



American Repertory Theater

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**The A.R.T.'s Production of
The Heart of Robin Hood
to Open on Broadway on March 29, 2015**

Previews begin March 10, 2015 at the Marquis Theatre

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, Diane Paulus, Artistic Director, is pleased to announce that its production of ***The Heart of Robin Hood***, written by **David Farr**, featuring original music performed on-stage by **Parsonsfield** and directed by acclaimed Icelandic theater artist **Gísli Örn Gardarsson**, will open at the Marquis Theatre on Broadway on Sunday, March 29, 2015. Previews begin on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The production will play a strictly limited engagement through Sunday, August 23, 2015.

Following the A.R.T. run of ***The Heart of Robin Hood*** the production moved to in Winnipeg, Canada (November 11-December 6, 2014 at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre) and Toronto (December 23, 2014-March 1, 2015 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre).

In ***The Heart of Robin Hood***, playwright **David Farr** presents a wildly imaginative, theatrically dazzling new spin on the familiar fable. First staged at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2011 and at the A.R.T in 2013, the eye-popping, athletic and endlessly inventive production from acclaimed director **Gísli Örn Gardarsson**, has been cheered by critics and audiences alike. ***The Heart of Robin Hood*** explodes off the stage to take place in front, above and on all sides of the audience. The production features swashbuckling, acrobatics, comedy, drama, cross-dressing, trap doors, aerial work and original music played by on-stage musicians, the acclaimed Connecticut-based roots band, **Parsonsfield**.

Farr and Gardarsson previously collaborated on the acclaimed staging of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, which dazzled audiences at BAM in 2010.

Set design is by **Börkur Jónsson**, costume design is by **Emma Ryott** and sound design is by **Jonathan Deans**. Casting is by **Telsey + Company** and **Stephanie Gorin Casting**. Creative consultant is **Walter Bobbie**.

David Farr (*Playwright, Lyrics*) is currently directing his first feature film, *The Ones Below* for BBC Films and BFI. He is also currently adapting John Le Carre's *The Night Manager*

for BBC television. Other plays as writer: *The Heart of Robin Hood* and *Night of the Soul* (RSC); *The UN Inspector* (National Theatre); *The Nativity* (Young Vic Theatre); *Elton John's Glasses* (London West End); and *The Danny Crowe Show* (Bush Theatre). Directing credits: *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *A Winter's Tale*, *King Lear*, *The Homecoming* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Coriolanus* (RSC/Old Vic Theatre); *Julius Caesar* (RSC/Lyric Theatre Hammersmith); adapted and directed *The Odyssey*, directed the devised piece *Water* (with Filter Theatre), *The Birthday Party* (Lyric Theatre Hammersmith). Other credits: Associate director, Royal Shakespeare Company (2009-2013); artistic director of the Gate Theatre, London 1993-97; artistic director of Bristol Old Vic 2002-05; artistic director and co-chief executive of Lyric Theatre Hammersmith 2005-09. Film and television writing credits: *Spooks* (BBC-TV series), *Hanna* (co-writer, feature film, Focus Features). David is currently writing screenplays for BBC Film, Cloud Eight, Universal Studios and Parkes Macdonald.

Gísli Örn Gardarsson (*Director*) Born in Iceland and raised in Norway, Gísli Örn Gardarsson attended the Icelandic Academy of the Arts, where, in his last year (2001), he co-founded Vesturport Theatre. Gardarsson made his debut as a director with his circus-inspired version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, also playing the role of Romeo, which premiered at the Reykjavik City Theatre in November 2002, and has been performed in London at the Young Vic Theatre (2003) and in the West End (2004). He directed and adapted Georg Büchner's *Woyzeck*, with an original score and lyrics by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, which opened at the Barbican Theatre in London (October 2005). He directed and adapted *Metamorphosis*, along with David Farr, at the Lyric Hammersmith in London, appearing in the role of Gregor Samsa, and with music by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. He has also written and directed *Love*, a romantic musical about two people who find love at the end of their lives. Gardarsson directed *The Heart of Robin Hood*, which opened at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford (2011), and *Bastard*, co-written by Richard LaGravenese, presented in Denmark, Sweden and Iceland (2012). Other acting credits include *A Matter of Life and Death* (National Theatre London), an adaptation of the 1946 Powell and Pressburger film, *Angela Carter's Nights at the Circus*, and the title role in *Don John* (Royal Shakespeare Company), all directed by Emma Rice. Gardarsson starred in and co-wrote the film *Children*, for which he received a Shooting Star Award at the 2007 Berlinale, and played the main villain in the Disney/Bruckheimer film *Prince of Persia*, directed by Mike Newell. He has also worked at the National Theatre in Norway, the Malmö City Theatre in Sweden, the Residenz Theatre in Munich, and elsewhere.

Parsonsfield (*Music, Lyrics*) (previously known as *Poor Old Shine*) is a roots band with a grassroots ethos. The Connecticut band prizes the human element that underpins their music, from songwriting to recording to album design. Formed at the University of Connecticut, where singer and banjo player Chris Freeman met banjo and mandolin player Antonio Alcorn in a folk music club on campus, an early version of Parsonsfield landed its first gig — opening for a friend's band at the legendary New Haven club Toad's Place — before the musicians had even decided what to call themselves. With the addition of Max Shakun on guitar and pump organ, Harrison Goodale on bass, and Erik Hischmann on drums, Parsonsfield's music is rooted in the folk and Appalachian mountain music tradition and each set mixes the band's original songwriting with traditional folk ballads, prison work songs, and front porch style jamming. Parsonsfield has played live shows in renowned venues, including the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington D.C., Club Passim in Cambridge, Rockwood Music Hall in New York, and Infinity Hall in Norfolk, CT. They travel with an assortment of instruments including guitars, banjos, pump organ, mandolin, string bass, musical saw, washboard, and a yard-sale-

scrap-metal drum set. Parsonsfield has released a self-titled debut studio LP on Signature Sounds.

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