



American Repertory Theater
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For immediate release June 30, 2011 (revised August 1)
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**American Repertory Theater Opens the 2011-12 Season with
a musical theater adaptation of
The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess
with Audra McDonald as Bess and Norm Lewis as Porgy**

Cambridge, Mass. — A.R.T. American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) opens its 2011-12 season with ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***, by George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin. The adaptation by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** and Obie Award-winning composer **Diedre L. Murray**, directed by A.R.T. Artistic Director **Diane Paulus**, with choreography by **Ronald K. Brown**, begins previews on August 17 and opens for the reviewing press on August 31 at 7pm. Performances are at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Tickets for preview performances are currently on sale, remaining tickets for the run go on sale on July 12.

Led by **Audra McDonald** as Bess and **Norm Lewis** as Porgy, the Company includes **David Alan Grier** as Sporting Life, **Joshua Henry** as Jake, **Phillip Boykin** as Crown, **Nikki Renée Daniels** as Clara, **Bryonha Marie Parham** as Serena, **NaTasha Yvette Williams** as Maria, **Cedric Neal** as Frazier, **J.D. Webster** as Mingo, **Heather Hill** as Lily, **Phumzile Sojola** as Peter, **Nathaniel Stampley** as Robbins, **Joseph Dellger** as the Coroner, and **Christopher Innvar** as the Detective. The ensemble also includes **Allison Blackwell**, **Roosevelt André Credit**, **Trevon Davis**, **Joseph Dellger**, **Wilkie Ferguson**, **Alicia Hall Moran**, **Andrea Jones-Sojola**, and **Lisa Nicole Wilkerson**.

THE GERSHWINS' PORGY AND BESS began its life as DuBose Heyward's novel *Porgy*, which he and his wife Dorothy Heyward adapted into a play. George Gershwin wanted to write an American opera — a piece that would infuse classical musical tradition with what he considered the vigor of blues and jazz, two distinctly American musical forms. He found in *Porgy* the perfect vehicle, and with Heyward as librettist and Ira Gershwin as lyricist, Gershwin's new opera had its premiere in **Boston's Colonial Theater** on September 30, 1935. Broadway performances followed featuring a cast of classically trained African-American singers — a daring and visionary artistic choice at the time.

This classic American tale tells the story of the beautiful and troubled Bess, who turns to Porgy, the crippled beggar, in search of safety after her possessive lover Crown commits murder. As Porgy and Bess's love grows, their future is threatened by Crown and the conniving Sporting Life. The heartbreaking love story is set in the late 1930s in Catfish Row, a neighborhood in Charleston, South Carolina and boasts some of the most famous and beloved works from the Great American Songbook including "Summertime," "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "I Loves You, Porgy."

Creating a new adaptation of Gershwin's renowned *Porgy and Bess* is a privilege bestowed upon Diane Paulus and the A.R.T. by the estates of George and Ira Gershwin and DuBose and Dorothy Heyward in their desire to take the work from the opera house to the musical stage and its popular roots. The new production maintains the original setting and includes all of the great and beloved songs.

/over

Set design is by **Riccardo Hernandez** (*Il Postino* at LA Opera, Washington Opera, and Le Chatelet, Paris; numerous productions at A.R.T.), costume design by Project Runway finalist **ESosa**, lighting design by **Christopher Akerlind** (Tony Award for *The Light in the Piazza; The Seagull, Britannicus* and others at A.R.T.), sound by **Acme Sound Partners**, and casting by **Telsey + Company**. Orchestration is by **William David Brohn** and **Christopher Jahnke**, the Music Supervisor is **David Loud**, and the conductor is **Sheilah Walker**.

This production of **The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess** is being presented in association with Jeffrey Richards and Jerry Frankel.

About the Cast:

