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Casting Announced for A.R.T.'s Pippin Directed by Diane Paulus Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge

Stephen Schwartz and Roger O. Hirson's Musical Celebrates 40th Anniversary on October 23rd

Cambridge, Mass — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is pleased to announce casting has been completed for its production of *Pippin*, with music and lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**, book by **Roger O. Hirson**, directed by A.R.T. Artistic Director **Diane Paulus**. Previews begin at the Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge) on December 5, with press opening on January 3, and running through January 20, 2013. Tickets will go on sale on October 23, the 40th Anniversary of the opening of *Pippin* on Broadway.

Stephen Schwartz and **Roger O. Hirson**'s beloved coming-of-age musical is directed by **Diane Paulus** with circus choreography by **Gypsy Snider** of the Montreal-based circus company *Les 7 doigts de la main* (also known as *7 Fingers*) and choreography by **Chet Walker** in the style of Bob Fosse. Set design is by Tony Award-winning designer **Scott Pask**, costume design by **Dominique Lemieux**, lighting design by Tony Award-winning designer **Kenneth Posner**, and sound design by Tony winner and A.R.T. Resident Sound Designer **Clive Goodwin**. Orchestration is by Tony Award-winner **Larry Hochman**, Music Supervision by **Nadia Di Giallonardo**, and the Music Director is **Charlie Alterman**.

The cast is led by Matthew James Thomas as Pippin, with Erik Altemus as Lewis, Andrew Cekala as Theo, Charlotte d'Amboise as Fastrada, Rachel Bay Jones as Catherine, Terrence Mann as King Charles, Andrea Martin as Berthe, and Patina Miller as the Leading Player. Other members of the company include Gregory Arsenal, Stephanie Pope Caffey, Lolita Costet, Colin Cunliffe, Andrew Fitch, Orion Griffiths, Viktoria Grimmy, Olga Karmansky, Bethany Moore, Philip Rosenberg, Yannick Thomas, Molly Tynes, and Anthony Wayne.

Matthew James Thomas, Gregory Arsenal, Lolita Costet, Orion Griffiths, and Yannick Thomas are appearing with the permission of Actors' Equity Association. The A.R.T.

gratefully acknowledges Actors' Equity Association for its assistance on this production.

Royal heir Pippin is spurred on by a mysterious group of performers to embark on a death-defying journey to find his "corner of the sky." The original production of **Pippin**, directed by Bob Fosse, premiered on Broadway in 1972. It won nine Tony Awards and four Drama Desk Awards, and ran for close to 2000 performances before closing in 1977. **Pippin** has become a staple of the American Musical canon, noted for many memorable songs including Corner of the Sky, Magic To Do, I Guess I'll Miss The Man, Glory, No Time at All, Morning Glow, and Love Song.

ABOUT THE PRINCIPALS:

Matthew James Thomas made his Broadway debut in the title role of Spider-Man, and played the title role of Dorian Gray at London's West End. Other British theater credits include Schlomo in Fame, Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, Clarence in Whistle Down the Wind, Oliver, and Popcorn. He was seen in the films Billy Elliot and About a Boy, and has multiple British television credits including leads in Britannia High, Casualty, Midsummer Murders, Bad Girls, Wonderful You, Shane, Midsummer Murders, Doctors, and Stephen Poliakoff's The Lost Prince and Seth.

Erik Altemus appeared as Matt in *The Fantastics* off Broadway; as Link Larkin in *Hairspray* at Drury Lane in Chicago; George in *And the Curtain Rises* at Signature Theatre, DC; Frankie Epps in *Parade* at the Musical Theatre of Los Angeles; and Yeast Nation, Carrie, My Fair Lady, The Music Man, and Phantom at various regional theaters. He is in the films *Miraculous Years* and *The Newman Shower*.

Andrew Cekala played the Dauphin in the A.R.T.'s production of *Marie Antoinette* this season. At age 12, he is a veteran of major Boston stages, including the Huntington Theatre's *All My Sons*, New Repertory Theatre's *A Christmas Story*, and Central Square Theatre's *The Life of Galileo*. Other credits include *Ragtime* at the Berklee College of Music and the title role of *Oliver* at Wellesley Players.

Charlotte d'Amboise received Tony nominations for the role of Cassie in A Chorus Line and Jerome Robbins' Broadway. Other Broadway credits include Sweet Charity, Contact, Chicago, Company, Can Can, Company, Damn Yankees, and Cats. She played Chris in the London production of Carrie, Roxie in the national tour of Chicago (winner of LA Ovation and Drama Critics Circle Awards); and appeared in Parade, Tonight at 8:30, Speed the Plow, and Italian American Reconciliation in regional theaters. Her films include The Preacher's Wife and The In Crowd.

