



**American Repertory Theater**

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**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES  
DIRECTOR SAMMI CANNOLD'S RETURN  
TO STAGE REVIVAL OF TONY AWARD-WINNING ROCK OPERA  
*EVITA*, BEGINNING IN MAY 2023**

***EVITA* JOINS NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERES OF  
2022 OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING BEST PLAY *LIFE OF PI***

**&**

**ACCLAIMED NEW COMEDY *THE WIFE OF WILLESDEN* AT A.R.T. IN 2022/23— THREE-SHOW  
SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES ON SALE NOW**

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**CAMBRIDGE, MA**—The May 2023 premiere of a new revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's rock opera *Evita* was announced today by **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. The A.R.T., in association with Shakespeare Theatre Company, will produce *Evita* May 14 - July 16, 2023, at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square.

Sammi Cannold (*Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Hollywood & Entertainment and the youngest female director in A.R.T. history) returns to A.R.T. to helm a revival of the Tony Award-winning rock opera *Evita*, which follows the adored and reviled Eva Perón's meteoric rise to first lady of Argentina before her death at 33. This production evolves from Cannold's concert version presented at City Center in New York City in 2019. Casting will be announced at a later date.

"After helming New York City Center's concert production of *Evita* in 2019, it's simply a dream come true to be launching a fully realized new revival of this enduring classic at the American Repertory Theater next spring," said Cannold. "With Hal Prince's original production and ongoing research on the ground in Argentina as our north star, our phenomenal team and I will expand upon the ideas we began to explore at NYCC: examining Eva's story from a female and Argentine perspective, portraying this woman as a humanized icon, and seeing *Evita*'s troubled teenage years as a dark, problematic backdrop lingering behind her dazzling 20s and 30s."

At A.R.T. Cannold previously directed the world premiere of **Endlings** by Celine Song and a site-specific production of **Violet** by Jeanine Tesori and Brian Crawley, staged on a moving bus. “I began interning at the A.R.T. when I was 18 years old and have since had the privilege of working on ten productions there. To be directing the single piece of art that means the most to me at the theater I call home is pretty surreal, and my gratitude is endless,” said Cannold.

“**Evita** is a long-time favorite musical of mine, and I am so excited for A.R.T. audiences to experience Sammi’s vision and passion for it,” said Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. “It was inspiring to see Sammi develop as an artist during her early days at A.R.T., and it’s been thrilling to watch her work in this country and abroad. I couldn’t be more excited to welcome her back to A.R.T. for **Evita**.”

Cannold’s additional credits include *Ragtime* on Ellis Island, the Broadway-bound production of *How to Dance in Ohio*, the AppleTV documentary feature *The Show Must Go On*, and the upcoming production of *Sunset Boulevard* at The Kennedy Center.

Tickets to **Evita** at A.R.T. are available now as part of a 3-show subscription package. Single tickets will go on sale in March 2023. Learn more at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Subscribe](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Subscribe).

Following its run at A.R.T., **Evita** will play at STC in Washington, D.C. as part of its 2023/24 season. Tickets will be available to current STC subscribers and package holders in the new year, to new subscribers in the spring, and go on sale to the general public in late summer.

As previously announced, A.R.T. is also producing the North American premiere of **Life of Pi**, a stage adaptation of the best-selling novel and winner of five 2022 Olivier Awards including Best New Play. **Life of Pi** began performances at the Loeb Drama Center on December 4 and continues through 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.

**The Wife of Willeliden** will play February 25 - March 18, 2023 at the Loeb. Adapted by Zadie Smith (2002 Critics’ Circle Theatre Award, Most Promising Playwright) 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 hit premiere last year.

An acclaimed new production of Anna Deavere Smith’s **Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992**, produced in association with Signature Theatre, ran at the Loeb Drama Center August 28 - September 24, 2022.

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.**

– UPCOMING 2022/23 PROGRAMMING –

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

*Winner of 5 2022 Olivier Awards Including Best New Play*

Now - 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 **Ann and Graham Gund, Janet and Irv Plotkin, and Sid Yog.**

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

*A bawdy, beautiful new comedy*

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*

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.

Production support of ***The Wife of Willesden*** is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust**. Additional production support is provided by **Brenda and Kevin Jarrell**.

## • EVITA

*Fame and infamy collide in this rock opera revival*

May 14 - July 16, 2023

Book and Lyrics by **Tim Rice**

Music by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Directed by **Sammi Cannold**

*Produced in association with Shakespeare Theatre Company*

Sammi Cannold (*Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Hollywood & Entertainment and the youngest female director in A.R.T. history) helms this groundbreaking revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's Tony Award-winning rock opera, which follows the adored and reviled Eva Perón's meteoric rise to first lady of Argentina before her death at 33. Cannold evolves her acclaimed concert version that was staged at New York City Center in 2019.

Production support of ***Evita*** is provided by **Fay and Bill Shutzer**. Additional choreography residency support is provided by **Andy and Mariann Youniss**.

## **ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**

For more than 35 years, the Tony Award-winning Shakespeare Theatre Company has dedicated itself to being the nation's premier classical theater. Classical plays are realized best not by originalism but by walking the path Shakespeare himself followed, creating works that spoke to his own contemporary audience. We tell vital stories in audacious forms. We tell stories that are Shakespearean in the deepest sense, even if (and especially when) they are not written by Shakespeare. By focusing on works with profound themes and complex characters, STC's artistic mission is unique among regional theaters: to bring to vibrant life groundbreaking, thought-provoking, and eminently accessible 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 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.

## **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. Recent collaborations include ones 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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