



American Repertory Theater

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Family Musical *Thumbelina* to Play Loeb Drama Center December 20 – 31, 2019

Twelve Performances Only of New Adaptation by Julia Riew

[Rehearsal Images for download.](#)

Cambridge, MA—*Thumbelina*, a new musical adaptation for kids and their families, begins performances at the Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge) Friday, December 20 and continues through Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

Tickets at \$15 for kids and \$20 for adults are available online at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org, by phone at 617.547.8300, and in person at the Loeb Drama Center Ticket Services Offices (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge). Discounts are available to A.R.T. Subscribers and Members, groups, students, seniors, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, and others.

A.R.T.'s family holiday programming returns with a new musical adaptation of *Thumbelina*, the beloved tale of a girl who forges her path, embraces her differences, and finds her place. The story comes to life on stage in a production featuring an original book, music, and lyrics by **Julia Riew** (*The East Side*) and a cast of Harvard undergraduate students. The production is directed by **Emma Watt** and features orchestrations and arrangements by **Riew** and **Ian Chan** and choreography by **Ryan Kapur**.

[Hear a song from *Thumbelina*.](#)

"My *Thumbelina* is a voracious reader," says Riew. "Despite being sheltered in her mother's garden, she spends her time gaining expertise through books and reading adventure novels that fill her with curiosity and desire for her own journey. One lyric in the song 'Anywhere' is, 'Take a look inside a story book, and your mind becomes a stage.' I wrote it to invite kids to channel their imagination and collaborate with us to tell this story."

Riew is the creator of *The East Side*, a musical about a Chinese American teenager's journey that premiered last year in a sold-out run, as well as the co-founder of the Asian Student Arts project at Harvard University.

Previous family programming at the Loeb Drama Center includes ***The Emperor's New Clothes*** (2018) ***Charlotte's Web*** (2017), ***James and The Giant Peach*** (2016), ***The Pirate Princess*** (2015), ***The Light Princess*** (2013 and 2014), ***Hansel & Gretel*** (2012), and ***The Snow Queen*** (2011).

Thumbelina is performed on the set of the A.R.T. production of ***Moby-Dick*** (now through January 12, 2020); Design by Mimi Lien.

THUMBELINA PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES

Friday, December 20 at 11AM
Saturday, December 21 at 10AM
Sunday, December 22 at 10AM
Monday, December 23 at 10AM and 1PM
Thursday, December 26 at 2PM
Friday, December 27 at 10AM
Saturday, December 28 at 10AM
Sunday, December 29 at 10AM
Monday, December 30 at 10AM and 2PM—*Sensory Friendly*
Tuesday, December 31 at 10AM

The 2PM performance on Monday, December 30 will be a *Sensory Friendly Performance*. Sensory Friendly Performances (SFP), sometimes known as Relaxed Performances, are open to all audience members who could benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere at the theater. Every SFP features a relaxed attitude towards making sounds, moving, and using assistive devices; adjustments to the severity of sound and lighting cues; and quiet areas outside of the theater, for anyone who needs a break. A.R.T. works in consultation with an occupational therapist to develop a social narrative and pre-show introduction to the characters for each SFP.

CAST

Sophie Bauder, Mother
Jonathan Castillo, Toad
Laura Frustaci, Julian
Elaine Kim, Blue
Gen Lefevre, Mr. Mole
Janiah Lockett, Thumbelina
Rachel Share-Sapolsky, Mrs. Toad

CREATIVE TEAM

Julia Riew, Book, Music, and Lyrics
Julia Riew and **Ian Chan**, Orchestrations, Arrangements, and Musical Direction
Emma Watt, Direction
Ryan Kapur, Choreography
Kristin Loeffler, Scenic Design
Elizabeth Rocha, Costume Design
Sumner Ellsworth, Lighting Design

Bryan Atterberry, Sound Design
Jay Connolly, Fight Direction
Abigail Sage, Stage Management
Vincent Pan, Assistant Stage Management

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