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Single Tickets Now On Sale for the East Coast Premiere of Robert Schenkkan's All The Way Directed by Bill Rauch and Starring Bryan Cranston Performances begin September 13

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University announced today that single tickets for the first production of the 2013/14 Season are now on sale to the general public. The A.R.T. will open its season with Robert Schenkkan's new play All The Way, directed by Bill Rauch, with three-time Emmy Award-winning actor Bryan Cranston playing the lead role of Lyndon Baines Johnson. The production begins performances on September 13 and will be available for press viewing from Thursday, September 19. Press invitations will be sent out in mid-August.

Bryan Cranston is joined by 2013 Lucille Lortel Award nominee Brandon J. Dirden (The Piano Lesson off-Broadway, Enron on Broadway) in the role of Martin Luther King, Jr. They lead an ensemble cast, each playing multiple roles, including Drama Desk Award winner Michael McKean (The Homecoming and Superior Donuts on Broadway; A Mighty Wind, This is Spinal Tap) as J. Edgar Hoover; Obie Award winner Reed Birney (Picnic on Broadway, Blasted Off-Broadway; "Gossip Girl") as Hubert Humphrey; Dakin Matthews (Gore Vidal's The Best Man and Henry IV on Broadway; Lincoln) as Richard Russell; Arnie Burton (Peter and The Starcatcher and The 39 Steps on Broadway) as Robert McNamara; Crystal Dickinson (Clybourne Park on Broadway) as Coretta Scott King; Betsy Aidem (Nikolai and the Others Off-Broadway; "The Americans") as Lady Bird Johnson; Eric Lenox Abrams (The Piano Lesson Off-Broadway; "Boardwalk Empire") as Bob Moses; Peter Jay Fernandez (Cyrano de Bergerac and Macbeth on Broadway; "House of Cards," "The Good Wife") as Roy Wilkins; Susannah Schulman (National tour of Picasso at the Lapin Aaile) as Lurleen Wallace; William Jackson Harper (Titus Andronicus, and The Total Bent Off-Broadway, "The Electric Company") as Stokely Carmichael; Christopher Liam Moore (All The Way at OSF, "10 Items or Less") as Walter Jenkins; Ethan Phillips (November and My Favorite Year on Broadway; The Island, Green Card) as Stanley Levison; Dan Butler ("Frasier," "Roseanne,") as George Wallace; J. Bernard Calloway (Man on a Ledge, "Person of Interest") as Ralph Abernathy; and Richard Poe (Present Laughter and Nice Work If you Can Get it on Broadway) as Judge Smith.

Set design is by **Christopher Acebo**, costume design by **Deborah M. Dryden**, lighting design by **Jane Cox**, original music and sound design by **Paul James Pendergast**, and video projections by **Shawn Sagady**. The dramaturg is **Tom Bryant**.

1963. An assassin's bullet catapults Lyndon B. Johnson into the presidency. A Shakespearean figure of towering ambition and appetite, the charismatic, conflicted Texan hurls himself into Civil Rights legislation, throwing the country into turmoil. Alternately bullying and beguiling, he enacts major social programs, faces down opponents and wins the 1964 election in a landslide. But in faraway Vietnam, a troublesome conflict looms. In the Pulitzer Prize—winning playwright's vivid dramatization of LBJ's first year in office, means versus ends play out on a broad stage canvas as politicians and civil rights leaders plot strategy and wage war. A searing, enthralling exploration of the morality of power.

"All the Way plays much like a Shakespearean history, with a complex, commanding monarch and competing factions embroiled in wars and rebellions. Only here, their battlefields are the Oval Office and Congressional chambers, their swords motions and filibusters." — Austin Chronicle

All the Way was recently awarded the inaugural Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History and the 2013 Harold and Mimi Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award. It was commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) as part of its American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle and premiered there in 2012.

ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS:

Bryan Cranston (LBJ) is best known for his role of Walter White in the award-winning series "Breaking Bad," which earned him three consecutive Emmy Awards and a Screen Actors Guild award. He won a second Screen Actors Guild award this year for his costarring role as CIA operative Jack O'Donnell in the 2012 Oscar-winning Best Picture, Argo. His other film credits include the upcoming Godzilla, Drive, Total Recall, Little Miss Sunshine, and Saving Private Ryan, among others. For six seasons he played Hal in the sitcom "Malcom in the Middle" which earned him several Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. His other television credits include the recurring role of Dr. Whatley on "Seinfeld," and the astronaut Buzz Aldrin in the HBO miniseries "From the Earth to the Moon." His theater credits include Sam Shepard's play The God of Hell at the Geffen Playhouse, Chapter Two, The Taming of the Shrew, A Doll's House, Eastern Standard, Wrestlers, Barefoot in the Park, and The Steven Weed Show, for which he won a Drama-Logue Award.