Audra McDonald (Bess) is the recipient of four Tony Awards for her performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*, and a nomination for her performance in *Marie Christine*. She reprised her *Raisin* role for a 2008 television adaptation, earning her an Emmy Award nomination. McDonald appeared as Lizzie in the Roundabout Theatre Company's 2007 revival of *110 in the Shade*, for which she shared the Drama Desk Award for Best Actress in a Musical with Donna Murphy. She frequently performs in concert throughout the US and has performed with musical institutions such as the New York Philharmonic and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Carnegie Hall commissioned the song cycle *The Seven Deadly Sins: A Song Cycle* for McDonald, and she performed it at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in 2004. She sang in Francis Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* and the world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *Send (who are you? I love you)* at Houston Grand Opera, and in Kurt Weill's opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at LA Opera (the resulting recording won two Grammy Awards, for Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album in 2009). Her television roles include the ABC television drama *Private Practice* as Dr. Naomi Bennett, the HBO film *Wit* (Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a miniseries), *Homicide: Life on the Street*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, *The Bedford Diaries*, and *Kidnapped*, and the 1999 television remake of *Annie* as Daddy Warbucks' secretary, Miss Farrell. Her films include *Best Thief in the World*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Object of My Affection*, and *Seven Servants*. McDonald has recorded four solo albums for Nonesuch Records, including *Way Back to Paradise*, *How Glory Goes*, *Happy Songs*, and *Build a Bridge*.

Norm Lewis (Porgy) recently played Javert in *Les Misérables* at London's West End, a role he also played on Broadway and for which he received a Drama League nomination. Other Broadway roles include *Sondheim on Sondheim* (recording has just been released), King Triton in *The Little Mermaid*, Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, Jake in *Side Show*, John in *Miss Saigon*, as well as roles in *The Wild Party*, *Amour*, and he was in the original cast of *Tommy*. Off-Broadway he was seen as Nathan in *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Valentine in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Drama League nomination), Doc in *Captains Courageous*, and Roger in *A New Brain*. Regional credits include Coalhouse in *Ragtime*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*. He appeared in concert for The Actors' Fund concerts of *Chess* (Molokov), *Dreamgirls* (Curtis), and *HAIR*. *Children of Eden* (Father), *Bright Lights Big City* (Tad), *Golden Boy* (Eddie) for City Center Encores! Film and television includes *Sex and the City 2*, *Preaching to the Choir*, *Confidences*, *Mystery Woman*, *Cosby*, *Strong Medicine*, *All My Children*, *As The World Turns*. His debut solo CD is entitled "Norm Lewis: This is the Life." He was part of the July 4th Celebration with the Boston Pops this summer.

David Alan Grier (Sporting Life) trained in Shakespeare and received an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He has since received two Tony Award nominations and has been named one of Comedy Central's "100 Greatest Stand-ups of All Time." Grier began his professional career on Broadway as Jackie Robinson in *The First*, for which he earned a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured Actor in a Musical and won the Theatre World Award. He then joined the cast of *Over*

Dreamgirls before going on to star opposite Denzel Washington in *A Soldier's Play*, for which both actors reprised their roles in the film adaptation titled *A Soldier's Story*. He appeared in Robert Altman's *Streamers* and won the Golden Lion for Best Actor at the Venice Film Festival (1983). Recently was seen in David Mamet's *Race* on Broadway and received his second Tony Award nomination. Grier's television work is highlighted by a turn as principal cast member on the Emmy Award winning *In Living Color* (1990-1994) where he helped to create some of the show's most memorable characters. He was a cast member in the series *DAG* and *Life with Bonnie* (Image and Golden Satellite nomination); wrote and executive produced a show for Comedy Central called *Chocolate News* in 2008, and appeared on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* in 2009. Grier's first book, *BARACK LIKE ME: The Chocolate Covered Truth* was published in 2009, and he just wrapped filming the comedy *We the Peeples*, set for release in 2011.

Phillip Boykin (Crown) has performed the role of Crown in *Porgy and Bess* internationally, most recently in Australia and New Zealand, toured with "Golden Gospel Singers" and the "Harlem Gospel Singers" throughout Europe, and was featured soloist with the "Spiritual Singers of Harlem" annual Asian tour. He toured nationally as Joe in *Show Boat*, sang in *Black Nativity* at the Kennedy Center, performed as a guest soloist with the Hartt School Chorus and Orchestra at Lincoln Center in the Alice Tully Hall. Other guest appearances include Connecticut Opera Express, Connecticut Concert Opera, Hartford Symphony, Bristol Symphony, New Britain Symphony, Cleveland Pops and the Greenville Symphony.

Nikki Renée Daniels (Clara) appeared on Broadway in *Anything Goes*, *Promises, Promises*, *Les Misérables* 2006 Revival, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Lestat*, *Nine*, *The Look of Love* and *Aida*. She performed the role of Clara at the New York City Opera production of *Porgy and Bess*, and regionally she was seen in *Caroline or Change* (Emmie) at The Guthrie Theater; *Anything Goes* (Hope Harcourt), Williamstown Theater Festival; *Ray Charles Live!* (Della B) at Pasadena Playhouse; *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) at American Musical Theater of San Jose and Sacramento Music Circus; and *Ragtime* (Sarah) at the North Shore Music Theater; among others.

