



American Repertory Theater  
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[www.americanrepertorytheater.org](http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org)

**For Immediate Release:** October 13, 2010

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American Repertory Theater  
announces the cast and creative team for  
***THE BLUE FLOWER***  
by Jim and Ruth Bauer  
directed by Will Pomerantz  
movement by Tom Nelis  
music direction by Mark Rubinstein  
December 1 — January 8  
Loeb Drama Center

**WHAT:** The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) continues its 2010/11 Season with ***The Blue Flower***, a musical play with music, lyrics, script, and videography by ***Jim Bauer***; artwork, story, and videography by ***Ruth Bauer***. The production is directed by ***Will Pomerantz***, with movement direction by ***Tom Nelis***, music direction by ***Mark Rubinstein***, and vocal music direction by ***Charles Peltz*** and ***Dan Rodriguez***.

**WHEN:** December 1, 2010 — January 8, 2011  
Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30pm  
Matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm  
**PRESS OPENING** on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00pm

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

**TICKETS:** Begin at \$25. Student rush \$15.  
Seniors \$10 off regular ticket price.  
Group Rates available.  
Single tickets go on sale to A.R.T. Members on October 19 and to the general public on November 2. Tickets can be purchased on line at <http://www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org>, by phone at 617-547-8300, or in person at the A.R.T. Box Office, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information on Memberships go to <http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org/membership>

**RATING:** Recommended for 13 and older.

/over

**DETAILS:**

"***The Blue Flower*** is one of the most creative and original pieces of musical theater I have ever encountered. The story is funny, heart-breaking, relevant, and compelling for our times. The music is like nothing you've ever heard and at the same time completely accessible. Its combination of Kurt Weill and Country Western, which sounds as if it shouldn't go together at all, does so brilliantly. It creates a completely personal musical world and yet is enormously evocative and universal. I love it."

— Stephen Schwartz, composer and lyricist of *Wicked*, *Pippin*, and *Godspell*.

***The Blue Flower*** rides the twisted rails of history and the tangled love interests of three artists and a scientist, from Paris during the Belle Epoque, through the battlefields of the Great War and beyond. The title of the piece is a reference to the symbol used by German romantic poets of the 18th and 19th centuries to signify the ongoing search for artistic perfection. Over time, it evolved into an emblem of hope and was adopted by other artists as a symbol for the simultaneous end and the beginning of all things, for reinvention and reincarnation.

Set in Germany at the end of World War I and the beginning of the Weimar Republic, *The Blue Flower* is inspired by the lives of historical figures Max Beckmann, Franz Marc, Hannah Höch, and Marie Curie. Influenced by the art movements — particularly Dada and Surrealism — and the political tenor of the day, Max, Hannah, Maria, and Franz try to make sense of the world in which they struggle to create, relate, and survive. Their story is told through a narrative song cycle performed by seven singer/actors that blends the jagged contours of 1920's Berlin cabaret music with the lyricism of American country and western, accompanied by an 8-piece band onstage (*bassoon, pedal steel guitar, cello, accordion, piano, guitar/ drums/percussion*). Projections and silent film reels punctuate the narrative, moving the story forward and enveloping the audience in an environment that invokes the Dada cathedral of Weimar Germany, the Cabaret Voltaire.

The cast includes **Daniel Jenkins** as Max, **Meghan McGeary** as Hannah, **Tom Nelis** as Fairytale Man, **Bryce Ryness** as Franz, **Teal Wicks** as Maria, **Connor Christiansen** and **Paul Shafer** as Dada men. Set design is by **Marsha Ginsberg**, Costume Design by **Carol Bailey**, Lighting Design by **Justin Townsend**, and Sound Design by **Clive Goodwin**. Produced by special arrangement with Stephen Schwartz, Andrew Levine, and Steve Tate.

/over

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**JIM BAUER** (writer/composer/lyricist) started piano lessons at age 6, taught himself guitar as a teenager, and earned a bachelors degree in music composition and theory at Haverford College. He has since spent a good deal of time composing and producing music scores for film and television while performing as singer/songwriter/guitarist/keyboardist in a variety of bands he periodically assembles. With DAGMAR, his current project with singing partner Meghan McGeary, he performs in the New York City subways under the Music Under New York (MUNY) banner and on the streets of Boston and Cambridge. DAGMAR's third CD, "Door No. 3", completed a trilogy of albums that tell the fractured story of a guy

who can't get out of bed in the morning and an insect goddess who plunges through the ether to rescue him. He has received numerous songwriting and performance awards, including the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award in 2004 with his wife Ruth Bauer for their work on *The Blue Flower*.

