



American Repertory Theater

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CAST AND FIRST REHEARSAL IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES COMPLETE CASTING OF DIANE PAULUS & SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUÏ'S PRODUCTION OF *ROMEO AND JULIET*

**Now in Rehearsal, Performances Begin August 31
Tickets Now on Sale**

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 the full cast of its production of *Romeo and Juliet*, which begins its 2024/25 Season. *Romeo and Juliet* begins performances at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square, Cambridge on Saturday, August 31, 2024, opens officially on Thursday, September 5, 2024, and runs through Sunday, October 6, 2024.

The full cast includes **Terence Archie** (Lord Capulet), **Jason Bowen** (Prince), **Sharon Catherine Brown** (Nurse), **Bradley Dean** (Lord Montague, Friar John), **Brandon Dial** (Benvolio), **Adi Dixit** (Paris), **Terrence Mann** (Friar Laurence), **Abiola Obatolu** (Lady Montague), **Rudy Pankow** (Romeo), **Alex Ross** (Tybalt), **Will Savarese** (Abraham, Peter, others), **Adam Shaukat** (Sampson, others), **Clay Singer** (Mercutio), **Emilia Suárez** (Juliet), and **Nicole Villamil** (Lady Capulet).

Melissa Chacón is the production stage manager. **Dack Justiz** and **Em Nafz** are the assistant stage managers.

As previously announced, Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus (*Becoming a Man*, *Jagged Little Pill*, *Waitress*) reunites with two-time Olivier Award winner Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (*Jagged Little Pill*; Beyoncé at the 2017 Grammy Awards and *APESHIT*; Madonna's *Celebration* tour) to stage a visceral, heart-pounding new production of Shakespeare's iconic love story.

The creative team includes **Amy Rubin** (Scenic Design), **Emilio Sosa** (Costume Design), **Jen Schriever** (Lighting Design), **Daniel Lundberg** (Sound Design), **Alexandre Dai Castaing** (Composer), **J. Jared Janas** (Hair, Wig, and Makeup Design), **Thomas Schall** (Fight Consultant), and **Lauren Kiele DeLeon** (Intimacy

Coordinator). **Marc Kimmelman** is the associate choreographer. Casting is by **ARC Casting/Duncan Stewart, CSA & Jarrett Reiche**.

Five Harvard undergraduate students are working on ***Romeo and Juliet*** with support from the Paul M. and Harriet L. Weissman Fellows Fund, administered by Harvard University's Mignone Center for Career Success: **Bernardo Sequeira** and **Michael Torto** (acting), **Dree Pallimore** (directing), **Liz Resner** (stage management), and **Teddy Tsui-Rosen** (sound/stage management).

"***Romeo and Juliet*** has been a favorite play of mine for years," said Paulus. "It is often considered to be a play about hate. I am interested in pivoting that framework: rather than defining our lives through hatred, can we choose to define our lives through love? This question opened the play up for me in a way that was very liberating, I'm thrilled to be collaborating once again with the choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, who, in addition to being a genius with movement, is brilliant with text and acting."

Production support of ***Romeo and Juliet*** is provided by **Janet and Irv Plotkin**.

A.R.T.'s 2024/25 Season 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, Barton & Guestier, and Meyer Sound**.

ROMEO AND JULIET TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets from \$35 are available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/RomeoandJuliet. 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.

Press night will be Wednesday, September 4.

CAST BIOS

Terence Archie (he/him; *Lord Capulet*) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *Company*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Rocky*, *Ragtime*. Off-Broadway: *Joan of Arc: Into the Fire*, The Public Theater; *1776*, Encores; *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, Second Stage; *Romeo and Juliet*, Classical Theatre of Harlem; *Fredrick Douglass Free*, Urban Stages; *GWC Peanut Price*, Urban Stages. TV: "Power Book III: Raising Kanan," "The Walking Dead: World Beyond," "For Life," "Elementary," "Blue Bloods." Education: BFA, Drama, North Carolina School of the Arts.

