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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE LAZOURS' *NIGHT SIDE SONGS*

The communal music-theater experience
celebrates the resilience of the human spirit

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Diane Paulus and Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., announced today the cast and creative team for **the Lazours' *Night Side Songs***, commissioned and developed by A.R.T. and directed by **Taibi Magar**.

Night Side Songs will run at two venues in the community:

- March 27 – April 6, 2025 at The Cambridge Masonic Temple (1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge)
- April 9 – 20, 2025 at Hibernian Hall (184 Dudley St., Roxbury)
- *Limited press tickets are available March 28, 29, and 30 and upon request through the run.*

Night Side Songs is a communal music-theater experience performed for—and with—an intimate audience that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit. Inspired by American writer, philosopher, and cultural critic Susan Sontag's observation that "illness is the night side of life," this genre-breaking theatrical kaleidoscope with by Richard Rodgers Award recipients Daniel Lazour and Patrick Lazour (***We Live in Cairo***, *Flap My Wings*) and directed by Taibi Magar (***We Live in Cairo***, *Macbeth In Stride*) gives voices to doctors, patients, researchers, and caregivers. A folk-inspired score and interconnected stories spanning time and perspective take us on a journey through illness that brings us closer to life. It is presented in association with Philadelphia Theater Company.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* calls **Night Side Songs**, “riveting,” and says, “There is a naked honesty in the production that builds intimacy and trust. If the purpose of art is to comment on the human experience, it would be difficult to find a more human statement.”

The A.R.T. cast of **Night Side Songs** includes:

- **Jordan Dobson** (*Hadestown* and *A Beautiful Noise* on Broadway)
- **Robi Hager** (*Spring Awakening* and *Bye Bye Birdie* on Broadway, among others.)
- **Brooke Ishibashi** (*Into the Woods* on Broadway, *Cambodian Rock Band* at South Coast Rep)
- **Jonathan Raviv** (*The Band’s Visit* on Broadway, *Here There Are Blueberries* at NYTW, among others)
- **Mary Testa** (*Oklahoma!* and *Wicked* on Broadway, among others)

The Lazours and Magar are joined on the creative team by scenic designer **Matt Saunders** (*Daddy Off-Broadway*), costume designer **Jason A. Goodwin** (*Back to the Future* on Broadway), lighting designer **Amith Chandrashaker** (*Prayer for the French Republic* Off-Broadway), and sound designer **Justin Stasiw** (*Lempicka* on Broadway). **Alex Bechtel** is the music director and pianist. **Elizabeth Emanuel** is the production stage manager and **Olivia McQuerry** is the assistant stage manager. Casting is by **Taylor Williams, CSA**.

“We are thrilled to welcome beloved collaborators Daniel, Patrick, and Taibi back to A.R.T. for the world premiere of **Night Side Songs**, a piece that embodies A.R.T.’s commitment to produce work that advances public health,” said A.R.T. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. “We commissioned the Lazours believing that their vision, curiosity, and heart-stirring music would combine to create something that holds the power to heal. **Night Side Songs** expands boundaries—not only of what theater can be, but what it can do. I am moved each time I’m in communal song with fellow audience members, and I can’t wait for our audiences to feel their own catharsis in community.”

“We invite audiences to experience **Night Side Songs** at two special venues in our community,” said Associate Artistic Director Dayron J. Miles. “We’re grateful to our hosts at The Cambridge Masonic Temple in Porter Square, and we’re so excited to partner once again with the team at Hibernian Hall and to return to Nubian Square for performances at one of Boston’s beloved cultural icons.”

The Lazours’ personal experiences and extensive interviews with patients, caregivers, and medical professionals inform the stories of **Night Side Songs**. “It is an absolute joy to be returning to Cambridge with our new musical,” said the Lazours. “We’ve always considered A.R.T. an artistic home, it is an honor and a privilege to share this piece with its audiences. We hope **Night Side Songs** gives voice to patients and caregivers on the illness journey—a journey too often travelled in the shadows and spoken of in whispers.”

“This piece is incredibly personal to me because I’ve lost both parents to cancer,” said Magar. “I know firsthand how painful that experience can be and how important community is in those moments, and I hope this beautiful new musical can provide comfort and connection.”

Following its run at Lincoln Center in the Under the Radar Festival January 14 – 19, **Night Side Songs** began its world-premiere run in Philadelphia with a two-week community tour at local hospitals and community

centers, followed by performances at PTC's Suzanne Roberts Theatre that began Friday, February 21 and run through Sunday, March 9.

Support for the development of **Night Side Songs** at A.R.T. was provided by **The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund**.

NIGHT SIDE SONGS TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets from \$35 to both venues are available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/NightSideSongs.

Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others.

All tickets are General Admission.

Please note the Cambridge Masonic Temple performance space is not accessible via an elevator. Learn more about venue locations and accessibility at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/NightSideSongs.

ARTIST BIOS

THE LAZOURS (Words, Music): Daniel Lazour and Patrick Lazour are brothers and music theater writers. Their musical **We Live in Cairo** premiered at the American Repertory Theater in 2019, directed by Taibi Magar, and was produced at New York Theatre Workshop in the fall. Projects in development include a musical adaptation of Ritesh Batra's film *The Lunchbox* (Lincoln Center Theater commission). Their movie musical *Challenger: An American Dream* is being developed with Bruce Cohen Productions and Spark Features. Original songs by the Lazours can be heard on their independently released albums: *Freres*, *Flap My Wings* (Songs from *We Live in Cairo*), *Beth's Homemade Cowboy Breakfast*, and *Lullabies*. They are Jonathan Larson Grant and Richard Rodgers Award recipients, MacDowell and Yaddo Fellows, and New York Theater Workshop Usual Suspects. Patrick holds a B.A. from Boston College and Daniel holds a B.A. from Columbia University.

TAIBI MAGAR (Director): Taibi Magar is an Artistic Director of Philadelphia Theatre Company. As a freelance director, her most recent credits are **We Live in Cairo** (A.R.T. world premiere, New York Theatre Workshop), **The Half-God of Rainfall** (New York Theatre Workshop and A.R.T.), **Macbeth In Stride** (co-direction with Tyler Dobrowsky), *Help* (The Shed), and **Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992** (Signature Theatre and A.R.T., Lortel Award Best Revival). Other New York credits include *Capsule* by Whitney White and Peter Mark Kendall (Under the Radar Festival/The Public Theater, co-directed with Tyler Dobrowsky), *Blue Ridge* starring Marin Ireland and *The Great Leap* starring BD Wong (Atlantic Theater Company); *Is God Is* (Soho Rep, 2018 Obie Award); *Master* (The Foundry); and *Underground Railroad Game* (Ars Nova, Obie Award). Regional: CTG, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre, Alley Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, among others. International: Hamburg Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Malthouse Theatre (Melbourne), and Soho Theatre (London). MFA, Brown University.

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. A.R.T. is led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr. A.R.T. is a Tony Award-winning creative hub, launching productions seen on Broadway, across the US, and around the world 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. A.R.T. will relocate from Harvard Square to its new home in Boston, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance in late 2026. 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.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY

Philadelphia Theatre Company (PTC) is a vital civic institution dedicated to the creation of extraordinary theatrical experiences that reflect the essential issues and ideas of our time and that foster connection, understanding, and transformation. PTC engages and strengthens our community through exceptional productions of new and contemporary plays and musicals, inspiring education programs, and mutually beneficial civic partnerships. PTC develops exciting new work that resonates locally and nationally and upholds a deep commitment to be a fully inclusive, welcoming home for Philadelphia's artists, audiences, and people.

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