

For Immediate Release: July 23, 2009
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The American Repertory Theater
presents
THE DONKEY SHOW
conceived by Randy Weiner
directed by Diane Paulus and Randy Weiner
August 21 — October 31

WHAT: American Repertory Theater presents *The Donkey Show*, the intoxicating international sensation that takes you behind the velvet ropes into a glittered wonderland of decadence, divas, and disco, inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Come party on the dance floor to all the disco hits you know by heart as *The Donkey Show* unfolds all around you. It's a show . . . it's a party . . . it's the ultimate disco experience.

WHEN: August 21-October 31, 2009

WHERE: Zero Arrow, 2 Arrow Street, Cambridge, MA

TICKETS: \$25 - \$49. Group Rates available. Can be purchased online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org, by phone at 617-547-8300, or in person at the A.R.T. box office.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

"If music be the food of love, *The Donkey Show* is a bowl of jalapenos. . . . Passion, sex, a rollicking cool party, this is not your mother's musical." — *New York Times*

"For audiences who love the nightlife and got to boogie, it's pure unadulterated fun!" — *Time Out NY*

"The sexiest, funniest, cheekiest show you could ever hope to see"
— *The London Times*

"Visceral, emotional, passionate. . . . Whether you are a wallflower or a dancing diva, *The Donkey Show* will provide your very own

Midsummer disco. — *New York 1 News*

“... a campy disco-classic extravaganza with a touch of burlesque ... you can jump on the stage and people will think you’re part of the show. This is the place for dirty dancing, no strings attached.”
— *National Geographic Traveler*

RATING: Must be 18 to enter, 21 to drink.

Cambridge, Mass — From its six-year run in New York City to a world tour from London to Seoul, the celebrated smash hit *The Donkey Show* now takes Boston by storm, bringing the ultimate disco experience – a crazy circus of mirror balls and feathered divas, of roller skaters and hustle queens. *The Donkey Show* tells the story of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* through the great 70s anthems, including “We are Family,” “I Love the Nightlife,” “Car Wash,” “Ring My Bell,” and “Last Dance.” The enchanted forest of Shakespeare’s classic comedy becomes the glittered world of retro disco as the lovers escape from their real lives to experience a night of dream, abandon, and fantasy.

The Donkey Show kicks off the A.R.T’s **Shakespeare Exploded!** Series, a festival of theatrical events inspired by three classic plays by Shakespeare. The series also includes ***Sleep No More*** — created by the award-winning British theater company Punchdrunk — an immersive production inspired by Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, told through the lens of a Hitchcock thriller; and ***Best of Both Worlds***, a soulful Gospel and R&B re-envisioning of *The Winter’s Tale*.

ABOUT THE CREATORS OF *THE DONKEY SHOW*:

Diane Paulus is a director of opera and theater, recently appointed Artistic Director of the A.R.T. She is the creator and director of *The Donkey Show*, which ran for six years Off-Broadway, and toured internationally to London, Edinburgh, Madrid, and Evian, France. Recent theater work includes the Tony Award-winning revival of *HAIR* on Broadway; *Kiss Me Kate* at Glimmerglass Opera; *Lost Highway*, based on the David Lynch film, an ENO co-production with the Young Vic in London; *Another Country* by James Baldwin at Riverside Church; *Turandot: Rumble for the*

Ring at the Bay Street Theatre; *The Golden Mickeys* for Disney Creative Entertainment; *Best of Both Worlds*, a gospel/R&B adaptation of *A Winter's Tale* produced by Music-Theatre Group and The Women's Project; and *The Karaoke Show*, an adaptation of "Comedy of Errors" set in a karaoke bar, produced by Jordan Roth Productions. Also for Music-Theatre Group, she directed the Obie award-winning and Pulitzer Prize finalist *Running Man* by jazz composer Diedre Murray and poet Cornelius Eady; and *Swimming with Watermelons*, created in association with Project 400, the theater company she co-founded with her husband Randy Weiner. Other work Off-Broadway: *Brutal Imagination*, and the Obie-award winning *Eli's Comin*, featuring the music and lyrics of Laura Nyro. Opera credits include *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Turn Of The Screw*, *Così fan tutte*; and *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and *Orfeo* at the Chicago Opera Theater. She is a frequent collaborator with British conductor Jane Glover; in 2002, their critically acclaimed production of *Orfeo* was presented as part of The Monteverdi Cycle at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York City. She is currently working on *Death and the Powers*, a new opera by composer Tod Machover, librettist Robert Pinsky, with story by Randy Weiner.

