



American Repertory Theater

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**ORIGINAL MUSICAL FOR KIDS AND THEIR GROWN-UPS
“JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE”
TO PREMIERE VIRTUALLY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 at 6PM—
AVAILABLE THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2021**

**Annual Holiday Family Show Moves Online and Extends Run to Increase Accessibility
So Regardless of Location, Families Can Experience the Show Together**

**Cast Album, At-Home Engagement, and Wellspring Workshop
Accompanies Production By and Performed by Harvard Undergraduates**

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Cambridge, MA—*Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure*, an original musical adaptation for kids ages 4+ and their grown-ups, will premiere virtually on Friday, November 27 at 6PM and be available on demand through Monday, January 4, 2021.

Household tickets for \$20 with a pay-what-you-can option for the streaming production are available now at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org.

The annual family holiday show goes virtual this Thanksgiving with a new, 45-minute Zoom musical that takes us on an epic journey through Storyland. The vivid imaginations of Harvard undergraduates Julia Riew and Ian Chan (the creators of last season's [Thumbelina](#)) transform this classic fairy tale into a contemporary celebration of the power of kindness, courage, determination and creativity to overcome life's obstacles. Rebecca Aparicio makes her A.R.T. directorial debut with this production after serving as Assistant Director on *Endlings* and *Gloria: A Life*.

Audience members will have opportunities to engage around ***Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure*** in a variety of ways prior to and throughout the production's run, including:

- Learning the songs when the cast album is released digitally on Tuesday, November 17;
- Engaging at home with a “Jacktivity Pack” that includes crafting, drawing, thinking, and creative play projects around the themes of kindness, courage, determination, and creativity;
- Participating in themed yoga and a pre-show centering activity for all ages through **The Wellspring**, A.R.T.'s new partnership with the Harvard Center for Wellness and Health Promotion (CWHP) to provide free wellness workshops to foster connection and well-being in this period of social isolation.

Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure comes to life through a collaboration between students and theater professionals. The cast is comprised of Harvard University undergraduates Nikita Nair (Jack), Caitlin Beirne (Storyteller), Sophie Bauder (Jack's Mother), Odessa Deng (Buttercup), Louis Zekowski (King Giant), Jonathan Castillo (Stuart), Laura Frustaci (Minnie), James Caven (Itsy) and Olympia Hatzilambrou (Fiddler Cat). The creative team includes Julia Riew (Book/Music/Lyrics), Ian Chan (Orchestrations/Music Direction), Rebecca Aparicio (Direction), Elizabeth Rocha (Costume Design), Alex Giorgetti (Sound Design), Cynthia D. Lee-Sullivan (Props Design), Jonathan Carr (Video)

Editor/Compositor), David Mortellito (Illustrations), Dave Monteagudo (Animations), and Heather Morris (Additional Illustrations). Additional production staff include Joy Nesbitt (Assistant Director) and Abbie Sage (Stage Manager).

Previous family programming at the Loeb Drama Center includes *Thumbelina* (2019), *The Emperor's New Clothes* (2018), *Charlotte's Web* (2017), *James and The Giant Peach* (2016), *The Pirate Princess* (2015), *The Light Princess* (2013 and 2014), *Hansel & Gretel* (2012), and *The Snow Queen* (2011).

Production support of *Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure* is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust**. Additional production support is provided by **Bank of America** and **Bina and Robin Thompson**.

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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