



American Repertory Theater

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**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER PREMIERES**  
**KATE HAMILL'S ADAPTATION OF**  
***THE ODYSSEY***  
**DIRECTED BY SHANA COOPER**

**PLAYING NOW THROUGH MARCH 16**

**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., produces the world premiere of ***The Odyssey***, playing now through March 16, 2025, at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square, Cambridge. ***The Odyssey*** opens officially on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

**ABOUT *THE ODYSSEY***

From the Cyclops to the Sirens, audiences will experience this cultural touchstone's legendary adventures like never before. "Ms. Hamill's adaptations of the classics (***Sense & Sensibility***, *Vanity Fair*, *Dracula*) are endlessly ingenious...she has unlimited talent; whatever she decides to do, it will be worth seeing," says *The Wall Street Journal*. Hamill's latest play reimagines the adventures of the hero Odysseus and his wife, Penelope, and asks how we can learn to embrace healing and forgiveness in order to end cycles of violence and revenge.

"This play is half about Penelope, half about Odysseus," says Hamill, "But it's also about: if you've gone through something traumatic, can you ever go back to who you were? Can you ever go back home? "It's really, really meaningful to be working on this now and it takes a really special theater to take this on."

**Wayne T. Carr** and **Andrus Nichols** lead the cast as Odysseus and Penelope, respectively. They are joined by **Carlo Albán** (Telemachus/Nausithous/Hector), **Abigail Baird** (Puppeteer), **Benjamin Bonenfant** (Elpenor/Achilles/Suitor), **Alejandra Escalante** (Woman 1/Nausicaa), **Kate Hamill** (Woman 2/Circe), **Nike Imoru** (Woman 3/Madam/Melantho/Anticlea/Andromache), **Keshav Moodliar** (Amphinomous/Antinous), **Jason O'Connell** (Polites/Polyphemus/Ajax/Suitor), and **Chris Thorn** (Eurylochus/Agamemnon/Suitor). **Kristian Espiritu**, **Alexandria King**, and **Rodney Witherspoon II** are understudies.

[Cast and creative team bios are available here.](#)

**Terence Orleans Alexander** is the production stage manager. **Emma Nafz** is the assistant stage manager. **Molly Bercutt** and **Ross Gray** are the production assistants. Casting is by **The Telsey Office/Karyn Casl, CSA**.

Hamill is joined on the creative team by Princess Grace Award winner **Shana Cooper** (director), **Sibyl Wickersheimer** (scenic design), **An-Lin Dauber** (costume design), Obie Award winner **Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew** (lighting and projection design), **Paul James Prendergast** (sound design and music composition), **Rachel Padula-Shufelt** (hair, wig, and make-up designer), **Kate Brehm** (puppetry director and designer), and **Stephanie Martinez** (movement director). **Ted Hewlett** is the fight director and **Kayleigh Kane** is the intimacy coordinator.

**Taylor Yocum** is the associate movement director, **Kyle J. Artone** is the associate costume designer, **Jessica Elliott** is the associate lighting designer, and **Matt Tennie** is the associate projection designer.

Production support of ***The Odyssey*** is provided by **Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP** and **Alan Jones and Ashley Garrett**. Support for the development of ***The Odyssey*** was provided by **The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund**.

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**.

### **THE ODYSSEY TICKETING INFORMATION**

**Tickets from \$35** are available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Odyssey](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Odyssey). Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others, as well as through:

- **TakeFive**

**Take Five** invites community members who feel attending theater is financially out of reach or want to take a chance on something new to experience the A.R.T. with a **\$5 ticket**. Select a performance of ***The Odyssey***, enter the code **TAKEFIVE** in the promotion code box, then select seats at the \$5 price point. Availability is limited; additional blocks of **Take Five** tickets will be released in the coming weeks.

- **Access Performances**

- **ASL Interpreted\***

Wednesday, March 5, at 7PM and Saturday, March 8 at 1:30PM.

- **Audio Described\***

Wednesday, March 12 at 7PM and Sunday, March 16 at 1:30PM.

- **Open Captioned\***

Wednesday, March 12 at 7PM and Sunday, March 16 at 1:30PM.

- **Sensory Inclusive\***

Sunday, March 9 at 1:30PM.

Book Access seats online, by contacting [Access@amrep.org](mailto:Access@amrep.org), or calling 617.547.8300, or calling 617.547.8300

More information at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit](https://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit).

## **ASSOCIATED PROGRAMMING**

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

***If you've gone through something traumatic, can you ever go back to who you were? Can you ever go back home?***

A.R.T. leads with inquiry and believes in asking questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in a never- ending journey of learning and growth. For each production, the creative team, company, and Engagement team develop an Essential Question to guide work in the rehearsal room, onstage, and for engaging with audiences.

- **IN THE LOEB DRAMA CENTER WEST LOBBY**  
**Community-Created Weaving Project**

Audiences are invited to weave their own hero's journey into a collaboratively created tapestry on the loom located in the West Lobby.

**On Display: *Cattle of the Sun* by Heather Morris**

*Cattle of the Sun* tells the story of Odysseus' journey and the wrath of Zeus after the sacrifice of the sun god's sacred cattle. Painted in the style of ancient Greek vases for the 2023 New England Cow Parade, a trompe l'oeil technique is used as the terracotta breaks away to reveal a tumultuous seascape inspired by the Romantic Era.

