



## American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER  
64 brattle street,  
cambridge, ma 02138

OBERON  
2 arrow street  
cambridge, ma 02138

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

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### American Repertory Theater Announces August / September 2019 OBERON Programming Including Final 12 Performances of *The Donkey Show*

**Cambridge, MA**—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University announces August and September 2019 programming at **OBERON**, its club-style theater space for cutting-edge performance and a thriving incubator for local and emerging artists.

Upcoming events include summer send-off performances of *The Donkey Show* as A.R.T. counts down to its final public performance on September 7, **Live @ OBERON**, A.R.T productions, and 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](http://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 **A.R.T. Breakout, Live @ OBERON, and Afterglow @ OBERON** series productions, as well as the final performances of the decade-long run of *The Donkey Show*.

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#### **PSYCH!: HEALING AND SURVIVING**

Thursday, August 1 at 7:30PM  
Tickets from \$20

**Psych!** returns to OBERON for the second year in a row to present mental health. This show has poetry, storytelling, burlesque and every performer has lived their diagnosis. Come join us on this journey through healing and learn what it's like to have Psych!

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#### **GAY BASH'D FEATURING DRAGULA SEASON 3 STARS**

Friday, August 2 at 10 PM  
Tickets from \$15

A queer celebration of alternative drag, techno, and self-expression! Recent staple in Boston nightlife, **Gay Bash'd** (@gaybashdboston) joins forces with OBERON to celebrate one full year since the birth of

the party back in August 2018! With eight performers and four DJs, this tenth edition of the party will be the largest Gay Bash'd to date!

Stage spectacular starring: **SAINT LUCIA** (Dragula Season 3), **VIOLENCIA!** (Dragula Season 3), **XELDA XANADU** (New York City), **KURT FOWL** (Providence), **MICK BETH – Live** (Boston), **STATIC** (Boston, Gay Bash'd Girl), **BINX** (Boston, Gay Bash'd Girl), and **ATLAS** (Boston, Gay Bash'd Girl).

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### **BEACH BASH – FUELED BY MONSTER**

Sunday, August 4 at 10:30PM

Tickets from \$20

**Slacker University** and **SZND Media** present *Beach Bash – Fueled By Monster Energy*. We are bringing the beach to the club on August 4 and you won't want to miss it. With Boston's best DJ's, incredible light shows, and immersive video, this will be by far the best 18+ event of the summer. Monster Energy will be providing free Monster Energy drinks all night—with additional merch giveaways throughout the event. Make sure to follow @slackeruniversity on Instagram to stay updated on Monster Energy giveaways.

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### **TENDER MATCH POETRY SLAM**

Thursday, August 8 at 7:30PM

Tickets from \$10

Boston's summer of slam makes a stop at OBERON with the city's first-ever *Tender Match*, a poetry love-in framed as a night of top-shelf poetry slam. A New York team captained by **Mason Granger** and a Boston crew helmed by **Simone Beaubien** will face off in a heads-up competition, featuring brand new work from **Taylor Steele**, **Nkosi Nkululeko**, **Tyler Larsen**, **Nia Calloway**, **Arianna Monet**, **Zeke Russell**, **Terah Ehigiator**, and more! A cast of all-star judges and local musical talent round out the bill, including an opening set from local top-notch comic **Wes Hazard**.

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### **LEATHER & LACE**

Sunday, August 11 and Thursday, August 15 at 8PM

Tickets from \$25

Wouldn't you love to love her? We certainly would! **Sparkletown Productions** and **Niki Luparelli** are joining forces to create a live-music burlesque tribute to the White Witch herself, Stevie Nicks. Join some of Boston's best and brightest burlesque stars as they twirl through OBERON to an incredible live band lead by Boston's very own gold dust woman, Niki Luparelli. For two nights only, *Leather & Lace* will have you seeing crystal visions of a variety of dazzling dancers and singing and swaying to your favorite Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac tunes, expertly performed by the band. Sip cocktails and mocktails named in honor of our white-winged dove, as you lose yourself in a landslide of memories and nostalgia.

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## THE MOTH STORYSLAMS

Tuesday, August 13 at 8PM

Tuesday, August 27 at 8PM

Tickets \$15

**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!

The theme for August 13 is **camp**. Prepare a five-minute story about camp; the summer destination where you found friends, first loves, and maybe a bees nest or two. Roughing it out in the woods or pitching tents in your backyard. Whether it's the territory or community, you'll defend to the death, or the unbridled joy of kitsch and pomp, we want to hear what camp, or your camp, means to you.

The theme for August 27 is **paper**. Prepare a five-minute story about paper. Newsprint, to do lists, photo albums, pink slips. The concert tickets you spent your last dime on or the lease for your dream apartment. Bounced checks, love letters, divorce documents. Getting it in writing or signing your life away. The pen may be mightier than the sword...but not without something to write on.

