



**American Repertory Theater**

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**American Repertory Theater Presents  
the world premiere of  
O.P.C  
by Eve Ensler  
Directed by Pesho Rudnick  
November 28 — January 4  
Featuring Melissa Leo and Olivia Thirlby**

**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 second production of its 2014/15 Season: the world premiere of **Eve Ensler's O.P.C.** (Obsessive Political Correctness), directed by **Pesho Rudnick**, starting performances 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

**Ticket prices** from \$25.00. **Box Office:** 617.547.8300 or visit us on line at [americanrepertorytheater.org](http://americanrepertorytheater.org)

A new play 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 **Melissa Leo** as Smith, **Olivia Thirlby** as Romi; supported by **Annette Hunt** as Mrs. M, **Liz Mikel** as Sister Ro, **Nicole Lawrence** as Kansas, **Peter Porte** as Damien, **Babak Taffi** as Prakash, The creative team also includes scenic designer **Brett J. Banakis**, costume designer **ESosa** (*The Gershwins'*

*Porgy and Bess, Witness Uganda*), lighting designer **Bradley King**, sound designer **Jane Shaw**, and projection designer **Shawn Sagady** (*All the Way*).

#### **ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS:**

**Melissa Leo** (Smith) received an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award and a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award for her performance in *The Fighter*. She received Academy Award and SAG Award nominations for her starring role in *Frozen River*, for which she won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead and a Spotlight Award from the National Board of Review. She also shared a Best Ensemble acting award from the Phoenix Film Critics Society for her work in *21 Grams*, opposite Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn. Her recent films include *Prisoners*, *Oblivion*, *Flight*, *Olympus Has Fallen*, *Conviction*, *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, and *Hide and Seek*. She can next be seen in *The Equalizer* with Denzel Washington. On the small screen, she will star in the upcoming FOX event series, "Wayward Pines," from Director M. Night Shyamalan. She most recently completed the final season of HBO's "Treme" and guest-starred in a critically praised role on Louie C.K.'s comedy, "Louie," which earned her an Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series. She was previously nominated for an Emmy Award for her work in the HBO miniseries "Mildred Pierce." She is also known for her groundbreaking portrayal of "Detective Kay Howard" on "Homicide: Life on the Streets." Leo studied drama at Mount View Theatre School in London, England, and later at the State University of New York, Purchase Acting Program. She lives in upstate New York.

**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.

#### **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](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org)**