of her fortune.

**THE DONKEY SHOW,** American Repertory Theater, Oberon, 2 Arrow St., Cambridge, 617-547-8300. *Ongoing*. Bringing the ultimate disco experience to Boston, this crazy circus of mirror balls, feathered divas, roller skaters and hustle queens tells the story of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through great '70s anthems like "We are Family," "I Love the Nightlife," "Car Wash." "Ring My Bell" and "Last Dance."

**EXCLAMATION POINT! 8: MASKS,** Fort Point Theatre Channel, Midway Studios, 15 Channel Center St., 617-750-8900. *Oct 2*. This is a free evening of informal performances, readings and viewings of new works from playwrights, puppeteers, filmmakers, videographers, performance artists, poets and songwriters, all using the theme of "masks" for inspiration.

EXPRESSING MOTHERHOOD, Durrell Theatre, Cambridge Family YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 800-838-3006. Sep 30-0ct 2. Hear stories about motherhood told by real moms on stage. Each mom delivers her story about being a mom in a different way in this show that has played to soldout audiences in Los Angeles and New York.

FRAULEIN MARIA, Paramount Theatre, 559 Washington St., 617-824-8000. Sep 23–Oct 4. Acclaimed choreographer Doug Elkins' deconstruction of Rodgers and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music is a gender-bending, tour-de-force comedy that features the von Trapp children as hip-hop dancers and cross-dressing nuns cavorting across the stage. Set to the original Julie Andrews soundtrack, Elkins' affectionate humor shines through his tips of the hat to such dance legends as Martha Graham, George Balanchine, Jose Limon, Paul Taylor and Merce Cunningham.

**GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS,** Zero Point Theater, Black Box Theater, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, 800-734-4578. **Sep 16-19.** David Mamet's scalding, Pulitzer Prize-winning play centers around small-time, cuthroat real estate salesmen trying to grind out a living by pushing plots of land on reluctant buyers in a never-ending scramble for their share of the American dream.

**HENRY IV PARTS 1 & 2,** Actors' Shakespeare Project, Midway Studios, 15 Channel Center St., 866-811-4111. **Sep 29-Nov 21**.



**DISCO FEVER:** American Repertory Theater presents *The Donkey Show*, a disco-fied re-telling of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In a world in turmoil, Henry the Fourth is a king who questions his own legitimacy after deposing Richard II. Hal is a prince with a partying problem and hidden ambition. And the beloved Falstaff is a huge man with a talent for naming the absurd. Both parts of Shakespeare's history play are presented in repertory, along with a prologue from *Richard II* and an epilogue from *Henry V*.

IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY), SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Sep 17-Oct 16. This provocative and touching comedy about marriage, intimacy and electricity is set in the 1880s at the dawn of the age of electricity and based on the bizarre historical fact that doctors used vibrators to treat "hysterical" women. Written by Sarah Ruhl (Dead Man's Cell Phone), this Pulitzer Prize finalist centers on a doctor and his wife and how his new therapy affects their entire household.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT and THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER, Tectonic Theater Project, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. Sep 24-Oct 3. Consisting of interviews with more than 200 residents of Laramie, Wyoming following the October 6, 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, this landmark play highlights many of the fault lines in our culture. Ten years later, the original playwrights returned to Laramie to interview the same people and discover how Laramie has changed, crafting an epilogue to the original which now shares the stage with the original and is performed by its creators.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY, PARTS I & II, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-585-5678. *Oct 21–Dec 19.* A cast of 25 plays more than 150 characters in this remarkable two-part play with music. Winner of both the Tony Award for Best Play and the Olivier Award for Play of the Year, this adaptation of the Dickens novel about a poor young man trying to succeed in Victorian England makes its Boston debut.





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### guide to local theater (continued)

THE METHOD GUN, Rude Mechanicals, Paramount Black Box, 559 Washington St., 617-824-8000. Oct 13-17. Stella Burden—an actor-training guru of the '60s and '70s—fused Western acting methods with risk-based rituals in order to give even the smallest role a touch of sex, death and violence. This play uses found text from actual journals and reports from the final months of rehearsals for her nine-years-in-the-making production of A Streetcar Named Desire to explore the ecstasy and excesses of performing.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Aguila Theatre Company, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University Center for the Arts, 360 Huntington Ave., 617-373-4700. Oct 28. This imaginative interpretation of William Shakespeare's classic play renews the magic of the timeless comedy. Its universal theme of love and its attendant complications—passion, lust, frustration, depression and, of course, marriage—has delighted audiences for centuries and remains relevant today.