Joshua Henry (Jake) was most recently seen on Broadway as Haywood Patterson in *The Scottsboro Boys - the Musical*. Other Broadway credits include *Favorite Son* in the Tony nominated rock musical *American Idiot* and the Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*, which earned him the Drama Desk award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance. He appeared Off-Broadway in *The Wiz* and in *In the Heights*. Regional credits include *American Idiot* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and *Godspell* at Paper Mill Playhouse.

Heather Hill (Lily) opera credits include *Moby-Dick* at Dallas Opera, *L'elisir d'amore* and *Semiramide* at Caramoor Summer Festival, *Porgy and Bess* for the European/Australian tour-Harlem Productions, Dicapo Opera, *La Sonnambula*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with Opera Colorado, and *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* at New Jersey Opera Theater. She has also performed in a number of concerts.

Cedric Neal (Frazier) regional credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Henry IV. It's a Bird, It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Who's Tommy* (Rabin Award), *Lost In The Stars*, *A Dog's Life*, *Porgy And Bess* (Austin Critics Circle Award), *Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*, *Brief History of White Music*, *The Life*, *Aida*, *The Normal Heart*, *Tick, tick...BOOM*, *Crowns*, *Ain't Misbehavin.'* Television credits include *The Good Guys*, *Chase*, and *Friday Night Lights*. He is a member of the Brierley Resident Acting Company- Dallas Theater Center.

Bryona Marie Parham (Serena) was seen in the revival of *Ragtime* on Broadway as well as at the Kennedy Center. Other regional credits include *For the Glory/Civil War*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Crowns*, *Once on This Island*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Chicago/Seussical*.

Nathaniel Sampley (Robbins) credits include *The Lion King* on Broadway and the West End, *The Color Purple* on Broadway, and the national tour of *Ragtime*. Regionally he was seen in *Abyssinia* at the North Shore Music Theatre, *Pacific Overtures* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *Lost in the Stars* at NY City Center's Encores!, and *One Touch of Venus* at Auditorium Theatre's Ovation! Series; *Once on This Island* and *Big River* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination) at Apple Tree Theatre; and *Showboat* at Sacramento Music Circus.

Phumzile Sojola (Peter) was seen off-Broadway and on tour in *Three Mo Tenors*. Opera credits include *L'étoile* and *Troubled Island* at New York City Opera; *Porgy & Bess* at Edinburgh Festival, Opera National de Lyon, New York Harlem Theater; *La Bohème* with Missouri Symphony Orchestra; *Carmen* and *Die Zauberflöte* with Dayton Opera; *Death in Venice* with Glimmerglass Opera, and *La Traviata* at Cincinnati Opera.

J.D. Webster (Mingo) was seen on Broadway in *Wonderful Town*, *Ragtime*, and *Show Boat*. Other New York credits include *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at NYSF, *17 Encores!* at City Center, *Bernstein's Mass*, *South Pacific*, *Ira Gershwin at 100*, and *Spring is Here* at Carnegie Hall. His regional credits include *Avenue X*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Gospel*, *An American in Paris*, *The Blackamour Angel*, *Violet*, *Jam and Spice*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and *The Desert Song*.

NaTasha Yvette Williams (Maria) Broadway credits include *The Color Purple* and *Dessa Rose*. She played the role of Mamma in Trevor Nunn's production of *Gone With the Wind* at London's West End. She toured nationally in *Xanadu*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *All Shook Up*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Cinderella*. Regional credits include *Hairspray*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Abyssinia*, and the title role of *Mahalia* at the Cleveland Playhouse. She has been a featured soloist with a number of orchestras nationwide.

About the Ensemble:

Allison Blackwell performed in *The Lion King* in Las Vegas, *Ragtime* at Paper Mill Theatre, *Caroline, or Change* at TheatreWorks (2008 San Francisco Bay Area Critics Circle Award winner for Best Supporting Actress), *A Little Night Music* and *Nunsense* at Sacramento Music Circus, *Hairspray* and *Les Misérables* at North Shore Music Theatre, among others. Concert appearances include *Show Boat* at Carnegie Hall.

