



American Repertory Theater

LOEB DRAMA CENTER
64 brattle street,
cambridge, ma 02138

OBERON
2 arrow street
cambridge, ma 02138

617•495•2668 TEL
617•495•1705 FAX
617•547•8300 TICKETS

americanrepertorytheater.org

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Contact: Kati Mitchell 617-495-2668
kati_mitchell@harvard.edu

**American Repertory Theater announces the cast and design team for
William Shakespeare's
THE TEMPEST
Adapted and Directed by Aaron Posner and Teller
Magic by Teller / Music by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan
Movement by Pilobolus
May 10 – June 15
Loeb Drama Center**

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 Company for the last production of its 2013/14 Season, ***THE TEMPEST***, adapted and directed by **Aaron Posner** and **Teller** from the play by **William Shakespeare**, with magic by **Teller**, music by **Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan**, and movement by **Matt Kent of Pilobolus**.

The Tempest is produced in association with The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada. The production will have a limited run in Las Vegas beginning on April 1 then move to the A.R.T. beginning performances on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Loeb Drama Center. It will be available for press viewing from Wednesday, May 14 at 7:30pm. Press night invitations will be sent out in late April.

Experience Prospero's wizardry as never before in this thrilling new production featuring magic by the illusionist Teller (of the legendary duo Penn and Teller). When shipwrecked aristocrats wash up on the shores of Prospero's strange island, they find themselves immersed in a world of trickery and amazement, where Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan's dusty music and Pilobolus' athletic movement animate the spirits and monsters. But the revels come to an end when the master magician realizes he has neglected his life in service of his art, and must now relinquish his conjuring in order to reclaim his life and provide for the future of his only child.

The cast will be led by **Tom Nelis** as Prospero, with **Louis Butelli** as Antonio, **Nate Dendy** as Ariel, **Dawn Didawick** as Gonzala, **Christopher Donohue** as Alonso, **Joby Earle** as Ferdinand, **Zach Eisenstat** and **Manelich Minniefee** as Caliban, **Charlotte Graham** as Miranda, **Eric Hissom** as Stephano, **Jonathan Kim** as Trinculo, and **Edmund Lewis** as Sebastian. They are joined by the musicians **Shaina Taub**, **Miche Braden**, **Michael Brun**, and **Nate Tucker**.

The creative team also includes scenic designer **Daniel Conway**, costume designer **Paloma Young**, lighting designer **Christopher Akerlind**, sound designer **Darron L. West**, music direction by **Shaina Taub**, magic consultant **Johnny Thompson**, magical prop designer **Thom Rubino**, and instrument designer **Kenny Wollesen**.

/over

About the principal cast members:

Tom Nelis (Prospero) was previously seen at the A.R.T. in **The Blue Flower** and **bobrauschenbergamerica** and appeared recently at the Huntington Theatre in *Now or Later*. His Broadway roles include *Enron*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, and *Aida*; and Off Broadway credits include *Road Show*, *Richard III*, the title role in *Henry VI*, and *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (The Public Theater), *Doris to Darlene* (Playwrights Horizons), *Ipheginia 2.0* and *Hot 'n' Throbbing* (Signature Theatre), *Passion* and *Orlando* (Classic Stage Company), *Septimus and Clarissa* (Ripe Time), *The Merchant of Venice* (Theatre for a New Audience and The Royal Shakespeare Company), Ahab in Laurie Anderson's *Songs and Stories from Moby Dick* (BAM/world tour), Oscar Wilde in *Gross Indecency* (Mineta Lane Theatre), *Hot Mouth* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Pearls for Pigs* (Richard Foreman/world tour); as well as 20 years with SIT Company, including last season's *Cafe Variations* at ArtsEmerson. He is the recipient of an Obie (*The Medium*) and San Diego Critics Ensemble (*Wintertime*) Awards, and Drama League (*Score*) and Barrymore Award (*Candide*) nominations. Mr. Nelis received his MFA from UC San Diego.