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN, The Nora Theatre Company, Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 866-811-4111. Oct 7-Nov 7. Eugene O'Neill's enduring masterpiece brings together his most memorable characters: Josie Hogan, a tough-talking Irish immigrant, and Jim Tyrone from O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night, who both search for redemption in this unlikely and magnificent love story.

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, Blue Spruce Theatre, Black Box Theater, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, 800-838-3006. Oct 7-24. This Caribbean adaptation of "The Little Mermaid" tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

ONE SMALL STEP, Oxford Playhouse, Paramount Black Box, 559 Washington St., 617-824-8000. Oct 20-24. From the first dog to be rocketed into space to the moon landing and beyond, two extraordinary young actors show how it's possible to land on the moon with little more than the contents of the corners of your attic.

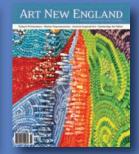
PERFECT HARMONY, Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham, 781-279-2200. Sep 9-Oct 3. The Acafellas have won 18 a cappella National Championships, but this year the Ladies in Red think it's their turn to shine. This new comedy exposes the cutthroat competition of glee clubs and the even more cutthroat competition of high school.

POE; A FEVER DREAM, 11:11 Theatre Company, Factory Theatre, The Piano Factory, 791 Tremont St., 866-811-4111. Oct 1-15. Venture into the maelstrom of Edgar Allan Poe's mind through stories brought to the stage with true macabre spirit, interwoven into a nightmarish reverie of his life, love and









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### guide to local theater (continued)

longings. Featuring classics like "Fall of the House of Usher," "Cask of Amontillado" and "The Tell Tale Heart," this world premiere production is too scary to be missed.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND, Publick Theatre, Plaza Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., 617-933-8600. Sep 2-25. Tom Stoppard's layered and witty indictment of the English "whodunnit" involves two critics who go to review yet another murder mystery. But as the fog rolls in, it becomes clear that both the reviewers and actors have deeper motivations for being at the performance when a series of events cast doubt upon whether or not it is a play or a perfect murder in progress.

ROMEO AND JULIET, Independent Drama Society, Factory Theatre, The Piano Factory, 791 Tremont St., 800-838-3006. Sep 16-25. Taking inspiration from punk of the late '80s and early '90s, this bold new look at the Western world's most famous love story features a company of eight young actors who deliver Shakespeare's passionate text with a fire that will leave no one unmoved.

**SLAMBOSTON**, Another Country Productions, Factory Theatre, The Piano Factory, 791 Tremont St., 866-811-4111. Oct 4-6. Combining the wild excitement of poetry slams with live theater, this unique 10-minute play festival presents several short plays that compete for a cash prize in a night of raucous audience participation and celebration of diversity in American theatre.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC, Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park, 617-361-5269. Oct 15-24. This final collaboration between Rodgers and Hammerstein is one of the world's most beloved musicals. A governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain gradually falls in love with, and marries, her employer. Returning from their honeymoon, they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis. The family's attempt to escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most inspirational stories ever presented in the theatre.

TICK, TICK...BOOM!, Tortoise and Finch Productions, Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton, 866-811-4111. Oct 1-9. This autobiographical musical written by Pulitzer Prizewinner Jonathan Larson (Rent) tells the story of an aspiring composer named Jon, who is struggling to make a living in New York City in 1990 and questions his career choice. Originally performed as a solo piece, it was revised as a three-actor piece by playwright David Auburn after Larson's death in 1996.

THE TIMEKEEPERS, Jewish Theatre of New England, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St, Newton, 617-965-5226. Oct 16. An uplifting tale of transcendence in the midst of a world gone mad, this award-winning drama is set at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where a Jewish and homosexual prisoner are thrown together in dire circumstances. Their wicked sense of humor, vast differences and passionate love for opera take them to rich, rarely explored territory.



