



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

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Contact: Kati Mitchell 617-495-2668
kati_mitchell@harvard.edu

**A.R.T. Announces the Cast for
FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2, & 3)
By Suzan-Lori Parks
Directed by Jo Bonney
Performances Begin January 23, 2015**

Cambridge, Mass — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Artistic Director Diane Paulus, is pleased to announce the cast for **Suzan-Lori Parks'** epic **Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)**, directed by **Jo Bonney**, in a co-production with The Public Theater in New York. Performances run January 23 through March 1 at the Loeb Drama Center.

Performance dates are:

January 23, 24, 25, 27-31, February 1, February 3-8, February 10-14, February 27-21, February 24-28 @ 7:30PM
January 31, February 1, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, March 1 @ 2:00PM
February 11 @ 11:00AM

Press opening: Wednesday, January 28 at 7:30PM. Press invitations will be sent out in early January.

ASL Interpreted performances: Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30PM and Sunday, February 22 @ 2:00PM

Audio Described performances: Wednesday February 11 @ 7:30PM and Saturday, February 14 @ 2:00PM

Ticket prices from \$25.00. **Box Office:** 617.547.8300 or visit us on line at americanrepertorytheater.org

Pulitzer Prize winner and The Public Theater's Master Writer Chair **Suzan-Lori Parks'** **Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)** — a finalist for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama inspired by American History — is a devastatingly beautiful new play set over the course of the Civil War. **Jo Bonney** directs this moving and haunting drama comprised of three plays presented in a single performance. In Part 1, "**A Measure of Man**," Hero, a slave who is accustomed to his master's lies, must now decide whether to join him on the Confederate battlefield in exchange for a promise of freedom. Part 2, "**The Battle in the Wilderness**" follows Hero and the Colonel as they lead a captured Union soldier toward the Confederate lines as the cannons approach. Finally, in Part 3, "**The Union of My Confederate Parts**," the loved ones Hero left behind question whether to escape or wait for his return - only to discover that for Hero, freedom may have come at a great spiritual cost. A masterful new work from one of our most lyrical and powerful writers, **Father Comes Home From The Wars** is a deeply personal epic about love and hope in a world of impossible choices.

The cast includes **Benton Greene** as Hero, **Jenny Jules** as Penny, **Sekou Laidlow** as Homer, **Harold Surratt** as The Oldest Old Man, **Ken Marks** as the Colonel, **Michael Crane** as Smith, **Jacob Ming-Trent** as Odyssey Dog, and **Charlie Hudson, III**, **Julian Rozzell, Jr.**, and **Tonye Patano** as the Runaway Slaves. Music is arranged and performed by **Steven Bargonetti**. Set design is by **Neil Patel**, costume design by **ESosa**, lighting design by **Lap Chi Chu**, sound design and music supervision by **Dan Moses Schreier**, songs and additional music by **Suzan-Lori Parks**.

ABOUT THE CAST MEMBERS:

Michael Crane (Smith)'s theater work includes *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *King Lear*, and *Richard III* (Public Theater), *Hamlet* (Pioneer Theatre), *Italian American Reconciliation* (Long Wharf), *The Tenant* (Woodshed Collective), *Doris to Darlene* (Playwrights Horizons), *The Young Left* (Cherry Lane Theatre), *Ubu the King* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Mag-7* (Naked Angels), *Rat in the Skull* (Berkshire Theater Festival), *West Moon Street* (Prospect Theater Co.- nominated for 2007 New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Actor in a Featured Role), *Saint Joan of the Stockyards* (P.S. 122/Stillpoint Prods.), *The Leopard and the Fox* (Alter Ego Prods, nominated for 2008 New York Innovative Theater Award), *Bone Portraits* (Stillpoint Prods.), *Middlemen* (Human Animals), and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Weston Playhouse). His film and television credits include the upcoming *Winter's Tale*, *Damages*, *White Collar*, *Law & Order*, and *Kings*.

