



American Repertory Theater

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American Repertory Theater Announces The Cast and Creative Team for *ExtraOrdinary*

Celebrating a Decade of Musical Theater at the A.R.T.

Under the Leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus

[Images available for download here.](#)

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 the casting and creative team for *ExtraOrdinary*, a cabaret retrospective celebrating ten years of musical theater at the A.R.T. The limited run begins on Friday, November 16 at the Loeb Drama Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and ends on Friday, November 30, 2018.

Audiences are invited to join returning A.R.T. artists for songs and stories from the past decade of boundary-breaking musicals, including *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *Pippin*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Waitress*, and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*.

This season marks **Diane Paulus'** tenth as the A.R.T.'s Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director. "Over the last decade, we've staged more than thirty musicals and music-theater pieces at the A.R.T.," said Paulus. "The musical is one of the great American art forms. As total theater experiences that combine song, story, spectacle, and dance, musicals have the power to engage our hearts and minds; and when musicals grapple with the urgent questions of our day, they can move us like nothing else. The musicals we've developed and premiered, the collaborations we've formed with writers and composers who created work for the theater for the very first time, and the conversations we've had with audiences and scholars around our productions have been central to our mission at the A.R.T. to expand the boundaries of theater. I'm thrilled by the opportunity to revisit many of these musicals with *ExtraOrdinary*."

ExtraOrdinary features a company of artists from past A.R.T. productions:

- **Melody Betts** from A.R.T.'s 2014 production of ***Witness Uganda*** (also *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* on NBC)
- **Kathryn Gallagher** from A.R.T.'s 2018 production of ***Jagged Little Pill*** (also *Spring Awakening* on Broadway)
- **Terrence Mann** from A.R.T.'s 2012 production of ***Pippin*** and the 2013 Tony Award-winning Broadway revival, for which he received his third Tony Award nomination (also the original Broadway casts of *Les Miserables* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*)
- **Brandon Michael Nase** from A.R.T.'s 2018 production of ***The Black Clown*** (also *Ragtime* at Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre)
- **Bryonha Marie Parham** from A.R.T.'s 2011 production of ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** and the 2012 Tony Award-winning Broadway revival (also *Prince of Broadway* on Broadway)
- **MJ Rodriguez** from A.R.T.'s 2017 productions of ***Burn All Night*** and ***Trans Scripts, Part I: The Women*** (also "Pose" on FX)
- **Matthew James Thomas** from A.R.T.'s 2012 production of ***Pippin*** and the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival (also *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* on Broadway)

A five-piece band led by Music Director **Lance Horne** will perform onstage.

The **ExtraOrdinary** cast will be joined nightly by a special guest from past A.R.T. musicals. Appearances will not be announced in advance; instead guests will surprise the audience each night.

Throughout the **ExtraOrdinary** run, the Loeb Drama Center will host a display featuring photographs, costumes, props, and other memorabilia from the more than thirty musicals, music- and dance-theater pieces, and plays with music staged at the A.R.T. over the last decade.

EXTRAORDINARY CREATIVE TEAM

- **Diane Paulus**, Director (fourteen productions at A.R.T. including ***Jagged Little Pill***, ***The White Card***, ***In the Body of the World***, ***Waitress***, and ***Pippin***)
- **Nancy Harrington**, Associate Director (six productions at A.R.T. including ***Waitress*** and ***Pippin***)
- **Lance Horne**, Music Director (***Cabaret*** and ***Prometheus Bound*** at A.R.T., Music Director for Alan Cumming)
- **Abbey O'Brien**, Choreographer (***Jagged Little Pill*** at A.R.T. and ***Waitress*** on Broadway)
- **Jason Sherwood**, Scenic Designer (A.R.T. debut; Sam Smith's world tour and *The Who's Tommy* at Denver Center Theatre Company)
- **Emilio Sosa**, Costume Designer (six productions at A.R.T. including ***The White Card*** and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***)
- **Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew**, Lighting and Projection Designer (A.R.T. debut; *Gloria: A Life* at Daryl Roth Theatre and *Relevance* at Lucille Lortel Theatre)
- **Jonathan Deans**, Sound Designer (five productions at A.R.T. including ***Jagged Little Pill*** and ***Waitress***)
- **Julie Baldauff**, Production Stage Manager (four productions at A.R.T. including ***Pippin*** and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***)

- **Taylor Brennan**, Assistant Stage Manager (twenty-nine productions at **A.R.T.** including ***The Black Clown*** and ***Jagged Little Pill***)

Production support of ***ExtraOrdinary*** is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust** and **The Johnson Family**.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets start at \$25 and are available now 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 Subscribers, Members, groups, students, seniors, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, and others.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Note: some dates are sold out.

7:30PM

November 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30

2PM

November 21, 24, 25,

Press performance: Sunday, November 18 at 7:30PM

Open Captioned performance: Thursday, November 29 at 7:30PM

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 Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Berger, 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, the 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. The A.R.T. has trained generations of theater artists through its Institute for Advanced Theater Training, and also plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate concentration in Theater, Dance & Media.

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 #ExtraOrdinaryART

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