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**American Repertory Theater**  
presents

***Sex, Satire, Romance, and Ducks:***  
***A David Mamet Celebration***

**Cambridge, Mass.** — If you think you know David Mamet, think again. This famously terse playwright is a master of biting comedy. The A.R.T. — producer of the world premieres of Mamet's *Oleanna*, *Cryptogram*, *The Old Neighborhood*, and *Boston Marriage* — is pleased to present ***Sex, Satire, Romance, and Ducks*** — a celebration of comic work spanning Mamet's career.

At the center of the festival is *Romance* — a courtroom farce that takes no prisoners in its quest for total political incorrectness. In *Romance*, Mamet creates a world in a microcosm in which shameless fawning and sheer caprice hold sway, and the noble apparatus of law and order degenerates into riotous mayhem. Directed by longtime Mamet collaborator *Scott Zigler*, *Romance* runs May 9 — June 7 at the Loeb Drama Center.

It's hay fever season, and in the courthouse a judge is popping antihistamines like candy. As a Mideast Peace Conference convenes nearby, an ambiguous court case is persistently interrupted by domestic squabbles, ethnic slur slinging, and a hallucinating judge. Lawyers and judges, Jews and Christians, homosexuals and chiropractors — no one gets off easy in Mamet's madcap skewering of the American legal system. The esteemed, noble practice of law degenerates into sheer comic chaos as Mamet ponders the most fundamental human question: Why can't we all just get along?

The cast includes A.R.T. actors *Remo Airdi* as the Defendant, *Thomas Derrah* as the Prosecutor, *Will LeBow* as the Judge, and *Jim True-Frost* as the Defense Attorney. They are joined by graduating Institute actors *Doug Chapman* as the Doctor, *Carl Foreman* as Bernard, and *Jim Senti* as the Bailiff. Set design is by *J. Michael Griggs*, costume design by *Miranda Hoffman*, lighting design by *D.M. Wood*, and sound design by *David Remedios*.

The performance schedule of *Romance* is as follows: May 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 June 5, 6 at 8:00pm; May 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, June 2, 3, 4, 7 at 7:30pm; May 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, June 6, 7 at 2:00pm. Special performances include ***Under 35 Night*** on Thursday, May 14 with a post-show reception, and ***Out @ A.R.T.*** for the GLBT community on Friday, May 22, with post-show reception. Ticket prices are \$25-79.

The A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training contributes to the Festival with their presentation of ***Seriously Funny***, an evening of short comedies not just by Mamet, but also his friends and frequent collaborators *Harold Pinter* and *Shel Silverstein*. It runs May 29 — June 6 at Zero Arrow Theater and will be under the helm of actor, director, and longtime Mamet collaborator *Jim Frangione*. Set design is by *J. Michael Griggs*, costume design by *Mallory Freers*, lighting design by *Jeff Adelberg*, and sound design by *Nathan Leigh*.

The following short plays by David Mamet will be performed:

*L.A. Sketches 1-5, Australia, A Life with No Joy in it, Sunday Afternoon, and Family.*

Harold Pinter will be represented by:

*Trouble in the Works, Request Stop, Applicant, New World Order, Silence, and Mountain Language;*

Shel Silverstein shorts are:

*One Tennis Shoe, The Best Daddy, Have a Nice Day, Do Not Feed the Animal, Repairs, No Skronking, Buy One, Get One Free, Smil, and Gone to take a...*

Performance dates and times are May 31, June 4 at 7:30pm; May 29, 30, June 5, 6 at 8:00pm. Ticket prices are \$10 regular admission; \$5 seniors and students; free for Season Ticket holders.

Next up is a double bill of two of Mamet's early comedies — *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* and *The Duck Variations*. Both showcase Mamet's command of lightning-quick comic banter, while skewering the antics of young and old alike. The production runs June 11— 28 at Zero Arrow Theater.

A brief description of *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*:

Danny and Deborah meet on the North Side of Chicago. Bernard teaches Danny the secrets to wooing women as Joan warns Deborah about the dangers of men. When Danny and Deborah move in together, their friends panic. Will the young couple survive? Or will their friends regain control? The cast of *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* includes graduating A.R.T. Institute actors *Tim Eliot, Susannah Hoffman, Scott Lyman, and Laura Parker*. It will be directed by *Paul Stacey*, with lighting design by *Jeff Adelberg*, and sound design by *David Remedios*.

... and *The Duck Variations*:

A bench. A lake. A flock of ducks. George and Emil, two grey-haired friends, test the limits of their friendship. Each uses stories of death, ducks, and desperation to push their own positions. Will their relationship survive this seemingly banal afternoon on the lake? A.R.T. veterans *Thomas Derrah* and *Will LeBow* are the bench partners in *The Duck Variations*, directed by *Marcus Stern*. Costume design is by *Mallory Freers*, lighting design by *Jeff Adelberg*, and sound design by *David Remedios*.

Performance dates and times of *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* and *The Duck Variations* are as follows: June 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 at 8:00pm; June 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28 at 7:30pm; June 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 2:00pm. Ticket prices are \$25 and \$39.

Student discounts include 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.

To learn more about these productions and the A.R.T.'s summer plans and upcoming season, log onto the A.R.T. website at [www.americanrepertorytheater.org](http://www.americanrepertorytheater.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 theater; 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 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 country, and worldwide in twenty-one cities in sixteen countries on four continents. Artistic Director Diane Paulus recently announced the A.R.T.'s 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 Theater 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 Theater by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.