American Repertory Theater
Presents the World Premiere of
FUTURITY: A MUSICAL BY THE LISPS
Music by César Alvarez with the Lisps • Lyrics by César Alvarez
Book by Molly Rice and César Alvarez
Directed by Sarah Benson
March 16 — April 15, 2012
OBERON


As the Civil War rages around him, the Union soldier Julian Munro dreams of bringing peace to the world and an end to human suffering. Under the guidance of Lord Byron’s brilliant daughter, Ada Lovelace, Julian attempts to invent an omnipotent steam-powered brain designed to save humanity before it destroys itself. Featuring the indie-rock band, The Lisps, this quirky new musical melds science fiction, historical narrative, and the sounds of American folk music to explore Julian and Ada’s epic fantasy of a utopian future.

The company includes César Alvarez as Julian Munro, Sammy Tunis as Ada Lovelace, Edwin Lee Gibson as the General, Anne Gottlieb as Lady Byron, Aaron Schroeder as the Sergeant, and Chelsey Donn as Vincent. The ensemble of soldiers, musicians, and scientists will be played by Eric Farber, Ben Simon, Lorenzo Wolff, and A.R.T. Institute actors Milia Ayache, Matthew Christian, Liza Dickinson, Teri Gamble, Rose Hogan, Carl James, Michael Kane, and Lindsey Liberatore. The production design is by Emily Orling, Set and Costume Design by David Israel Reynoso, Lighting Design by Austin R. Smith, Sound Design by Matt Tierney, Choreography by Annie-B Parson, and Music Direction by Debra Barsha.

About the principal cast members and Creative Team:

César Alvarez is a New York-based composer, lyricist, performer, writer and saxophonist, founding member of The Lisps. He is also the co-founder and resident composer of LA-based dance company Contra-Tiempo. His recent composition credits include Damned Beautiful for Helix Dance (Edinburgh...
Winter's workshops of Corina Copp's and Friends; City; York credits include FUTURITY Sammy Tunis Warsaw. Webseries: International: (Writer/Performer), Ars Nova; (Joseph Zito), Judson Church; FUTURITY New Victory Theatre; Aaron Schroeder Center at Brandeis and resides in Boston and New York. Hillesum. collaboration Productions. She co-Theat Goat Claire De Lune Vibrator Play Anne Gottlieb States. the canon of August Wilson as a means for revisiting the American African experience in the United and "Acting." Edwin recently completely an academic work, titled Freedom Initiative for the Arts Commission in 2009. Edwin is also a frequent guest lecturer/artist on "Theatre & Race" and peace. The as a means for revisiting the American African experience in the United States.

Anne Gottlieb was recently seen in My Name is Asher Lev at Lyric Stage, In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play (Elliot Norton Award 2011) at SpeakEasy Stage Company, Frankie and Johnny in the Claire De Lune (Elliot Norton Award 2011 and IRNE Award 2011) at New Repertory Theatre, and The Goat at Gloucester Stage). Other productions include Betrayal, Crave, Not Enough Air, {Nora Theatre Company}, and The Women at SpeakEasy Stage. Anne is the founder of FortyMagnolias Productions. She co-created and co-produced the world premiere of The Wrestling Patient in collaboration with SpeakEasy Stage and Boston Playwright’s Theatre and played the role of Etty Hillesum. Anne is a Resident Scholar in Collaborative Theatre at the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis and resides in Boston and New York.

Aaron Schroeder's off-Broadway credits include El Gato con Botas (directed by Moisès Kaufman), New Victory Theatre; Dance Dance Revolution (Directed by Alex Timbers), The Ohio Theatre; FUTURITY workshops (with Michael Cerveris), HERE Arts Center, Ars Nova, and Joe’s Pub; From the Fire (Joseph Zito), Judson Church; Spellbound (Greeme), Ellen Stewart Theatre; Box Theory (Writer/Performer), Ars Nova; The Secret of Our Souls (Bal Shem Tov), Minetta Lane Theatre. International: Waxing West (Elvis), Dramalabbat, Stockholm; Hafful of Rain (Polo), Teatre Studio, Warsaw. Webseries: Next Time on Lonny (Garrett).

Sammy Tunis is a founding member of The Lisps, and has helped develop and has performed in FUTURITY Workshops at Ars Nova, The Rudyard Ripling, HERE, Joe’s Pub, and The Zipper Factory. New York credits include Walking Down Broadway, The Mint Theater; People Like You, Theater for the New City; 1984. Godlight Theater; School for Salomés, Collapsible Hole; A Nasty Story, Fine Feathered Friends; Please Let Me Love You, Dixon Place; The Ninja Cherry Orchard, The Brick Theater; Kuutnu and Waltz, Bring a Weasel and a Pint of Your Own Blood Festival. Tunis has recently been in workshops of Corina Copp's Tell No One, Kristen Kosmas' There There, Scott Adkins' Kioskers and Gary Winter's Daredevil.
Playwright Molly Rice’s credits include The Saints Tour, at Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; Canary, a Musical (with Ray Rizzo & Rachel Chavkin), developed by Rattlestick, Playwrights Horizons and NYTW; Safeword, commissioned and produced by NYU Tisch Graduate Acting; Don’t Stop, Weston Award for Playwriting; Line, Women’s International Playwriting Festival winner; The Mercury Sloop, a Musical (finalist, Princess Grace Award). Upcoming: The Agee/ Walker Project (with dir. Rachel Chavkin and composer Stephanie Johnstone), dev. by Montclair University New Works Initiative.

