



## American Repertory Theater

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### AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES ENSEMBLE OF MAGICIANS TO APPEAR IN “THE CONJURORS’ CLUB”

INTIMATE AND INTERACTIVE LIVE EXPERIENCE THAT DELIVERS  
MIND-READING, ILLUSIONS, AND TRANSFORMATIONS INTO THE HOME  
BEGINS MARCH 12

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**Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University** announces the ensemble of magicians that will perform in ***The Conjurers’ Club***, a live interactive multi-magician virtual experience created by Vinny DePonto and Geoff Kanick that begins Friday, March 12, 2021.

The ensemble includes Resident Magicians Jeanette Andrews and Ran’D Shine. Guest Magicians include Kayla Lee Drescher, Mahdi Gilbert, Eric Jones, Noah Levine, Francis Menotti, Lindsay Noel, and Justin Willman. ***The Conjurers’ Club*** creators Vinny DePonto and Geoff Kanick will also perform.

Each performance of ***The Conjurers’ Club*** features intimate performances from four different magicians. Learn more the members of the ensemble below.

#### **ABOUT THE CONJURORS’ CLUB**

For the first time in 100 years, the secretive magic society The Conjurers’ Club pulls back the curtain for an interactive experience that redefines the face of modern magic. Take a front-row seat and immerse yourself in the arcane and mysterious with three different magicians. Physical distance can’t keep the amazing mind-reading, reality-bending illusions, and extraordinary transformations from reaching through the screen and directly into your home. As honorary members of the Club, you’ll receive your own secret package for use during your visit that is guaranteed to surprise and delight all of your senses—but you must promise to keep the secrets...

***The Conjurers’ Club*** runs approximately 75 minutes and is recommended for ages 12+.

***The Conjurers’ Club*** was originally developed in collaboration with MinuteZero. The live experience premiered in 2017; the virtual experience was further developed and premiered in 2020 at The Orchard Project.

#### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

Household tickets for \$58 are currently available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/ConjurersClub](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/ConjurersClub) and by calling 617-547-8300.

- Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others
- A limited number of rush tickets for \$40 will be available ahead of each performance
- Packages of 5 or more household tickets are available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/groups](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/groups), by contacting [ticketservices@amrep.org](mailto:ticketservices@amrep.org), and by calling 617-547-8300

A ticket to ***The Conjurers' Club*** includes both admission and a secret package containing artifacts that will be used to participate in the live experience.

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

- Fridays, March 12, 19 and April 2 at 8PM ET
- Saturdays, March 13, 20, 27, and April 3 at 4PM ET and 8PM ET
- Sunday, March 14 at 4PM ET
- Sundays, March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 at 8PM ET
- Wednesdays, March 17, 24, and 31 at 8PM ET
- Thursdays, March 18, 25, and April 1 at 8PM ET

Press tickets will be available for the 4PM and 8PM performances on Sunday, March 14. Contact [rebecca\\_curtiss@harvard.edu](mailto:rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu) for more information.

The performance on Thursday, April 1 at 8PM will be ASL-Interpreted.

## **ABOUT THE MAGICIAN-CREATORS**

### **Vinny DePonto**

Vinny DePonto is a theatermaker and mentalist who uses a combination of psychological tricks, illusion, visual art, and immersive storytelling. His work was featured in the most recent production of *Angels in America* on Broadway, in Lincoln Center's *Ghostlight*, and in hit television shows on The Discovery Channel, NBC, and Netflix. He is also a member of the Bessie Award-winning immersive theatre group Third Rail Projects. [VinnyDePonto.com](http://VinnyDePonto.com)

### **Geoff Kanick**

Geoff Kanick is a performer-magician-theatermaker. Blending improvisation, physical theater, and illusion, he creates immersive, poetic work that locates the awe-inspiring in the everyday. Selected credits: Drama Desk Award-winning *Queen Of The Night* (Original Cast/Resident Creative Team), *Seeing You* (Resident Director), and original, one-man shows toured nationally. Kanick is Founding Co-Artistic Director of LubDub Theatre Company and an alumnus of SDCF's Observership Program, The Orchard Project Greenhouse, and Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. [GeoffKanick.com](http://GeoffKanick.com)

## **ABOUT THE MAGICIANS**

### **Jeanette Andrews**

Jeanette Andrews is hailed as one of the most innovative illusionists in the world today. She has presented commissioned and site-specific works for The Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt, the International Museum of Surgical Science, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Andrews has staged hundreds of sold-out and standing-room-only performances for Fortune 500 companies, theaters, and universities across the United States, including Infiniti, Kraft, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Lyric Opera & Chicago Ideas Week. Her work explores how illusions construct reality and highlights astonishing aspects of everyday life via moments of the seemingly impossible. She is a prior artist in residence for High Concept Labs and The Institute for Art and Olfaction. Illusion is Andrews' life's work, and her performances have been praised by the *Chicago Tribune*, PBS and *The New York Times*.

### **Kayla Drescher**

Kayla Drescher, from Los Angeles, has performed all over the world for clients like Microsoft, IBM, Wells Fargo, and many more. You may have seen her on shows like *Access Hollywood*, *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, and NBC's *TODAY Show*, where she was crowned "The Next Great Magician" by David

Copperfield. Currently, she can be seen in the world-touring show, *Champions of Magic*, as the close-up magic expert.

### **Mahdi Gilbert**

Mahdi Gilbert has traveled the four corners of the Earth. He has been forced to reinvent magic for himself. Literally redefining how a deck of cards can be handled. He is a man who shuffles without fingers, palms without palms, and is living proof that nothing is impossible.