### guide to local theater (continued)

TRUTH VALUES: ONE GIRL'S ROMP THROUGH MIT'S MALE MATH MAZE, Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 866-811-4111. Sep 8-26. Discover more than 30 characters, all portrayed by MIT graduate Gioia De Cari, in this intimate journey of self-discovery as she navigates MIT's male math maze.

**THE TURN OF THE SCREW,** Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham, 781-279-2200. *Oct 21-Nov 7*. Charmed by a handsome businessman, an eager governess is hired to care for his two orphaned wards. His only request: "Never trouble me. Never." As unexpected occurrences turn sinister and ghostly visions intrude, she vows to protect the children at all cost in this adaptation of the Henry James tale.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., 617-585-5678. Sep 3—Oct 3. Six young people in the throes of puberty—overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves—learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser in this hilarious musical tale of overachievers' angst.

# **OPERA**

**FIDELIO**, Opera Boston, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. *Oct 22-26*. Based on a true story from France's Reign of Terror, Beethoven's only

opera tells the powerful story of a woman in disguise as a young man who goes to work in a dismal prison to liberate her husband, a political prisoner.

HEART OF A DOG, Guerilla Opera, The Zack Box Theatre, The Boston Conservatory, 8 The Fenway, 617-912-9222. Sep 16-25. Based on Mikhail Bulgakov's novella of the same name, this dark comedy tells the story of a scientist whose experiments of implanting human glands into the bodies of animals prove overly successful. Disastrous consequences ensue for the scientist, his assistant and the housekeeper, who suddenly have their hands full with a half-dog/half-woman and her varied appetites and manipulations.

A HOUSE IN BALI, Bang on a Can All-Stars and Gamelan Salukat, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. *Oct 8 & 9*. This bold new opera by Evan Ziporyn, based on the writings of composer Colin McPhee, tells the true story of one man's sojourn to South Asia and the unlikely cultural awakening that ensues.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., 800-233-3123. Oct 29-31. Set in Nagasaki, Japan, Puccini's tragic opera tells the tale of Lt. Pinkerton of the U.S. Navy, who marries a naive 15-year-old Japanese geisha in a fake wedding ceremony while secretly planning to marry a real American woman upon his return to the U.S.







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# GUIDE to CAMBRIDGE DINING

L-Lunch • D-Dinner • B-Breakfast C-Cocktails • VP-Valet Parking SB-Sunday Brunch • LS-Late Supper

ALL STAR SANDWICH BAR, 1245 Cambridge St., 617-868-3065. With a tagline boasting the restaurant's reputation of being "wrap-free since 2006," Chef Chris Schlesinger's All Star Sandwich Bar serves up some of the best hot and cold sandwiches around. Try one of its signature creations like the Atomic Meatloaf Meltdown or the Veggie Cubano. Mon—Thu 11 a.m.—9 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m., Sun 'til 8 p.m.

THE ASGARD IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT, 350 Massachusetts Ave., 617-577-9100. The Asgard was designed in Ireland, with local artists putting the finishing touches on a truly one-of-a-kind bar. Communal tables and a variety of cool, comfortable places to sit—along with an extensive menu, a large craft beer selection, outdoor patio, live music, trivia nights, DJs and no cover charge—make the Asgard a perfect spot for a pint and a meal. Mon—Wed 11 a.m.—1 a.m., Thu & Fri 'til 2 a.m., Sat 10 a.m.—2 a.m., Sun 'til 1 a.m. www.classicirish.com.

BORDER CAFE, 32 Church St., 617-864-6100. Sizzling fajitas, overstuffed quesadillas and giant margaritas are the highlights at this Tex-Mex hotspot in Harvard Square. Other specialties include Cajun and Creole dishes, all served in a bustling, lively and fun atmosphere. L, D, C, LS.

CHEZ HENRI, 1 Shepard St., 617-354-8980. Chef/owner Paul O'Connell offers up delicious French cuisine with a Cuban twist in a classy and comfortable settling, located between Harvard and Porter Squares. Be sure to sample signature dishes like the camarones rellenos de yuca (baked stuffed shrimp) and the blanquette de lapin (braised rabbit with creme fraiche), and pair them with one of Chez Henri's standout tropical cocktails. D Mon-Thu 6–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 5:30–10:30 p.m., Sun 5:30–9:30 p.m.

