



## American Repertory Theater

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**American Repertory Theater to Present**

***Tahrir Is Now***

**In Response to Recent Egyptian Political Protests**

**Monday, October 28 at OBERON in Cambridge & Monday, December 9 at Joe's Pub in NY**

[Image available for download here.](#)

**Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University**, under the leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, will present ***Tahrir Is Now***, an evening of music from the musical ***We Live in Cairo*** and testimonies in response to both the Arab Spring and the current political situation in Egypt.

***Tahrir Is Now*** will occur Monday, October 28 at 8PM at A.R.T.'s club venue OBERON (2 Arrow Street, Cambridge) and Monday, December 9 at 9:30PM at The Public Theater's Joe's Pub (425 Lafayette Street, New York). It will be staged by **Taibi Magar** and feature performers from the Magar-helmed 2019 A.R.T. premiere production of ***We Live in Cairo*** by **Daniel Lazour** and **Patrick Lazour**. ***We Live in Cairo*** was inspired by the young Egyptians who took to the streets in 2011 to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak.

**Tickets to the performance at OBERON start at \$25 and are available now** online at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org), by phone at 617.547.8300, in person at the Loeb Drama Center Ticket Services Offices (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge), and on Monday, October 28, 30 minutes prior to curtain at OBERON. Discounts are available to A.R.T. Subscribers, Members, groups, students, seniors, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, and others. Tickets to the performance at Joe's Pub are available at <https://publictheater.org/productions/joes-pub>.

Tahrir Square was the site of the 2011 uprising that led to the overthrow of the Egypt's long-ruling dictator, President Hosni Mubarak. Last month, hundreds of Egyptians filled Cairo's Tahrir Square and other locations in Egypt calling for the resignation of current Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. First elected in 2014, El-Sisi was elected to a second term in 2018 facing no serious opposition; since then he has overseen what human rights groups say is an unprecedented crackdown on dissent that has led to the detention of tens of thousands of people.

“Tahrir Is Now,” the revolutionary anthem from the musical ***We Live in Cairo***, was inspired by the protest songs composed in the streets of Cairo during the 2011 uprising. Those hopeful events and the tumultuous years that followed are depicted in the musical, which follows six revolutionary students armed with laptops and cameras, guitars and spray cans as they came of age in contemporary Cairo. As escalating division and violence lead to a military crackdown, the young revolutionaries must confront the question of how—or even whether—to keep their dreams of change alive. For more information about the 2019 production, including photos and videos, visit [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/We-Live-In-Cairo](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/We-Live-In-Cairo).

Production support of the world premiere of ***We Live in Cairo*** was provided by **Serena and Bill Lese**. Additional Production Support was provided by **Janet and Irv Plotkin** and **The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School**. Education and engagement support was provided by **Marcia Head**.

***Tahrir Is Now*** is part of **The A.R.T. of Human Rights** series, a collaboration between the A.R.T. and **Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University**. The groundbreaking collaboration spearheaded by Harvard faculty member and director of the Carr Center’s Sexuality, Gender, and Human Rights Program **Timothy Patrick McCarthy** uses the arts and the humanities to explore some of the most pressing human rights issues of our time. Building on the Carr Center’s commitment to advancing human rights principles and the A.R.T.’s mission to expand the boundaries of theater, **The A.R.T. of Human Rights** is designed to foster a new model for community education, civic engagement, and creative expression.

The transformative events that inspired the show and the translation of the political activity to the stage will be the subject of a free public event co-presented by the Middle East Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center on Wednesday, October 23 at 6PM. ***We Live in Cairo: An Evening of Music and Politics with Playwrights Daniel and Patrick Lazour*** will feature select live performances of songs from the musical and discussion with the Middle East Initiative’s Faculty Director Professor Tarek Masoud.

### **ABOUT DANIEL LAZOUR AND PATRICK LAZOUR**

**Daniel Lazour** and **Patrick Lazour** (Book, Music, and Lyrics) are brothers and collaborators of Lebanese descent. They workshopped ***We Live in Cairo*** at the O’Neill National Music Theater Conference and at New York Theatre Workshop under the 2016 Richard Rodgers Award. They have developed their work during residencies at the O’Neill, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and the MacDowell Colony, and most recently, collaborated with playwright Ismail Khalidi and Noor Theatre on a development production of *Dead Are My People*. Their new musical about the first chemotherapy trials in the 1950s and 60s was workshopped at the Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Theatre and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat. Patrick and Daniel were 2015-16 Dramatists Guild Fellows and are New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspects. They were artists-in-residence at the American University in Cairo.

## **ABOUT TAIBI MAGAR**

**Taibi Magar** is an Egyptian-American, Obie Award-winning director based in New York. She will direct ***Macbeth in Stride*** as part of the **A.R.T. Breakout** series later this season. New York: *Is God Is* (NYT Critics Pick, 2018 Obie Award), Soho Rep; *Underground Railroad Game* (NYT Critics Pick, NYT Best of 2016), Ars Nova; *Master* (NYT Critics Pick, NYT Best of 2017), The Foundry. Developed work with New York Theatre Workshop, Theatre for a New Audience, the Women's Project Theatre. Regional: Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Alley Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, Trinity Rep, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare & Company, OSF. International: Hamburg Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Soho Theatre (London). Educational: The Juilliard School, Fordham University, Brown University, NYU. Teaching: Brown University; University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Fellowships: Stephen Sondheim Fellowship; Oregon Shakespeare Festival Fellowship; Public Theater Shakespeare Fellowship; TFANA Actors and Director Project Fellowship; Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Education: MFA, Brown University/Trinity Rep.

## **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

**American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.)** at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking, artistic inquiry, and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for ***All the Way*** (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for ***Pippin*** (2013) and ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard's undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also

mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

**#TahrirlsNow #WeLiveInCairoART**

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