



American Repertory Theater
64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138
617.495.2668 TEL
617.495.1705 FAX
617.547.8300 TICKETS
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

For Immediate Release August 6, 2012
Contact: Kati Mitchell 617-496-2000x8841
kati_mitchell@harvard.edu

American Repertory Theater partners with Creative Action Project and 826 Boston on Podcast Play Series

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) collaborates this summer with 826 Boston, a not-for-profit writing center based in Roxbury, MA, and Creative Action Project, a program of Cambridge Community Services, on a series of site-specific “podcast plays” designed to creatively engage local teens with public spaces around Greater Boston.

A.R.T. teaching artists are leading three-day workshops in Cambridge and in Roxbury, in which groups of teenagers learn about the fundamentals of playwriting, practice collaborative storytelling, and participate in a writing immersion exercise at the Fresh Pond Reservation and Franklin Park, respectively. The young playwrights are challenged to locate a place in the park that inspires them, and then imagine a short play that could happen at that site.

The resultant plays are recorded as audio, by a mix of teen playwrights and graduate acting students from the A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. These plays will be uploaded to the A.R.T. website, as well as the Cambridge Water Department and Franklin Park Coalition websites.

The A.R.T., with staff from the Cambridge Water Department and the Franklin Park Coalition, is developing a “theatrical walking tour” map for each park, which park-goers can download along with the podcast series and enjoy on their next visit to the Fresh Pond Reservation or Franklin Park.

The **Fresh Pond Plays** are complete, and will be online beginning **August 13, 2012**.

The **Franklin Park Plays** will be developed in workshop on **August 15, 16 and 17, 2012**, at 826 Boston, 3035 Washington St., Roxbury, MA.

The Podcast Play Series is an example of an innovative cross-sector collaboration that connects a local arts organization, non-profit youth service programs and city administration for the purpose of invigorating and enlivening our beautiful (though often underappreciated) public spaces.

For more information, please contact A.R.T. Education and Community Programs Associate, Brendan Shea at 617-495-2668 or Brendan_shea@harvard.edu.

A.R.T. Community Connections is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater through creative project-based partnerships with non-profit community service organizations, as well as deeply subsidized tickets to world-class theatrical events for under-resourced youth and their families. www.americanrepertorytheater.org/community

Creative Action Project (CAP) is a comprehensive program for teen girls in Cambridge public schools, offering leadership development, cultural exploration, and opportunities for creative

community organization. www.cambridgecommunity.org

826 Boston is a non-profit tutoring and writing center dedicated to supporting students ages 6-18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. www.826boston.org

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. 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.