**DANTE**, Royal Sonesta, 40 Edwin H. Land Blvd., 617-497-4200. Chef Dante de Magistris dishes out playful, rich fare with Italian, French and Spanish influences. The sophisticated eatery boasts a seasonal patio and gorgeous views of the Charles River and the Boston skyline. B Mon–Fri 6:30–10:30 a.m., Sat & Sun 7–11 a.m.; L Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; D Mon–Thu 5:30–10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m.; Sat & SB 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

**DOLPHIN SEAFOOD,** 1105 Massachusetts Ave., 617-661-2937. If you're in the mood for quality seafood, then this long-



**GO FISH:** This Harvard Square fixture has been offering diners the freshest bounty from the sea since 1975

time neighborhood favorite is not to be missed. From fried seafood platters to healthier options like swordfish to all varieties of shellfish, if it comes from the sea, Dolphin serves it up deliciously and fresh off the boat. L, D.

**EAST COAST GRILL**, 1271 Cambridge St., 617-491-6568. If you're looking for hot and spicy barbecue and seafood, then Chris Schlesinger's eatery is not to be missed. Fresh seafood, grilled fish and meats are served with traditional sides like coleslaw, beans, cornbread and watermelon. An oyster bar, cabana-like cocktails and a funky atmosphere prove fine dining can be fun. D, SB.

THE ELEPHANT WALK, 2067 Massachusetts Ave., 617-492-6900. Offering the city's most extensive menu of Cambodian/French cuisine, The Elephant Walk has long been lauded as one of Cambridge's most unique and delicious dining destinations. Chef Gerard Lopez pleases all palates with a full range of menus—including those for vegetarians, vegans and glutenintolerant diners—packed with tasty traditional Cambodian soups. salads and entrees and classic French dishes.

FELIPE'S TAQUERIA, 83 Mount Auburn St., Harvard Square, 617-354-9944. With everything made from scratch continuously throughout the day—from the hand-squeezed key lime lemonade to the traditional guacamole to the various salsas—the food at Felipe's is always served at the peak of freshness. Enjoy a mouth-watering burrito, quesadilla or taco at one of the few late-night food destinations in the square. L, D, LS. Sun–Wed 11 a.m.—midnight, Thu–Sat 'til 2 a.m. www.felipestaqueria.com.

FINALE, 30 Dunster St., Harvard Sq., 617-441-9797; One Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-423-3184; 1306 Beacon St., Brookline, 617-232-3233. A trendsetter among dessert-focused restaurants, Finale offers a wide array of time honored favorites and specialty desserts, savory fare for lunch and dinner, and an impressive selection of Illy coffee drinks, wine and cocktails. Sample award-winning creations like the gooey

## guide to cambridge dining (continued)

Molten Chocolate Cake and enjoy carry-out options from The Finale Bakery including freshly baked cookies, cakes, minipastries and tarts. Dunster St.: Mon 11 a.m.-11 p.m.: Tue-Thu 'til 11:30 p.m.; Fri 'til 12:30 a.m.; Sat noon-12:30 a.m.; Sun 'til-11 p.m. Columbus Ave.: Mon 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m.; Tue-Thu 'til 11:30 p.m., Fri 'til midnight; Sat 5 p.m.-midnight; Sun 4-11 p.m. Beacon St.: Sun & Mon 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Tue-Thu 'til 11:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat 'til 12:30 a.m. www.finaledesserts.com.

GREEN STREET GRILL, 280 Green St., Central Square, 617-876-1655. A neighborhood fixture since the days of The Great Depression, Green Street is one of Cambridge's most venerable eateries. Revamped in 2006, Green Street is known today for its standout menu of creative cocktails and its excellent craft beers, both of which perfectly complement the well-crafted menu of French/American cuisine. D Sun-Wed 5:30-10:30 p.m., Thu-Sun 'til 11:30 p.m.