Sarah Benson directed the A.R.T.’s production of Ajax last season. She has been the Artistic Director of Soho Rep since 2007, where her credits include David Adjmi’s Elective Affinities, (site-specific); Gregory Moss’ Orange, Hat & Grace; Sarah Kane’s Blasted, for which Benson received a Drama Desk nomination and OBIE award. Other credits include Polly Stenham’s That Face (Manhattan Theatre Club) and Gregory Moss’ House of Gold (Woolly Mammoth in Washington, DC). She has also worked on new plays at the O’Neill Playwrights Conference, New York Stage & Film, and New Dramatists. Upcoming: World premiere of Richard Maxwell’s Samara. At Soho Rep, Benson has commissioned and produced work by artists including David Adjmi, Annie Baker, Dan LeFranc, Thomas Bradshaw, Cynthia Hopkins, Jomama Jones, Young Jean Lee, John Jesurun, Nature Theatre of Oklahoma and Anne Washburn. This work has been recognized with six OBIE awards, three Drama Desk nominations, and The New York Times Outstanding Playwriting Award. Benson moved to New York from London on a Fulbright for Theatre Direction. She is editing the upcoming anthology: The Methuen Drama Book of New American Plays (summer 2012).

Annie-B Parson is co-artistic director of the OBIE and Bessie award winning company Big Dance Theater; their most recent work, Supernatural Wife, was commission by The Walker Art Center, The Anticodes Festival in France, and was seen at BAM and Le Theatre National Chaillot in Paris. Parson is currently choreographing David Byrne’s Here Lies Love, Public Theater. Other recent work: Sarah Ruhl’s Orlando, CSC; The Broken Heart, TFNA; Nico Muhly’s opera Dark Sisters, David Byrne’s world tour. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007 and a Lucille Lortel nomination in 2011.

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is one of the country’s most celebrated theaters and the winner of numerous awards, including the Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize and Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. In May of 2003 it was named one of the top three regional theaters in the country by Time magazine. The A.R.T. was founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. In 2008, Diane Paulus became the A.R.T.’s Artistic Director. During its 31-year history, the A.R.T. has welcomed many major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes premieres of American plays, bold reinterpretations of classical texts and provocative new music theater productions. The A.R.T. has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide in 21 cities in 16 countries on four continents. Since becoming Artistic Director, Diane Paulus has programmed innovative work that has enhanced the A.R.T.’s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater. Productions such as Sleep No More, The Donkey Show, Gatz, Porgy and Bess, Prometheus Bound and Death and the Powers: The Robots’ Opera have immersed audiences in original theatrical experiences. The A.R.T.’s club theater, OBERON, which Paulus calls a “second stage for the 21st century,” has become an incubator for local artists and has also attracted national attention for its groundbreaking model for programming. Through all of its work, the A.R.T. is committed to building a community of artists, technicians, educators, staff and audience, all of who are integral to the A.R.T.’s mission.

The balance of the A.R.T.’s 2011-12 Season WOODY SEZ, with words and music by Woody Guthrie, devised by David M. Lutken with Nick Corley (Loeb Drama Center • May 5 – May 26).

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating or first-floor restrooms. Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons can also reach the theater by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit americanrepertorytheater.org
WHAT:
FUTURITY; A MUSICAL BY THE LISPS

Music by César Alvarez with The Lisps
Lyrics by César Alvarez
Book by Molly Rice and César Alvarez
Directed by Sarah Benson
Production Design Emily Orling
Set and Costume Design David Israel Reynoso
Sound Design Matt Tierney
Lighting Design Austin Smith
Choreographer Annie-B Parson
Musical Supervisor César Alvarez
Musical Director Debra Barsha
Stage Manager Katie Ailinger
Additional Casting Jack Doulin

CAST
JULIAN MUNRO César Alvarez *
ADA LOVELACE Sammy Tunis*
THE GENERAL Edwin Lee Gibson*
LADY BYRON Anne Gottlieb*
THE SERGEANT Aaron Schroeder*
VINCENT Chelsey Donn*
SOLDIERS/MUSICIANS Eric Farber*, Ben Simon*, Lorenzo Wolff*
ENSEMBLE Milia Ayache, Matthew Christian, Liza Dickinson, Teri Gamble, Rose Hogan Carl James, Michael Kane, Lindsey Liberatore

(*) Members of Actors Equity Association

WHEN:
Fr Mar 16 7:30pm
Sa Mar 17 7:30pm
Su Mar 18 7:30pm
Tu Mar 20 7:30pm
We Mar 21 7:00pm PRESS OPENING
Th Mar 22 7:30pm
Fr Mar 23 7:30pm
Su Mar 24 2:00pm & 7:30PM
Mo Mar 25 7:30pm
Tu Mar 26 7:30pm
We Mar 27 7:30pm
Th Mar 28 7:30pm
Fr Mar 29 7:30pm
Su Apr 1 7:30pm
WHERE: OBERON, 2 Arrow Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA

RATING: Recommended for 10 and older.

TICKETS: begin at $25. Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa, or Master Card. Group rates are available
Box Office Phone and A.R.T. InfoLine: (617) 547-8300, tickets also available online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org

MEDIA INFORMATION: Press opening invitations will be sent under separate e-mail.
Email Address: press@amrep.org

Production photos of FUTURITY will be available from 3/17 at