



American Repertory Theater

64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138

617.495.2668 TEL

617.495.1705 FAX

617.547.8300 TICKETS

www.americanrepertorytheater.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

CONTACT: Rebecca Curtiss 617.496.2000 x8841 | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER TO PRODUCE
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
LIFE OF PI

LONDON HIT IS WINNER OF 5 OLIVIER AWARDS IN 2022
INCLUDING BEST NEW PLAY

Theatrical Adaptation of the Best-Selling Novel
Is A.R.T.'s First Production Announced In Its 2022/23 Season—
Additional Titles to Be Announced in the Coming Weeks

[*Life of Pi* Image for Download](#)

CAMBRIDGE, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University announced today that it will produce in its 2022/23 Season the North American premiere of *Life of Pi*, the acclaimed theatrical adaptation by **Lolita Chakrabarti** of the best-selling novel by **Yann Martel**. **Max Webster** will direct, with Tony Award winner **Tim Hatley** providing scenic and costume design and **Finn Caldwell** providing puppetry and movement direction.

Life of Pi is currently playing in London's West End, where last month it won five Olivier Awards, including Best New Play.

In *Life of Pi*, sixteen-year-old Pi and his family set off to emigrate from India, but after their ship sinks in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Pi is left stranded on a lifeboat with just four other survivors—a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a Royal Bengal tiger. Time is against them, nature is harsh, who will survive? Called “extraordinary and unmissable” by *The Guardian* for its inventive puppetry, this highly imaginative theatrical adaptation brings one of the most beloved works of fiction to the stage to tell its epic story of endurance and hope.

“I’m thrilled for A.R.T. to collaborate with this incredible team of artists in creating the North American premiere of *Life of Pi* and to introduce this deeply imaginative theatrical adaptation to our audiences,” says A.R.T. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. “Creative ingenuity and extraordinary puppetry bring this powerful story to life. I look forward to welcoming families back to the Loeb Drama Center this holiday season to experience this breathtaking theatrical event.”

The stage premiere of ***Life of Pi*** followed more than five years of creative development. In recognition of the production's ground-breaking puppetry, the Olivier for Best Supporting Actor was awarded collectively to the seven skilled performers who bring the tiger to life every night. The production's cutting-edge visual effects have also drawn huge acclaim, with the *Time Out London* lead critic calling it "one of the most visually stunning shows I've ever seen."

"***Life of Pi*** tells a story that constantly takes people's breath away," says ***Life of Pi*** director Max Webster. "It's exciting to be able to do something that's so ensemble-based, so rich, and so full of life. It's really, really nourishing, and I can't wait to share it with American audiences."

Life of Pi will run December 2022 through January 2023 at the A.R.T.'s home in Harvard Square, the Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street in Cambridge. The production's cast will be announced at a future date.

Life of Pi Creative Team

- **Lolita Chakrabarti** (she/her), Playwright
- **Max Webster** (he/him), Director
- **Tim Hatley** (he/him), Scenic and Costume Design
- **Finn Caldwell** (he/him), Puppetry and Movement Director
- **Nick Barnes** (he/him) & **Finn Caldwell** (he/him), Puppetry Design
- **Tim Lutkin** (he/him), Lighting Design
- **Andrzej Goulding** (he/him), Video Design
- **Carolyn Downing** (she/her), Sound Design
- **Andrew T. Mackay** (he/him), Original Composition
- **Jack Bradley** (he/him), Dramaturgy

[View the West End production's trailer.](#)

★★★★★ "Breathtaking. It will make you believe in the power of theater." – *The Times of London*

★★★★★ "An extraordinary journey. Unmissable." – *The Guardian*

"One of the most visually stunning shows I've ever seen." – *Time Out London*

Additional productions in A.R.T.'s 2022/23 Season and programming, including education, engagement, and virtual offerings, will be announced in the coming weeks.

The first production to be announced in the A.R.T.'s 2022/23 line-up, ***Life of Pi*** will first be available for purchase as part of an A.R.T. subscription, which will be available in June. Single tickets to individual productions will be available on a rolling basis at later dates. More information can be found at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Subscribe.

A.R.T.'s 2022/23 Season support is provided by **Harvard University, The Barr Foundation, The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund, The Shubert Foundation, The Crimson**

Lion / Lavine Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Bank of America, Barton & Guestier, Meyer Sound, and JetBlue.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LOLITA CHAKRABARTI OBE (Playwright) is an award-winning actress and playwright. Her first play *Red Velvet* earned the Evening Standard Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright 2012; The Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Playwright 2013; AWA for Arts and Culture 2013, and an Olivier Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theater 2012. Additional writing credits include *Hymn* (Almeida Theatre/Sky Arts); *Life of Pi* (Sheffield Theatres); *Red Velvet* (Tricycle Theatre/St Ann's Warehouse/New York/Garrick Theatre); an adaptation of Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* (Manchester International Festival and Brisbane Festival); *Stones of Venice*, a VR film for New Vision Arts Festival in Hong Kong; and *The Greatest Wealth* (The Old Vic) celebrating 8 decades of the NHS.

MAX WEBSTER (Director) is an Associate Director at The Donmar Warehouse. As Director, theater credits include *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (Old Vic Theatre/San Diego Old Globe/Minneapolis Children's Theatre); *As You Like It* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (Fiery Angel); *Fanny and Alexander* and *Cover My Tracks* (Old Vic Theatre); *The Twits* (Curve Theatre Leicester); *The Winter's Tale* (The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); *The Sea of Fertility and Mary Stuart* (Parco Productions Tokyo); and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare's Globe). Upcoming work Includes: *Henry V* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Antigone* (Regents Park Open Air).

FINN CALDWELL (Puppetry and Movement Director) is a director, designer and performer; he is co-artistic director of Gyre & Gimble, a theater company specializing in puppetry, where his Co-Director/Puppet Designer credits include *The Four Seasons: A Reimagining* (Shakespeare's Globe, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse); *The Hartlepool Monkey* (UK Tour), and *The Elephantom* (National Theatre/West End). As Puppet Co-Designer/Director, credits include *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic/West End) and *Running Wild* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Regent's Park Open Air Theatre/UK Tour). As Director of Puppetry and Movement, credits include *The Ocean at the end of the Lane* (National Theatre/West End), *Angels in America* (National Theatre/Broadway); *The Light Princess* (National Theatre); and *War Horse* (National Theatre/West End/International Tour).

YANN MARTEL (Novelist) is a Canadian writer. He is the author of a collection of short stories and four novels, most notably *Life of Pi*, for which he won the 2002 Man Booker Prize. Additional writing credits include *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios*, *Self, Beatrice and Virgil*, *The High Mountains of Portugal* and the non-fiction collection *101 Letters to a Prime Minister: The Completed Letters to Stephen Harper*. Martel is presently at work on *Son of Nobody*, a novel about the Trojan War. He Lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, with the writer Alice Kuipers and their four children.

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 Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in 2008.

The Loeb Drama Center where the A.R.T. performs is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Boston and Cambridge. We pay respect to the people of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#), past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

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 eighteen 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.

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. 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.

@AmericanRep

###