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American Repertory Theater
presents
the world premiere of
Johnny Baseball
by Robert Reale, Willie Reale, and Richard Dresser
directed by Diane Paulus
May 14 — June 27, 2010
Loeb Drama Center

WHAT: — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is proud to present the world premiere of ***Johnny Baseball***, the new musical about the Red Sox, with music by **Robert Reale**, lyrics by **Willie Reale**, book by **Richard Dresser**, story by **Richard Dresser** and **Willie Reale**, with musical direction and arrangements by **Wendy Bobbitt Cavett**. The design team includes **Scott Pask** (Sets), **Donald Holder** (Lights), **Michael McDonald** (Costumes) with Choreography by **Peter Pucci**.

The production is directed by A.R.T. Artistic Director **Diane Paulus**.

WHEN: Friday, May 14 — Sunday, June 27, 2010

Press Opening on **Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

WHERE: Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge

TICKETS: \$25 - \$75. Student rush \$20. Seniors \$10 off ticket price.

Group Rates available. Can be purchased phone at 617-547-8300, online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org, or in person at the A.R.T. box office.

Cambridge, Mass. The American Repertory Theater presents ***Johnny Baseball***, a world premiere musical about the Red Sox, directed by **Diane Paulus**. After the Red Sox's stunning collapse in the 2003 playoffs, a baseball-obsessed team of musical theater writers (one long-suffering Sox fan and two smug yet oddly sympathetic Yankees fans) began searching for the source of Red Sox's infamous Curse. In ***Johnny Baseball***, writer **Richard Dresser**, composer **Robert Reale**, and lyricist **Willie Reale** have embarked on a journey that has yielded surprising conclusions and a clever new musical — an exhilarating blend of fact and fiction that chronicles the stranglehold of the infamous curse and its ultimate, divine release.

Johnny Baseball traces the origin of the Curse to a collision of three orphaned souls: Johnny O'Brien, a hard-luck right-hander on the 1919 Sox; his idol, Babe Ruth; and Daisy Wyatt, a dazzling African American blues singer and the love of Johnny's life. The entanglements of love, friendship, and betrayal in these lives contain both the reason for the Curse and the secret to its end off the bat of Big Papi in 2004.

Johnny Baseball is not just about the "Curse of the Bambino." The musical is a thoughtful investigation of the complicated issues of race in major league baseball as a bellwether for American societal attitudes through the twentieth century. At the heart of the play is a touching love story between a white baseball player and an African American singer. With lively music and an engaging story, ***Johnny Baseball*** celebrates the new ownership and the 2004 World Series victory in the context of the full integration of the game. It packs a thoughtful commentary on American social history into a funny, heartfelt and spirited musical that will bring cheers and tears to baseball fans everywhere.

Willie Reale (lyricist) and his brother **Robert Reale** (composer) have three Tony nominations and an Oscar nomination between them. Their musicals have been performed at Second Stage Theatre in New York, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and The Arden in Philadelphia. Their musical *A Year with Frog and Toad*, which was performed at the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, the New Victory Theatre, and the Cort Theatre on Broadway, where it was nominated for best musical. It has been among the top ten produced plays in the America for nearly a decade.

Richard Dresser (playwright) has had his plays produced throughout the United States and Europe. His recently published trilogy of plays about happiness in America includes *Augusta* (working class), *The Pursuit of Happiness* (middle class) and *A View of the Harbor* (upper class).

Diane Paulus (director) is the Artistic Director of the A.R.T. She is the creator and director of *The Donkey Show*, which ran for six years Off-Broadway, toured internationally to London, Edinburgh, Madrid, and Evian, France, and is currently at the A.R.T. 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 Mickey's* 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 Coming*, 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. Most recently she directed *Best of Both Worlds* at the A.R.T. part of the Shakespeare

Exploded Festival and *Il mondo della luna* at the Hayden Planetarium in New York. Upcoming works include *Death and The Powers*, a new opera by Tod Machover in collaboration with MIT Media Lab and Opera Boston.

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. Founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, 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 year the organization welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus, under whose helm the Company began its 30th Season. Under the leadership of Diane Paulus, A.R.T. 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 has completely transformed 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 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. seeks to attract larger audiences from the greater Boston area and from the rest of the country and world.

The A.R.T., located at the Loeb Drama Center at 64 Brattle Street, and at its second space, the theater-club OBERON, at 2 Arrow Street, (corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue), 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 Theater by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.