GRENDEL'S DEN, 89 Winthrop St., 617-491-1160. Since 1971, Grendel's Den has been a comfortable, down-to-earth neighborhood eatery and bar, justly earning landmark status in the Harvard Square community. Priding itself on a wide and varied selection of domestic and imported beer, Grendel's also offers excellent food at even better prices. Tucked away in a basement off the cobbled paths of Winthrop Street, this Cambridge classic is open late and never disappoints. L, D, BR, LS, C.

HARVEST, 44 Brattle St., 617-868-2255. In keeping with its name, Harvest-located in the heart of Harvard Squarespecializes in dishes that incorporate only the freshest local ingredients. Chef Mary Dumont adjusts her expansive menu of classic American cuisine seasonally, taking full advantage of the bounty available from New England farms and greenhouses. Diners can treat themselves to delicious dishes like spring English pea soup, roasted local beet salad and all natural braised pork cheeks, as well as selections from Harvest's raw bar

HENRIETTA'S TABLE, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., 617-661-5005. Nothing but locally grown and organic produce is used to create a lively, textured menu of reinterpreted New England classics. Private dining room available. B Mon-Fri 6:30-11 a.m., Sat 7-11 a.m., Sun 7-10:30 a.m.; Sat and SB noon-3 p.m.; L Mon-Fri noon-3 p.m.; D daily 5:30-10 p.m.

HONG KONG. 1238 Massachusetts Ave., 617-864-5311, A local favorite for more than five decades, this Harvard Square fixture serves a full array of classic Chinese dishes and exotic drinks, including its world-renowned scorpion bowl. Perfect for a meal with friends, including lunch, dinner or late-night snacks, or for checking out the latest sports action in the bar. Sun-Wed 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m., Thu 'til 2:30 a.m., Fri & Sat 'til 3 a.m.

INDIA PAVILION, 17 Central Square, 617-547-7463. One of the best traditional Northern Indian restaurants in the area, India Pavilion has been a Cambridge staple for more than 25 years. A menu of lamb, chicken and vegetarian specialties is complemented by a selection of fine Indian wines and beer. L buffet daily noon-3 p.m.; D daily 3-11 p.m.

JASPER WHITE'S SUMMER SHACK, 149 Alewife Brook Parkway, 617-520-9500; 50 Dalton St., Boston, 617-867-9955; . Top-notch fare such as pan-roasted lobster, awardwinning fried chicken and an impressive raw bar in a casual setting. Boston: Sun-Wed 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Thu-Sat 'til 11 p.m., raw bar Thu-Sat 'til 1 a.m. Cambridge: Mon-Thu 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 11 p.m., Sun 3-9 p.m.

L.A. BURDICK'S, 52-D Brattle St., Harvard Square, 617-491-4340. Located in the center of bustling Harvard Square, this chocolate shop attracts both students and corporate executives with rich pastries like the chocolate mousse cake and fruit tarts, as well as its rich hot chocolate and assorted beverages. Sun 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon-Thu 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til 10 p.m.

LEGAL SEA FOODS, 20 University Road, Charles Square, 617-491-9400; 5 Cambridge Center, Kendall Square, 617-864-3400; Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Boston, 617-266-6800; other locations. Legal Sea Foods, a Boston tradition for more than 50 years, features more than 40 varieties of fresh fish and shellfish as well as an award-winning wine list. Named "Boston's Most Popular Restaurant" (Zagat 2009). L & D. www.legalseafoods.com.

NOIR, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., 617-661-8010. This award-winning, stylish bar and lounge offers seasonally inspired cocktails as well as classic drinks like the sidecar and old-fashioned along with crispy pressed sandwiches, flavorful flatbread pizzas, fresh salads and small bites in a sophisticated setting. C 4:30 p.m.-2 a.m.; D 5-11 p.m.

OM. 92 Winthrop St., 617-576-2800, OM Restaurant & Lounge in Harvard Square offers globally-influenced modern American cuisine, drawing in foodies and neighborhood patrons alike. A popular nightlife destination. OM's lounge boasts sleek leather sofas, a hypnotic water wall and signature cocktails. D, C.

