



American Repertory Theater

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**American Repertory Theater Presents
The World Premiere of the Musical
FINDING NEVERLAND
Music and Lyrics by Gary Barlow and Eliot Kennedy
Book by James Graham
Directed by Diane Paulus
Choreography by Mia Michaels
July 23 — September 28
Loeb Drama Center**

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Diane Paulus, Artistic Director and William Russo, Managing Director; announced today the casting for its first production of its 2014/15 Season: the world premiere of the musical ***Finding Neverland***, with music and lyrics by **Gary Barlow** and **Elliot Kennedy**, book by **James Graham**, directed by A.R.T. Artistic Director **Diane Paulus** with choreography by **Mia Michaels**, presented at A.R.T. by special arrangement with Harvey Weinstein. The production begins previews at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street in Cambridge, MA on Wednesday, July 23 and runs through Sunday, September 28. The production will be available for press viewing starting Wednesday, August 13. Invitations for press opening will be sent out in late July.

When a playwright meets a widow and her four boys in Kensington Gardens, he embarks on a friendship that inspires one of the most beloved stories of all time. Based on the Miramax film by David Magee, ***Finding Neverland*** follows the real-life relationship between James Matthew Barrie and the Llewelyn Davies family that inspired the revolutionary 1904 play *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, one of the most beloved stories of all time. Staged by A.R.T. Artistic Director and Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus, with music by U.K. pop sensation Gary Barlow (Take That) and choreography by Emmy Award-winner Mia Michaels ("So You Think You Can Dance") this new musical explores the power of imagination to open up new worlds, and the pressures put upon those worlds by the inevitability of growing up. ***Finding Neverland*** is presented by the A.R.T. by special arrangement with Harvey Weinstein.

The cast will be led by **Jeremy Jordan** as J.M. Barrie and **Laura Michelle Kelly** as Sylvia Llewelyn Davies; with **Roger Bart** as Charles Frohman, **Carolee Carmello** as Madame du Maurier, **Jeanna de**

Waal as Mary Barrie, **Aidan Gemme** as Peter, **Alex Dreier** as Michael, **Sawyer Nunes** as George, and **Hayden Signoretti** as Jack. Members of the ensemble are **Courtney Balan, Dana Costello, Rory Donovan, Gaelen Gilliland, Thayne Jaspersen, Josh Lamon, Melanie Moore, Mary Peg Nance, Stuart Neal, Emma Pfaeffle, Jonathan Ritter, Tyley Ross, Julius Rubio, JC Schuster, Paul Slade Smith, and Ron Todorowski.**

The creative team also includes scenic designer **Scott Pask**, costume designer **Suttirat Anne Larlarb**, lighting designer **Philip Rosenberg**, sound designer **Jonathan Deans**, projection designer **Gilles Papain**, fan designer **Daniel Wurtzel**, music supervisor **David Chase**, music director **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**, and orchestration by **Simon Hale**.

Finding Neverland is suitable for families with children aged eight and older.

Single tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 617.547.8300 or visit us on line at americanrepertorytheater.org

ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS:

Roger Bart received both a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his role of Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and a Tony Award nomination for his role of Carmen Ghia in *The Producers*. He also appeared on Broadway as Dr. Frankenstein in Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein*, and in *The Frogs, Triumph of Love*, and *Big River*. Mr. Bart was recently seen on television in the CBS series "Las Vegas," directed by Jon Turteltaub. He has had recurring roles on several television series including "Desperate Housewives," "Episodes," "Revenge," and "How I Met your Mother," among many others.

Carolee Carmello's Broadway credits include the Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, Lucille in *Parade* (Drama Desk Award, Tony nomination) Gabrielle in *Lestat* (Tony and Drama Desk nomination), Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Abigail Adams in *1776*, Cordelia in *Falsettos*, and Lilli Vanessi in *Kiss Me Kate*, among others. Regional credits include *Pal Joey* at the Huntington Theatre, *The King and I* at Paper Mill Playhouse, *She Loves Me* at Berkshire Theater Festival, and *Show Boat* at Carnegie Hall; as well as the national tours of *Chess*, *Big River*, *Les Miserables*, and *Falsettos* (L.A. Ovation Award).

Jeanna de Waal comes to *Neverland* directly from playing the role of Lauren in *Kinky Boots* on Broadway (she returns to the role October 2014). She also played Heather in *American Idiot* on Broadway and Chris Hargensen in *Carrie* Off-Broadway. Her other credits include Glinda in the national tour of *Wicked*, *We Will Rock You* on the West End and Janet in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Old Globe in San Diego. She can be heard on the cast album of *Carrie*.

