



American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER
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OBERON
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americanrepertorytheater.org

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American Repertory Theater Announces October 2018/November 2018 OBERON Programming

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater at Harvard University (A.R.T.) announces October and November 2018 programming at **OBERON**, its club-style theater space for cutting-edge performance and thriving incubator for local and emerging artists. Upcoming events include A.R.T.'s **Live @ OBERON** and **Afterglow @ OBERON** series, as well as independently-produced events.

OBERON is located at 2 Arrow Street at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue in Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Tickets are available online at americanrepertorytheater.org, by phone at 617.547.8300, in person at the Loeb Drama Center Ticket Services Offices (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge), and 30 minutes before curtain at OBERON. Prices vary per event. A.R.T. subscribers and members receive discounts to **Live @ OBERON**, **Breakout**, **Afterglow @ OBERON** productions, as well as *The Donkey Show*.

I PUT A SPELL ON YOU: A HOCUS POCUS BURLESQUE

Thursday, October 4 at 8PM

SOLD OUT

It's just a little bit of **Hocus Pocus**! Look out Cambridge, someone lit the black flame candle and the **Sanderson sisters** are back and they've got a little extra shimmy in their step. Your favorite characters take to the stage in burlesque, comedy, live music, and more. Come little children, we'll take you away, it's time to pay tribute to *Hocus Pocus*!

YO SOY LOLA: THE LATINA NARRATIVE – RECLAIMED

Friday, October 5 at 8PM

Tickets \$25 – \$50

The highly celebrated **Yo Soy LOLA** brings you another thought-provoking multimedia experience showcasing Latinas in the arts via spoken word, acting, dance, music, film, and more. Come be part of the **Yo Soy LOLA** world that transforms around you, and then stay for the Latin dancing that continues into the night after the show.

As if you needed another reason to attend, net proceeds fund scholarships for Latinx youth pursuing higher education in the arts with goals that directly impact their communities. **Yo Soy LOLA**'s mission is to raise awareness of the multi-dimensional Latina experience and to build a platform that unites Latinas to tell our stories, change our narrative, and give back to our communities.

SAMORA PINDERHUGHES' THE TRANSFORMATIONS SUITE

Live @ OBERON

Saturday, October 6 at 7PM

Sunday, October 7 at 8PM

Tickets from \$25

Jazz, theater, film, and poetry combine to examine the radical history of resistance within the communities of the African diaspora in **Samora Pinderhughes' *The Transformations Suite***. Named one of *DownBeat* magazine's Top 10 Albums of 2017, ***The Transformations Suite*** paints a musical picture of the current state of social inequality and injustice in the United States and beyond, continuing in the tradition of artists such as Bob Marley, Duke Ellington, Marvin Gaye, Billie Holliday, and Tupac Shakur.

Moving through five sections—Transformation, History, Cycles, Momentum (parts 1 and 2), and Ascension—the suite connects contemporary issues such as the prison industrial complex and the Black Lives Matter movement with the history of revolutionary movements of color as it builds a bridge between the past and the future. Lyrics are drawn from original poems by actor and poet Jeremie Harris, Saul Williams, Tupac Shakur, and Pinderhughes himself.

DownBeat calls the piece, "Powerful...If Pinderhughes succeeds in one thing, it is creating a work of art that matches the intensity of these troubled times than any Twitter hashtag or Facebook debate ever could."

The Transformations Suite will be performed by **Samora Pinderhughes** on piano, **Godwin Louis** on alto saxophone, **Avery Logan** on drums, **Jonathan Michel** on bass, and **Dayna Stephens** on tenor saxophone, and by poet **Mahogany L. Browne**.

CHURCH OF SLUT

Wednesday, October 10 at 7:30PM

Tickets \$20

Welcome to **Church of Slut**. Divined by **Sugar Dish** and the **Lipstick Criminals** (*The Slutcracker*, *Fifty Shades of Bey*, *Rain Dogs*), *Church of Slut* is a show, a party, a congregation, and a righteous grab at some good old-fashioned American civil rights protections, courtesy of the First Amendment. All walks of human life (aged 18 and older) are welcome. The Church of Slut worships no god. The Church of Slut believes in YOU. Witness a service of provocative, cock-block-ative dance, burlesque, and spoken word performances. Give and receive offerings at our sparkle altar. Cruise the Lipstick Criminal Library. Treat yourself at our blessed merch table. Register to vote.