Louis Butelli (Antonio) appeared in *CYCLOPS: A Rock Opera* (47th St, NYMF Award Outstanding Individual Performer, Pulitzer Prize Jury Nomination); and regionally in *Henry VIII* (Folger Theatre, Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Supporting Actor); *Twelfth Night* (Folger Theatre, Helen Hayes Nomination, Outstanding Supporting Actor); Shakespeare Theatre DC; Alabama Shakespeare Festival; among others.

Nate Dendy (Ariel) was seen in *The Fantasticks* (The Mute; L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award and Helen Hayes Award nominations) at Arena Stage, South Coast Rep, Trinity Repertory Company; in *Angels In America* (Prior Walter) at Risk Theatre Initiative; *Twelfth Night* at Dallas Shakespeare Festival; and *A Christmas Carol* at Trinity Repertory Company. He appeared in the film *Turtle Hill: Brooklyn*. He has an M.F.A. from Brown University/Trinity Rep.

Christopher Donahue (Alonso) appeared in *Metamorphoses* at Circle in the Square and *Monsters* (Obie Award) at Classic Stage Company. He was seen in numerous off-Broadway productions and regional theaters, including The Huntington Theatre, Hartford Stage, BLO, Chicago Opera Theatre, and The Goodman Theatre.

Dawn Didawick (Gonzala) was seen on Broadway in *All My Sons* (Tony Award for Best Revival) and in regional theater productions including Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Globe Theater, Longwharf Theatre, Hartford Stage Company, Seattle and Saint Louis Repertory Theaters. Her films include *Erin Brokovich*, *Breakfast of Champions*, and on television in "Almost a Woman" (Peabody Award), "Pretty Little Liars," and "Heart of Dixie."

Joby Earle (Ferdinand) was seen on Broadway in *War Horse*; Off Broadway in *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet*. His regional credits include *Owners* (Yale Rep), *The Puppetmaster of Lodz* (Berkshire Theatre Group), and *The Pitmen Painters* (Palm Beach Dramaworks).

Zachary Eisenstat (Caliban) was previously seen at the A.R.T. as Will Scathlock in **The Heart of Robin Hood**, and in **The Donkey Show**. Other recent local credits include *On The Town* and *The Chosen* at Lyric Stage Company; *Coriolanus* at Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and *The Play About the Baby* at Exquisite Corps. Other theater includes *Matchmaker*, *Matchmaker I'm Willing To Settle* at the 2011 NY Musical Festival; and a staged reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.

Charlotte Graham (Miranda) was seen in *Three Sisters*, *Build*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* at Chautauqua Theater Company, *Camelot* at Trinity Repertory Company, and *Beast* at New York Stage & Film. Her television credits include "Gossip Girl," "Law & Order: SVU," "Hart of Dixie," "Joe, Joe & Jane" (NBC pilot). She is a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Program in Acting.

Eric Hissom (Stephano) performed the title role of *Cyrano* at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, appeared in *Twelfth Night* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, *The Thirty-nine Steps* at La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Rep and the Broadway National Tour, and *Eurydice* at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre among others.

Jonathan Kim (Trinculo) was seen in New York in *In Masks Outrageous and Austere* (originated the role of the Interpreter) and *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Principal/Soloist). His films include *Second Hand Lions*, and appeared on Television in *Boardwalk Empire*, *Barney and Friends*.

Edmund Lewis (Sebastian) appeared in *Hamlet* and *Saint Joan* at the Lynn Redgrave Theater and Access Theatre in New York and regionally at the Olney Theater Center; *The Orphan* at The Tank Theater; *Five by Ives* at Arclight Theater; *Waiting For Godot* and *The Misanthrope* at Pilot House Theater; and *Like Larvae* at the NY Fringe Festival.

