

September 28, 2007

American Repertory Theatre
in association with the Loeb Drama Center
presents the world premiere stage production of

DONNIE DARKO

based on the screenplay by Richard Kelly; adapted and directed by Marcus Stern

October 27 — November 18

Zero Arrow Theatre

Cambridge, MA – The American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) continues its 2007-2008 subscription season with the world premiere stage adaptation of Richard Kelly's 2001 cult-hit film **Donnie Darko**, adapted and directed by A.R.T. Associate Director Marcus Stern. Performances will take place at the A.R.T.'s Zero Arrow Theatre, corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square in Cambridge from Saturday, October 27 through Sunday, November 18.

Donnie Darko will be appropriately available for press viewing on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31st at 7:30pm.

Late one evening during the presidential election of 1988, a giant bunny rabbit named Frank lures the brilliant but troubled teen Donnie Darko out of his suburban home to give him a message: the world will end in 28 days, 6 hours, 42 minutes, and 12 seconds. When Donnie returns home a wrecked jet engine lies smoldering in what remains of his bedroom. Thus begins Donnie's race against time to find the reasons behind the mysterious occurrences surrounding him and his loved ones. As the countdown continues, Frank keeps appearing to Donnie, issuing instructions that provoke him to wreck havoc around his school and town. Meanwhile, Donnie begins to see strange, liquid worms protruding out of himself and people around him. Through the help of Frank, his high school science teacher Dr. Monnitoff, his high school English teacher, his psychiatrist, and a book titled *The Philosophy of Time Travel* written decades ago by a local centenarian known around town as Grandma Death, Donnie eventually realizes that these serpentine wormholes may allow for the possibility of time travel. Bit by bit, he pieces together clues and signs that help him understand how he could use the wormholes to save the world from impending doom and destruction. This new adaptation of **Donnie Darko** is a mind-bending work of science fiction with a rollercoaster plot that leaps from metaphysics to time travel.

Adaptor and director Marcus Stern happened to see the film at a time he was looking for a theatre script to work on with the A.R.T. Institute's second-year acting students, and was immediately drawn into the story. He contacted Richard Kelly, who generously allowed him

to create a stage version of the film he had written and directed. For Stern, “*Donnie Darko* is a wonderful combination of mystery, humor, romance, surreal adventure, and spirituality. Everyone is struggling in that world, and the guy who’s struggling the most is the guy who in the end will save them all by making the ultimate sacrifice. In the first production I think we were able to get a good sense of the humor, the romance, the struggling individuals, and the feeling of translating a fast paced film into a fast paced filmic stage event. In this latest incarnation we’re hoping to continue expanding on these same elements, as well as add a clearer telling of the time travel part of the story. Even more than the time travel, I’d like to see if we can more clearly tell the story of a boy who is lost in part because he has been chosen to be the special one, and how Donnie ultimately comes to the realization that his destiny is an act of seemingly incomprehensible self-sacrifice.”

The cast includes A.R.T. company members *Remo Airdi* as Principal Cole, *Thomas Derrah* as Jim Cunningham, *Will LeBow* as Eddie Darko, and *Karen MacDonald* as Kitty Farmer. They are joined by *Dan McCabe* as Donnie, *Flora Diaz* as Gretchen Ross, *Paula Langton* as Rose Darko, *Carolyn McCandish* as Samantha Darko, and *Mara Sidmore* as Dr. Thurman. The cast also includes A.R.T. Institute actors *Angela Nahigian*, *Sarah Jorge Leon*, *Delance Minifee*, *Perry Jackson*, and *Thomas Kelly*. Set design is by *Matt McAdon*, costume design by *Clint Ramos*, lighting design by *Scott Zielinski*, and sound design by *David Remedios*.

Brief biographies of creative staff and principal actors:

