

American Repertory Theatre

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American Repertory Theatre

presents

the world premiere of

Trojan Barbie

by Christine Evans

directed by Carmel O'Reilly

March 28 — April 22

Zero Arrow Theatre

Cambridge, Mass. — The American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) presents the sixth production of its 2008-09 Season: the world premiere of Christine Evans's new play *Trojan Barbie*, directed by Carmel O'Reilly, at the A.R.T.'s Zero Arrow Theatre, corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. The production begins performances on Saturday, March 28 and runs through Wednesday, April 22; it will be available for press viewing from Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30pm.

"There is no life in another country. You'll always be a foreigner, stuck on the wrong side of the looking-glass." — *Trojan Barbie*

Lotte Jones, a doll repair expert, needs a vacation. She books herself on a cultural tour for singles and travels with them to modern-day Troy, where she finds more of a change of scene than she'd bargained for — she's in the midst of an attack by the Greek army threatening to destroy the last fragments of a mighty civilization. Part contemporary drama, part homage to Euripides' *Trojan Women*, *Trojan Barbie* recalls the legendary fall of the city of Troy against the vivid reality of modern warfare. Poetic, compassionate, and tinged with great warmth and humor, *Trojan Barbie* is an epic war story with a most unlikely heroine, who always looks on the bright side even as past and present collide about her.

The company includes **Karen MacDonald** as Lotte and **Paula Langton** as Hecuba. They are joined by A.R.T. Institute actors **Emily Alpren** as Clea, **Renzo Ampuero** as Mica, **Kaaron Briscoe** as Polly X, **Carl Foreman** as Talthybius, **Nina Kassa** as Cassandra, **Skye Noel** as Andromache, **Lisette Silva** as Esme, and **James Senti** as Menelaus. Set and costume design is by **David Reynoso**, lighting design by **Justin Townsend**, and sound design by **David Remedios**.

After promising but brief stints as a circus acrobat, a women's refuge staff member, a Balkan jazz musician, an animal impersonator in children's shows, and a pancake parlor waitress, playwright **Christine Evans** began writing scripts and composing music for the theatre in her native Australia. She is now an internationally produced playwright based in the U.S. Venues presenting her work include the New Vic (London), Belvoir St. Theatre (Sydney), the Adelaide International Festival of the Arts, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, hotINK International Play Festival, the Magic Theatre, Bricolage Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, Perishable Theatre, Boston Theatre Marathon, New Jersey Rep, Crowded Fire, Ohio Theatre (NYC) and Cutting Ball Theatre. *Trojan Barbie* won the 2007 Jane Chambers Playwriting Award (2007) and the Playwrights First Award (2009). It also garnered for its author the 2009 Rhode Island State Council for the Arts Playwriting/ Screenwriting Fellowship.

Further honors for Ms. Evans include the Fulbright Award in Visual and Performing Arts, the Rella Lossy Playwriting Award, the Monash National Playwriting Award (Australia), a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, the Weston Award for Dramatic Writing and Perishable Theatre's Women's Playwriting Award (2000 and 2001). Ms. Evans has also been a finalist for the Reva Shiner Award, the Heideken Award, and several major Australian literary prizes including the Patrick White Award and the Griffin Award.

Ms. Evans was a 2007 Resident Artist at Perishable Theatre and is a 2008-2010 Playwright's Lab Member of the Women's Project in New York. She holds an M.F.A. (Playwriting) and a Ph.D. (Theatre & Performance Studies) from Brown and teaches playwriting at Harvard.

Carmel O'Reilly most recently directed *The Seafarer* for the SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Boston Center for the Arts. She is founder and Artistic Director of the Sógán Theatre Company, for which she directed the Elliot Norton award-winning productions of *The Sanctuary Lamp* (2005) and *St Nicholas* (2000). *St Nicholas* was later re-staged at the Hasty Pudding Theatre in a co-production with the A.R.T. Carmel is also a two-time winner (2001, 2002) of the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director for *The Lonesome West*, *Bailegangaire* and *This Lime Tree Bower*. Recently, she directed Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* for Harvard University, Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* for both the Lyric Stage and the Kitchen Theatre (Ithaca, NY), and Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* for Emerson Stage.

David Reynoso created sets and costumes for the A.R.T.'s production of *Copenhagen*, costume design for *No Man's Land* and *The Keening*; and at the A.R.T. Institute costume and scenic design for *Abigail's Party*. He is the A.R.T.'s Resident Costume Crafts Artisan. Has collaborated on over seventy productions at Glimmerglass Opera, Pittsburgh Public, Manhattan Theatre Club, National Actor's Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, Huntington Theatre Company, Boston Playwright's Theatre, Kennedy Center for the Arts, NYC Fringe Festival, and B.U. Opera Institute.

About the performers:

Paula Langton previously appeared at the A.R.T. in *Donnie Darko*. She 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.

Karen MacDonald is a founding member of the A.R.T., has appeared in sixty-five productions (most recently as Nell in *Endgame* and Arkadina in *The Seagull*), 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.

The performance schedule of **Trojan Barbie** is as follows:

March 28, April 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 at 8:00pm; March 31, April 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 16,19, 21, 22 at 7:30pm; March 29, April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 at 2:00pm. Special performances include **Under 35 Night** on Thursday, April 2 with a pre-show reception, and **Out at A.R.T.** for the GLBT community on Friday, April 10, with post-show reception.

Single ticket prices range from \$25-\$52, 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 *Romance* by David Mamet, directed by Scott Zigler (May 9 - 31, Loeb Stage).

To learn more about this production and the A.R.T.'s current 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 (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 welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus, is planning 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.

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE FACT SHEET

WHAT:

TROJAN BARBIE

by
Directed by
Set and Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design

Christine Evans
Carmel O'Reilly
David Reynoso
Justin Townsend
David Remedios

CAST

The Trojans:

Hecuba	Paula Langton*
Polly X	Kaaron Briscoe
Cassandra	Nina Kassa
Andromache	Skye Noel
Clea	Emily Alpren
Esme	Lisette Silva

The Others:

Helen
Lotte
Mica/Jorge
Talthybius/Max
Menalaus, Clive, Soldier

Careena Melia
Karen MacDonald*
Renzo Ampuero
Carl Foreman
James Senti

(*) Members of Actors' Equity Association.

WHEN:

Sa Mar 28 8:00pm (preview) **HOT DATE**
Su Mar 29 2:00pm (preview) **HOT DATE**

Tu Mar 31 7:30pm (preview) **HOT DATE**
We Apr 1 7:30pm Press opening
Th Apr 2 7:30pm **Under 35 Night**
Fr Apr 3 8:00pm **Out at A.R.T.**
Sa Apr 4 2:00pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su Apr 5 2:00pm & 7:30pm **HOT DATE**

We Apr 8 7:30pm
Th Apr 9 7:30pm
Fr Apr 10 8:00pm
Sa Apr 11 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su April 12 2pm & 7:30pm

Th Apr 16 7:30pm
Fr Apr 17 8:00pm
Sa Apr 18 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
Su April 19 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Apr 21 7:30pm
We Apr 22 7:30pm (Pre-play discussion at 6:30pm)

WHERE: Zero Arrow Theatre, corner of Arrow Street and Mass. Ave, Harvard Square.

TICKETS: \$25-52

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 *Trojan Barbie* can be downloaded from
www.amrep.org/media beginning March 30.