**Heather Morris** is a classically trained painter and the Assistant Charge Scenic Artist at the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University. Trained in portraiture by Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts professor Ted Xanas, her art explores character and story with a lens on modern mythology, capturing subjects through likeness, texture, and environment. A.R.T. credits include numerous productions, Tony Award-winning musicals, and the Broadway revival

of **1776**. Her work has also been featured in HBO's "Game of Thrones" promotional video "Long Story Short", on Comedy Central's "@Midnight", and at The Critics' Choice Television Awards. She pursued degrees in psychology and art at Ursinus College and received her Master's degree in Art Therapy from Lesley University. See more of Heather's work at [thirtyartsix.com/](http://thirtyartsix.com/).

- **Exploring *The Odyssey* with The Brattle Theatre**

February 17 at 6PM & February 19 at 8PM | Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St, Cambridge

Co-presented by A.R.T. and The Brattle Theatre, audiences are invited to film screenings that explore Homer's epic—and epically influential—tale. Each screening will be accompanied by a special introduction from A.R.T. staff.

- *The Boy and The Heron* (2023) | Monday, February 17 at 6PM  
Tickets at [brattlefilm.org/the-boy-and-the-heron](http://brattlefilm.org/the-boy-and-the-heron)

- *The Return* (2024) | Wednesday, February 19 at 8PM  
Tickets at [brattlefilm.org/the-return](http://brattlefilm.org/the-return)

- **Free *Odyssey* Puppetry Workshops**

February 20 – March 8 | Locations Vary

Join A.R.T.'s Engagement Team for an interactive introductory workshop inspired by the design elements of A.R.T.'s production of ***The Odyssey***. Explore puppetry design, shadow work, and how each can advance theatrical storytelling. Recommended for ages 13+.

Workshops will be held:

- Thursday, February 20, 2025, 6PM-8PM: Malden Public Library | 36 Salem St, Malden, MA
- Saturday, February 22, 2025, 2PM-4PM: Cambridge Public Library | 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA
- Thursday, March 6, 2025, 6PM-8PM: East Boston Public Library | 365 Bremen St, Boston, MA
- Saturday, March 8, 2025, 12PM-2PM: Harvard Ed Portal | 224 Western Ave, Boston, MA

RSVP at [amrep.org/OdysseyRSVP](http://amrep.org/OdysseyRSVP).

- **Member Night**

Thursday, February 27 at 5:30PM | Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge

Supporters of \$500+ are invited to an exclusive pre-show reception featuring Puppetry Director and Designer Kate Brehm preceding the 7PM performance of ***The Odyssey***.

Contact [DonorEmails@amrep.org](mailto:DonorEmails@amrep.org) for more information—space is limited.

- ***The Odyssey's Night at the Museum***

Thursday, February 27 at 5PM | Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge

It's Ancient Greece as you've never experienced it before! Join American Repertory Theater and Harvard Art Museums for a Grecian-themed scavenger hunt as you embark on your own epic journey through the museum. Follow cryptic clues and untangle museum mysteries for a chance to win a prize at this special addition to Harvard Art Museums at Night monthly event. And the fun doesn't have to stop there—make it a double feature and head over to the 7PM performance of ***The Odyssey*** that night! Get your tickets at [AmericanRep.Org/Odyssey](https://AmericanRep.Org/Odyssey).

Harvard Art Museums Night at the Museum features food and drink from local vendors, music, and an opportunity to explore the galleries after hours. Walk-ins welcome and RSVPs encouraged at [amrep.org/HarvardArtMuseums](https://amrep.org/HarvardArtMuseums).

- ***Myth and Modernity: A Conversation about The Odyssey***

Monday, March 3 at 7PM | Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge

Join A.R.T. and Harvard Book Store for a conversation with playwright Kate Hamill, preeminent classics scholars David Elmer, Emily Greenwood, and Naomi Weiss, and Museum of Fine Arts curator Phoebe Segal about the A.R.T.'s world-premiere production of Hamill's play and the themes and lasting impact of Homer's *Odyssey*.

David Elmer is the Eliot Professor of Greek Literature at Harvard University. Emily Greenwood is the James M. Rothenberg Professor of the Classics and of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. Naomi Weiss is Professor of the Classics at Harvard University. Phoebe Segal is the Mary Bryce Comstock Senior Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Acclaimed for her female-centric adaptations of classic works of literature, Kate Hamill has been one of the most produced playwrights in this country since 2017.

RSVP at [americanrepertorytheater.org/OdysseyConversation](https://americanrepertorytheater.org/OdysseyConversation).

## **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER (A.R.T.) AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

**The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University** is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. 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 in 2022.

A.R.T. is a creative hub, launching productions seen on Broadway, across the US, and around the world and receiving dozens of Tony, Drama Desk, Olivier and other nominations and awards throughout its 45-year history. As the professional theater on campus, A.R.T. plays a central role at Harvard University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange, and sharing University resources with the broader community. Driven by its value to lead with inquiry,

A.R.T. builds community with audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity.

In 2026, A.R.T. will relocate from Harvard Square to its new home in Boston, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity and Performance. Currently under construction, this new, inspiring center will include flexible adaptive spaces to rehearse, create, teach, and convene in community, fueling A.R.T.'s vision and creative work for years to come.

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