Jason Bowen (he/him; *Prince*) A.R.T.: ***The Half-God of Rainfall***. Broadway: *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Off-Broadway: ***The Half-God of Rainfall***, NYTW/A.R.T.; *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, Keen Company; *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Audible Theater; *Native Son*, The Acting Co.; *If Pretty Hurts*, Playwrights Horizons. Regional: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (IRNE Award for Best Actor, Drama), Huntington Theatre. TV/Film: "Blue Bloods," "Madam Secretary," "Elementary" (CBS), "Law & Order: SVU" (NBC), "The Good Fight" (Paramount+), *Mother/Android*, *The Upside*, *What's Your Number?*.

Sharon Catherine Brown (she/her; *Nurse*) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *Days of Wine and Roses*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Head Over Heels*; *Dreamgirls*. National Tour: *A Night with Janis Joplin*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Rent*, *Dreamgirls* (Effie; Helen Hayes Award). World Tour: *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Workshops: *Spunk*, Yale Rep; Frank Wildhorn's *The Song of Bernadette*. TV/Film: *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, *Sister Act II*, "The Good

Fight.” Training: Michael Moriarty (Shakespeare), Peter Frechette (Chekhov), The Actors Studio, Uta Hagen, Herbert Berghof.

Bradley Dean (he/him; *Lord Montague, Friar John*) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *A Little Night Music, Company, Spamalot, The Last Ship, Evita, The Phantom of the Opera, Man of La Mancha, Doctor Zhivago, Jane Eyre, Dear Evan Hansen*. Off Broadway/NYC: *Here We Are, The Shed; Bat Out of Hell*, NY City Center; *A New Brain, Encores!; The Most Happy Fella, Encores!, Sweeney Todd*, NY Philharmonic. Regional: *Chess*, Kennedy Center; *Galileo*, Berkeley Rep; *Life After*, The Old Globe; *Fly*, Dallas Theater Center; *A Comedy of Tenors*, McCarter Theatre Center.

Brandon Dial (he/him; *Benvolio*) A.R.T.: Debut. Off-Broadway: *A Raisin in the Sun*, The Public Theater. Regional: *Abe Lincoln in Illinois, Photograph 51*, Berkshire Theater Group; *Cymbeline, Much Ado About Nothing, Into the Woods*, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Education: MFA, NYU Grad Acting.

Adi Dixit (he/him; *Paris*) A.R.T.: ***Life of Pi***. Broadway: ***Life of Pi***. TV: “Young Sheldon.” Film: *Sweethearts*. Education: BFA, Acting, University of Southern California.

Terrence Mann (he/him; *Friar Laurence*) A.R.T.: ***ExtraOrdinary, Pippin***. Broadway: *Tuck Everlasting* (Outer Critics Circle nomination), ***Pippin*** (Tony Award and Outer Critics Circle nominations), *Beauty and The Beast* (Tony Award nomination), *Les Misérables* (Tony Award nomination), ***Finding Neverland***, *Cats, The Scarlet Pimpernel, The Addams Family, The Rocky Horror Show, A Christmas Carol*. Off-Broadway: *Only Gold, Jerry Springer - The Opera* (Lucille Lortel nomination), *Assassins*. TV/Film: “Foundation,” “Sense8,” “The Dresden Files,” *Mrs. Santa Claus*, “As The World Turns” (Emmy Award nomination), *A Chorus Line, Critters*.

Abiola Obatolu (she/her; *Lady Montague*) A.R.T.: Debut. National Tour: *Odyssey*, The Acting Company. Regional Theater: *The Color Purple*, Broadway at Music Circus Sacramento; *This is How You Capture the Light*, The Kennedy Center. Education: BFA, Carnegie Mellon. Awards: The Helen Wayne Rauh Award for Excellence in Acting.

Rudy Pankow (he/him; *Romeo*) A.R.T.: Debut. Rudy Pankow is best known as JJ in the hit Netflix series “Outer Banks,” which made Netflix’s global top 10 weekly list each season and won multiple People’s Choice and MTV Movie & TV Awards, with Rudy getting his own MTV Award in 2023. Rudy also plays Sam Drake in the Sony film *Uncharted* opposite Mark Wahlberg and Tom Holland and the lead Erwin Vanderveer in Roadside Attractions’ independent film *Accidental Texan* opposite Thomas Haden Church.

