

# American Repertory Theatre

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## American Repertory Theatre presents

### *The Seagull*

by Anton Chekhov  
directed by János Szász  
January 10 — February 1  
Loeb Drama Center

Cambridge, Mass. — The American Repertory Theatre presents the fourth production of its 2008-09 Season: Anton Chekhov's masterpiece *The Seagull*, in a translation by Paul Schmidt and directed by János Szász, at the A.R.T.'s Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. The production begins performances on Saturday, January 10 and runs through Sunday, February 1; it will be available for press viewing from Wednesday, January 14 at 7:30pm.

"We have to show life not the way it is, or the way it should be, but the way it is in dreams."  
— Konstantin in *The Seagull*

Irina Nikolayevna Arkadina, a famous but aging actress, arrives at her brother's country estate with her lover, the prominent writer Trigorin. Her son Konstantin is infatuated with Nina, the beautiful girl next door and also an aspiring actress. He has written and staged a symbolist drama with Nina in the lead role. When his mother ridicules his avant-garde endeavor, Konstantin storms off in a rage. Trigorin, meanwhile, is intrigued by Nina. Before long, she falls in love with Trigorin and eventually follows him back to Moscow, where they have a disastrous affair. Years later, Nina returns to the estate to see Konstantin one last time. Written in 1896, Chekhov's tragicomedy of life and art astonished the old century as it heralded the birth of modern drama. Dreams born and shattered, loves won and lost — *The Seagull* paints a rich and tumultuous portrait of the human heart. Director János Szász, whose lush and cinematic productions (*Mother Courage*, *Marat/Sade*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *Uncle Vanya*) have made him a favorite with A.R.T. audiences, returns to stage this beautiful and haunting play.

The professional acting company includes A.R.T. actors **Thomas Derrah** as Dorn, **Jeremy Geidt** as Sorin, **Karen MacDonald** as Arkadina, and **Remo Airdi** as Shamrayev; they are joined by returning actors **Mickey Solis** as Konstantin, **Molly Ward** as Nina, and incoming actors **Brian Dykstra** as Trigorin and **Cheryl D. Singleton** as Paulina. A.R.T. Institute's second-year actors **Shawn Cody** as Medvedenko and **Nina Kassa** as Masha complete the cast. Set design is by **Riccardo Hernandez**, costume design by **David Zinn**, lighting design by **Christopher Akerlind**, and sound design by **David Remedios**.

#### **Brief biographies of the Company:**

**Remo Airdi** has appeared in fifty-six productions at the A.R.T. He has 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 more than 100 roles at the A.R.T. over 27 years, receiving a number of awards. He 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*).

**Brian Dykstra** was seen in New York: *Breaking Legs*, *Antigone*, *Clean Alternatives*, *STRANGERHORSE*, *America Absurdum*, and three productions with New York Shakespeare

Festival, and in his own one-man shows *The Jesus Factor* (available on DVD) and *Cornered & Alone*. Regional credits include *Copenhagen* (Heisenberg), *Dinner With Friends* (Gabe), *A View From the Bridge* (Eddie Carbone), *Twelfth Night* (Sir Toby), and *All The Rage* (Tim). Film and television include *Freedomland*, *HBO Def Poetry*, *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*.

**Jeremy Geidt**, A.R.T.'s Senior Actor, was a founding member of the Yale Repertory Theatre and the A.R.T. This is his third turn as Sorin in *The Seagull*. He performed in over forty productions at Yale (including *The Seagull*) and this is his one hundredth at the A.R.T., including *The Onion Cellar*, *Major Barbara* (Undershaft), *Heartbreak House* (Shotover), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Quince four times, Snug once), *Henry IV* (Falstaff), *Twelfth Night* (Toby Belch), *The Caretaker* (Davies), *The Homecoming* (Max), and *Waiting for Godot* (Vladimir). He teaches at Harvard College, its Summer and Extension Schools and at the A.R.T./MXAT Institute.

**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, as well as nationwide at the Alley Theatre (Company member), Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and Philadelphia Festival of New Plays.

**Cheryl D. Singleton's** credits include *Cinderella Rocks!*, *Cleopatra, the Musical*, and *Whizzin'*, with the Gold Dust Orphans; *Kentucky Cycle* and *Stuff Happens* with Zeitgeist Stage Company; *Home* with Queer Soup; *Hamlet* and *Measure for Measure* with Theatre Coop; *The Robert Cycle* with ImprovBoston; *Years of Struggle*, *Years of Freedom* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Film: *She's Gotta Have It*.