Director *Marcus Stern* is Associate Director of the A.R.T. and the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training. At the A.R.T. he has directed **The Onion Cellar** with The Dresden Dolls, Suzan Lori Parks’ **The America Play**, Adrienne Kennedy’s **The Ohio State Murders**, Büchner’s **Woyzeck**, Sam Shepard’s **Buried Child**, Adam Rapp’s **Nocturne**; Christopher Durang’s **Marriage of Bette and Boo** (also at NYU and Harvard University) and at the A.R.T. Institute a stage adaptation of the film *Donnie Darko*. Other: Hang Ong’s **The Chang Fragments** and Martin Crimp’s **The Treatment**, The Joseph Papp Public Theater; Fellini’s **Juliet of the Spirits**, Theater Neumarkt, Zurich; Jose Rivera’s **Marisol**, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Humana Festival; Mac Wellman’s **Hyacinth Macaw**, Primary Stages, New York; **Instant Girl’s On the Run**, Dance Theater Workshop; Mac Wellman’s **The Land of Fog and Whistles**, Whitney Museum Biennial; Neena Beber’s **The Living Goddess**, The Magic Theater; and Erin Cressida Wilson’s **Cross Dressing in the Depression**, Soho Rep. His adaptations include Fellini’s **Juliet of the Spirits**, Zurich; **Phoebe’s Got Three Sisters**, Cucaracha Theater in New York; O’Neill’s **The Great God Brown**, N.Y.U. and Harvard

University. He has taught at the Yale School of Drama, New York University, and Columbia University, and currently teaches at Harvard University (acting, directing, and screenwriting), Harvard's Extension School, and A.R.T. Institute for Advanced Theatre Training.

Remo Airaldi has over fifty productions to his credit at the A.R.T., most recently **A Marvelous Party**, **Oliver Twist**, **The Onion Cellar**, **No Exit**, and **Island of Slaves**; he also appeared in **Camino Real** and **Eight by Tenn** at Hartford Stage, and other productions in the US and abroad.

Thomas Derrah has performed close to 100 roles at the A.R.T., including the title roles of **Uncle Vanya**, **Richard II**, **Highway Ulysses**, and **Woyzeck**. He played 23 roles in **Jackie: An American Life** in Boston and on Broadway, and played **Johan Padan and the Discovery of the Americas** at the A.R.T. and off-Broadway; toured with the Company across the US and throughout Europe, Canada, Israel, Taiwan, Japan, and Moscow.

Flora Diaz appeared in New York at the Cherry Lane Theatre, the SOHO Playhouse, Intar, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and SitiCompany, and regionally at the Actors theatre of Louisville, Baltimore Center Stage, Coconut Grove Playhouse, and the Court Theatre in Chicago. Her film and television credits include *Roger Dodger*, *Law and Order: CI*, and *Law and Order: SVU*.

Paula Langton is a member of Actors Shakespeare Project, where she played Hermione in **The Winter's Tale**, Isabella in **Measure for Measure**, and Regan in **King Lear**, among others. She has been seen in many local theatre companies, as well as Shakespeare & Company, Blackburn Theatre, The Company of Women, New York Theatre Workshop, LA Women's Shakespeare Co., and the Teatro Nacional of Lisbon, Portugal.

Will LeBow is nearing his fiftieth production with the A.R.T including **Oliver Twist**, **Three Sisters**, **No Exit**, **Dido**, **Queen of Carthage**, **The Miser**, **The Birthday Party**, **Uncle Vanya**, **Marat/Sade**, **The Doctor's Dilemma**, **Nocturne** (Drama Desk nomination), **Full Circle** (Elliot Norton Award), and **The Merchant of Venice**. He performs at numerous local theatres and with the Boston. He is the voice of Stanley in the Cable Ace Award-winning animated series *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist*.

Karen MacDonald is an A.R.T. founding member, with over sixty productions to her

credit including **Oliver Twist**, **A Marvelous Party**, **The Onion Cellar**, **No Exit** (Elliot Norton Award), **Olly's Prison** (Elliot Norton Award), **Dido, Queen of Carthage**, and **The Miser** (IRNE award). She directed **Dressed Up! Wiggled Out!** for Boston Playwrights Theatre, and has appeared in numerous resident theatres in the Boston area, New York, and nationwide.

Dan McCabe appeared in **Pen** at Playwrights Horizons, **Kimberly Akimbo** at Hartford Theatreworks, **Trust** at The Kirk Theatre, **The Dead Eye Boy** at Cincinnati Playhouse, and **Tea and Sympathy** at Keen Company, among others. Film credits include Mira Nair's *The Namesake*, Michael Corrente's *Nailed Right In*, and on television he was seen on Showtime's *Brighter Days*, BBC's *Stop for a Minute*, *Hope and Faith* on ABC, and *Law & Order* on NBC.

Mara Sidmore is a recent graduate of the A.R.T. Institute for Advanced Theatre Training, where she appeared in *Pants on Fire*, *Mayhem*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Bacchae*. . He credits include *The Winter's Tale* at Actor's Shakespeare Project, *Burn This* and *The Three Sisters* at Devanaughn Theatre, *Antony & Cleopatra* at Boston Theatre Works, *Butley* (Anne Butley u/s), at Huntington Theatre Company, *Macbeth* at Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, *Van Gogh in Japan* and *Smelling a Rat* at Nora Theatre Company.