Alex Ross (he/him; *Tybalt*) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *The Book of Mormon* (Standby Elder Price). National Tour: *A Soldier’s Play* (Standby Taylor/Byrd/Wilcox). Regional: *Cabaret, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Dallas Theater Center; *Jersey Boys*, Theatre Aspen; *Bull*, Second Thought Theatre; *City of Angels*, Theater Three; *The Boy from Oz*, Uptown Players. TV/Film: “Law & Order: SVU,” “NCIS: LA,” “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.,” “Queen of the South,” “Long Road Home,” “Revolution,” *Logan Lucky, Bull, Terrifier 3* (upcoming).

Will Savarese (he/him; *Abraham, Peter, others*) A.R.T.: Debut. National Tour: *Frozen* (Hans), *Hairspray* (Link). Educational: Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida* (Troilus). Training: BFA, Acting, Baldwin Wallace University.

Adam Shaukat (he/him; *Sampson, others*) A.R.T.: Debut. Regional: *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Chautauqua Theater Company. TV/Film: “Before,” *Sex-Positive, Zero Day, The Philosophy of Dress, The Sandwich Line*. Education/Training: BA, Philosophy, Carleton College; MFA, Acting, Yale School of Drama.

Clay Singer (he/they; *Mercutio*) A.R.T.: Debut. National Tour: *The Band’s Visit* (First Broadway; Itzik). New York: *The Last Five Years*, Core Theatre Group, AEA LAB. Regional: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Perchik), The MUNY;

Into the Woods (Jack), *4000 Miles* (Leo), Barrington Stage; Westport Country Playhouse. Education: BFA, Carnegie Mellon University; London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts

Emilia Suárez (she/her; *Juliet*) A.R.T.: Debut. Regional: *Destiny of Desire*, The Old Globe; *Zero*, Ashland New Plays Festival; *The DeCameron*, Quantum Theatre. Workshops/Readings: *A Death in the Family*, NYTW; *National History*, The O'Neill Center; *Destiny of Desire*, The Public Theater. TV/Film: "Up Here," *A Good Person*. Education/Training: BFA, Carnegie Mellon.

Nicole Villamil (she/her; *Lady Capulet*) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *Network* (Sheila). Off-Broadway: *Merry Me* (Sapph), New York Theatre Workshop; *Wolf Play* (Robin), Soho Rep; *Wolf Play* (Robin), MCC Theater; *How to Load a Musket* (Javier/Jane), 59E59; *Queens* (Isabela/Glenys), LCT3; *Lessons in Survival*, Vineyard Theatre; *MUD* (Mae), Boundless Theatre; *Shakespeare's R&J* (Student 1), Hangar Theatre; *De Profundis* (Solo), PlayMakers Rep. TV: "New Amsterdam," "The Last OG." Education: MFA, Brown/Trinity Repertory Co.; BA, University of Pennsylvania. Awards: 2023 Lucille Lortel Award Recipient for Outstanding Ensemble.

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. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus began her tenure in 2008 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in June 2022. A.R.T.'s mission is to expand the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as partner.

The A.R.T. focuses on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences, serving as a creative hub that has launched productions seen across the US and around the world. A.R.T. received 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. A.R.T.'s Tony Award-winning and nominated productions include ***1776***; ***Jagged Little Pill***; ***Waitress***; ***Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812***; ***All the Way***; ***The Glass Menagerie***; ***Pippin***; ***Once***; ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***. International productions include ***Waitress***, ***Nice Fish***, ***The Glass Menagerie*** (West End); ***Waitress***, ***Pippin*** (Japan); ***Jagged Little Pill***, ***Pippin*** (Australia); ***Sleep No More*** (China). ***Sleep No More*** currently runs in New York City.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many other distinguished awards including a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theatre Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. plays 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. 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.

A.R.T. is dedicated to making great theater accessible to all. It builds community with its audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors, actively engaging 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.

Construction is ongoing for the A.R.T.'s new home, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance. Designed by Haworth Tompkins, the new center will include two flexible performance venues, rehearsal studios, teaching spaces, a spacious public lobby, and an outdoor performance yard designed to host

ticketed and free programming. Porous and welcoming intentional architecture will galvanize creativity and collaboration and fuel the mission.

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