Benton Greene (Hero)'s stage credits include the Obie award winning production of *The Seven* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Enrico IV* (American Conservatory Theater), *365 Days/365 Plays* by Suzan-Lori Parks (New York Theatre Workshop), *Sundiata* (Berkeley Repertory), *Manilova* (New George's), *Dream on Monkey Mountain* (Classical Theater of Harlem) and *Cyrano* (San Jose Repertory). Television credits include recurring roles on *Blue Bloods*, *Gossip Girl*, *As The World Turns* (cast member) and *Law & Order: C.I.* Other film and television credits include *Hostages*, *Broken City*, *Damages*, *White Collar*, *Law and Order: SVU* and *Law and Order* among others.

Charlie Hudson, III (Leader)'s theater credits include the 2014 Tony Award winning production of *A Raisin in the Sun*, as well as productions at the Signature Theatre, Irish Repertory Theatre, New Georges, Classic Stage Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Yale Rep, Trinity Rep, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. He is a graduate of Alabama State University and Brown University/Trinity Rep Consortium.

Jenny Jules (Penny) originated the role in the The Public Theater's production of ***Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)***. She has appeared in London as Cassius in *Julius Caesar* in the Donmar Warehouse production, *King Lear*, *Moon on A Rainbow Shawl*, *Ruined*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Death and the Kings Horseman*, *The Homecoming*, *Big White Fog*, *A Chain Play*, *Fabulation*, *Gem In The Ocean*, *Walk Hard*, *Born Bad*, *The Promise*, *Wine in the Wilderness*, *The Great White Hope*, *The Color of Justice*, *Two Trains Running*, *Pecong*, and *When We Are Married*. Her film and television credits include *The Man Inside*, *A Short Stay in Switzerland*, *Octane*, *Victim*, "Eastenders," "Skins," "Vexed," "Father & Son," "Casualty," "Judge John Deed," and many others.

Sekou Laidlow (Homer)'s recent theater credits include *Civil War Xmas* (Baltimore Center Stage), *The Mountaintop* (Philadelphia Theater Co.) *Of Mice and Men* (Pioneer Theater Co.). His 2014/15 film releases are *The Mend* and *Stereotypically You* and the Web Series "What's your Emergency". Recent TV credits: "Person of Interest," "The Carrie Diaries," and "Smash".

Ken Marks (Colonel) originated the role in the The Public Theater's production of ***Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)*** and appeared in *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Henry V*, and *Stuff Happens*. His Broadway credits include *Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark*; *Rock 'n' Roll*; *Spring Awakening*; *After the Fall*; *Hairspray*; *Mamma Mia!*; *Present Laughter*; and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Bethany*, *Our Town*, *The Internationalist*, *McRee*, *Little Fish*, and *Blur*. His film and television credits include *Kelly & Cal*, *Side Effects*, *Step Up 3D*, "Elementary," "Royal Pains," and "Law & Order."

Jacob Ming-Trent (*Fourth Runaway*, *Odyssey Dog*) originated the role in the The Public Theater's production of ***Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)***, as well as the Public Works production of *The Tempest*. His Broadway credits include *Hands on a Hardbody* and *Shrek the Musical*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *On the Levee*, *Dispatches from Amended America*, and *Widowers' Houses*. His film and television credits include *Forbidden Love*, *Fort Greene*, "Law & Order," "Bored to Death," and "30 Rock."

Tonye Patano (*Third Runaway*) originated the role in the The Public Theater's production of ***Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)***, and appeared in *Neighbors* and *Everybody's Ruby*. She was seen on Broadway in *45 Seconds from Broadway* and Off-Broadway in *The Heliotrope*, *Ponies*, and *Hamlet*. Her film

and television credits include *Ponies*, *Little Manhattan*, *Diving Normal*, *The Taking of Pelham 123*, *The Hurricane*, "Weeds," "The Americans," "Once Life To Live," "Sex and the City," "Monk," and "Third Watch."

Julian Rozzell, Jr. (*Second Runaway*) originated the role in the The Public Theater's production of **Father Comes Home from The Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)**, and appeared in The Public's production of *The Total Bent*. His additional Off-Broadway credits include *Macbeth* and *Baal*. His television credits include HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" and "Law & Order."

