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A.R.T. Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant to Support *Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*

Cambridge, MA — National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced today that the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) is one of 919 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. The A.R.T. will receive a grant of \$70,000 to support the January to March, 2015 Cambridge production of ***Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)***, a world premiere co-production with The Public Theater in New York.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "I'm pleased to be able to share the news of our support through Art Works including the award to the A.R.T. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate those attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

Pulitzer Prize winner and The Public Theater's Master Writer Chair **Suzan-Lori Parks'** (***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Book of Grace*, ***The America Play***) ***Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*** is a devastatingly beautiful new play set over the course of the Civil War. **Jo Bonney** (*Small Engine Repair*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*) 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.

This production is also supported by a grant from the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, and by 2014/15 season support from the Shubert Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Investment Portfolio Partners program.

Art Works grants support the creation of art, public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts.

The NEA received 1,474 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$75 million in funding. Of those applications, 919 are recommended for grants for a total of \$26.6 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov. Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at #NEAFall2014.

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 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 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 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.