Roosevelt André Credit's credits include *Show Boat* on Broadway and national tour. Off Broadway he was seen in *Marie Christine* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Regional credits include *Ragtime*, *For The People*, *Voice From Within*. Concert performances include Duke Ellington's *Sacred Service* at Jazz at Lincoln Center; Schubert's *Mass* at Carnegie Hall); *Basically Bach Festival*, *Fauré's Requiem*, *Bach's St. John Passion*, and *Handel's Messiah*.

Trevon Davis's credits include *Dreamgirls* at the Apollo Theater/National Broadway Tour, *Black Voices: The Struggle Continues* at The Urban Theatre Company of Atlanta. On television he was seen on *BET's Sunday Best Season 1* (Top 7 Finalist), *MTV's Making the Band 4* (Atlanta Finalist; New York City Contestant).

Wilkie Ferguson appeared on Broadway in *Wonderland*, in the first national tours of *In The Heights* and *Hairspray*. Other theater credits include the world premiere of *Sister Act*, *Stormy Weather* (with Leslie Uggams), and *Ray Charles Live!* (Young Ray) at the Pasadena Playhouse; *Porgy and Bess* and *South Pacific* at the Hollywood Bowl; *Dreamgirls* on its West Coast Tour and at Pittsburgh CLO; and *Annie* at Trinity Rep among others.

Alicia Hall Moran's theater credits include *Jenny* in *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Motown Project*, and *Things of the Heart*. Concert performances include *Jazz@Lincoln Center*, *Kennedy Center*. She collaborated with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's *Chapel/Chapter* (US/Europe, Bessie Award for Musical Collaboration) and *Time and Milestone* (US/Europe), among others. /over

Andrea Jones-Sojola's theater credits include *Three Mo' Divas*, and *Big River*. She performed the role of Clara in *Porgy and Bess* with New York Harlem Productions in Germany and Italy; Frasquita in *Carmen*, Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (Lucca, Italy). She sang in the concert performance of *Showboat* at Carnegie Hall, *Messiah* with the Milwaukee Symphony, and Fauré's *Requiem* with the Lexington Philharmonic.

Lisa Nicole Wilkerson played Nala in the national tour of *The Lion King* and Ali in the national tour of *Mamma Mia!*. Regional credits include *Abyssinia*, *Once on This Island*, *Godspell*, *River Deep: Tribute to Tina Turner*, and *Purlie*. Television and film credits include *The Tony Awards 2008*, *The Today Show*, *Oprah*, *Jay Leno*, and *Unconditional Love*.

About the Creative Team:

A.R.T. Artistic Director **Diane Paulus** has directed ***Prometheus Bound***, ***Death and the Powers: The Robots' Opera*** (also in Monaco and Chicago) ***Johnny Baseball***, ***Best of Both Worlds***, ***The Donkey Show*** (also six years Off-Broadway, tours to London, Edinburgh, Madrid, Evian, France) at the A.R.T. Other recent theater credits include *HAIR* (Tony Award, Best Revival of a Musical; Tony Award nomination, Best Direction of a Musical) on Broadway, London, and US Tour; *Lost Highway* at the Young Vic/English National Opera; *Kiss Me, Kate* at Glimmerglass Opera; *Another Country*, Columbia Stages; *Turandot: Rumble for the Ring*, Bay Street Theater; *Swimming with Watermelons*, Vineyard Theater and Music-Theatre Group; *Eli's Comin*, *Brutal Imagination*, Vineyard Theater; and *Running Man* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Music-Theatre Group). Her opera credits include *The Magic Flute* for the Canadian Opera Company; *Il mondo della luna* at the Hayden Planetarium at the Museum of Natural History, Gotham Chamber Opera; and *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Così fan tutte*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and *Orfeo* for Chicago Opera Theater. Ms. Paulus was named one of the "50 Most Powerful Women in Boston" by *Boston* magazine this year.

Adapter **Suzan-Lori Parks** was named one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave." Her plays include ***The America Play***, also produced at the A.R.T.; *Topdog/Underdog* (Broadway, Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *The Book of Grace*, *In the Blood* (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Venus* (1996 OBIE Award), *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, *Father Comes Home from the Wars Part I: The Union of My Confederate Parts*, *Fucking A*, and *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (1990 OBIE Award for Best New American Play). She's written screenplays for Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, *Girl 6*, written for Spike Lee, and adapted Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which premiered on ABC's Oprah Winfrey Presents. In 2007 her project *365 Plays/365 Days* was produced in over 700 theaters worldwide. She teaches at NYU, and currently performing her experimental solo show, *Watch Me Work* at The Public Theatre, where she serves as Master Writer Chair.