P.F. CHANG'S, CambridgeSide Galleria, 100 CambridgeSide Place, 617-250-9965. Enjoy unforgettable Chinese cuisine, attentive service and delicious desserts all served in a stylish bistro setting. Featuring an award-winning wine list, P.F. Chang's offers an extensive wine-by-the-glass program as well as original cocktails like the Lucky Cat Martini. L, D & LS. Reservations accepted. Sun-Thu 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri & Sat 'til midnight. www.pfchangs.com.

PICANTE, 735 Massachusetts Ave., 617-576-6394. This rustic California-Mexican restaurant offers tasty, authentic dishes for the health-conscious. The menu ranges from delicious, char-grilled chicken and flank steak to vegan and vegetarian combinations. The fat-free salsas have no added sugar and everything is cooked to order. L & D Mon-Wed 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Thu & Fri 'til 11 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

REDLINE, 59 JFK St., 617-491-9851. A bustling bar scene is housed within this fashionable lounge/restaurant, which serves delicious and creative cocktails and cuisine. Local and international DJs keep the energetic and mature crowds shaking their bodies on the dancefloor well into the night. Mon-Sat 5-11 p.m. Bar: Mon-Wed 'til 1 a.m., Thu-Sat 'til 2 a.m.

RENDEZVOUS, 502 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, 617-576-1900. Acclaimed Boston chef Steve Johnson uses regional products and the spices of Northern Africa, Italy, France and Spain to create his own twist on seasonal cuisine. Rotating entrees can include grilled Portuguese sardines with roasted peppers, fennel and capers or Moroccan style kofte with minted yogurt. D.

RIALTO, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., 617-661-5050. One of Greater Boston's top restaurants, Rialto specializes in

# guide to cambridge dining (continued)

fine wines and delectable Italian cuisine. Chef Jody Adams showcases her creative talents on a menu exploding with flavor and imbued with craftmanship. Reservations recommended. D.

SANDRINE'S BISTRO. 8 Holvoke St., 617-497-5300. Renowned chef Raymond Ost serves delicious French cuisine with German flair in a cozy, upscale atmosphere right around the corner from Harvard University. Signature dishes include Alsatian pizza, terre et mer, suffrom pot au feu and roasted baby spring lamb rack. L Mon-Sat 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; D daily 5:30-11:30 p.m.

SHAYS PUB & WINE BAR, 58 JFK St., 617-864-9161. A Harvard Square fixture since 1984, this casual and comfortable tavern boasts an excellent beer and wine selection along with made-from-scratch appetizers, burgers, sandwiches and Mexican specialities, all at reasonable prices. L & D Mon-Sat 11 a.m. -1 a.m., Sun noon-1 a.m.

SHERATON COMMANDER RESTAURANT, 16 Garden St., Harvard Square, 617-547-4800. New England-style cuisine in an elegant setting with a casual atmosphere. B, L, D, SB.

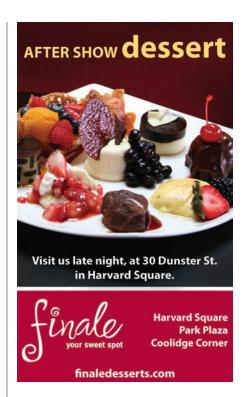
TORY ROW, 3 Brattle St., Harvard Square, 617-876-TROW. Located at the heart of Harvard Square, Tory Row takes its name from the 1770s term for Brattle Street, once populated by British loyalists. Serving up an eclectic mix of Euro-American dishes at affordable prices, this neighborhood bar and restaurant has shed the conservative roots of its name and replaced them with a diverse and creative culinary aesthetic. L, D.

THE UPPER CRUST, 49B Brattle St., 617-497-4111; 222 Newbury St., Boston, 617-262-0096; 20 Charles St., Boston, 617-723-9600; 683 Tremont St., Boston, 617-927-0090; 286 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-734-4900; 435 Moody St., Waltham, 781-736-0044; 94 Main St., Watertown, 617-923-6060. Traditional Neapolitan-style pizza (thin crust, chunky sauce) in an urban setting. Delivery available.

UPSTAIRS ON THE SQUARE, 91 Winthrop St., 617-864-1933. Boasting an eclectic decor, this lush urban oasis features everything from gourmet pizza to wood-grilled Meadow Farms lamb loin. A charming blend of eccentricity and culinary luxury.

