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**American Repertory Theatre
in association with the Loeb Drama Center
presents**

***When it's Hot, it's COLE!*
*A Cole Porter Cabaret***

**words and music by Cole Porter
conceived by Scott Zigler and Peter Bayne
directed by Scott Zigler
musical arrangements by Peter Bayne**

**June 26 – July 20
Zero Arrow Club, Harvard Square**

Cambridge, Mass. — The American Repertory Theatre present the Resident Acting Company at Zero Arrow Club in *When its Hot, it's COLE!* — a cabaret featuring the sparkling, sexy songs of Cole Porter. Performances will take place at the Zero Arrow Club, corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square, from Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, July 20. and will be available for press viewing from Saturday, June 28 at 8:00pm.

“Birds do it. Bees do it. Even educated fleas do it. Let’s do it, let’s fall in love.”

“Night and Day,” “You’re the Top,” “Love for Sale,” “Too Darn Hot” — some of the cleverest, funniest, and most romantic songs ever written were penned by Cole Porter. He was unmatched as a tunesmith, and his Broadway musicals — from *Kiss Me Kate* and *Anything Goes* to *Silk Stockings* and *Can Can* — set the standards of style and wit to which today’s composers and lyricists aspire. Conceived (with musical arranger *Peter Bayne*) and directed by A.R.T. Institute Director *Scott Zigler*, the revue of Cole’s favorites will feature A.R.T. Company members *Remo Airaldi*, *Thomas Derrah*, *Will LeBow*, and *Karen MacDonald* — whose performances in last summer’s *A Marvelous Party! The Noël Coward Celebration* was a runaway critical and audience success — and graduating A.R.T. Institute actor *Angela Nahigian*. They will regale audiences with the abovementioned songs, as well as many others, including “Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall in Love),” “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” and “It’s De-Lovely.” Musical directions is by *Miranda Loud*, costume design by *Hilary Hacker*, lighting design by *Margo Caddell*, and sound design by *David Remedios*.

Born in Peru, Indiana, in 1891 to a wealthy family, *Cole Porter* studied music from an early age, and began composing as a teenager. After high school he attended Yale University and went on to law school at Harvard University, though his main interest remained in music. While at Harvard he continued to write and a number of his pieces were used in Broadway musicals. In 1916, his first musical, *See America First*, was a flop and closed after only fifteen performances. Porter joined the French Foreign Legion and served in North Africa, carrying a portable piano on his back and entertaining friends with improvised songs. He received the *Croix de Guerre* decoration from the French Government for keeping high the morale of his regiment, and when America entered World War I, he taught French gunnery to American troops. After the war,

Porter married Linda Lee Thomas of the Social Register and settled in Paris, entertaining lavishly in their palatial home. This was the beginning of his life long affection for the city, which he would return to in songs such as “You Don’t Know Paree” and “I Love Paris.” During his time abroad Porter contributed to many musicals including *Hitchy-Koo* and *The Greenwich Village Follies*. It wasn’t, however, until his song “Let’s Do It, Let’s Fall In Love” appeared in the 1928 musical *Paris*, that he had his first big hit.

A contemporary of George Gershwin, Richard Rogers, and Jerome Kern, Porter’s urbane wit and musical complexity won him the affection of the nation. Songs such as “What Is This Thing Called Love,” “I Get A Kick Out of You,” and “Too Darn Hot,” became instant hits and have remained classics. While his name was associated with many of these upbeat songs, a more melancholy side could be seen in the wonderful “Miss Otis Regrets” and “Ev’ry Time We Say Goodbye

Despite a horseback riding accident in 1937 that crippled him for life, Porter produced much of his best work in the 1940s and 50s. He wrote hundreds of songs for dozens of Broadway shows, movie musicals, and television specials. His most successful musical, *Kiss Me Kate*, opened in 1948 and ran for over a thousand performances. A recluse in his later years, Porter died in California in 1964. Today his legacy lives on in productions of his musicals and in recordings of artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and Lena Horne.

Director **Scott Zigler** is the Director of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training. His A.R.T. directing credits include *Copenhagen*, *Absolution*, *Animals and Plants*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, as well as the world premiere of David Mamet’s *The Old Neighborhood* and the subsequent Broadway production. He has also directed at the Steppenwolf Theatre, Alley Theatre, and the McCarter Theatre. Mr. Zigler served as Artistic Director of the Atlantic Theater of New York and as Executive Director of that company’s professional training program, the Practical Aesthetics Workshop. He was Director of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Apprentice/Intern Company from 1992-94, where he helmed Mamet’s *Oleanna* and Jose Rivera’s *Tape* for the 1993 Humana Festival. He has also directed plays by Shakespeare, Strindberg, and Ionesco among others. Mr. Zigler has taught as resident or guest faculty at New York University, Indiana University-Bloomington, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, and the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney, Australia. He is a co-author of *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*.

Remo Airdi has appeared in fifty-five productions at the A.R.T. Performed at Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, American Conservatory Theatre, Walnut St. Theatre, Prince Music Theater, Actors’ Theatre of Louisville, Serious Fun Festival, Moscow Art Theatre, Taipei International Arts Festival, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company.

Thomas Derrah has appeared in over 100 roles at the A.R.T. over 27 years receiving a number of awards, has toured with the Company across the U.S., and throughout Europe, Canada, Israel, Taiwan, Japan, and Moscow. He was seen on Broadway in twenty-seven roles in *Jackie: An American Life*, as well as off –Broadway, in regional theatres and local companies. He is the recipient of a number of awards from local critics and the Los Angeles DramaLogue Award (for title role in *Shlemiel the First*).

Will LeBow has appeared at the A.R.T. in fifty-one productions. Other credits include The Hutington Theatre, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Gloucester Stage Company, and the Boston Pops premiere of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (narrator). He appears on television in the Cable Ace Award-winning animated series *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist* as the voice of Stanley.

Karen MacDonald is a founding member of the A.R.T., has appeared in sixty-three productions, and received a number of Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards for her work. She directed *Dressed Up! Wiggled Out!*, for Boston Playwrights Theatre, played in numerous productions in local theatres, and nationwide at the Alley Theatre (Company member),

Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and Philadelphia Festival of New Plays.

Performances will run June 26, July 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20 at 7:30pm; June 27, 28, July 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 at 8:00 pm; June 29, July 6, 13, 20 at 2:00 pm. Single ticket prices range from \$15-\$52 (including \$25 advance tickets for students and \$15 student rush with \$10 off for seniors. Group discounts are also available.

To learn more about this production and the A.R.T.'s upcoming season, log onto 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's Zero Arrow Club, located on the corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue in 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 Theatre by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.