**Mickey Solis** was seen at the A.R.T. as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Eben in *Desire Under the Elms*, and Oliver in *Olly's Prison*. He appeared as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and as Victor in *House* at Actor and Playwright's Initiative Theatre. He is a recent graduate of the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training.

**Molly Ward** appeared at the A.R.T. as Masha in *Three Sisters* (Elliot Norton Nomination) and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other recent credits include Desdemona in *Othello* at Hartford Stage, Teresa Rebeck's new play *Our House* at the Denver Center, *Camille* at Bard SummerScape, *Arms and the Man* at Barrington Stage, and *Before Breakfast* at Provincetown Theater. New York credits include Richard Foreman's *Paradise Hotel* at the Ontological Hysterical Theater, which toured Europe. She is also a recent A.R.T. Institute graduate.

### About the Creative Staff

Director **János Szász** previously created *Desire Under the Elms*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Marat/Sade*, and *Mother Courage and Her Children* at the A.R.T. Theatre work in his native Hungary includes *Master and Margarita*, *Ghosts*, *The King Stag*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Baal*, *Mother Courage*, and *Marat/Sade*, and in the U.S. *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Arena Stage. His films include *Opium*, *Woyzeck* (twenty different prizes at fifty-five international film festivals across Europe, Hungarian nominee for the Oscars), *The Witman Boys* (presented at more than fifty international film festivals, official selection of the Cannes Film Festival and winner of several awards), *Szédülés (Don't Disturb - Best Director Prize, Bogota, Venezuela, Best Foreign Film, Bratislava)*, and *Eyes of the Holocaust*, a documentary film about the Hungarian holocaust produced by Steven Spielberg for the Shoah Foundation, presented at the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival. He is a member of the European Film Academy.

Set Designer **Riccardo Hernandez** has collaborated with Szász on *Uncle Vanya*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *Marat/Sade*; he also designed *Julius Caesar*, *Britannicus*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Miser*, *Full Circle*, *Enrico IV*, *Phaedra*, and *Othello* among others for A.R.T. Broadway credits include Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change*, *Topdog/Underdog* (also Royal Court, London), *Elaine Stritch at Liberty* (also West End's Old Vic, London and National Tour), *Parade* (Tony and Drama Desk Nominations), *Noise/Funk* (also National Tours and Japan), *The Tempest*, over a dozen productions at New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater and all over the United States.

Costume designer **David Zinn's** A.R.T. credits include sets and costumes for *Island of Slaves*, *Orpheus X*, *Olly's Prison*, *Highway Ulysses*. On Broadway he designed costumes for *Xanadu* and *A Tale of Two Cities*. New York credits include set and costumes for Edward Bond's *Chair* (TFANA), and Itamar Moses' *Back Back Back* (Manhattan Theater Club), and scenery for *The Sound and the Fury* (ERS/NYTW) and *Paradise Park* (Signature). He also has designed for opera companies all over the U.S. and for numerous regional theatres.

Lighting Designer **Christopher Akerlind** designed *Britannicus*, *Island of Slaves*, *Orpheus X*, *Olly's Prison*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Oedipus*, *La Dispute*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Enrico IV*, and *Misalliance* at the A.R.T. Recent credits include Martha Clarke's *Garden of Earthly Delights* and

*Kaos* in New York, the world premiere of Phillip Glass' *Appomattox* directed by Robert Woodruff at San Francisco Opera, *I Capuleti et I Montecchi* at Glimmerglass Opera, *Kafeneion* for the Athens/Epidaurus Festival, and the Broadway production of *Top Girls*. Other Broadway credits include *110 in the Shade* (Tony nomination), *Shining City*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Talk Radio*, *Awake and Sing* (Tony nomination), *Seven Guitars* (Tony nomination), and *The Light in the Piazza* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, & Henry Hewes awards) among others. He has extensive credits in opera all over the country. He is the recipient of an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Lighting Design, the Michael Merritt Award for Design and Collaboration and numerous nominations for the Drama Desk, Lucile Lortel, Outer Critics Circle and Tony Awards.

Resident Sound Designer **David Remedios** has forty-four productions to his credit, including *Cardenio*, *Julius Caesar*, *Copenhagen*, *Donnie Darko*, *No Man's Land*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Onion Cellar*, *Orpheus X*, *The Provok'd Wife* (original music), *Absolution*, *Enrico IV*, *Man and Superman*. He has toured regionally and internationally for the A.R.T. and has created sound designs for several regional theatres. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his work as designer and composer.

The performance schedule of ***The Seagull*** is as follows:

January 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 at 8:00pm; January 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29 at 7:30pm; January 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, and February 1 at 2:00pm. Special performances include ***Under 35 Night*** on Thursday, January 15 with a pre-show reception, and ***Out at A.R.T.*** for the GLBT community on Friday, January 23, with cash bar.

