



American Repertory Theater

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BROADWAY STAR NORM LEWIS RETURNS TO AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

LEWIS TO VISIT "THE LUNCH ROOM,"
A.R.T.'S VIRTUAL TALK SHOW,
DECEMBER 29 AT 12PM

TICKETS TO "NORM LEWIS: CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE,"
NOW AVAILABLE FROM A.R.T.

Lewis's Holiday Show from Feinstein's/54 Below Streams December 17 - 31

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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, announce today that Broadway star Norm Lewis (*ExtraOrdinary* special guest, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*) will be the guest on the December 29 episode of *The Lunch Room*, the theater's virtual talk show with artists, activists, and civic leaders. The live hour of curated conversation and interactive Q&A begins at 12PM and is free with registration at <http://amrep.org/LunchRoom>.

In addition, tickets to *Norm Lewis: Christmastime Is Here*, Lewis's streaming holiday concert, are now available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org; each sale from A.R.T.'s website will directly support the theater. *Norm Lewis: Christmastime Is Here* premieres Thursday, December 17 at 8PM and streams on demand through December 31. It is part of the 54 Below Premieres series.

Lewis and his holiday shows at Feinstein's/54 Below have become a theatrical tradition over the past five years, and this year will be no different as Broadway's charming and acclaimed leading man returns to perform a very special concert online this year featuring Sierra Boggess and Norm's cousin, the renowned Pastor Bobby Lewis, as well as few surprises.

Lewis will be joined by his swingin' band—Musical Director Joseph Joubert on Keyboards, George Farmer on Upright and Electric Bass, and Perry Cavari on Drums and Percussion—to perform material from past shows, from *The Norm Lewis Christmas Album*, and new songs he's excited to debut as he reflects on 2020. *Norm Lewis: Christmastime Is Here* is directed by Richard Jay-Alexander and executive-produced by The Katz Company.

54 Below Premieres streamed concerts feature cinematic, four-camera HD shots to bring the glamour and intimacy of Broadway's Living Room directly to in-home screens. Filmed on the Feinstein's/54 Below iconic stage, these virtual performances provide theater fans worldwide with new shows from their favorite Broadway stars. Ticketing and streaming services are provided by BroadwayWorld Events.

ABOUT NORM LEWIS

Norm Lewis previously appeared at A.R.T. as a special guest in *ExtraOrdinary* and as Porgy in *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess* as well as in its Broadway run, for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He can currently be seen starring in the Netflix film *Da 5 Bloods* by Spike Lee and in the Hulu miniseries, *Mrs. America*. He was previously seen in the NBC television special, *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert!*, alongside John Legend, Sara Bareilles, and Alice Cooper. He recently appeared in the Broadway revival of *Once on This Island* and as Sweeney Todd in the Off-Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* at the Barrow Street Theatre, receiving the

AUDELCO Award for his performance. In May of 2014, he made history as *The Phantom of the Opera*'s first African American Phantom on Broadway.

Lewis has been seen on PBS in the *Live From Lincoln Center* productions of *Showboat* with Vanessa Williams, *Norm Lewis: Who Am I?*, and *New Year's Eve: A Gershwin Celebration* with Diane Reeves, as well as *American Voices* with Renée Fleming and the PBS Special *First You Dream – The Music of Kander & Ebb*. He can be seen recurring in the VH1 series, *Daytime Divas*, also alongside Vanessa Williams. His additional television credits include *Better Things*, *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Bull*, *Chicago Med*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist*, and *Blue Bloods*, as well as in his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on the hit drama *Scandal*.

Lewis is a proud founding member of Black Theatre United, an organization which stands together to help protect Black people, Black talent, and Black lives of all shapes and orientations in theater and communities across the country. In addition to the Tony Award nomination, he also received Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of ***The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess***. Other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Who's Tommy*. In London's West End he has appeared as Javert in *Les Misérables* and *Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Concert*, which aired on PBS.

Off-Broadway Mr. Lewis has performed in *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Shakespeare in the Park's *The Tempest*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Drama League nomination), *Captains Courageous*, and *A New Brain*. His regional credits include Porgy in ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (A.R.T.), *Ragtime*, *Dreamgirls* (with Jennifer Holliday), *First You Dream*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Fantasticks*. His additional film credits include *Magnum Opus*, *Winter's Tale*, *Sex and the City 2*, *Confidences*, and *Preaching to the Choir*.

Norm's albums *The Norm Lewis Christmas Album* and *This is The Life* can be found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as well as [cdbaby.com](https://www.cdbaby.com).

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.

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