Adapter/Arranger **Diedre L. Murray** composed the A.R.T.'s production of ***Best of Both Worlds***. She is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, two-time Obie winner, innovative composer, cellist, producer and curator. Her musical theater works include *Unending Pain*, a choral/chamber work (co-presented by the Performance Garage and the Whitney Museum of American Art, toured to the Studio Museum of Harlem and Productions Traquen' Arts Cello Festival in Montreal); *Let's Go Down to the River*, a score for octet, Willasau Jazz Festival in Switzerland; *The Eves of Nhor*, a string trio for National Dutch Radio and De Effenaar Festival in Eindhoven Holland; *Kamerados*, for mixed ensemble; *Five Minute Tango*, a score for the inaugural concert at the Danny Kaye/Sylvia Fine Playhouse, performed by the Manhattan Brass Quintet; *The Conversation* for the Seattle-based New Performance Group; *You Don't Miss the Water*, a music-theater piece in collaboration with noted poet Cornelius Eady, produced by the Music-Theatre Group (MTG); *Women In The Dunes*, a dance piece created by Blondel Cummings for the Japan Society; the original story and score for the jazz-opera *Running Man* with book with Cornelius Eady (two Obie Awards, finalist for the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama); music arrangements for *Eli's Coming* (Obie Award); and an adaptation by Diane Paulus of James Baldwin's *Another Country*.

/over

Choreographer **Ronald K. Brown** is the Founder and Artistic Director of EVIDENCE, A DANCE COMPANY, a New York-based contemporary dance ensemble since 1985. Has also created work for the African American Dance Ensemble, Philadanco, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cinque Folkloric Dance Theater, Jennifer Muller/The Works, and Jeune Ballet d'Afrique Noire. He has collaborated with composer/designer Omotayo Wunmi Olaiya, the late writer Craig G. Harris, director Ernie McClintock's Jazz Actors Theater, choreographers Patricia Hoffbauer and Rokiya Kone, and composers Robert Eem, Oliver Lake, Bernadette Speech, David Simons, and Don Meissner. He is the recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie), a Black Theater Alliance Award, the American Dance Festival Humphrey/Weidman/Limón Award, and an AUDELCO (Black Theatre Award) for his choreography for *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, originally produced by the McCarter Theater and presented off-Broadway in 2003. Brown was named Def Dance Jam Workshop Mentor of the Year in 2000.

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 regional 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 regional theaters in the country by *Time* magazine. Founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, the A.R.T. during its 30-year history has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide, and has welcomed many 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. In 2009, the A.R.T. welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus. Armed with the A.R.T.'s mission to expand the boundaries of theater, Paulus and her team have engaged thousands of new theatergoers at performances of ***Sleep No More***, ***The Donkey Show***, ***Gatz***, ***Best of Both Worlds***, ***Johnny Baseball***, ***Cabaret***, ***The Blue Flower***, ***Prometheus Bound***, and ***Death and the Powers*** as well as festivals like Emerging America. Critics and audiences have embraced the immersive environments that have become hallmarks of A.R.T. productions. The Theater has broadened its focus to include the audience's total experience, providing them with a sense of ownership in the theatrical event. Initiatives like the A.R.T.'s new club theater OBERON, which Paulus calls a "second stage for the 21st century," is an example of one initiative that has not only become an incubator for local artists but also has attracted national attention as a groundbreaking model for programming. Through all of its work, the A.R.T. is committed to building a community of artists, technicians, educators, staff and audience, all of who are integral to the A.R.T.'s core mission of expanding the boundaries of theater.

The balance of the 2011-12 A.R.T. season includes ***THREE PIANOS*** by Rick Burkhardt, Alec Duffy and Dave Malloy, with music from Franz Schubert's *Winterreise*, Op. 89, D911 (1828), directed by Rachel Chavkin (Loeb Drama Center • December 7 – January 8, 2012); ***AS YOU LIKE IT*** by William Shakespeare, featuring members of The A.R.T. /MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training Class of 2012 (Loeb Drama Center • January 13 – January 28); the world premiere of ***WILD SWANS*** by Jung Chang, adapted by Alexandra Wood, directed by Sacha Wares (Loeb Drama Center • February 11 – March 11); and the world premiere of ***FUTURITY: A Musical by The Lisps***, with music and lyrics by César Alvarez with The Lisps; book by Molly Rice and César Alvarez; directed by Sarah Benson (Oberon • March 16 – April 15); and ***WOODY SEZ***, with words and music by Woody Guthrie, devised by David M. Lutken with Nick Corley (Loeb Drama Center • May 5 – May 26).