Randy Weiner (Creator, co-director) is the President of the Weiner Entertainment Group, a leading New York based production company whose most recent projects include the entertainment for the 2008 White House Press Correspondents' Association Dinner; SP08, a day-long festival on Randall's Island sponsored by Bloomberg, LP, featuring over 200 performers playing for an audience of 15,000; "The Jim Rose Circus in Stairway To Hell," in Edinburgh, Scotland; the entertainment for Art Basel 2008 in Miami, and a 15-city US tour of a new variety circus, "The Most Interesting Show In The World.". He has created and produced events for American Express, Tribeca Film Festival, CBS Radio, and The Grammys. He is a managing partner of The Box, a performance venue in NYC that has presented Sting, Moby, Mos Def, Snoop Dogg, and Kid Rock, among others. Mr. Weiner is best known as the foremost producer and creator of a hybrid form of theater that mixes the music and energy of a nightclub with the drama and spectacle of theater. New York Magazine calls him "the

master of the club spectacle." His shows have been presented at venues throughout the United States and Europe. He is creative director and co-creator of *Beacher's Madhouse*, a variety show that recently ended its four-year run at The Joint at The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. As the Producing Director of Project 400 Theatre Group, he and partner Diane Paulus have produced over 40 productions. Weiner's work has been produced in New York by Music-Theatre Group, The Women's Project, Vineyard Theatre, the Shubert Organization, Classical Theater of Harlem, Coyote Theatre in Boston, Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, and The Fountainhead Theatre in Los Angeles. He has been a guest lecturer on theater at Columbia University, Barnard College, NYU, and Yale University.

The AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER (A.R.T.) is one of the country's most celebrated resident theaters 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 theaters in the country by *Time* magazine. Over its twenty-nine-year history the A.R.T. has welcomed major American and international theater artists whose singular visions generate and define the theater'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 US, and worldwide in twenty-one cities in sixteen countries on four continents. Last fall the organization welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus, under whose helm the Company begins its 30th Season. Under the leadership of Diane Paulus, A.R.T. has developed a new initiative, **EXPERIENCE THE A.R.T.**, which seeks to revolutionize the theater experience through a sustained commitment to empowering the audience. This audience-driven vision will completely transform the way the company develops, programs, produces, and contextualizes its work. This speaks directly to the A.R.T.'s core mission — "to expand the boundaries of theater." A.R.T. resources will give equal importance to the social aspects of theater and the potential for a full theater experience, including interaction and engagement with its audience before, during, and after the production. The initiative involves producing theater cycles that create a festival

atmosphere and allow audiences to experience productions in the context of a larger event. By producing and promoting these cycles as citywide events, A.R.T. will seek to attract larger audiences from the greater Boston area and from the rest of the country and world.

CALENDAR AND RELATED EVENTS AT A GLANCE

WHAT:

THE DONKEY SHOW

Conceived by Randy Weiner

Directed by Diane Paulus and Randy Weiner

Set Design by Scott Pask

Costume Design

by David Woolard

Lighting Design by Evan Morris

Sound Design

by David Remedios

WHEN:

Fr Aug 21 8:00pm

Sa Aug 22 8:00pm

Fr Aug 28 8:00pm

Sa Aug 29 8:00pm

Tu Sep 1 8:00pm

We Sep 2 8:00pm

Th Sep 3 8:00pm

Fr Sep 4 8:00pm

Sa Sep 5 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Sep 10 8:00pm

Fr Sep 11 8:00pm

Sa Sep 12 8:00pm & 10:30pm Press Opening

We Sep 16 8:00pm

Th Sep 17 8:00pm

Fr Sep 18 8:00pm & 10:30 pm

Sa Sep 19 8:00pm & 10:30pm

We Sep 23 8:00pm

Th Sep 24 8:00pm
Fr Sep 25 8:00pm & 10:30 pm
Sa Sep 26 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Oct 1 8:00pm
Fr Oct 2 8:00pm
Sa Oct 3 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Oct 8 8:00pm
Fr Oct 9 8:00pm
Sa Oct 10 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Oct 15 8:00pm
Fr Oct 16 8:00pm
Sa Oct 17 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Oct 22 8:00pm
Fr Oct 23 8:00pm
Sa Oct 24 8:00pm & 10:30pm

Th Oct 29 8:00pm
Fr Oct 30 8:00pm
Sa Oct 31 8:00pm & 10:30pm

WHERE: Zero Arrow, 2 Arrow Street, Cambridge, MA

TICKETS: \$25, \$39, 49

Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa or Master Card
Group rates are available

Box Office Phone and A.R.T. InfoLine: (617)547-8300, tickets also
available online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Email Address: press@amrep.org

Production photos of *The Donkey Show* will be
available on www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/media
beginning 08/22/09.