Michael McKean (J. Edgar Hoover) was recently seen in New York in Gore Vidal's The Best Man, as well as in King Lear, Our Town, Superior Donuts, The Homecoming, The Pajama Game, A Second Hand Memory, and Hairspray. His films include This is Spinal Tap, Clue, Best in Show, A Mighty Wind, Whatever Works, and Planes, Trains and Automobiles. He received a Grammy Award for the title song of A Mighty Wind, written with Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy; and an Oscar nomination for Best Song for A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow, written with Annette O'Toole. Television credits include "Family Tree" for HBO, "Homeland," "Law & Order SVU," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Sesame Street," "Laverne & Shirley," and "The X-Files." He is the first million-dollar

Celebrity Jeopardy champion, and appeared on the Loeb Stage in several productions in the 1960s.

Brandon J. Dirden (Martin Luther King, Jr.) was recently seen in *Enron* and *Clybourne Park* on Broadway and Off-Broadway in *The Piano Lesson*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Bottom of the World*, among others. His regional credits include *Fences* at the Huntington Theatre and South Coast Rep., *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Metamorphoses* at Georgia Shakespeare, and *Julius Caesar* and As You Like It at North Carolina Shakespeare. He was seen on television in "The Big C" and "Tyler Perry's House of Payne."

Reed Birney (Hubert Humphrey) received a 2006 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Performance. He was recently seen in *Hapgood* at Williamstown Theatre Festival, *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Obie and Drama Desk Awards) at Playwrights Horizons, *Stuff Happens* (Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble) at the Public Theater, *The Family of Man* at Second Stage, and *Bug* at Barrow Street, among others. His television credits include "House of Cards," "The Good Wife," "Gossip Girl," and recurring roles on "Law & Order."

ABOUT THE CREATORS:

Playwright Robert Schenkkan is the Pulitzer Prize winning author of eleven plays, two musicals and a collection of short plays. The Kentucky Cycle (Pulitzer Prize, LA Drama Critics Award and Penn Award) was produced on Broadway where it was nominated for the Tony, Drama Desk, and the Outer Critics' Circle Awards. His other plays include, A Single Shard, By the Waters of Babylon, Handler, Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates, The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune, The Devil and Daniel Webster, Heaven on Earth, Tachinoki, Final Passages, and The Dream Thief. He is the co-author of the film, The Quiet American. His film, Hacksaw Ridge, is currently in preproduction. For television his work on the HBO miniseries, The Pacific, produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, was nominated for two Emmys and won a WGA award, He also wrote the miniseries The Andromeda Strain, Crazy Horse, and Spartacus. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Ensemble Studio Theater and an alumnus of New Dramatists.

Director Bill Rauch is the Artistic Director of Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Over twelve seasons at OSF, he has directed sixteen productions including three world premieres, including Robert Schenkkan's All the Way and By the Waters of Babylon. Among his initiatives at OSF, Mr. Rauch committed to commissioning up to 37 new plays to dramatize moments of change in American history. American Revolutions: the U.S. History Cycle is now in its fourth year of productions. Mr. Rauch is also cofounder of Cornerstone Theater Company, where he directed more than 40 productions and served as its Artistic Director from 1986 to 2006. He has directed a number of world premieres, including The Clean House at Yale Repertory Theatre; Living Out and For Here or To Go? at the Mark Taper Forum; and My Wandering Boy and The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler at South Coast Repertory. He also directed the New York premiere of The Clean House at Lincoln Center. Work elsewhere includes productions at the Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Great Lakes Theater Festival and Portland Center Stage. He is the recipient of numerous awards, and the audio version of his production of Hamlet was nominated for a Grammy. Mr. Rauch is a graduate of Harvard College.

ABOUT THE A.R.T.:

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater. Winner of the 2012 and 2013 Tony Awards for Best Musical Revival for its productions of *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* and *Pippin*, the A.R.T. is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. The A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, 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. The A.R.T. is the recipient of numerous other awards including the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater, the Pulitzer Prize, and many Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. Its recent premiere production of *Death and The Powers: The Robots' Opera* was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

During its 33-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. 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, voice, and design at Harvard University. In 1987, the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. A two-year, five-semester M.F.A. graduate program that operates in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class professional training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

Since becoming Artistic Director, Tony Award-winning director **Diane Paulus** has enhanced the A.R.T.'s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater by continuing to transform the ways in which work is developed, programmed, produced and contextualized, always including the audience as a partner. Productions such as **Pippin**, **The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess, Sleep No More, The Donkey Show, Gatz, The Blue Flower**, and **Prometheus Bound** have engaged audiences in unique 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 and emerging artists, and has also attracted national attention for its innovative programming model.

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, is fully accessible. ASL interpreted and audio described performances are available at select productions. Visit <u>americanrepertorytheater.org/access</u> for more information.

For tickets to **All The Way** and further information call 617-547-8300 or visit us on line at american repertory theater.org