



American Repertory Theater

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, November 10, 2022

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH UPCOMING RUN OF *LIFE OF PI*

**ARTISTS FOR HUMANITY COLLABORATION,
CONVERSATIONS AND EVENTS WITH ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS,
PUPPETRY DEMONSTRATIONS, *DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATION* PERFORMANCE,
MEMBER NIGHT, ACCESS PERFORMANCES, AND MORE**

**2022 Olivier Award-Winning Best Play Begins at A.R.T. December 4
Before Opening on Broadway in March 2023**

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Cambridge, MA—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., announced today additional programming associated with its upcoming production of *Life of Pi*. Performances begin December 4 at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square.

Driven by A.R.T.'s value of inquiry and its commitment to asking questions with brave curiosity on a never-ending journey of learning and growth, each production's creative team, company, and A.R.T.'s Education & Engagement team collaborate to develop **Essential Questions** to guide work in the rehearsal room, onstage, and for engaging with audiences. *Life of Pi* and many of its associated events are driven by this **Essential Question: *How does telling stories help us cope and survive?***

The public is invited to consider this question and to offer their own responses by engaging in the events listed below as well as in-person at the Loeb Drama Center in conjunction with a performance.

ARTISTS FOR HUMANITY COLLABORATION

A.R.T. continues its collaboration with **Artists For Humanity**, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides teens the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in art and design.

In response to ***Life of Pi***, AFH teens and their mentors researched the story, visited rehearsal, considered their own responses, and created a new piece of visual art in response to the Essential Question: *How does storytelling help us cope and survive?*

CONVERSATIONS AND EVENTS WITH ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS

- Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7PM | Virtual
BEYOND THE PAGE AND ONTO THE STAGE OF *LIFE OF PI*
Co-Presented with GBH
Join the play's acclaimed theatrical adapter Lolita Chakrabarti and director Max Webster for this special preview event and discover the creative secrets behind this modern classic.

Free, register at wgbh.org/events/beyond-the-page-and-onto-the-stage-of-life-of-pi
- Thursday, November 17 at 6:30PM | Virtual
THE LUNCH ROOM: DINNER WITH THE PATELS FROM *LIFE OF PI*
Life of Pi cast members Rajesh Bose, Adi Dixit, Mahira Kakkar, and Sonya Venugopal visit **The Lunch Room**, A.R.T.'s virtual talk show, to discuss their collaboration, the rehearsal experience to date, and how the show's story explores storytelling as a tool for survival. *Please note the evening time for this event.*

Free, register at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TheLunchRoom.
- Thursday, December 1 at 7PM | Virtual
CIVICALLY SPEAKING: REFLECTING ON THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA
Life of Pi begins with Pi Patel and his family escaping from India in 1975 at the start of The Emergency, a two-year period of violent political unrest that overtook the country for nearly two years. Join us for a dynamic conversation with Harvard University Professor Sugata Bose who will reflect on how The Emergency began and the long-lasting effects of one of the most impactful periods in modern Indian history. A.R.T.'s **Civically Speaking** series features virtual conversations, lectures, and performance events on history, politics, justice, and the meaning of democracy.

Free, register at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/CivicallySpeaking.
- Tuesday, December 6 at 5PM | Loeb Drama Center
LIFE OF PI TEACHER TUESDAY
A.R.T. **Teacher Tuesdays** are fun-filled theater experiences just for educators! Join us for an educators-only evening of conversation and theater-going connected to the Essential Question: *How does telling stories help us cope and survive?* Teachers planning to bring a student group are particularly encouraged to attend.

Sold Out - learn more about upcoming Teacher Tuesdays at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TeacherTuesday.

- Tuesday, December 6 at 6PM | Virtual
CIVICALLY SPEAKING: FAITH, MIGRATION, AND TELLING STORIES TO SURVIVE
 Join us for an exciting conversation with *Life of Pi* theatrical adapter Lolita Chakrabarti and director Max Webster as they explore the production's themes of faith, migration, and storytelling as a tool for survival. A.R.T.'s **Civically Speaking** series features virtual conversations, lectures, and performance events on history, politics, justice, and the meaning of democracy.

Free, register at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/CivicallySpeaking.

- Friday, December 9 following the 7:30PM performance | Loeb Drama Center
POST-PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION WITH LOLITA CHAKRABARTI
 Join playwright Lolita Chakrabarti in conversation with A.R.T. Learning Lead and Dialogue of Civilizations facilitator Vahdat Yeganeh to discuss the power of storytelling and the creation of *Life of Pi*.

Free with a ticket to *Life of Pi*, available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LifeofPi.