Rachel Bay Jones's Broadway credits include *Hair*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. She was in the national tours of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Grand Hotel*, and in the Berlin Company of *Rent*. Regionally she played Anna in *The King and I* opposite Lou Diamond Phillips, the title role of *Evita* (English and Spanish language versions), *The Loman Family Picnic* (Marsha), *Cabaret Verboten*, *Jacques Brel...*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Carbonell Award), among others.

Terrence Mann recently appeared on Broadway in The Addams Family and Beauty and The Beast (Tony and Drama Desk nominations for Best Actor), as well as Les Misérables (Tony nomination), Jerome Robbins' Broadway, The Rocky Horror Show, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Jekyll and Hyde. He originated the role of Rum Tum Tugger in Trevor Nunn's Cats, and played the Ringmaster in Barnum. Off Broadway credits include Promises,

Promises and Assassins. On film he was seen as Larry in Richard Attenborough's Chorus Line, and on television he is guest lead in 30 Rock, Law and Order, Unforgettable, and Smash.

Andrea Martin most recently appeared as Juliette in the Broadway production of Exit the King, receiving both Drama Desk and Outer Critics Award nominations. Her other Broadway credits include, Frau Blucher in Mel Brooks Young Frankenstein (Tony, Drama Desk nomination), Golde in Fiddler on the Roof and her Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics-nominated performances as Aunt Eller in Oklahoma, and the Old Lady in Candide. For her role in My Favorite Year at Lincoln Center, Ms Martin received the Tony and Drama Desk and Theatre World Awards. Her film appearances include Club Paradise, Wag the Dog, The Producers, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, All Over the Guy, and My Big Fat Greek Wedding (Sag award nomination, best ensemble). Her most recent film is Breaking Upwards. Ms. Martin received two Emmy awards for writing and an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a variety series for her work on SCTV. She, along with her musical director, Seth Rudetsky, have been touring with her one woman show, Final Days! Everything Must Go!. Ms Martin will also be appearing at 54 Below, the new cabaret space at Studio 54.

Patina Miller most recently appeared as Deloris Van Cartier in the Broadway production of *Sister Act*, earning Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for her performance. She originated the role of Deloris in the West End production of *Sister Act*, where she received an Olivier Award nomination and a <u>WhatsOnStage.com</u> Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Actress in a Musical. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Lost in the Stars* at Encores!, *Hair* at The Public Theater, and *Romantic Poetry* at Manhattan Theatre Club; regional credits include *First You Dream* at Kennedy Center, *Sister Act* at Alliance Theatre and Pasadena Playhouse, and *Being Alive* at Philadelphia Theater Company. She participated in workshops for *Book of Mormon*, *Nightingale*, and *American Idiot* and was seen on television in *All My Children*. Miller received a degree in musical theater from Carnegie Mellon University.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM:

Creator Stephen Schwartz has contributed music and/or lyrics to Godspell, The Magic Show, The Baker's Wife, Working (which he also adapted and directed), Rags, Children of Eden, My Fairytale, and the current Broadway hit, Wicked. He collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on the English texts for Bernstein's Mass and wrote the title song for the play and movie Butterflies are Free. For children, he has written songs for two musicals, Captain Louie and My Son Pinocchio. For films, he collaborated with Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's Enchanted, as well as the animated features Pocahantas and The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and wrote the songs for the DreamWorks animated feature The Prince of Egypt. He has released two CDs of new songs entitled "Reluctant Pilgrim" and "Uncharted Territory." His first opera, Séance on a Wet Afternoon, premiered with Opera Santa Barbara in the fall of 2009 and was recently produced by New York City Opera. A book about his career, "Defying Gravity," has recently been released by Applause Books. Under the auspices of the ASCAP Foundation, he runs musical theatre workshops in New York and Los Angeles, and is currently the President of the Dramatists' Guild. Mr. Schwartz has recently been given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Other awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards, four Drama Desk Awards, and a tiny handful of tennis trophies.

Roger O. Hirson was nominated for a Tony Award for both his books of *Pippin* and Walking Happy. He has written extensively for original television anthology series episodes since the 1950s, including contributions for the Dupont Show of the Week, Philco Television Playhouse, Armstrong Circle Theatre, Kraft Television Theatre, Hallmark Hall of Fame, Alcoa Hour, and Goodyear Television Playhouse, among others.

