



## American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER  
64 brattle street,  
cambridge, ma 02138

OBERON  
2 arrow street  
cambridge, ma 02138

617•495•2668 TEL  
617•495•1705 FAX  
617•547•8300 TICKETS

[americanrepertorytheater.org](http://americanrepertorytheater.org)

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**Contact:** Rebecca Curtiss 617.496.2000 x8841 | 617.872.8254

[rebecca\\_curtiss@harvard.edu](mailto:rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu)

### American Repertory Theater Announces Cast and Creative Team for *The Black Clown*

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater at Harvard University (A.R.T.), under the leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, announces complete casting and creative team for *The Black Clown*. The production begins previews Friday, August 31; opens Wednesday, September 5; and closes Sunday, September 23, 2018 at the Loeb Drama Center in Cambridge, MA.

“You laugh / Because I’m poor and black and funny...”, begins Langston Hughes’ poem, *The Black Clown*. This world premiere music theater experience fuses vaudeville, opera, jazz, and spirituals to bring [Hughes’ verse](#) to life onstage to animate a Black man’s resilience against a legacy of oppression. The production features **Davóne Tines** (*Crossing* and *Run AMOC! Festival* at A.R.T.) in the title role, an ensemble of twelve, and a new score by **Michael Schachter** (*Run AMOC! Festival* at A.R.T.).

Tines says, “Langston Hughes’ expansive and penetrating engagement with the life of the other has been a guiding salve since I was first introduced to his work in elementary school. This production provides the opportunity to harness Hughes’ words and my life experience as a Black man to claim humanity for myself, my race, and all people.”

Paulus says, “At the A.R.T. we create work that helps us more fully see and hear each other—work that fosters empathy, dialogue, and transformation. Four years ago, we heard the beginnings of *The Black Clown* and we knew immediately that we had to commit to these artists and the development of this work. I’m so thrilled that *The Black Clown* is opening A.R.T.’s 2018/19 Season.”

The ensemble includes **Sumayya Ali** (*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* at A.R.T.), **Malcolm Armwood** (*Motown the Musical* National Tour), **Daniel Bellomy** (“The Deuce”), **Dawn Bless** (*Gypsy* at Porchlight Theater), **LaVon Fisher-Wilson** (Disney’s *Newsies* on Broadway), **Lindsey Hailes** (*The Lucky Ones* at Ars Nova), **Evan Tyrone Martin** (*Duke Ellington’s Greatest Hits* at Music Theater Works), **Jhardon DiShon Milton** (*A Bronx Tale* on Broadway), **Amber Barbee Pickens** (Cirque du Soleil’s *Paramour* on Broadway), **Jamar Williams** (*Burn All Night* and *Witness Uganda* at A.R.T.), and **Hailee Kaleem Wright** (*Hairspray* with Jersey Shore Productions).

***The Black Clown*** is adapted from the Langston Hughes' poem by **Davóne Tines** and **Michael Schachter**. It is directed by **Zack Winokur** (Artistic Director, Director, and performer in ***Run AMOC! Festival*** at A.R.T.; Director of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* at Cincinnati Opera). Choreography is by **Chanel DaSilva** (Co-Founder and Co-Director of MOVE(NYC); spring 2018 Artist-in-Residence at Harvard Dance Center). Music direction is by **Jaret Landon** (*Crowns* at McCarter Theatre Center and Long Wharf Theatre; *The Christians* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Baltimore Center Stage).

***The Black Clown*** creative team includes scenic and costume design by **Carlos Soto** (*GIRLMACHINE* at Performa 09; international tour *Einstein on the Beach* directed by Robert Wilson) and lighting design by **John Torres** (*Lady Gaga's Video Portraits* directed by Robert Wilson at Musée du Louvre Paris; Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music 1900s-1950s* at New York Live Arts), Sound design is by **Kai Harada** (*The Band's Visit* on Broadway, Tony Award; 2017 Broadway revival of *Sunday in the Park with George*).

### **PRODUCTION SUPPORT**

Production Sponsor: **Alison and Bob Murchison**

Artistic Residency Support of Davóne Tines: **Katie and Paul Bittenwieser**

Additional Production Support: **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research**

Corporate Education Sponsor: **Bank of America**

### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

**Single tickets are now available** online at [americanrepertorytheater.org](http://americanrepertorytheater.org), by phone at 617.547.8300, and in person at the Loeb Drama Center Ticket Services Offices (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge). Tickets for \$25 are available, as well as discounts for subscribers, members, groups, students, seniors, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, and others.

### **PERFORMANCE DATES**

7:30PM

August 31

September 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

2PM

September 2, 9, 16, 23

**Press performance:** Wednesday, September 5; invitations to follow

**Open Captioned performances:** Thursday, September 20 at 7:30PM; Sunday, September 23 at 2PM

**Audio Described performances:** Friday, September 21 at 7:30PM; Sunday, September 23 at 2PM

## **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

**American Repertory Theater at Harvard University (A.R.T.)** is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. 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 Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by producing transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner.

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 sixteen 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.

A.R.T. collaborates with artists around the world to develop and create work in new ways. It is currently engaged in a number of multi-year projects, including a collaboration with Harvard's Center for the Environment that will result in the development of new work over several years. Under Paulus' leadership, the A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been an incubator for local and emerging artists and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. catalyzes discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members, acting as a conduit between its community of artists and the university. A.R.T. mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON, and plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 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.

Through all of these initiatives, A.R.T. is dedicated to producing world-class performances in which the audience is central to the theatrical experience.

**@americanrep**

**#BlackClownART**

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