



American Repertory Theater

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER TO CELEBRATE THE ARTISTRY AND COMMUNITY OF CLUB THEATER OBERON IN DECEMBER

FINAL PERFORMANCES AT 2 ARROW STREET ANNOUNCED

[IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University announced today its December OBERON programming, the final shows at A.R.T.'s club theater located at 2 Arrow Street in Harvard Square, Cambridge before A.R.T. releases its lease at the conclusion of 2021.

Audiences are invited to return for annual favorites **The Sweetback Sisters' Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular** on Friday, December 17 at 8:30PM; **The Buttcraacker** on Tuesday, December 21 at 8:30PM; and **Last Call: An OBERON Goodnight** on Tuesday, December 28 and Wednesday, December 29 at 8:30PM. Tickets for all are on sale now at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org.

In addition, the public is invited to **The House Is Open**, a free open house at OBERON on Wednesday, December 29 from 4PM until 7PM to celebrate the space amid a curated collection of OBERON photos and memorabilia. RSVP at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LastCall.

Learn more about the events below.

Masks and proof of vaccination or negative test results are required for audiences and visitors of all ages to all events. The OBERON bar will be closed for these events. Visit A.R.T.'s website for a full list of current ticketing and attendance protocols and procedures: AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols.

OBERON and the club-inspired programming it fostered have been central to A.R.T.'s mission to expand the boundaries of theater, always welcoming the audience as an enthusiastic partner. As an incubator of new work, home to A.R.T. productions, and a venue for local artistic producers, OBERON has supported artists and cultivated audiences for a wide range of theatrical offerings over the past dozen years. A.R.T. announced in September that it would not renew the lease of the space at 2 Arrow Street in 2022 due to near- and long-term planning for its future home in Allston and uncertainties caused by the ongoing pandemic.

"I'm so proud of the incredible work that has happened at OBERON over the last twelve years, and the depth of the relationships we've formed with so many local artists and producers," said A.R.T. Artistic Producer Mark Lunsford. "The club theater and the socially driven programming it has fostered have been central to A.R.T.'s mission to expand the boundaries of theater and foundational to the organization. In the coming years, we look forward to finding new ways to bring the OBERON spirit into spaces in our community and on to our new home in Allston."

DECEMBER AT OBERON

• **THE SWEETBACK SISTERS' COUNTRY CHRISTMAS SINGALONG SPECTACULAR** **FRIDAY, DEC 17 at 8:30PM**

Christmastime is here again and so are **The Sweetback Sisters** with their thirteenth annual **Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular!** This wildly popular show delivers a veritable explosion of yuletide splendor, with the Queens of Christmastime bringing their signature mix of modern nostalgia to a wide array of holiday classics. You can bet there will be trivia, prizes, and all the warm and fuzzy feelings you could dream of. After 2020 stole our holiday gatherings in proper Scrooge fashion, Zara and Emily are delighted to be back onstage in 2021, so here's to celebrating traditions and bringing communities together safely with song and joyful spirit!

About The Sweetback Sisters

The rollicking country swing of The Sweetback Sisters is as infectious as it is heartbreaking. Their charismatic charm harkens back to the golden era of both the silver screen cowgirl and the ersatz cowboy stars of local UHF TV kiddie shows. That whimsical exterior is wrapped around a core of deeply felt love for traditional country music styles and a palpable joy in playing and singing together. Emily Miller and Zara Bode may not be blood relations, but their precise, family-style harmonies recall the best of country music from the Everlys to The Judds, as well as the spirited rockabilly energy of Wanda Jackson, one of the band's role models.

Tickets from \$25 at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/SweetbackSisters2021.

• **THE BUTTCRACKER** **TUESDAY, DEC 21 at 8:30PM**

It's the holey-est time of year, when we gather together, our cheeks our rosy and bright, to celebrate all things booty, bum, tuchis, and badonkadonk! Join **Madge of Honor** and **Johnny Blazes** for one last Assmas celebration at 2 Arrow Street. This hole-iday tradition is in its twelfth year and promises burlesque, drag, circus, storytelling, music, games, and shenanigans. Come let your sphincter relax for the night as we take you on our annual anal journey!

Tickets \$20 at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Buttcracker2021.

• **LAST CALL: AN OBERON GOODNIGHT** **TUESDAY, DEC 28 AT 8:30PM** **WEDNESDAY, DEC 29 AT 8:30PM**

Over the past twelve years, OBERON has served as an incubator of new work, a venue for local artistic producers, and a home to A.R.T. productions. It's also been home to some of the wildest, weirdest, and glitter-filled nights ever imagined. Join us for twelve acts that celebrate the inventive artistry and incredible community that has flourished in the space at 2 Arrow Street—and all that's to come. Featuring performances by **Just JP**, **Brandie Blaze**, **Femme Brulée**, **Niki Luparelli**, **Casey Long**, and more to be announced! Glitter drop guaranteed.

Tickets \$25 at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LastCall.

• **THE HOUSE IS OPEN: OBERON OPEN HOUSE**
WEDNESDAY, DEC 29, 4PM - 7PM

Celebrate the space and connect with artists and audiences amid a curated collection of OBERON photos and memorabilia.

Free, registration recommended at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/HouseIsOpen.

American Repertory Theater 2021/22 programming support is provided by **Harvard University, The Barr Foundation, The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund, The Shubert Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Bank of America, Barton & Guestier, Meyer Sound, and JetBlue**. A.R.T. 2021/22 programming is dedicated to the memory of Karen Mueller in recognition of her many contributions to the theater.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

The 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.

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#).

MISSION

The American Repertory Theater is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner.

VISION

We focus on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. We believe that by engaging our hearts, minds and bodies, theater has the power to heal and imagine collective pathways forward.

We commit to advancing public health in our practice and our programming, recognizing that racism in America is a national public health crisis. Our new home in Allston will be a breathable and healthy building envisioned as a town hall for the twenty-first century. Inspired by the model of a teaching hospital, the building will be a vibrant center for research, experiential pedagogy, and performance.

We build community with our audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. We affirm and celebrate a multitude of perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our country and world. We are dedicated to making a welcoming and accessible space for people of any identity, background, or ability.

VALUES

We hold the institution and each other responsible and accountable for living our shared values. There is no hierarchy to these values; they are all equally important and interrelated. We acknowledge that as an institution we must devote time to implementing and sustaining these values:

We center anti-racism

Habituate anti-racist practices in our policies, structure and culture.

We lead with inquiry

Ask questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in our never-ending journey of learning and growth

We believe in collaboration

Work together with trust and respect to unlock collective creativity

We practice adaptability

Challenge assumptions and create capacity to support “next” practices

We embrace regenerative practice

Promote the health and vitality of our planet, our organization, and each other

HONORS & AWARDS

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 ***SIX***; ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress***; ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; and ***Finding Neverland***. Since their premieres in Cambridge, A.R.T. productions have also [gone on](#) to reach audiences Off-Broadway, on US National Tour, and at partner theaters across the country, as well as in London’s West End, Tokyo, and Sydney. 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.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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. 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 mentor students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

A.R.T. is also engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day. Current work includes collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment (to commission and develop a series of new works that address climate change and the environment), the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (to develop a [Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater](#)), and the Initiative for Racial Equity at Harvard Business School (to pilot the Program in Arts and Culture Organization Management).

ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages 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.

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