

## American Repertory Theater

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## THE AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF FINDING NEVERLAND WILL OPEN ON BROADWAY AT THE LUNT-FONTANNE THEATRE ON APRIL 8, 2015

## WORLD-PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT ENDED YESTERDAY AS THE MOST ATTENDED PRODUCTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE A.R.T.

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 that *Finding Neverland* will open on Broadway at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on April 8, 2015, produced by Harvey Weinstein. This announcement comes on the heels of *Finding Neverland*'s sold-out, world-premiere engagement at the A.R.T, which ended yesterday. The production began previews at the Loeb Drama Center on Wednesday, July 23, and ran for a total of 75 performances – all of which played to capacity crowds, making it the highest attended and highest grossing production in A.R.T.'s 34-year history. *Finding Neverland* will begin preview performances on Broadway in March, 2015. Casting will be announced shortly.

"I am so grateful to the A.R.T. and its audiences for providing the perfect environment to incubate this new musical," Mr. Weinstein said. "We are excited to continue the work and bring the musical to Broadway audiences this spring. I know that the Lunt-Fontanne, which has housed so many memorable productions, will be the ideal home for **Finding Neverland**."

Based on the Miramax motion picture by **David Magee** and the play *The Man Who Was Peter Pan* by **Allan Knee**, *Finding Neverland* follows the relationship between playwright J. M. Barrie and the family that inspired *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* – one of the most beloved stories of all time.

Directed by Tony Award®-winner **Diane Paulus** (*Pippin*) with book by Oliver Award®-nominee **James Graham**, music and lyrics by U.K. pop sensation **Gary Barlow** (*Take That*) and Grammy Award®-winner **Eliot Kennedy**, 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.

**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