### **Noah Levine**

Since the tender age of 9, Noah Levine has studied the art of magic. Today, he is world-renowned as one of the leading scholars and performers in the field. His sleight-of-hand expertise has been on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center, as well as in several television commercials and films. He has helped develop programming for the Conjuring Arts Research Center, a non-profit library that preserves historical texts and brings magic-based therapy to hospitals and schools. As a technical advisor, he has been called upon to train actors including Bryan Cranston, Rachel Weisz, Giovanni Ribisi, Ben Vereen, and James Earl Jones. His virtual show *Backstage with a Magician* takes place every Friday night.

### **Francis Menotti**

Professional magician, consultant, and inspirer Francis Menotti has been impressing audiences internationally since 2000. With highly innovative, intelligent presentations he is sought by prestigious clientele from the sound stages of Hollywood for the ABC prime time show *Deception to the Oval Office*, performing at both the 2008 and 2012 U.S. Presidential Inaugurations. With that list of accomplishments, it's no surprise that Francis fooled Penn & Teller on their hit show *Fool Us* when he made his appearance in 2015. A performance they enjoyed so much, they had him return for a subsequent season in 2020.

### **Linsley Noel**

All with a wink, a nod, and a surprising amount of weird body poses resembling human, Lindsey Noel brought her whirlwind energy to today's leading magic venues (pre-covid, of course). Gracing stages the likes of the Chicago Magic Lounge, NYC's Monday Night Magic, and Marvyn's Magic Theater to name a few, this glamorous and strange babe with the power delights and astounds all she encounters. Coming to the art of magic with a background in film and television as a costume designer and stylist and over a decade of producing grand live events, Lindsey Noel brings production value to her performances with beautiful costumes she has designed, multiple costume changes, and detailed elaborate props. Each effect she performs is either completely original or tailored with custom props to be unlike anything else out there in the world of professional whimsy. Reading minds and confusing hearts (is she hot? is she a goblin? is she behind me right now? Oh god. she is, isn't she?) this magical mentalist has taken the virtual world by storm. You can catch her at all the hottest clubs, like Zoom, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Twitch, and even Streamyard, where she finds ways to create human connection and spark joy, breaking the barrier of the screen. Tune in and witness with your own eyes and mind why Lindsey Noel is #MindReadingWithMoxie.

### **Eric Jones**

Eric Jones has made a name for himself in the world of magic. Armed with sleight-of-hand, Eric dazzles his audiences with his digital dexterity. He uses these tools to deceive, entertain and astonish his audiences with his mind-blowing illusions. Ordinary, everyday items become objects of fancy as Jones delicately handles them. Coins multiply, cards fly, and audiences stunned. An award-winning performer, Jones's magic has been showcased at Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA, New York City's *Monday Night Magic*, the longest-running Off-Broadway magic show in NYC, *Masters of Illusion*, and on Comedy Central. Jones has appeared on television in 19 countries spanning 5 continents and has wowed dozens of A-List celebrities all over the globe with his breathtaking close-up magic. As an author, performer, consultant, magician, and corporate entertainer, his expertise is sought out by Fortune 500 companies such as Merrill Lynch, State Farm, and Coca-Cola. As a corporate entertainer, Jones performs some of the most spellbinding illusions imaginable that leaves the audience mystified. Jones was a contestant on

Season Two of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, where he successfully fooled the duo and managed to trick the two masters of magic. He was also a semi-finalist on Season 12 of NBC's *America's Got Talent*.

### **Ran'D Shine**

For over a decade, Philadelphia native Ran'D Shine has been presenting "real magic for real people" to audiences in hundreds of American cities and over 27 countries worldwide. He has been featured at the South African Arts Festival, Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC, and Guantanamo Military Base. He has also made television appearances on the CW Network's *Penn and Teller: Fool Us* as well as BET Network's *Man on the Street*. Additionally, Shine was the subject of the 2015 short film "Three Quarters" by Guggenheim Fellow Kevin Everson, and was featured in the documentaries *The Art and Soul of Magic: The Stories of African American Magicians* (2004) and *Quiet Masters of Magic* (2018). In addition to his passion for live performance, Shine has also served as producer for *The Heart and Soul of Magic*, a magic show featuring an entirely African American cast of magicians. He is also the co-founder and past president of the International Association of Black Magical Artists, an organization dedicated to the history, cultural legacy, and fostering community among magicians of color.

### **Justin Willman**

Justin is the star and creator of the hit Netflix original series *Magic for Humans*. He's a regular guest on *The Tonight Show*, *Ellen*, and *Conan*. His online videos have logged over 200 million views. And one time he performed at the White House for the Obama family. The *L.A. Times* calls him, "A new breed of comic who's making magic cool again for grown-ups." *Playboy* dubbed him, "The freshest and funniest magician working today." Time Out says his live show, "Has to be seen to be disbelieved." Willman was born in St. Louis, lives in Los Angeles, and does not own a rabbit.

## **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

**American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.)** at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner. A.R.T. is committed to a long-term process of centering anti-racism in its practice, policies, culture, pedagogy, governance and organizational structure.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for ***All the Way*** (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for ***Pippin*** (2013) and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Additional Broadway productions include ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress*** (also US National Tour and in London's West End); ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; and ***Finding Neverland***. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change and with the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to develop a Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater that prioritizes a commitment to ethics, equity, and anti-racism as a guiding principle. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in

directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe.

#TheConjurorsClub @AmericanRep

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