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**American Repertory Theater
announces the cast and design team for
THE SHAPE SHE MAKES
conceived by Susan Misner and Jonathan Bernstein
choreographed by Susan Misner
written and directed by Jonathan Bernstein
April 5 — 27
OBERON**

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the Artistic Direction of Diane Paulus, announced today the company and creative team for ***THE SHAPE SHE MAKES***, conceived by Susan Misner and Jonathan Bernstein, choreographed by Susan Misner and written and directed by Jonathan Bernstein. Performances begin at OBERON on April 5 and run through April 27, with press viewing starting on April 9 at 7:30pm.

In this world premiere piece, a precocious 11-year old seeks to understand what she's inherited from her absent father and neglectful mother. This moving and heartrending production uses a fusion of dance and theater to explore how the echoes of childhood relentlessly shape our lives.

The company of actor/dancers is led by **Susan Misner**, and includes **Michael Balderrama, Mary Cavett, Nina Goldman, Deidre Goodwin, Benjamin Howes, Seán Martin Hingston, Sydney K. Penny, Jermaine Maurice Spivey, and Finnerty Steeves**. Set design by **Sara Brown**, costume design by **Sarah Cabbage**, lighting design by **Dan Scully**, sound design by **M.L. Dogg**, and projection and video design by **Darrel Maloney**. Music is composed by **Julia Kent** and **Son Lux**, music supervisor is **Mary-Mitchell Campbell**,

Jonathan Bernstein has had plays and musicals produced all over the country. His directing credits include work at the Atlantic Theater Company, Naked Angels, Williamstown Theater Festival, New York Stage & Film, Signature Theater, Joe's Pub, Ensemble Studio Theater and many others. He has worked in various capacities at New York's City Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Second Stage Theater, Roundabout Theatre, Public Theater, and 52nd Street Project, where he writes, directs and teaches. He recently participated in NYC's 24 Hour Musicals Benefit,

writing an original musical with composer Jeanine Tesori between the hours of 11:00pm and 5:45am. This was his second time writing a musical for the charity; the first time he was paired with composer David Yazbek. He is the Artistic Director of The Performing Arts Project (an international arts training program for ages 16-24), serves on the faculty at the Eugene O'Neill National Theater Institute, and is a professor of Playwriting and Script Analysis in the MFA Musical Theater Writing Program at NYU.

Susan Misner is currently best known for her role as Sandra Beeman, the wife of the FBI agent, on the FX series "The Americans." She has appeared in many films including *Chicago* (Screen Actors Guild Award), *Hope Springs*, *The Forgotten*, *Cayman Went*, *If I Didn't Care*, *Mentor*, *The Hoax*, *Walking On The Sky* (Best Supporting Actress Award, New York International Independent Film Festival), *Tanner Hall*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *Gigantic*, *Two Weeks*, *Somebody's Hero*, and Woody Allen's *Everybody Says I Love You*. She has guest starred on the "Law & Order" franchise, as well as both CSI shows, and has recurring roles on "The Following," "Person of Interest," "The Good Wife," "Nashville," "Without A Trace," and "Rescue Me," among others; and she portrayed Gretchen Martin in the miniseries *The Bronx Is Burning* opposite John Turturro.

Sara Brown designed ***The Lily's Revenge*** and the A.R.T Institute production of ***Bob: A Life in 5 Acts*** at the A.R.T. Selected scene design credits include *A House in Bali* at BAM, *World of Wires at The Kitchen in New York*; *The Temperamentals* at Lyric Stage. She is Director of Design for MIT Music and Theater Arts.

Sarah Cubbage designed the costumes for ***The Lily's Revenge*** last season. She was assistant designer for numerous Broadway productions including *Big Fish*, *Scandalous*, the revivals of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Godspell*, and *Master Class*, and created costumes for many productions at Northern Stage, including *Evita*, *Peter Pan*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Dan Scully is a New York based lighting and projection designer. Recent designs include *Rocky* (Broadway); *Jedermann* (Salzburger Festspiele); *Another Night* (Alvin Ailey/ADT); *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (NY Pops); *The Orchestra Rocks!* (Carnegie Hall); *Pavement* (Kyle Abraham /Abraham.In.Motion); *Seven Last Words* (Lincoln Center Chamber Orchestra Society); *Lake Lucille Chekov Project*. He also designed for Trinity Rep., GEVA, Asolo Rep., Cleveland Playhouse, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and Two River Theater Company., and received the 2010 Bessie Award for *The Radio Show* (Abraham.In.Motion).

M.L. Dogg has designed sound for South Coast Repertory, Signature Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival, Ars Nova, Public Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Second Stage Theatre, New York Stage And Film, Playwrights Horizons, Roundabout Theatre Company, Working Theatre, Epic Theatre Ensemble, Women's Project, Classic Stage Company, Shakespeare & Company, and Actors Theatre Of Louisville among others. He is an IRNE, NY Innovative Theatre, and Drama Desk nominee, and received a fringeNYC award for his design for *Go-Go Kitty, GO!*

ASL interpreted performances are scheduled for April 22 at 7:30 PM April 27 at 2:00 PM.

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 seasons. 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.

OBERON, located at 2 Arrow Street at the corner of Mass Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, is fully accessible. ASL interpreted and audio described performances are available at select productions. Visit americanrepertorytheater.org/access for more information.

For further information call 617-547-8300 or visit **AmericanRepertoryTheater.org**