**RUTH BAUER** (artist/writer/videographer) is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. Her oil paintings, watercolors, collages and monotypes have been shown in group exhibits in museums including The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Hudson River Museum, The Tucson Museum of Art, The DeCordova Museum, The Brockton Museum, and the Rose Art Museum, and in solo exhibitions in galleries across the United States. Her work is included in notable private and public collections, and has been reviewed in a number of articles in art journals and newspapers, including *ArtNews* and *The Boston Globe*. As an illustrator she has created book jacket covers for Houghton-Mifflin, Viking, Harvard University Press and Orchard Books. She is a faculty member and Chair of the Arts Department at Shore Country Day School in Beverly, MA and is a 2004 recipient of a Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award. She is currently writing and illustrating a fictional journal of an amateur woman naturalist from the nineteenth century who has traveled to the mythical isle of Kokovoko (the home of the charismatic cannibal Queequeg in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*) and is documenting the flora and fauna there.

**WILL POMERANTZ** has directed and developed new plays, music theatre and opera with such theatres as Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theatre, Hartford Stage, New York Theater Workshop, Ensemble Studio Theater, Soho Rep, Culture Project, The Signature Theatre, The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Studio Theatre, Bard Summerscape, and The Guthrie. He has directed world premieres by John Guare, David Auburn, Neil LaBute, Craig Lucas, Kia Corthron, David Lindsay-Abaire, Stephen Belber, Noah Haidle, and Linda Cho. His production of *The Shape of Things* was voted Outstanding Production of the Year in Washington, DC by *Metro Weekly* and received a Helen Hayes Award for outstanding performance, as well as being cited as among the year's best by *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Times*. His production *Dai* (starring Iris Bahr) received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Solo Performance 2006-2007 and won the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Performance. He received an OOB Award for Outstanding Production (for *A Tale of Two Cities*) and his work has been a Critic's Pick in *Time Out NY* and *The Village Voice*. Pomerantz is Associate Director for Artistic Development for Epic Theatre Ensemble, where he directed the New York premiere of Howard Barker's *A Hard Heart* (starring Kathleen Chalfant), and *Mahida's Extra Key to Heaven*. Pomerantz is the first American director ever invited to direct for the National Theatre of Poland, where his production of *Cinders*, by Janusz Glowacki, was performed as part of the repertory for four years. In addition, he has been the Boris Sagal Fellow in Directing for Williamstown Theatre Festival, Staff Repertory Director for The Acting Company, Director-In-Residence for Culture Project, and is an alumnus of the Directors Lab at Lincoln Center, a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop, and a member of Ensemble Studio Theater.

## **ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS**

**DANIEL JENKINS'** (Max) Broadway credits include George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Clifford Pike in *Wrong Mountain*, Prior Walter in *Angels in America*, Huck Finn in *Big River* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations) and Josh in *Big* (Drama Desk nomination). He co-wrote and performed *Love Child* for Primary Stages and New World Stages, and appeared in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert) and *The Pajama Game* (Prez) at Encores!; *Spinning Into Butter* at Lincoln

Center; *Dream True*, *The Maiden's Prayer*, and *Feast Here Tonight* (composer/performer) at the Vineyard Theatre; and *Triumph of Love* at Classic Stage Company among others. His regional credits include *The Education of Randy Newman* at ACT; *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at Hangar Theater; *Fortinbras* and *Twelfth Night* at La Jolla Playhouse; *Citizen Tom Paine* at Philadelphia Theatre Company/Kennedy Center; and *The Grapes of Wrath*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Rites of Passage*, *Little People* (playwright), *Fast Women*, *Julius Caesar*, *Coup/Clucks*, *Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music*, and *Neutral Countries* at Actors Theatre of Louisville. He appeared in several films, including Robert Altman's *OC and Stiggs* (O.C.), *Glory*, *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*; as well as a guest star on several television series.

**MEGHAN MCGEARY** (Hannah) created the role in 2001 and has participated in the further development of *The Blue Flower* since its inception. She formed a band in 2005 with Jim Bauer called DAGMAR which has evolved into a meta-folk duo currently performing in multiple venues under the Music Under New York (MUNY) banner, and also performs solo as Amity Rose playing vintage standards on ukeleles. Her credits also include *The Rockae* (Agave), Prospect Theater, Co; the workshop of *Land of Dreams* (w/Tom Nelis, by Charles Moulton, music from Randy Newman), *In Search of Stanley Hammer* (Mrs. Hammer), New York International Fringe Festival; *Aspects of Love* (Giulietta Trapani, 2006 Barrymore Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical) and *Titanic* (Alice Beane) at Media Theater.

/over

**TOM NELIS** (Fairytale Man/Movement Director) was last seen at the A.R.T. in the SITI Company production of *Bobrauschenbergamerica*. His Broadway credits include *Enron*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, and *Aida*; off-Broadway he was seen in *Orlando* at Classic Stage Company; *Road Show*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV*, the title role in *Henry VI*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* at The Public Theater; *Iphigenia 2.0* and *Hot 'N' Throbbing*, at Signature Theater; *The Merchant of Venice* at Theater for a New Audience and the Royal Shakespeare Company; Laurie Anderson's *Songs and Stories from Moby Dick* at BAM; *Lilith* at New York City Opera; Oscar Wilde in *Gross Indecencies* at Mineta Lane; and multiple productions at En Garde Arts, Ontological Hysterical Theater, and Manhattan Theater Club; several productions at En Garde Arts and Ontological Hysterical Theater. He is a founding member of SITI Company and is celebrating 18 years of work under the direction of Anne Bogart, and the winner of several awards.

