



American Repertory Theater

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES 2022/23 PROGRAMMING:

A NEW VERSION OF AN OBIE AWARD-WINNING DOCUDRAMA
BY ANNA DEAVERE SMITH;

A BAWDY, BEAUTIFUL NEW COMEDY FROM FAMED NOVELIST ZADIE SMITH;

THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF *LIFE OF PI*,
WINNER OF THE 2022 OLIVIER AWARD FOR BEST NEW PLAY

THREE- AND FOUR-SHOW SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES NOW ON SALE—
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING TO BE ANNOUNCED

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CAMBRIDGE, MA—A new, five-person version of an award-winning docudrama by longtime A.R.T. collaborator Anna Deavere Smith and the North American premiere of a new adaptation of Chaucer's tale *The Wife of Bath* that celebrates community and the human knack for telling tales were announced today as additions to the 2022/23 programming lineup at **American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University**, led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr.

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 will play August 28 - September 23, 2022 at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square. It is conceived, written, and revised by Anna Deavere Smith (***Notes from the Field: Doing Time in Education, Let Me Down Easy, Fires in the Mirror***). A cast of five will be directed by Taibi Magar (***Macbeth In Stride, We Live in Cairo***).

The Wife of Willesden will play February 25 - March 18, 2023 at the Loeb. Adapted by Zadie Smith from Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath*, it is directed by Indhu Rubasingham. The production comes to A.R.T. for its North American premiere from London's Kiln Theatre, where it will be remounted in December following its acclaimed premiere last year.

As previously announced, A.R.T. will also produce the North American premiere of ***Life of Pi***, a stage adaptation of the best-selling novel and winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Play. ***Life of Pi*** will play at the Loeb December 4, 2022 - January 29, 2023. It is by Lolita Chakrabarti, will be directed by Max Webster, and is based on the best-selling novel by Yann Martel.

Additional programming, including one title to play at the Loeb Drama Center in May and June 2023, is yet to be announced. Learn more at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/2022-23-Programming.

“We have such an extraordinary lineup of must-see theatrical experiences in store for our audiences,” said Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. “Anna Deavere Smith’s illuminating work has engaged A.R.T.’s audiences for many years, so I’m thrilled that we will produce her new ensemble version of ***Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992***, a kaleidoscopic examination of the 1992 LA riots and their continuing resonance today. We are also excited to invite audiences to revel in the stunning puppetry and storytelling of ***Life of Pi*** and the brilliant writing of Zadie Smith’s ***The Wife of Willesden***, set in a boisterous British pub. I’m also excited that A.R.T. audiences will have the opportunity to see the national tour production of ***Jagged Little Pill***, which I am directing, when it comes to Boston in June 2023.”

Subscription packages beginning at \$99 that include three or four productions are now on sale to select A.R.T. donors. Packages will be available to renewing subscribers on Friday, June 24 at 12PM; to all A.R.T. Members on Thursday, June 30 at 12PM, and to the general public on Thursday, July 14 at 12PM. Learn more at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Subscribe.

A.R.T.’s 2022/23 programming is supported 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.**

– 2022/23 PROGRAMMING –

• TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992

August 28 - September 23, 2022 | Loeb Drama Center
Conceived, Written, and Revised by **Anna Deavere Smith**
Directed by **Taibi Magar**
Presented in association with Signature Theatre

“As potent as ever, reminding of the possibility of art as a unifying force.” – *TheaterMania*
In 1992, the news of the police officers’ acquittal in Rodney King’s police brutality case reverberated throughout the streets of Los Angeles. Called “a riot,” “a revolution,” and “a social explosion,” the events that followed drew worldwide attention—and inspired playwright, actor, and scholar Anna Deavere Smith (***Notes from the Field: Doing Time in Education, Let Me Down Easy, Fires in the Mirror***) to dissect the anatomy of the civil unrest. Her Tony Award-nominated, Obie Award-winning exploration derived from interviews with more than 350 Los Angelinos reveals the fault lines that set the city ablaze. “As necessary now as when Los Angeles was actively smoldering,” (*The New York Times*), ***Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*** is a stirring cry for reform. Smith revised the play for a cast of five while in residence at Signature Theatre, where Taibi Magar (***Macbeth In Stride, We Live in Cairo***) directed this new production.

