



American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER
64 brattle street,
cambridge, ma 02138

OBERON
2 arrow street
cambridge, ma 02138

americanrepertorytheater.org

617•495•2668 TEL
617•495•1705 FAX
617•547•8300 TICKETS

For Immediate Release: Thursday, December 17, 2020

Contact: Rebecca Curtiss 617.872.8254 | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER INVITES AUDIENCES
“BEHIND THE SCENES”
FOR NEWLY ADDED CONVERSATIONS
WITH ARTISTS MAKING NEW PLAYS AND MUSICALS AT A.R.T.**

**Monthly Series Continues in 2021 With Conversations with Kate Hamill,
Diane Paulus, Huang Ruo,
V (Formerly Eve Ensler), Justin Tranter, Idina Menzel
Katie Pearl, Lisa D’Amour, Sxip Shirey, Jennifer Kidwell,
Daniel Lazour, Patrick Lazour, and Taibi Magar**

[Behind the Scenes Images for Download](#)

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, announces today details about the next events in the theater’s new **Behind the Scenes** series with the writers, directors, and composers who are making work at the A.R.T. The multimedia events will feature songs and scenes from the shows in development; conversation about process, research, and collaboration; and interactive Q&As with the audience.

Now available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Behind-the-Scenes:

- Series packages \$100 with tiered pricing options
- Single tickets for \$20 with a pay-what-you-can option

Following the events, ten raffle-winning ticket holders, the series sponsors, and all A.R.T. donors of \$500 or more will be eligible to continue the conversation “backstage” in the Virtual Green Room with the artists and A.R.T. staff.

UPCOMING “BEHIND THE SCENES” EVENTS

• THE ODYSSEY

Wednesday, January 6 at 7:30PM

Writer and performer Kate Hamill (***Bedlam’s Sense and Sensibility***)—*Wall Street Journal’s* 2017 Playwright of the Year and one of the 10 most produced playwrights for the last three consecutive seasons—talks with A.R.T.’s Director of Artistic Programs & Dramaturg Ryan McKittrick about adapting *The Odyssey*, reexamining classic texts through a feminist lens, and centering complex female characters in her plays. Experience a scene from her new play, hear about the images, events, and research that have inspired her adaptation, and discover why she feels she has always been meant to adapt *The Odyssey*.

Hamill’s adaptation of ***The Odyssey*** engages with some of the most pressing questions surrounding the trauma of war, asking how we decide who our heroes are, and how we can learn to embrace healing and forgiveness to end cycles of violence.

The Odyssey is supported in part by an award from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

• **THE WEEPING CAMEL**

Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30PM

Get to know composer Huang Ruo, named one of the world's leading young composers by *The New Yorker*, as he talks with Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus about past projects and his A.R.T. commission, ***The Weeping Camel***, a new adaptation of the Academy Award-nominated documentary film about a family of nomadic shepherds living in the Gobi Desert; the relationship between a mother camel and her calf that is transformed by the sound of the Mongolian horse-head fiddle, the *morin khuur*, and the universal power of music.

• **THE CIRCLE OF BECOMING**

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30PM

Tony and Obie Award-winning playwright V (formerly Eve Ensler, *That Kindness*, ***O.P.C.***, ***In the Body of the World***), Grammy and Golden Globe-nominated songwriter Justin Tranter (Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato, Imagine Dragons), and Tony Award-winning actor, performer, and songwriter Idina Menzel (*Rent*, *Wicked*, *Frozen*) share music and stories about the development of ***The Circle of Becoming***, a wild new musical fairy tale about a teenage girl and her posse whose determination to save the planet endows them with powers they never knew they had, directed by Diane Paulus.

• **OCEAN FILIBUSTER**

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30PM

Co-creators Katie Pearl and Lisa D'Amour, composer Sxip Shirey, and performer Jennifer Kidwell share scenes, songs, and video from ***Ocean Filibuster***, a new music theater experience that draws from myth, stand-up, and science to imagine a showdown between Senate leader Mr. Majority and the Ocean itself, commissioned by A.R.T. through a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment.

• **[UNTITLED NEW MUSICAL]**

Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30PM

Daniel Lazour and Patrick Lazour (***We Live in Cairo***) talk with director Taibi Magar (***We Live in Cairo***, ***Macbeth In Stride*** upcoming), sharing songs and visual research from their new music-theater piece that explores cancer and relationships across time between patients and caregivers.

*Production support of **Behind the Scenes** is provided by **Alison and Bob Murchison**. Additional production support is provided by **Maxine Isaacs**.*

*The Incubator Fund for new work in development is sponsored by **Allison Johnson**.*

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.

@AmericanRep

#