Director Diane Paulus is the Artistic Director of the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. At the A.R.T.: The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess (winner of Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, nominated for 10 Tony Awards including Best Director), Prometheus Bound, Death and The Powers: The Robots'Opera, The Donkey Show, Johnny Baseball, and Best of Both Worlds. Her other recent work includes Amaluna, Cirque du Soleil's newest creation which had its world premiere in Montreal in April 2012; The Public Theater's Tony-Award winning revival of HAIR on Broadway (2009 Tony Award winner for Best Revival of a Musical, nominated for 8 Tony Awards including Best Director, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and Drama League Award for Best Revival of a Musical), and London's West End; Kiss Me, Kate (Glimmerglass Opera) and Lost Highway (ENO co-production with the Young Vic.) Her opera credits include The Magic Flute (Canadian Opera Company), Il mondo della luna (Hayden Planetarium in New York); Don Giovanni, Le nozze di Figaro, Turn Of The Screw, Cosi fan tutte, and the Monteverdi trilogy II ritorno d'Ulisse in patria, L'incoronazione di Poppea, and Orfeo (Chicago Opera Theater). She is a Professor of the Practice of Theater in Harvard University's English Department, and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Boston Conservatory, Paulus received The Drama League's 2012 Founders Award for Excellence in Directing.

Gypsy Snider cofounded **Les 7 doigts de la main** in Montreal in 2002 with 6 other codirectors. Born into the circus ring as daughter of the founders of San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus, Gypsy began her artistic career at age four. She has been performing ever since. She performed internationally (Cirque du Soleil; Cirque Knie; Pomp Duck and Circumstance; Teatro Zinzanni). An original performer in *Loft*, Mistress of Ceremonies in *Cabaret des 7 doigts de la main*, co-creator of *Loft* and co-director of *Traces* (nominated Outstanding Choreography, New York Drama Desk Awards, TOP 10 TIME Magazine in 2011, Special Guest in America's Got Talent). She teaches and directs at multiple circus centers.

Choreographer **Chet Walker** was a close collaborator of Bob Fosse, co-created and choreographed the Tony and multi-international-award-winning musical Fosse, and appeared in Fosse's musicals *The Pajama Game, Pippin, Dancin'*, and *Sweet Charity*. Other Broadway credits include *Lorelei, The Ambassadors*, and On the Town. He is the recipient of the L.A. Dramalogue Award for Best Choreography for *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*; Sweden's equivalent of the Tony Award for Best Choreography for *Annie Get Your Gun*; and Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award for his cochoreography of *Pal Joey* at the Goodman Theatre. He has also choreographed and directed works for Cirque du Soleil, Compania Internacional de Teatro Musical in Buenos Aires (where he is co-Artistic Director), Jacob's Pillow (where he serves as Director of the Jazz Program), for television in the US and internationally. He is also Artistic Director of WALKERDANCE, a nonprofit Musical Theatre Dance Company.

Orchestrator **Larry Hochman** has a Tony and a Drama Desk Award for his orchestration of *The Book of Mormon*, and has four Tony nominations for *The Scottsboro Boys* (also Drama Desk nomination), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (also Drama Desk nomination), *Fiddler on the Roof*, and A Class Act. Other credits include Chaplin, The Nutty Professor,

The Addams Family, The Gershwins' Fascinating Rhythm, Hugh Jackman - Back on Broadway, Shrek, The Little Mermaid, Chita Rivera: A Dancer's Life, King David, The Music Man (Revival), and Isn't It Romantic, among others. He is the lead composer for Nickelodeon's hit series, The Wonder Pets, for which he has received four EMMY awards. He composed additional music for Disney's Little Mermaid II and Lady and the Tramp II and fifteen other films.

Music Supervisor **Nadia DiGiallonardo** is a New York-based singer, pianist, music director and arranger, who last worked with Diane Paulus on the Broadway revival of HAIR; she continues to supervise touring companies of the show. She also currently the Music Supervisor/Arranger for an upcoming production of *Nerds*: A *Musical Software Satire* at North Carolina Theatre. Other theater credits include: *Harps & Angels* (vocal arrangements), *The 101 Dalmatians Musical* (arrangements) with music by Dennis DeYoung; The *Calgary Stampede* (vocal arrangements), *Monica! The Musical*; and Mario Cantone's *Laugh Whore*. As a singer, Nadia was recently seen at the 92nd Street Y with her sisters, as part of the Lyrics & Lyricists series, and on the Prairie Home Companion cruise this past summer.