Engagement Support of ***Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*** is provided by **The Crimson Lion / Lavine Family Foundation**. Production support is provided by **Katie and Paul Bittenwieser**.

• **LIFE OF PI - North American Premiere**

Winner of 5 2022 Olivier Awards Including Best New Play

December 4, 2022 - January 29, 2023 | Loeb Drama Center

Based on the best-selling novel by **Yann Martel**

By **Lolita Chakrabarti**

Directed by **Max Webster**

Puppetry and Movement Direction by **Finn Caldwell**

Scenic and Costume Design by **Tim Hatley**

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

“One of the most visually stunning shows I’ve ever seen.” – *Time Out London*

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.

Additional production support of ***Life of Pi*** is provided by **Janet and Irv Plotkin**.

• **THE WIFE OF WILLESSEN - North American Premiere**

February 25 - March 18, 2023 | Loeb Drama Center

Adapted by **Zadie Smith** from Chaucer’s *The Wife of Bath*

Directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**

A Kiln Theatre Production

“***The Wife of Willesden*** is a celebration of community and local legends, of telling a good story and living a life worth telling.” – *The Guardian*

“Glorious...Zadie Smith and Indhu Rubasingham have concocted a stunning piece of freewheeling stagecraft. Clare Perkins is magnificent.” – *The Times of London*

A proper local legend, Alvita will tell her life story to anyone in the local West London pub—there’s no shame in her game. The question is: are you ready to hear it? Because this woman’s got the gift of the gab: she can rewrite mistakes into triumphs, turn pain into parables. And her love life? It’s an epic poem. They call her the Wife of Willesden. Join her for an evening that celebrates the human knack for telling elaborate tales, especially about our own lives. Winner of the 2022 Critics’ Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright, critically acclaimed and multi award-winning best-selling author Zadie Smith transforms an excerpt from Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales* into the unbelievable—and unforgettable.

— **DIGITAL PROGRAMMING** —

A.R.T. will continue to offer digital programming for audiences to enjoy from anywhere in the world, including:

- **Civically Speaking**, featuring virtual conversations, lectures, and performance events on history, politics, justice, and the meaning of democracy.
- **Behind the Scenes**, with the writers, directors, composers, and choreographers who are making new work at the A.R.T. Hear new songs and scenes, and learn about the process, research, and development that goes into the creation of new plays and musicals.
- **The Lunch Room**, A.R.T.'s virtual talk show featuring the artists, activists, and civic leaders who are shaping our communities.

— A.R.T. IN THE WORLD —

- **1776** (A.R.T. revival premiere playing May - July 2022) will begin at Roundabout Theatre Company in September 2022 and begin a national tour in February 2023.
- **Jagged Little Pill** (A.R.T. world premiere May 2018) returns to Sydney, Australia in July 2022; returns to Boston in June 2023 as part of a 30-city US National Tour that begins in August 2022; and opens in London's West End in Fall 2022.
- **Ocean Filibuster** (A.R.T. world premiere February 2022) continues a national tour in fall 2022 / spring 2023.
- **Waitress** (A.R.T. world premiere August 2015) continues its US tour in Cleveland, OH through June 2022, and continues its UK and Ireland tour through August 2022.
- The immersive phenomenon **Sleep No More** (A.R.T. production October 2009) continues at The McKinnon Hotel in Shanghai and at The McKittrick Hotel in New York City.
- **Notes from the Field** (A.R.T. production August 2016) is currently available on HBO.
- **All the Way** (A.R.T. production September 2013) is currently available on HBO.

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 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in June 2022.

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.

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