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**A.R.T. Announces the Company for the World Premiere of  
*MARIE ANTOINETTE*  
by David Adjmi, directed by Rebecca Taichman  
In a co-production with Yale Repertory Theatre**

Cambridge, Mass — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is pleased to announce the Company for **David Adjmi's** new play, ***Marie Antoinette***, directed by **Rebecca Taichman**, with choreography by **Karole Armitage**, in a co-production with Yale Repertory Theatre. The production begins previews on Saturday, September 1, and runs through Saturday, September 29, with press opening on Friday, September 7 at 7:00pm.

From the mind of rising star David Adjmi, playwright of last year's Off-Broadway phenomenon, *Elective Affinities*, comes this barbed and brassy comedy. ***Marie Antoinette*** provides a peek into the life of everyone's favorite representative of the 1% — the infamous Queen of France and cake enthusiast. Though she delights and inspires her subjects with her three-foot tall wigs and extravagant *haute couture*, times change and even the most fashionable queens go out of style.

The cast includes **Brooke Bloom** as Marie Antoinette, **Fred Arsenault** as Emperor Joseph of Austria, **Hannah Cabell** as Yolande de Polignac, **Andrew Cekala** as the Dauphin, **David Greenspan** as Sheep, **Steven Ratazzi** as Louis XVI, **Vin Knight** as the Royalist, **Polly Lee** as Therese de Lamballe, **Jake Silbermann** as Axel Fersen, **Jo Lambert** and **Teale Sperling** as Marie's coterie, and **Brian Wiles** as Guard.

**About the principal cast members:**

**Fred Arsenault** was seen as Perry in *The Royal Family* and *Born Yesterday* on Broadway, and regionally in *Henry V*, *Travesties*, *The Spy*, and was a member of Blue Man Group. His television credits include *The Good Wife*, *Person of Interest*, and *Law and Order SVU*.

**Brooke Bloom** earned a Barrymore Award for the title role of *Becky Shaw* at the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia, played Ophelia in *Hamlet* at South Coast Repertory Theatre, and most recently was seen in *Lungs* at the Barrington Stage Theater. Her film and television credits include *He's Just Not That Into You*, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, *The Good Wife*, and she has a recurring role in *CSI: Miami*.

**Hannah Cabell** appeared on Broadway as Margaret Moore in *A Man for All Seasons*, Off-Broadway in Rinne Groff's *Compulsion* at The Public Theater (also at Yale Repertory Theatre and Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and in the title role of *Pumpgirl* at Manhattan Theater Club; in the world premiere of *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play* at Berkeley Rep, and *Three Sisters* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

**David Greenspan's** Broadway credits include *Melancholy Play*, *The Patsy*, and *The Royal Family*; off-Broadway Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of *Orlando* (directed by Rebecca Taichman), *Faust* (Mephisto, Obie Award), Terrence McNally's *Some Men*, and the revival of *The Boys in the Band* (Obie Award, Drama Desk nomination). His plays include *Coraline* (a stage adaptation based on Neil Gaiman's novel) and the Obie Award winners *She Stoops to Comedy* and *The Argument*.

**Vin Knight** is a member of Elevator Repair Service, and was seen at the A.R.T., in New York, and in the international tour of **Gatz**, *The Select (The Sun Also Rises)*, *The Sound and the Fury*, and *No Great Society*; *The Temperamentals* with the Barrow Group, and over a dozen productions with the adobe theater company, among others.

**Polly Lee's** New York credits include *Nightlands (New Georges)*, *How I Fell In Love* (Abingdon Theatre), *Close Ties* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Slag Heap* (Cherry Lane Theatre), and *Water* (HERE Arts Center. Regionally she appeared at La Jolla Playhouse. Humana Festival, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Gloucester Stage Co., McCarter Theatre, Wilma Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Studio Arena, among others.