Music Director **Charlie Alterman**'s Broadway credits include the recent revival of Godspell (Musical Director), Next to Normal (Musical Director), Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me (Musical Director/actor), and Legally Blonde (Associate Conductor). Tours: Next to Normal (Music Supervisor) and Grease (US/Asia). Off-Broadway credits include Silence: The Musical! and Almost Heaven: Songs of John Denver. Regional: La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Trinity Rep, Huntington Theatre, and nine seasons with the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Concert appearances include shows with Brooke Shields, Frankie Avalon, Emily Skinner, Dana Reeve, Billy Porter, Carol Woods and Ken Page.

Set Designer **Scott Pask** has designed productions both on Broadway and in London. His works for theatre, opera and dance include the Tony Award-winning productions of *The Book Of Mormon, The Pillowman*, and *The Coast of Utopia* (also Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Hewes Awards), *Promises Promises*, *Pal Joey, Speed The Plow, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Vertical Hour, Urinetown, Take Me Out, NINE, A Behanding in Spokane*, and *La Cage Aux Folles*, as well as *Peter Grimes* at the Metropolitan Opera. A long time collaborator of Diane Paulus, Scott has worked on many projects with her, most notably the award winning revival of *HAIR* on Broadway and in London, as well as *The Donkey Show*, and *Amaluna* for Cirque du Soleil. His work has been exhibited at The Prague Quadrennial, The Bruce Museum of Science and Art, The Leslie Lohman Gallery, The Met Gallery, and is in the permanent collection of the McNay Art Museum.

Costume Designer **Dominique Lemieux** is one of the original costume designers for Cirque du Soleil, having clothed the world's best acrobats, jugglers, contortionists, and clowns. Her credits include *Saltimbanco*, *Mystère*, *Alegria*, *Quindam*, *O*, *La Nouba*, *Corteo*, *Zaia*, and *Banana Schpeel*. She also designed costumes for Céline Dion's show A New Day in Las Vegas and numerous theater companies in Canada, as well as for the Grand Ballets Canadiens de Montreal's production of *The Nutcracker*. Her work has been exhibited in Montreal, Quebec City, Paris, and Monterrey, Mexico.

Lighting Designer **Kenneth Posner** has more than forty-five Broadway play and musical theatre credits, including *The Coast of Utopia* (Tony Award for Best Lighting Design of a Play and the Drama Desk Awards) *Wicked, Hairspray, The Merchant of Venice* (Tony nomination) *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Kinky Boots, Harvey, The Columnist, Gore Vidal's The Best Man, Other Desert Cities, Elling, Catch Me If You Can, Glengarry Glen Ros,*

Uncle Vanya, and Side Man. He designs extensively off-Broadway, for resident theatres and touring productions throughout the United States as well as internationally, and has received an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Lighting.

A.R.T. Resident Sound Designer Clive Goodwin received a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award, and a Lucille Lortel Award for his work in Once, which originated at the A.R.T. Other A.R.T. credits include As You Like It, Prometheus Bound, The Blue Flower (IRNE and Elliot Norton Awards), Cabaret, Alice vs. Wonderland, and Paradise Lost. He also contributed to productions at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden, Royal Festival Hall, Avignon Festiival, and Asti Festival and on numerous music and theater projects in his native England.

Tickets for **Pippin** begin at \$25 and can be purchased online from October 23 at http://www.amrep.org/events/show/pippin or by calling 617-547-8300.

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater. Winner of the 2012 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival for its production of *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, the A.R.T. is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. The A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. In 2008, Diane Paulus became the A.R.T.'s Artistic Director. The A.R.T. is the recipient of numerous other awards including the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater, the Pulitzer Prize, and many Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. Its recent premiere production of *Death and The Powers: The Robots' Opera* was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

During its 32-year history, the A.R.T. has welcomed many major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes premieres of 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. 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, voice, and design at Harvard University. In 1987, the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. A two-year, five-semester M.F.A. graduate program that operates in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class professional training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

Since becoming Artistic Director, Diane Paulus has enhanced the A.R.T.'s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater by continuing to transform the ways in which work is developed, programmed, produced and contextualized, always including the audience as a partner. Productions such as *Sleep No More*, *The Donkey Show*, *Gatz*, *The Blue Flower*, *Prometheus Bound*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and *Wild Swans* have engaged audiences in unique theatrical experiences. The A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, which Paulus calls a second stage for the 21st century, has become an incubator for local and emerging artists, and has also attracted national attention for its innovative programming model.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit american repertory theater.org