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.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit <http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org>

CALENDAR AND RELATED EVENTS AT A GLANCE

WHAT:

THE GERSHWINS' PORGY AND BESS

By George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin

Director	Diane Paulus
Adapter with Additional Scenes	Suzan-Lori Parks
Adapter/Arranger	Diedre L. Murray
Choreographer	Ronald K. Brown
Scenic Design	Riccardo Hernandez
Costume Design	ESosa
Lighting Design	Christopher Akerlind
Sound Design	ACME Sound Partners
Wig Design	J. Jared Janas & Bob Greene
Orchestrators	William David Brown & Christopher Jahnke
Music Supervisor	David Loud
Conductor	Sheilah Walker
Associate Director/PSM	Nancy Harrington*
Casting	Telsey + Company

CAST

Bess	Audra McDonald*
Porgy	Norm Lewis*
Sporting Life	David Alan Grier*
Jake	Joshua Henry*
Crown	Phillip Boykin*
Maria	NaTasha Yvette Williams*
Clara	Nikki Renée Daniels*
Serena	Bryonha Marie Parham *
Frazier, the Crab Man	Cedric Neal*
Mingo	J.D. Webster*
Robbins	Nathaniel Stampley*
Peter, the Honey Man	Phumzile Sojola*
Lily	Heather Hill*
Strawberry Woman	Andrea Jones-Sojola*
Fishermen	Roosevelt André Credit*
	Trevon Davis*
	Wilkie Ferguson*
Women of Catfish Row	Allison Blackwell*
	Alicia Hall Moran*
	Lisa Nicole Wilkerson*
Coroner	Joseph Dellger *
Detective	Christopher Innvar*

(*) members of Actors Equity Association

ORCHESTRA

Piano/Celeste	Brian Hertz
Violin	Sasha Callahan
Viola	Ashleigh Gordon
Cello	Leo Eguchi
Horn 1	Roslyn Black
Horn 2	Diantha Millott
Trumpet 1/Flugelhorn	John Replogle
Trumpet 2/Flugelhorn	Greg Smith
Trombone	Martin Wittenberg
Tuba/Bass Trombone	Don Robinson
Flute/Piccolo	Ebonee Thomas
Oboe/Eng Horn	Mie Shirashi
Clarinet/Flute/Alto Sax	Bob Bowlby
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet/Alto &Tenor Sax	Peter L. Cokkinias
Tenor Sax/Bari Sax/Bassoon	Greg Newton
Accordion	Roberto Cassan
Bass	Joe Higgins
Percussion	Robert Schulz

WHEN:

We Aug 17	7:30pm
Th Aug 18	7:30pm
Fr Aug 19	7:30pm
Sa Aug 20	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Aug 21	7:30pm

Tu Aug 23	7:30pm
We Aug 24	7:30pm
Th Aug 25	7:30pm
Fr Aug 26	7:30pm
Sa Aug 27	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Aug 28	2:00pm

Tu Aug 30	7:30pm
We Aug 31	7:00pm
Th Sep 1	7:30pm
Fr Sep 2	7:30pm
Sa Sep 3	2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Sep 4	2:00pm

Tu Sep 6	7:30pm
We Sep 7	2:00pm and 7:00pm
Th Sep 8	7:30pm
Fr Sep 9	7:30pm
Sa Sep 10	1:00pm and 6:30pm
Su Sep 11	2:00pm

**PRESS OPENING
PRESS OPENING**

NOTE DIFFERENT PERFORMANCE TIMES

Tu Sep 13 7:30pm
We Sep 14 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Th Sep 15 7:30pm
Fr Sep 16 7:30pm
Sa Sep 17 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Sep 18 2:00pm

Tu Sep 20 7:30pm
We Sep 21 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Th Sep 22 7:30pm
Fr Sep 23 7:30pm
Sa Sep 24 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Sep 25 2:00pm

Tu Sep 27 7:30pm
We Sep 28 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Th Sep 29 7:30pm
Fr Sep 30 7:30pm
Sa Oct 1 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Su Oct 2 2:00pm

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

RATING: Recommended for 10 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

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Email Address: press@amrep.org

Production photos of **The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess** are available at

<http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org/media-room/press-kits/gershwins-porgy-and-bess>