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## MORTIFIED

Friday, August 16 at 7:30PM

Tickets \$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.

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## CHURCH OF SLUT – SWEATPANTS AND MIDDLE FINGERS

Sunday, August 16 at 8PM

Tickets from \$20

Welcome to **Church of Slut**, intelligently designed to give you life. On August 18 we deliver the service of zero f\*cks: **SWEATPANTS AND MIDDLE FINGERS**— a night of expertly executed hairflips, irreverence, and doing whatever the f\*ck we want. Witness sermons of provocative dance, burlesque, comedy, and poetry. Genuflect at our sparkle altar. Get lit at the Lipstick Criminal Library. Treat yourself to our blessed merch. Find rapture in a specialty cocktail or mocktail.

Divined by **Sugar Dish** and **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.

Guests include: Returning with his \*free legal clinic\* (pre-show 7:30-8pm & during intermissions), Attorney **CHRISTOPHER DIORIO**, award-winning poet **ISABELLA J. MANSFIELD**, and “Brooklyn’s greatest burlesque star” **NASTY CANASTA!** Featuring solo and ensemble performances by **LIPSTICK CRIMINALS**. Hosted by **SUGAR DISH**. See you in church.

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### **COOTIE CATCHER**

Thursday, August 22 at 8PM

Tickets from \$15

“This will undoubtedly be the most candid talk about STDs you’ll ever sit through, and probably the funniest.” – *Orlando Weekly*

In this hilarious (and borderline-terrifying) story series, **Lucas Brooks** (also known as **The Intellectual Homosexual**) looks back on his many close encounters of the sexually transmissible kind. Guided by his trusty cootiecatcher (fortune teller, chatterbox, whatever you want to call it) and some sweet, sweet dance moves, he recalls his days of bouncing around New York City’s sexual landscape, dodging cooties like a very sexy game of Pong. Through his naked (yet carefully wrapped) adventures, he struggles with his ability to remain sex-positive in the face of a slut-shaming and STI-phobic society.

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### **BLOODY MARY: LIVE!**

Thursday, August 29 at 7:30PM

Tickets from \$15

Queen Mary I, aka **BLOODY MARY**, is back in action and she has a bone to pick with history. Join the original teenage drama queen as she tries her hand at stand-up comedy, talking about everything from boys to burnings at the stake. You know, just normal teenage things.

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### **OLD SCHOOL GAME SHOW**

Friday, September 6 at 8PM

Tickets from \$20

**Old School Game Show** never holds back. With trivia, live music, sketch comedy, and even more, you’ll feel like you’re in the audience of your favorite retro variety show. **Old School Game Show** is an interactive trivia experience like no other. Audience participants can get the chance to play our original pop culture games, competing to win fabulous prizes from local sponsors. Or we invite you to sit back and enjoy the spectacle of live music, special guests, dancers, and sketch comedy. It’s all the fun of an afternoon spent rolling around in the rumpus room — without the rug burn. *Please note that all game play takes place on OBERON’s stage, which is 30 inches high and only accessible via a set of stairs.*

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## **DRAGGED ACROSS NEW ENGLAND**

Friday, August 30 at 9PM

Tickets \$20

Take a tour of the New England drag scene as performers from across all six states come together under one roof to give you a fabulous show. Presented by **Robin from HR** and **Ophelia Johnson**.

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## **BLACK LIGHT**

A.R.T. Subscription Season

Thursday, September 19 – Sunday, September 29 at various times

Ticket from \$25

“★★★★! Jomama invites us to see her, to witness her, and to go from Black Light back out into daylight with our senses somehow both sharpened and softened: more able to hear others, more able to see ourselves.” - *Vulture*

**Daniel Alexander Jones** performs as the iconic **Jomama Jones** in a spiritual revival for turbulent times. This intimate journey through the darkness of personal and political upheaval and the shards of shattered illusions is illuminated by spontaneous humor and what *The New Yorker* calls Jones’ “very particular radiance.” With all original music, drawing influence from Prince, Sade, Diana Ross, and Tina Turner, *Black Light* is marked significantly by the Black American Freedom movement, Afromysticism, goddess mythology, and divination. This immersive performance piece removes the barrier between artist and audience through inquiry, story, and song.

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## **THE DONKEY SHOW**

The Long-Running Hit

Presented by A.R.T.

Every Saturday Night – FINAL MONTH, must close September 7

Tickets from \$25

Tony Award-winner **Diane Paulus**’ celebrated smash hit continues at OBERON with the final performances of its decade-long run every Saturday night through September 7 only. It’s 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. Visit the disco dance floor and share their #DiscoMemories from throughout the run on social media.

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**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 (A.R.T.)** at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking, artistic inquiry, and passionate inquiry. 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 programming 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. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, 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. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

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.

**@americanrep**

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