



American Repertory Theater

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American Repertory Theater Begins Performances Of the World Premiere Of **O.P.C** by Eve Ensler Directed by Peshya Rudnick November 28 — January 4

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Diane Paulus, Artistic Director, begins performances of the second production of its 2014/15 Season: the world premiere of **Eve Ensler's O.P.C.** (Obsessive Political Correctness), directed by **Peshya Rudnick**, starting on November 28 and running through January 4, 2015 at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square.

Performance dates are:

November 28, 29, 30, December 2-7, 9-13, 16-20, 22, 26-28, 30, 31, January 2-4 @ 7:30PM
December 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, 31, January 3, 4 @ 2:00PM

Press opening: Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5 at 7:30PM.
Invitations will be sent out in mid-November.

ASL Interpreted performances: December 30 @ 7:30PM and January 4 @ 2PM

Audio Described performances: December 30 @ 7:30PM and January 3 @ 2:00PM

Tickets from \$25. Box Office: 617.547.8300 or visit us on line at americanrepertorytheater.org

A new comedy from the author of *The Vagina Monologues*, **O.P.C.** is a wildly funny exploration of consumption and politics that asks, "How are we to survive as a species if we insist on destroying the world we love?" Romi Weil, a dumpster-diving Freegan, is doing just fine squatting in an abandoned apartment. But when her mother, a candidate running for the Senate, tries to make her toe the party line, radicalism comes into comic collision with mainstream liberalism. As Election Day approaches, mother and daughter wrestle with the inconvenient truths at the heart of consumer culture, tossed between political compromise and Obsessive Political Correctness.

The cast includes **Olivia Thirlby** as Romi, **Kate Mulligan** as Smith, and **Michael T. Weiss** as Bruce; supported by **Nancy Linehan Charles** as Mrs. M, **Nicole Lowrance** as Kansas, **Liz Mikel** as Sister Ro, **Peter Porte** as Damien, and **Babak Taffi** as Prakash, The creative team also includes scenic designer **Brett J. Banakis**, costume designer **ESosa** (*The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *Witness Uganda*, *Father Comes Home From the Wars*), lighting designer **Bradley King**, sound designer **Jane Shaw**, and projection designer **Shawn Sagady** (*All the Way*).

ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS:

Kate Mulligan (Smith) has spent the last six seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where her roles included Penelope Martin in *The Cooanuts*; Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Mrs. Whitehead in *Animal Crackers*; Karen Weston in *August: Osage County*; Mae in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Beatrice and Ensemble in *The Servant of Two Masters*; The Widow in *All's Well That Ends Well*; and Lou in *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*. Other credits include *Embedded* (The Public Theater), *Bunny Bunny* (New York Stage & Film), *The Women of Lockerbie*, *Euphoria*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Four Roses*, *Mephisto*, *The Dressing Room* (The Actors' Gang); *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *Habeas Corpus* (South Coast Repertory); *As U Lyk It* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Living Out* (Mark Taper Forum); *Medea/ Macbeth/Cinderella* (Yale Repertory Theatre); *Fall* (Taper Too). Film/TV credits include *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Desperate Housewives*, *10 Items or Less*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Judging Amy*, *Strong Medicine*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Practice*, *Seinfeld*, *Life and Stuff*, *Good Sports*, *The Boys*, *It's Garry Shandling's Show*, *Embedded*, *Camera Obscura*, and *The Zeroes*.

Olivia Thirlby (Romi) made her off-Broadway debut in the Atlantic Theater Company production of *Faergut North*, written by Beau Willimon and directed by Doug Hughes, which she later reprised in the West Coast premiere of the production at the Geffen Playhouse. Most recently she played the lead role of Heather in Paul Weitz's play *Lonely, I'm Not*, directed by Trip Cullman at the Second Stage Theatre in New York. Her film credits include Jason Reitman's Oscar nominated film *Juno* opposite Ellen Page; Paul Greengrass' award-winning *United 93*; Jonathan Levine's Sundance Award-winning *The Wackness*, opposite Sir Ben Kingsley; Kenneth Lonnergan's *Margaret* with Anna Paquin; Ivan Reitman's comedy *No Strings Attached* with Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher; Brett Ratner's *New York, I Love You* with Anton Yelchin; among many others. Her most recent films *5 to 7* opposite Glenn Close and Frank Langella and *Just Before I Go*, directed by Courtney Cox were presented at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival. Her television credits include the recurring role of Suzanne, Jason Schwartzman's ex-girlfriend on the HBO series "Bored to Death," and she also played the series regular role of Jeena in MTV/ Good Humor animated series "Good Vibes." She studied acting at both the American Globe Theatre and at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

Michael T. Weiss (Bruce) appeared on Broadway in *Impressionism*; Off-Broadway in *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (OBIE Award Best Play, Lucille Lortel Award Best Play) at Second Stage; *Scarcity* (Drama Desk nomination) at the Atlantic Theatre; and *A Perfect Future* at the Cherry Lane. Regional credits include *Burn This* (Pale), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Valmont), Huntington Theatre Company; *Of Equal Measure*, Center Theatre Group. Film and TV credits include *Sex and the City 2*; *Jeffrey*; *Freeway* (Sundance Film Festival); *Freeway 2*; *Bones*; *Iowa* (Tribeca Film Festival, Best Actor Award Midwest Film Festival); Disney's *Tarzan and Jane*; *Until the Night*; *Marmalade*; "The Pretender" (Jarod and over 50 different characters).

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM:

Eve Ensler is the Tony Award winning playwright, activist and author of the theatrical phenomenon, *The Vagina Monologues*, which has been published in 48 languages and performed in over 140 countries. Eve's plays include *Necessary Targets*, *The Treatment*, *The Good Body*, and *Emotional Creature*. Her books include *Insecure At Last: A Political Memoir*; the New York Times bestseller *I Am An Emotional Creature*, and her latest critically acclaimed memoir *In the Body of the World*. She is founder of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls, and One Billion Rising, a global mass action campaign in over 200 countries. She was named one of Newsweek's "150 Women Who Changed the World" and *The Guardian's* "100 Most Influential Women."

Pesha Rudnick is the co-founder and Artistic Director of LOCAL Theater Company in Boulder, Colorado where she pursues the company's mission to discover and develop new American

plays. She has directed over twenty new works and runs an annual new play festival involving artists from around the country. Directing credits from LOCAL include the world premiere of Michael Mitnick's *Elijah: An Adventure*. Ms. Rudnick has recently collaborated with Eve Ensler as Associate Director of the world premiere of Ensler's play *Emotional Creature* at Berkley Repertory Theatre and Signature Theatre Center. Additional credits include the National New Play Network world premiere of Quiara Alegria Hudes' *26 Miles* at Curious Theatre Company, *The Hairy Ape* and *Tartuffe* at Hangar Theatre, Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* at the Kennedy Center; and she was the Assistant Director of the world premiere of *American Night* by Richard Montoya and Culture Clash at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Rudnick is a member of Lincoln Center's Director's Lab in New York City, and a Drama League Directing Fellow.

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 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**