We are ecstatic to welcome as our guest, comedian **Nonye Brown-West**. Give praise! Also featuring work by **Lipstick Criminals: Sugar Dish, Abby Normal, Jolie LaVie, Jane Doe, Honey Pie, Legs Hershey, Belle Gunz, Miss Ginger Love, and Pinky Mink.** lipstickcriminals.com.

Follow @lipstickcriminals and @churchofslut on Instagram for behind the scenes photos and videos leading up to the show.

RSVP to the [Church of Slut Facebook event](#) for updates.

TORI SCOTT IS #THIRSTY

Afterglow @ OBERON

Thursday, October 11 at 8PM

Tickets \$25

Tori Scott is #Thirsty is a shameless musical journey of slurred autobiographical stories (and songs written by other people). Join this “soul-baring singer and sharp comedian” (*Huffington Post*) direct from sold-out performances at The Public Theater in New York and London’s Live at Zedel as she celebrates poor life choices and an unconditional love of vodka to the music of Aretha Franklin, Judy Garland, Miley Cyrus and more. Hailed as “the Bette Midler of the New Millennium” by *Provincetown Magazine*, *Broadway World* describes Scott as “the sound of someone who’s not afraid to show you just how human she is, while her super-human pipes blow you away.” The vocals are legit, the thirst is real, and the stories are, tragically, all true.

MORTIFIED

Usual Suspect

Friday, October 12 at 7PM

Saturday, October 13 at 7PM

Tickets from \$15

Hailed as a “cultural phenomenon” by *Newsweek* and celebrated for years by the likes of *This American Life*, *The Today Show*, *The A.V. Club*, and *Entertainment Weekly*, **Mortified** is a comic excavation of teen angst artifacts (journals, poems, letters, lyrics, home movies, schoolwork) as shared by their original authors – in front of total strangers.

CIRQUE OF THE DEAD

Friday, October 19 at 7PM and 10:30PM

Saturday, October 20 at 6:30PM

Thursday, October 25 at 7:30PM

Friday, October 26 at 7PM and 10:30PM

Saturday, October 27 at 6:30PM

Wednesday, October 31 at 7PM and 10:30PM

Tickets \$30 – 50

This year, we turn the page on a new chapter and invite you to a grim Choose Your Own Adventure—zombies, vampires, haunted delights and other magical creatures will fill the evening with never-before-seen aerial acts, acrobatics, and more. This seductive adults-only Halloween horror spectacular is not for the faint of heart, but is filled with as much humor as it is with gore. *This show is 18+ only, due to graphic / disturbing content.*

DANSE MACABRE: A WALKING DEAD BURLESQUE

Wednesday, October 21 at 8PM

Tickets from \$15

We are all Negan! Come see Rick, Daryl, Michonne, and the rest of the survivors as Negan puts them through a gauntlet of trials at his complex in OBERON. Burlesque, aerials, gore, and of course, walkers! Missing this show? You have no idea how not cool that sh!t would be.

BOSTON PERCUSSIVE ARTS FESTIVAL: TRIO MOKILI FEAT. MAKAYA MCCRAVEN

Wednesday, October 24 at 8PM

Tickets from \$15

Trio Mokili play roots and jazz-inflected renditions of music from across the African continent: Ethiojazz, Nigerian Afrobeat, Zimbabwean mbira music, Ghanaian Palm Wine, Malian desert blues, and more. Guitarist **Nathaniel Braddock** is considered a North American authority on African guitar styles, leading the internationally-touring ensemble's Occidental Brothers Dance Band Int'l and Air Congo and also collaborating extensively with musicians from Mali, Ghana, Zambia, and Congo, Chicago, Boston, and beyond. Braddock is joined on drums by Amherst, MA alum, **Makaya McCraven** who is currently making huge waves in the drum world for his extraordinary creative talent on the drum set and more. His 2015 solo debut album *In The Moment* placed in many jazz critics top ten lists, and his current album *Universal Beings* is also being heralded as another ground breaking instant classic. Upright bassist **Junius Paul**, featured extensively on McCraven's records, brings deep groove and dazzling improvisational intuition to make **Trio Mokili's** music rootsy and a riveting live experience. The group is working on their debut album, a mix of live and studio recording capturing the energy of their live improvisations and the sounds of the African golden age. This will be the band's Boston debut.