Jeremy Jordan created the role of Jack Kelly in *Newsies: The Musical* (Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations), Clyde Barrow in *Bonnie and Clyde* (TheatreWorld Award for Best Actor in a Musical), and played Tony in *West Side Story* on Broadway. He played the lead role of Jimmy Collins in the television series "Smash," and appeared in "Elementary," "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" among others; as well as in the film *Joyful Noise*.

Laura Michelle Kelly originated the title role of *Mary Poppins* and received an Olivier Award. Her other West End credits include Karen in *Speed The Plow*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Eponine in *Les Miserables*, Wendy in *Peter Pan*, Sophie in *Mamma Mia*, Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, and Swallow in *Whistle Down the Wind*. Her Broadway credits include Hodel in the revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Mary Poppins*. Regionally she was seen in *The King and I* and *South Pacific*. Film credits include *Goddess* (2012 Cannes Film Festival premiere), Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, "Miss Marple: Nemesis." She made many radio, TV, concert appearances including Albert Hall,

Hampton Court Palace, Royal Opera House, Millennium Stadium, Buckingham Palace, The White House and the Ford Theater for President Obama.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

James Graham is a British playwright and television writer. His work has been staged throughout the UK and he is a Playwright in Residence at the Finborough Theatre. His plays include *Privacy*, premiered at Donmar Warehouse this year; *This House*, premiered at the National Theatre in 2012; *Sixty Six Books* and *The Whisky Taster*, premiered at the Bush Theatre; *Tory Boys*, premiered at Soho Theatre; and *The Man, Sons of York, Little Madam, Eden's Empire*, and *Albert's Boy*, all premiered at the Finborough Theatre.

Gary Barlow is an English singer-songwriter, pianist and record producer. He is front man and lead vocalist of British pop-group Take That and served as head judge on the UK television series "The X Factor." Barlow is one of Britain's most successful songwriters, having written thirteen Number 1 singles and twenty-three top 10 hits. He is also a six-time recipient of the Ivor Novello Award and has sold over 50 million records worldwide. He was appointed an OBE in 2012 for services to music and charity.

Eliot Kennedy is a British songwriter and record producer, who has worked with most major British recording artists including the Spice Girls, Lulu, and Take That. He won a Grammy Award and was nominated for a Golden Globe for "Never Gonna Break My Faith" by Aretha Franklin and Mary J. Blige for the film *Bobby*, and an Ivor Novello award for "Picture Of You" by Boyzone. Kennedy was given an honorary doctorate (DUniv) by Sheffield Hallam University for his contribution to the region's music industry, and for his outstanding work for charities, including his own One Song Foundation.

Diane Paulus is the Artistic Director of the A.R.T. at Harvard University and is the 2013 recipient of the Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical (**Pippin**). At the A.R.T.: **Witness Uganda, Pippin** (also on Broadway -2013 Tony Award-winner for Best Revival of a Musical, launching a national tour in September 2014); **The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess** (also on Broadway - 2012 Tony Award-winner for Best Revival of a Musical, currently on national tour); **Prometheus Bound**; Tod Machover's **Death and the Powers: The Robots' Opera**; **The Donkey Show, Best of Both World, Johnny Baseball**. Her other recent work includes *Amaluna*, Cirque du Soleil's newest creation, currently on tour in the US; The Public Theater's Tony Award-winning revival of *HAIR* on Broadway and London's West End. As an opera director, her credits include *The Magic Flute*, *Il mondo della luna*, *DonGiovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, and the Monteverdi trilogy *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, and *Orfeo*. Diane is a Professor of the Practice in Theater in Harvard University's English Department, and in 2012 was one of *Boston Magazine's* 50 Most Powerful Bostonians and awarded the 2012 Founders award for Excellence in Directing from the Drama League. Recently, Diane was selected as one of *Variety's* "Trailblazing Women in Entertainment for 2014" and *Boston Magazine's* "50 Thought Leaders of 2014." She was also named to the 2014 *TIME 100*, *TIME* magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Mia Michaels is an American choreographer best known for her dance judging and contemporary choreography on the TV show "So You Think You Can Dance." She has worked with artists such as Celine Dion, Madonna, Tom Cruise, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Ricky Martin, Gloria Estefan, and Prince. In 2005 she choreographed Cirque du Soleil's world tour *Delirium*, as well as Celine Dion's Las Vegas show *A New Day*, for which she was later nominated for an Emmy Award. In 2007 she won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Choreography for her "Calling You" routine on season two of "So You Think You Can Dance;" she won again in 2010 for her work on season five. She choreographed the dance sequence of "Get Happy" during Season 7 of "House" entitled "Bombshells."

ASL interpreted performances are scheduled for Tuesday, September 9 at 7:30PM and Sunday, September 14 at 2:00PM. Visit americanrepertorytheater.org/access for more information.

About the A.R.T.:

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) The 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 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 I.R.N.E. 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 2014/15 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 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.

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