Single ticket prices range from \$25-\$79, with a \$10 discount for seniors. Student discounts include the **\$60 Student Pass** for 5 performances (at \$12 a seat); single tickets at \$25 advance purchase, and \$15 day of performance. Other discounts include **50 @ 15 at noon** (\$15 tickets on sale at noon on the day of performance; in person only, based on availability) and **Pay What You Can** (50 tickets available for every Saturday matinee performance of the season at the Loeb Drama Center for patrons to purchase at whatever amount they can afford (based on availability)). **Group rates**, with extra savings for senior citizens and student groups are also available.

The balance of the A.R.T. 2008-09 Season includes *Endgame* by Samuel Beckett, directed by Marcus Stern (February 14 — March 15, Loeb Stage); the world premiere of *Trojan Barbie* by Christine Evans, directed by Carmel O'Reilly (March 28 — April 22, Zero Arrow Theatre); and *Romance* by David Mamet, directed by Scott Zigler (May 9 - 31, Loeb Stage).

The A.R.T. is offering various plans for the season — including **choose-your-own** and **flex** plans — with a host of benefits, including free Zipcar membership; free tickets to A.R.T. Institute productions; discounts on parking, on books at the Harvard Coop, 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 this production and the A.R.T.'s upcoming season, log onto the A.R.T. website at [www.amrep.org](http://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 (A.R.T.) is one of the country's most celebrated resident theatres and the winner of numerous awards — including the Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and numerous local Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards; it was recently named one of the top three theatres in the country by *Time* magazine. Over its twenty-eight-year history the A.R.T. has welcomed major American and international theatre artists whose singular visions generate and define the theatre's work, presenting a varied repertoire that includes new plays, progressive productions of classical texts, and collaborations between artists from many disciplines. The Company has performed throughout the country, and worldwide in twenty-one cities in sixteen countries on four continents. This fall the organization welcomes its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus, who begins plans for the 2009-10 Season, the Company's 30th in Cambridge.

The A.R.T., located at the Loeb Drama Center at 64 Brattle Street, and at the Zero Arrow Theatre at the corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square, Cambridge, are 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.

**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE  
FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:  
THE SEAGULL**

By	Anton Chekhov
Translated by	Paul Schmidt
Director	János Szász
Set Design	Riccardo Hernandez
Costume Design	David Zinn
Lighting Design	Christopher Akerlind
Sound Design	David Remedios

**Cast**

Irina Nikolayevna Arkadina	Karen MacDonald*
Konstantin Gavrilovich Treplev	Mickey Solis*
Pyotr Nikolayevich Sorin	Jeremy Geidt*
Nina Mikhailovna Zarechnaya	Molly Ward*
Ilya Afanasyevich Shamrayev	Remo Airaldi*
Paulina Andreyevna	Cheryl D. Singleton
Masha	Nina Kassa
Boris Alexeyevich Trigorin	Brian Dykstra*
Yevgeny Sergeyevich Dorn	Thomas Derrah*
Semyon Semyonovich Medvedenko	Shawn Cody
Yakov	Dan Pecci

(\* ) Members of Actors' Equity Association.

**WHEN:**

Sa Jan 10	8:00pm (preview) <b>HOT DATE</b>
Su Jan 11	2:00pm (preview) <b>HOT DATE</b>
Tu Jan 13	7:30pm (preview) <b>HOT DATE</b>
We Jan 14	7:30pm Press opening
Th Jan 15	7:30pm <b>Under 35 Night</b>
Fr Jan 16	8:00pm <b>HOT DATE</b>
Sa Jan 17	2:00pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su Jan 18	2:00pm & 7:30pm <b>HOT DATE</b>

Tu Jan 20	7:30pm
We Jan 21	7:30pm
Th Jan 22	7:30pm
Fr Jan 23	8:00pm <b>Out at A.R.T.</b>
Sa Jan 24	2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su Jan 25	2pm & 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 1pm)

Tu Jan 27	7:30pm
We Jan 28	7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 6:30pm)
Th Jan 29	10:00am & 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 6:30pm)
Fr Jan 30	8:00pm
Sa Jan 31	2:00pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su Feb 1	2:00pm

**WHERE:** Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square.

**TICKETS:** \$25-79

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](http://www.amrep.org)

**E-mail address:** [press@amrep.org](mailto:press@amrep.org) **Web address:** [www.amrep.org](http://www.amrep.org)

Production photos of *The Seagull* can be downloaded from [www.amrep.org/media](http://www.amrep.org/media) beginning January 12.