**Steven Ratazzi** has appeared in several productions at Classic Stage Company, including most recently in *Galileo*, *The Age of Iron*, *The Tempest*, *Therese Raquin*, *Christmas at the Ivanovs*, and *The Alchemist*. He was also seen in *Henry V* at the Delacorte Theatre, *Painted Snake on a Painted Chair* (Obie Award) at LaMama, and *Stunning* at Lincoln Center, among others. He created and gives voice to the character of Doctor Byron Orpheus on the animated series *The Venture Brothers* on the Cartoon Network.

**Jake Silbermann** appeared in *Dracula* at The Little Shubert Theatre and played Hyppolytus in Emily Mann's production of *Phaedra Backwards* at the McCarter Theatre. His television credits include *Gossip Girl*, *Guiding Light*, and *As the World Turns*, playing the role of Noah Mayer. He is also the writer of the award winning short film *Stuffer*, directed by Nathan Crooker, and is a founding member of The Camisade Theatre Company.

### **About the Creative Team:**

**David Adjmi's** recent Off-Broadway plays, *Elective Affinities* (a monologue performed by Zoe Caldwell that was the hottest ticket in New York last fall) and *Stunning*, were hailed by *The New Yorker* for their "gorgeous blend of narrative, girl talk, and politics." His play *The Evildoers* was developed at the Sundance Institute and the Royal Court Theatre in London, and premiered in 2008 at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Other plays include *Strange Attractors*, and *Caligula*. Adjmi is the recipient of numerous awards for his work, including the Helen Merrill Award, the Marian Seldes-Garson Kanin Fellowship, and McKnight and Jerome Fellowships from The Playwrights' Center. A collection of his work, *Stunning and Other Plays*, was published by Theatre Communications Group in 2011. Adjmi is currently at work on a "viral" memoir for HarperCollins. His play *3C* premieres at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in June 2012.

**Rebecca Taichman** staged the world premiere of David Adjmi's play *The Evildoers* at Yale Repertory Theatre in 2008. Ms. Taichman's other credits include the off-Broadway productions of Kirsten Greenidge's *Milk Like Sugar* by, Sarah Ruhl's *Orlando*, the world premiere of Nico Muhly and Stephen Karam's *Dark Sisters*; Theresa Rebeck's *The Scene*, and the world premiere of *Menopausal Gentleman* (Special Citation OBIE Award). She directed Telemann's *Orpheus* for New York City Opera; the premieres of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *The Clean House* (Helen Hayes Award), as well as *Cymbeline*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew* for the Shakespeare Theatre in

among others.

Choreographer **Karole Armitage**, Artistic Director of the Armitage Gone! Dance Company based in New York, is renowned for pushing the boundaries to create contemporary works that blend dance, music and art. She has choreographed for major dance companies throughout Europe and the U.S. and has directed opera for leading European houses. Her Broadway credits include *Passing Strange* and Diane Paulus's production of *Hair* (Tony nomination for best choreography, Tony Award for Best Musical). Her most recent work is the Cirque du Soleil production *AmaLuna*, also directed by Diane Paulus this spring in Montreal.

Set design is by **Riccardo Hernandez** (*The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Julius Caesar* at A.R.T.; *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Tempest* on Broadway), costume design by **Gabriel Berry** (*Henry IV*, *Henry V*, *The Tempest* at A.R.T.), lighting design by **Christopher Akerlind** (*The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *The Seagull*, *Britannicus*, *Orpheus X* at A.R.T.; *Top Girls*, *Rabbit Hole*, *The Light on the Piazza* on Broadway), sound design by **Matt Hubbs** (*The Royal Family*, *Top Girls* on Broadway), and puppet design by **Matt Acheson** (current Resident Puppetry Director for *War Horse* on Broadway, puppetry designer/supervisor for *Compulsion* at Yale Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, and The Public Theatres. )

**Marie Antoinette** was commissioned and developed by Yale Repertory Theatre. Production support for *Marie Antoinette* is provided by Yale's Binger Center for New Theatre, made possible by funding from the Robina Foundation.