Performances run Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday evenings at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00pm, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. For detailed schedule see page 4.

Single ticket prices range from \$39 - \$52 with student, senior, and group discounts available. For more information see the A.R.T. website at www.amrep.org. or call the box office at 617-547-8300.

The balance of the A.R.T.'s 2007-2008 Season includes **No Child...** written and performed by Nilaja Sun in association with the Loeb Drama Center (November 23 — December 23, Loeb Stage); **Copenhagen** by Michael Frayn, directed by Scott Zigler (January 3 — February 3, Loeb Stage); **Julius Caesar** by William Shakespeare, directed by Arthur Nauzyciel (February 9 — March 22, Loeb Stage); **Elections and Erections** written and performed by Pieter-Dirk Uys in association with the Loeb Drama Center (April 2 — May 4, Zero Arrow Theatre); and **Cardenio** by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles L. Mee, directed by Les Waters in association with the Public Theatre of New York (May 1 — June 8, Loeb Stage).

The A.R.T. is again offering several subscription plans and a host of benefits, including discounts on parking, fine dining, and tickets to other theatres; a *child-care series* (Saturday matinee), and *pre-performance* and *post-performance discussion series* (Saturday matinees).

To learn more about the A.R.T. season connect to the A.R.T. website at www.amrep.org or call the *A.R.T. InfoLine* at (617) 547-8300. The *InfoLine* is also available 24 hours a day to provide directions to the theatre; to order brochures, calendars, and newsletters; and to allow direct access to the A.R.T. Box Office (hours are noon to curtain time on performance days, noon to 5 pm on non-performance days, closed on Mondays).

The American Repertory Theatre, located at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square at 64 Brattle Street, 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 Theatre by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.

High-resolution photographs of *Donnie Darko* can be downloaded from www.amrep.org/media from October 27th.

**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE
FACT SHEET**

DONNIE DARKO

Based on a screenplay by Richard Kelly
Adapted and Directed by Marcus Stern

Scenic Design	Matt McAdon
Lighting Design	Scott Zielinski
Costume Design	Clint Ramos
Sound Design	David Remedios

CAST

Donnie Darko	Dan McCabe *
Gretchen Ross	Flora Diaz *
Rose Darko	Paula Langton *
Eddie Darko	Will LeBow *

Samantha Darko
Elizabeth Darko/Dorky Girl
Dr. Lilian Thurman
Jim Cunningham
Kitty Farmer
Karen Pomeroy
Dr. Monnitoff/Larry Reissman/
Ricky Danforth
Principal Cole
Rabbit/Frank
Seth Devlin
Joanie/Lanky Kid
Cherita Chen
Roberta Sparrow

Carolyn McCandlish
Angela Nahigian
Mara Sidmore *
Thomas Derrah *
Karen MacDonald *
Sarah Jorge Leon

DeLance Miniffee
Remo Airaldi *
Perry Jackson
Thomas Kelly
Katherine Lebrón
Talisa Friedman
Greta Merchant

WHEN:

(* Members of Actors' Equity

Association.

Sa Oct 27 8pm (preview)

Su Oct 28 2pm (preview)

Tu Oct 30 7:30pm (preview)

We Oct 31 7:30pm Press opening

Th Nov 1 7:30pm

Fri Nov 2 8:00pm

Sa Nov 3 2pm & 8:00pm

Su Nov 4 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Nov 6 7:30pm

We Nov 7 7:30pm

Th Nov 8 7:30pm

Fri Nov 9 8:00 pm

Sa Nov 10 2pm & 8:00pm

Su Nov 11 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Nov 13 7:30pm

We Nov 14 7:30pm

Thu Nov 15 7:30pm

Fri Nov 16 8:00pm

Sa Nov 17 2pm & 8:00pm

Su Nov 18 2pm & 7:30pm

TICKETS:

Fri & Sat evening \$52.

All other perfs \$39. Students: \$25. Student rush \$15

Seniors \$10 off ticket price.

Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa, or MasterCard.

Group discounts are available.

Box Office Phone and *A.R.T. InfoLine*: (617) 547-8300 www.amrep.org

E-mail address: press@amrep.org Web address: www.amrep.org

**Production photos of *Donnie Darko* can be downloaded from
www.amrep.org/media beginning October 27th.**