**BRYCE RYNESS** (Franz) originated the role of Woof in the revival of *HAIR* at the Delacorte Theatre (Drama Desk nomination) and performed on Broadway under the direction of Diane Paulus. His other credits include *Legally Blonde* (Aaron) and Off-Broadway *See Rock City & Other Destinations* at the Duke Theatre, and *Crossing Brooklyn* with the Transport Group. Regional credits include *Floyd Collins* (title role, *Ovation* nomination) in Los Angeles and the national tour of *Rent* (Roger). Mr. Ryness is also a songwriter and has released two albums.

**TEAL WICKS** (Maria) played Elphaba in *Wicked* in the San Francisco and Los Angeles productions, and Catherine in the national tour of *Pippin*. Her New York credits include *Stairway to Paradise* at New York City Center Encores!, *Fahrenheit 451* at 59E59, *The \$trip*

at Nerve Ensemble. Regionally she was seen in *1776* and *Pippin* with Goodspeed Musicals, and *Turandot Rumble for the Ring* at Bay Street Theatre. She is a graduate of the University of California Irvine, Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

### **ABOUT THE A.R.T.**

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. In 2002 the A.R.T. was the recipient of the National Theatre Conference's Outstanding Achievement Award, and in May of 2003 it was named one of the top three theaters in the country by *Time* magazine.

Founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, the A.R.T. during its 30-year history has welcomed major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes new American plays, bold reinterpretations of classical texts and provocative new music theater productions. The A.R.T. has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide in 21 cities in 16 countries on four continents. It has presented over 200 productions, over half of which were premieres of new plays, translations and adaptations.

The A.R.T. is also a training ground for young artists. The theater's artistic staff teaches undergraduate classes in acting, directing, dramatic literature, dramaturgy, design and playwriting at Harvard University, and in 1987 the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. In conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class graduate level training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

In 2009, the A.R.T. welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus. Under her leadership, the Theater 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 initiative recognizes that theater is not just a play on the stage, but also a social occasion for people to come together and experience community. This audience-driven vision speaks directly to the A.R.T.'s core mission — “to expand the boundaries of theater.” By expanding its focus to include the audience's total theater experience, the A.R.T. seeks to give audiences a voice, a sense of ownership and a feeling of importance in the theatrical event.

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, 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.

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## CALENDAR AND RELATED EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### WHAT:

#### ***THE BLUE FLOWER***

a new theater with music piece

music, lyrics, script, and videography by Jim Bauer

artwork, story, and videography by Ruth Bauer

Director	Will Pomerantz
Music Director/Conductor	Mark Rubinstein
Movement Director	Tom Nelis
Vocal Music Directors	Charles Peltz and Dan Rodriguez
Set Designer	Marsha Ginsberg
Costume Designer	Carol Bailey
Lighting Designer	Justin Townsend
Sound Designer	Clive Goodwin

### CAST

Max	Daniel Jenkins*
Hannah	Meghan McGearry*
Maria	Teal Wicks*
Franz	Bryce Ryness*
Fairytale Man	Tom Nelis*
Dada Men	Connor Christiansen*
	Paul Shafer*

(\* ) members of Actors Equity Association

### WHEN:

We Dec 1	7:30pm
Th Dec 2	7:30pm
Fr Dec 3	7:30pm
Sa Dec 4	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Dec 5	7:30pm
Tu Dec 7	7:30pm
We Dec 8	<b>7:00pm (PRESS OPENING)</b>
Th Dec 9	7:30pm
Fr Dec 10	7:30pm
Sa Dec 4	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Dec 5	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Tu Dec 14	7:30pm
We Dec 15	7:30pm
Th Dec 15	7:30pm
Fr Dec 17	7:30pm
Sa Dec 18	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Dec 19	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Tu Dec 21	7:30pm
We Dec 22	7:30pm

Th Dec 23	7:30pm
Su Dec 26	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Tu Dec 28	7:30pm
We Dec 29	7:30pm
Th Dec 30	7:30pm
Fr Dec 31	2:00pm
Sa Jan 1	2:00pm and 7:30pm

Tu Jan 4	7:30pm
We Jan 5	7:30pm
Th Jan 6	7:30pm
Fr Jan 7	2:00pm
Sa Jan 8	2:00pm and 7:30pm

**WHERE:** Loeb Drama Center, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA

**RATING:** Recommended for 13 and older.

**TICKETS:** begin at \$25. 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](http://www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org)

**RELATED EVENTS:**

*Wednesday, December 1:* Installation in the A.R.T. lobby of *The Blue Flower*-inspired artworks created by Harvard students.

*Tuesday, December 7:* Panel Discussion about the creation of *The Blue Flower* at the Humanities Center; panelists to include Jim Bauer and Ruth Bauer.

**MEDIA INFORMATION:**

Email Address: [press@amrep.org](mailto:press@amrep.org)

Production photos of *The Blue Flower* will be available beginning 12/3/10 at

<http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org/media-room/press-kits/blue-flower>