The **Boston Percussive Arts Festival** brings rhythm to our city. A range of ticketed and free events including concert performances, educational seminars for all skill levels, documentary screenings,

paneled percussion discussions, musician clinics, drum circles, percussion parade, instrument making workshops, music production, electronic beat-making workshops, drum art exhibit, and more. More info about the Boston Percussive Arts Festival please visit percussiveartsfestival.com or peopleofrhythm.com.

THE MOTH

Usual Suspect

Tuesday, October 23 at 8PM (tickets available October 16 at 3PM)

Tuesday, November 20 at 8PM (tickets available November 13 at 3PM)

Tickets \$10

The Moth StorySLAMs are steadily spreading all over the map, gathering people and stories from all over the country. New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Boston have multiple shows each month. **The Moth** is open to anyone with a five-minute story to share on the night's posted theme. The brave of heart or those with stories they're aching to tell prepare personal, true tales. When the doors open, storyteller hopefuls put their names in The Moth Hat. A half-hour later, names are picked, and one by one, storytellers take the stage. Each person has just five minutes! The ten featured stories are scored by teams of judges selected from the audience. Each StorySLAM generates a StorySLAM winner. After ten SLAMs, the winners face off in our GrandSLAM Championships. Come sign up to tell a story, or just enjoy the show!

OCTOBER 23 theme is **Disguises**: Prepare a five-minute story about your undercover self, about obscuring the real you—with a fake mustache, a nurse's uniform, a cloak, a girdle or a giant hotdog costume. Mental disguises, like the Ph.D. you earned to appease your mother; or the "sensitive guy" persona you put on to get with the ladies. Undercover cops and chameleons. Pranks and mistaken identities. Wolves gussied up like lambs and lambs tarding-it-up to pass as mutton. The Trojan Horse, The Mighty Oz, and now you!

NOVEMBER 20 theme is **Beginnings**: Prepare a five-minute story about a beginning. Dawn, step one, day one, birth, or re-birth. Initiations and inaugurations. Tabula rasa. A new leaf, a new loft, a puppy, a job, parole. New car smell. A makeover so magical your own mama don't know you! Quantum hops, burning and building bridges, cleaning house, pulling up roots, or a fresh coat of paint. Your nouveau reach. A blank sheet of paper...

THE HAUNT: A VILLAINOUS CABARET

Sunday, October 28 at 7PM

Tickets from \$20

Why should heroes have all the fun? Join **Petrichor** for our first Halloween musical theater cabaret and costume dance party as we re-tell Rapunzel's story and highlight history's most iconic villains. With music from *Sweeny Todd*, *Once on This Island*, *Tangled*, *Chicago*, *The Wild Party* and much more, this is a party you won't want to miss!

THE STORY COLLIDER

Tuesday, October 30 at 8PM

Tickets from \$12

From finding awe in Hubble images to visiting the doctor, science is everywhere in our lives. Whether we wear a white lab coat or haven't seen a test tube since eighth grade, science affects and changes us. We all have a story about science and at ***The Story Collider*** we want to hear those stories.

ROCK HOUSE COMEDY

Thursday, November 1 at 8PM

Tickets from \$10

Get ready to rock and laugh! **Rock House Comedy** is bringing you one of Boston's hottest bands and the city's most hilarious comedians for a fun-filled night of music and comedy.

BILLY DEAN THOMAS

Live @ **OBERON**

Friday, November 2 at 10PM

Tickets from \$15

Also known as "The Queer B.I.G.", **Billy Dean Thomas** is a musician who challenges the hip hop game with lyrics that align with #BlackLivesMatter and intersectional feminism. Their musical career began at age eight, playing congas and participating in an advanced poetry/performance program where they were mentored by Pharoahe Monch, Rosie Perez, and DMC. They were booked twice as a spoken word artist for *The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway*, performed as a part of the *We Wanted A Revolution* exhibit at The Brooklyn Museum, and were selected as the 2017 Resident Artist at Boston's The Theatre Offensive. Thomas has also just completed their debut album titled *Rocky Barboa*, which was recorded in Berlin, Paris, and New York City.