WAGAMAMA, 57 JFK St., 617-499-0930; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market, Boston, 617-742-9242; The Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Boston, 617-778-2344. This international chain, modeled on the classic Japanese ramen noodle bar, has three locations in the Boston area. Offering affordable prices, speedy service and authentic food, Wagamama is a hip rendition of an old favorite, perfect for the modern globe-trotting food enthusiast. L, D.

ZOE'S, 1105 Massachusetts Ave., 617-495-0055. Offering a menu of delicious homemade Greek and American food in a fun atmosphere, this retro establishment serves breakfast all day, and take-out and catering are available. A popular destination for the weekend brunch crowd, Zoe's is also a great place for dinner, boasting an affordable selection of beer and wine. For dessert, try the delicious cheesecake frappe or the famous frozen hot chocolate. B, L, D, SB. Mon-Wed 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Thu-Sat 'til 10 p.m., Sun 8 a.m.-9 p.m.







# Dining Out

# **FINALE**



any have joked that dessert should be eaten first. But when Finale opened its doors in Boston's Theatre District in 1998, it took this concept seriously. Thus began

a revolution that elevated dessert to a whole new level, offering an irresistible, impeccably decadent re-invention of what had previously been considered an after-dinner treat.

This upscale restaurant, the brainchild of Harvard Business School students, returned to its roots in 2002 66 with the addition of a second location in Cambridge's Harvard Square.

With its plush, red banquettes and a warm, intimate atmosphere, Finale exudes a cozy, tucked-away feeling. The room also features a dessert plating station where patrons can witness one of Finale's chefs put the finishing touches on their dish via an overhead mirror.

But for those who find the idea of sitting down at a nice restaurant just to satisfy their sweet tooth a foreign concept, there's also the list of "preludes:" appetizer-sized portions of such delectable fare as Mediterranean pizza and baked shrimp. A fine way to begin, but you would, of

course, be missing the point entirely by not saving room for dessert.

And that's where award-winning chef Nicole Coady's unique creations come in. Presented in

such an attractive manner that they almost look too good to eat, the desserts rival the finest in modern sculpture. But don't be intimidated. Selections such as the apple a la mode, a warm McIntosh apple and cranberry

tart served with Tahitian vanilla gelato and honey caramel sauce, and the Fantasia, a sharable platter of treats like fresh strawberry tarts and peach chardonnay torte, were definitely meant to be savored. And new level. "The signature dish, the warm, fudgefilled molten chocolate cake, is worthy

of every accolade that has been heaped upon it.

For those whom sugar is not a big enough rush, a wide array of liquor, from cognacs to single malt scotches, is also offered, and many dishes are carefully paired with suggested dessert wines. For a truly grand finale, and a sweet ending at home, a take-out bakery tempts diners on their way out the door-not that the cuisine at this sweet spot ever makes it easy to leave.

**Finale** elevates dessert to a whole

**FINALE** 

30 Dunster St.;

locations in Boston and

46 AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER



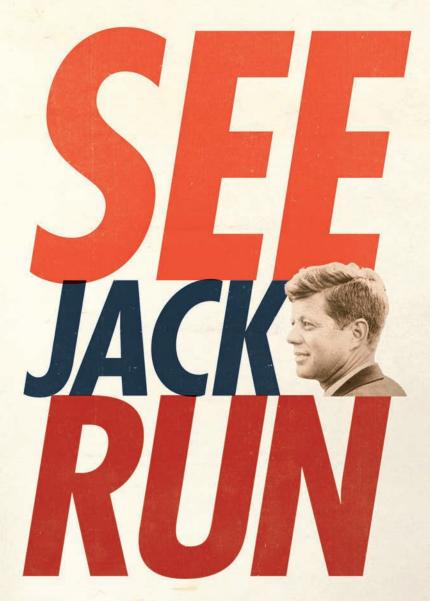
FLORENCE \$789; ROME \$789; COOKING IN TUSCANY \$1299\*; VIENNA & VENICE \$1629\*; AMALFI COAST \$1659\*; MOROCCO \$1699\*; TAORMINA \$1449\*; ATHENS & AEGEAN CRUISE \$1999\*; COSTA RICA \$2259\*; EGYPT \$2499\*

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