The **American Repertory Theater** (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is one of the country's most celebrated theaters and the winner of numerous awards, including the Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize and Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. In May of 2003 it was named one of the top three regional theaters in the country by *Time* magazine. The A.R.T. was founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. In 2008, Diane Paulus became the A.R.T.'s Artistic Director. During its 32-year history, the A.R.T. has welcomed many major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes premieres of 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. Since becoming Artistic Director, Diane Paulus has programmed innovative work that has enhanced the A.R.T.'s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater. Productions such as ***Sleep No More***, ***The Donkey Show***, ***Gatz***, ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (winner of this year's Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical), ***Prometheus Bound***, and ***Death and the Powers: The Robots' Opera*** have immersed audiences in original theatrical experiences. The A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, which Paulus calls a "second stage for the 21st century," has become an incubator for local artists and has also attracted national attention for its 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 mission.

**Yale Repertory Theatre** is dedicated to the production of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and has produced well over 100 premieres — including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Eleven Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award nominations and eight Tony Awards. Yale Rep is also the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Established in 2008, Yale's Binger Center for New Theatre is an artist-driven initiative that devotes major resources to the commissioning, development, and production of new plays and musicals at Yale Repertory Theatre and across the country — including this season's ***Marie Antoinette*** by David Adjmi, ***Dear Elizabeth*** by Sarah Ruhl, and Bill Camp and Robert Woodruff's new adaptation of *In a Year with 13 Moons* by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Professional assignments at Yale Repertory Theatre are integral

theatre training conservatory. [www.yalerep.org](http://www.yalerep.org)

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 [americanrepertorytheater.org](http://americanrepertorytheater.org)

## CALENDAR AND RELATED EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### WHAT: *MARIE ANTOINETTE*

By David Adjmi

Director	Rebecca Taichman
Choreographer	Karole Armitage
Set Design	Riccardo Hernandez
Lighting Design	Christopher Akerlind
Costume Design	Gabriel Berry
Sound Design	Matt Hubbs
Puppet Design	Matt Acheson
Casting	Tara Rubin

### CAST

Marie Antoinette	Brooke Bloom *
Louis XVI	Steven Ratazzi *
Joseph/Mr. Sauce	Fred Arsenault *
Yolande de Polignac/Mrs. Sauce	Hannah Cabell*
Axel Fersen	Jake Silbermann*
The Dauphin	Andrew Cekala
Therese de Lamballe	Polly Lee*
Sheep	David Greenspan*
Marie's Coterie	Jo Lampert*
Marie's Coterie	Teale Sperling*
Royalist	Vin Knight*
Guard	Brian Wiles*

(\*) Members of Actors Equity Association

### WHEN

Sa Sep 1	7:30pm
Su Sep 2	7:30pm
Tu Sep 4	7:30pm
We Sep 5	7:30pm
Th Sept 6	7:30pm
Fr Sep 7	7:00pm PRESS OPENING
Sa Sep 8	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Su Sep 9	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Tu Sep 11	7:30pm
We Sep 12	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Th Sep 13	7:30pm
Fr Sep 14	7:30pm
Sa Sep 15	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Su Sep 16	2:00pm
We Sep 19	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Th Sep 20	7:30pm
Fr Sep 21	7:30pm
Sa Sep 22	2:00pm & 7:30pm
Su Sep 23	2:00pm
Tu Sep 25	7:30pm
We Sep 26	7:30pm
Th Sep 27	11:00am & 7:30pm

Sa Sep 29

2:00pm

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

**RATING:** Recommended for Grades 6 and up.

**TICKETS:** from \$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)

**MEDIA INFORMATION:** **Press opening invitations will be sent under separate e-mail.** Email Address: [press@amrep.org](mailto:press@amrep.org)  
Production photos of **MARIE ANTOINETTE** will be available from 9/3 at <http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org/PRESS>