Harold Surratt (*The Oldest Old Man*) appeared on Broadway in *Impressionism* directed by Jack O'Brien, *Serious Money* directed by Max Stafford-Clarke. Regional credits include *The Convert* by Danaï Guirira, directed by Emily Mann, at The McCarter, *The Goodman*, and *The Kirk Douglas*; *Trouble in Mind*, and *The Sunset Limited*, directed by Preston Lane at Triad Stage. Other theaters include Premiere Stages, The Public, Keen Company, Berkshire Theater Festival and The Folger. Television: "Babylon Fields" (pilot), "Orange is the New Black," "The Temptations" (mini-series), "Fringe," "The Practice," and "ER." Films: *Sudden Death*, *The Pelican Brief*, and *Blood In Blood Out*.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Suzan-Lori Parks credits at the A.R.T. include **The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess** (Adaptor) and **The America Play** (playwright). She is The Public Theater's Master Writer Chair. Her plays include *Topdog/Underdog*, which moved to Broadway and won the Pulitzer Prize, making her the first African-American woman to do so; *The Book of Grace*; *Fucking A*; *In The Blood*; and *Venus*. In 2003, Parks wrote a play a day and her project *365 Days/365 Plays* was produced in over 700 theaters worldwide. Her additional plays include *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, and *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom*. Her additional Broadway credits include **The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess**, for which she received a Tony Award. She has written screenplays for Brad Pitt, Spike Lee, Oprah Winfrey, and her novel *Getting Mother's Body* was published by Random House. She is a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Grant, and is one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave."

Jo Bonney (*Director*) previously directed the A.R.T.'s presentations of Eric Bogosian's **Dog Show: Pounding Nails on the Floor With My Forehead** and **More Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll**; The Public Theater's production of **Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)**, as well as Danny Hoch's *Some People*, Diana Son's *Stop Kiss*, Anna Deveare Smith's *House Arrest*, Jose Rivera's *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot*, and Naomi Wallace's *Fever Chart* at The Public. She has directed premieres of plays by Alan Ball, Eric Bogosian, Culture Clash, Eve Ensler, Jessica Goldberg, Neil LaBute, Warren Leight, Lynn Nottage, Dael Orlandersmith, Darci Picoult, Will Power, David Rabe, Universes, and Michael Weller. She has also directed productions of plays by Caryl Churchill, Nilo Cruz, Charles Fuller, Lisa Loomer, John Osborne, John Pollono, and Lanford Wilson. She is the recipient of the 1998 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Direction; and is the editor of *Extreme Exposure: An Anthology of Solo Performance Texts from the Twentieth Century*.

ABOUT THE A.R.T.:

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University 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. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under her leadership, the A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming events that immerse audiences in transformative theatrical experiences.

Throughout its history, the 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; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Tony Award for Best Regional Theater; and numerous Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards.

The A.R.T. collaborates with artists around the world to develop and create work in new ways. It is currently engaged in a number of multi-year projects, including the **Civil War Project**, an initiative that will culminate in the staging of new work in the current season. Under Paulus's leadership, the A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has become an incubator for local and emerging artists and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, the A.R.T. catalyzes discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members, acting as a conduit between its community of artists and the university. A.R.T. artists also teach undergraduate courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. The A.R.T. Institute for Advanced Theater Training, which is run in partnership with the Moscow Art Theater School, offers graduate-level training in acting, dramaturgy, and voice.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, the 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.

Through all of these initiatives, the A.R.T. is dedicated to producing world-class performances in which the audience is central to the theatrical experience.

The A.R.T. stages ***Father Comes Home From the Wars*** and the world premiere of Matthew Aucoin's opera, ***Crossing***, as centerpieces of its **Civil War Project**, a multi-year initiative to investigate and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

The A.R.T.'s Civil War Project was developed as part of the National Civil War Project, a multi-year, multi-city collaboration among four universities and five performing arts organizations. Inspired by choreographer Liz Lerman, this collaboration inspired the commissioning of original theatrical works as well as creation of new arts-integrated academic programs. The National Civil War partnerships include: Alliance Theatre and Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts at Emory University in Atlanta, GA; the American Repertory Theater and Harvard University in Cambridge, MA; Arena Stage and the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and CENTERSTAGE in Baltimore, MD and The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD.

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge, is fully accessible. ASL interpreted and audio described performances are available at select productions.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit **AmericanRepertoryTheater.org**