- Fridays, January 13 & 20 at 5:30PM; Saturday, January 21 at 12PM | Loeb Drama Center
THE APPETIZER
 A pre-show experience designed for high school students by high school students from A.R.T.'s Youth Action Team. Participants will enjoy refreshments and engage in a guided conversation around the themes of the play and the Essential Question: *How does telling stories help us cope and survive?*

High schoolers can RSVP for their preferred date and free ticket to *Life of Pi* at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TheAppetizer.

- Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 1PM
MEMBER EVENT
 Supporters of \$75+ are invited to a reception before the matinee performance. Stay after for a demonstration from the puppeteers about how they bring the show's animals to life.

Contact DonorEvents@amrep.org for more information.

- Sunday, January 22, 2023 following the 2PM performance | Loeb Drama Center
PUPPETRY DEMONSTRATION
Includes ASL Interpretation
 Following the performance, discover how the *Life of Pi* puppeteers bring the animals of the Pondicherry Zoo to life. Through explanation and demonstration, learn about the preparation, rehearsal, and performance processes behind these dazzling puppets.

Free with a ticket to the January 22 performance, book at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LifeofPi.

DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS: VOICE OF OTHERS

In **Dialogue of Civilizations** workshops, students and teachers use theatrical training to explore identity, heritage, and community through learning a new language in a new home. Audiences are invited to join us for a culminating performance at A.R.T. to celebrate the excellent work of our new neighbors. **Dialogue of Civilizations** workshops are a collaboration with The Immigrant Learning Center and led by A.R.T. Learning Lead Vahdat Yeganeh.

- Friday, December 9, 2022 at 5:30PM | Loeb Drama Center
VOICE OF OTHERS

Voice of Others is a collage of scenes and monologues written and created by the students/actors from Palestine, Egypt, Azerbaijan, China, Haiti, Brazil, Iran, US, Ethiopia, and Argentina in the **Dialogue of Civilizations** workshops, inspired by the essential question of A.R.T.'s production of **Life of Pi**: *How can telling stories help us cope and survive?*

Free, book at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/DialogueofCivilizations.

ACCESS PERFORMANCES

Book seats online, by contacting Access@amrep.org, or calling 617.547.8300

Relaxed Performance

In partnership with Spectrum Theatre Ensemble's Neurodiverse Inclusive Certified Entertainment (NICE) program *Open to all audience members who could benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere at the theater, particularly audience members with sensory sensitivities.*

ASL Interpreted Performances

Director of Artistic ASL: Elbert "EJ" Joseph

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:30PM & Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 2PM

Open Captioned Performances

Captions provided by c2

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2PM

Audio Described Performances

Audio Description Consultant: Amber Percy

Audio Describers: Maria Hendricks & Teddy Hendricks

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2PM

ABOUT LIFE OF PI

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, and 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.

Life of Pi is currently playing at Wyndham’s Theatre in London’s West End where it won five Olivier Awards including Best New Play, Best Scenic Design, and Best Lighting Design. In an historic first for the Olivier Awards, the seven performers who play Royal Bengal tiger ‘Richard Parker’ were collectively awarded Best Actor in a Supporting Role. The London production, with its cutting-edge visual effects, has garnered great critical acclaim.

“★★★★★ 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*

Written by **Lolita Chakrabarti** based on the best-selling novel by **Yann Martell**, ***Life of Pi*** is directed by **Max Webster**, with Set and Costume Design by Olivier Award winner **Tim Hatley**, Puppet and Movement Direction by **Finn Caldwell**, Puppet Design by Olivier Award winners **Nick Barnes** and **Finn Caldwell**, Video Design by Olivier Award winner **Andrzej Goulding**, Lighting Design by Olivier Award winner **Tim Lutkin**, Sound Design by **Carolyn Downing**, Original Music by **Andrew T. Mackay**, and Dramaturgy by **Jack Bradley**.

Life of Pi is stage managed by **Sharika Niles**. **Luke Anderson** and **Jonathan Castanien** serve as assistant stage managers. Casting is by **Stewart/Whitley**.

Additional Production Support provided by **Ann and Graham Gund**, **Janet and Irv Plotkin**, and **Sid Yog**.

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**.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets from \$30 are available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LifeOfPi. Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others. More information at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit.

Audience, artist, and staff safety is A.R.T.’s top priority. The theater is taking many steps to protect against COVID-19. Enhanced ventilation, universal masking, vaccination, and testing are critical cornerstones of our multi-layered mitigation efforts that prioritize the safety of our community. Visit A.R.T.’s website for a full list of current ticketing and attendance protocols and procedures: AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols.

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 ***1776***; ***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, was recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and 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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