BELIEVE IT OR NAUGHTY: A BURLESQUE OF LORE AND LEDGEND

Thursday, November 8 and Sunday, November 11 at 8PM

Tickets from \$20

Rogue Burlesque re-imagines your favorite cryptids, monsters and mythical beings in this epic striptease show. We all know seeing is believing, but our cyclops will have you believing in love at first sight. Witness the alluring Sirens, the Charles River Mermaid, and the Loch Ness Monster emerge from the watery depths. The undead will be boogying the night away under a disco ball lit by dragon's breath. And special guest Devilicia will get to the bottom of these rumors about the lizard people that live in the Denver Airport....

BILLY WYLDER: STRIKE THE MATCH

Friday, November 9 at 8:30PM

Tickets from \$15

From the front-lines at Standing Rock to the archaic streets of Jerusalem, the Sahel Desert to Carnegie Hall, music has been the source of strength for **Billy Wylder**. The band features **Avi Salloway** (Bombino/Hey Mama/Avi & Celia) joined by an inspired cast of singular artists who have performed across five continents including concerts at Coachella, Newport Folk Festival, New Orleans Jazz Fest, Montreal Jazz Fest, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center. From 2013 through 2016, Salloway toured the globe with Bombino, the Tuareg guitar hero from Niger, Africa. While on the journey and since returning, Salloway wrote the material released on the band's new album, *Strike the Match* (Sand & Gold Records). The music weaves together American folk and rock with sensibilities from the Sahara Desert: think Andrew Bird meets Ali Farka Toure, Pete Seeger, and Talking Heads.

RESISTANCE MIC!: ARTISTS PERFORMING TRUTH TO POWER

Tuesday, November 13 at 8PM

Tickets \$10

The 2016 election inspired a broad-based Resistance not seen in the United States in decades. People from all walks of life have been protesting, marching, mobilizing, and organizing in an effort to take back the country and create a more compassionate and just world. Artists are vital to this work. **American Repertory Theater**, in collaboration with the literary magazine **Pangyrus**, begins the second season of **Resistance Mic!**, a series of intimate, curated evenings where a diverse collective of artists take the stage to perform truth to power in these troubled times. Launched on November 9, 2017—the one-year anniversary of the day after the 2016 election—**Resistance Mic!** is part of the **A.R.T. of Human Rights** series, an ongoing collaboration between the American Repertory Theater and Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. Featuring performances by performers to be announced and hosted by **Timothy Patrick McCarthy**.

TAJA LINDLEY: THE BAG LADY MAINFESTA

Afterglow @ OBERON

Thursday, November 15 at 8PM

Tickets \$25

Performed by **Taja Lindley** and directed by **Tanisha Christie**, *The Bag Lady Manifesta* features an immersive installation of memory followed by a participatory performance ritual where audiences are invited to (re)consider what to let go of, and what to remember—individually and collectively. Through dynamic movement, burlesque, text, soundscapes, ritual, and projection Lindley adorns and activates her Black, queer, female body with trash bags to traverse the dumping grounds and shadow side(s) of herself, the audience, and the United States.

THE BIG 6 BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, November 18 at 7PM

Tickets from \$10

The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's benefit will raise funds for local charities in the Boston area. The concert will feature covers of classic and contemporary rock songs played by **The Big 6**, a Harvard supergroup formed by Emergency Physicians from Brigham and Women's Hospital and staff from the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. **The Big 6** is comprised of **Michael VanRooyen**, Director of HHI and Chair of Emergency Medicine at BWH; **Tim Erickson** and **Valerie Dobiesz**, Faculty at HHI, BWH, & HMS; and **Sam Plasmati**, **Isaac Baker**, and **Katie Farineau** of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

THE DONKEY SHOW

The Long-Running Hit

Presented by A.R.T.

Every Saturday night

Tickets from \$25

Tony Award-winner **Diane Paulus'** celebrated smash hit begins its tenth season at OBERON every Saturday night, bringing you the ultimate disco experience—a crazy circus of mirror balls and feathered divas, of roller skaters and hustle queens inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The party rages on the dance floor to all the best '70s hits as the show unfolds around the audience. After the show, the party continues into the night so you can live out your own disco fever fantasy!

OBERON is the American Repertory Theater's club theater space for cutting-edge performance, a thriving incubator for local and emerging artists pushing the theatrical form, and host to some of A.R.T.'s most boundary-breaking productions. It has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models. Thousands of artists and performance groups bring work to the space each year.

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 world-class performances in which the audience is central to the theatrical experience.

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.

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