Manelich Minniefee (Caliban) is a principal dancer of the Pilobolus Dance Theater and has performed in *The Magic Flute* at the Verdi Opera House, Parma Italy; appeared on television as a dancer in "Sesame Street," the "2007 Academy Awards Telecast," "Ellen," "Live with Regis and Kelly," and on the NFL Network. He has a B.F.A. in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

About the creative team:

Director and adaptor **Aaron Posner** is a Helen Hayes and Barrymore Award-winning playwright and director. His adaptations include *Macbeth* (with Teller, from Shakespeare), *Stupid Fucking Bird* (adapted from Chekhov's *The Seagull*), *Who Am I This Time? (& Other Conundrums of Love)* adapted from Kurt Vonnegut short stories, *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev* (adapted from the Chaim Potok novels), *Sometimes a Great Notion* (adapted from Ken Kesey), a nine-actor *Cyrano*, and musical adaptation of Mark Twain's *A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage*, and many more. He is a founder and former Artistic Director of Philadelphia's Arden Theatre and has directed at major regional theaters from coast to coast. He is an artistic associate at Milwaukee Rep and the Folger Theatre in Washington, DC (where his recent production of *Romeo and Juliet* received rave reviews).

Director and adaptor **Teller** has been the smaller, quieter half of Penn & Teller since 1975. With Penn Jillette, he has played off and on Broadway, toured in North America and Britain, and is currently the longest-running headline act in Las Vegas. Penn & Teller have written and starred in television series and specials, including eight seasons of the Emmy-nominated Showtime series "Penn & Teller: Bullshit!;" "Penn & Teller Tell a Lie" on Discovery; "Penn & Teller's Sincity Spectacular" on FX; "Behind the Scenes," a PBS children's series on the arts; "The Unpleasant World of Penn & Teller," a magic and comedy series on England's Channel 4; and the recent ITV variety series, "Penn & Teller: Fool Us." Teller has written for *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *The New Yorker*; as well as three books with Penn Jillette and two on his own. He is also a frequent contributor to *All Things Considered* on NPR. In 2008, Teller and Aaron Posner co-directed a version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, conceived as a supernatural horror thriller that employed stage magic to represent the play's uncanny hallucinations and manifestations. He also co-wrote and directed the original Off-Broadway and Los Angeles productions of *Play Dead* and co-directed the performance film. *Tim's Vermeer*, a feature documentary film, which will be released in theaters internationally in 2014 by Sony Picture Classics.

Founded in 1971, **Pilobolus** has built its fervent and ever-expanding international following by proving the human body to be the most expressive, universal, and magical of media. Pilobolus maintains its own singular style while actively collaborating with the best and brightest minds from all conceivable professions the world over. Based in Washington Depot, Connecticut and New York City, in recent years Pilobolus has transformed from avant-garde dance company into an international entertainment brand featured on the likes of *Oprah*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and the Academy Awards. The company has engaged in activities as varied as making circuses, creating television advertising, publishing books, breaking world records, teaching in schools, and producing music videos. Pilobolus has been awarded prestigious honors over the years, including the Berlin Critic's Prize, the Scotsman Award, the Brandeis Award, a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Programming, the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in Choreography, a TED Fellowship for presenting at the TED conference in 2005, and 2012 Grammy® Award nomination for its interactive music video collaboration with OK Go and Google Chrome Japan, "All Is Not Lost" (allisnotlost.com). Pilobolus achieves all of this without ever losing sight of its core mission: to make art that builds community.

Choreographer **Matt Kent** is the Associate Artistic Director of Pilobolus and has worked with the company since 1996 as a dancer, collaborator, creative director, choreographer, and associate artistic director. Past Pilobolus projects include Head Choreographer for Andre Heller's *Magnifico*, a large-scale circus production; Choreographer for a Sports Emmy-nominated teaser created in collaboration with the NFL network; and Choreographer for a television appearance on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Matt is one of the creators of the Pilobolus's European hit *Shadowland*, and he has performed in over 24 countries and on Pilobolus's

appearance on the 79th Academy Awards. Outside of Pilobolus, he has worked as zombie choreographer for AMC's hit series "The Walking Dead" and as movement consultant on the Duncan Sheik musical, *Whisper House*. He lives in Connecticut with his wife and two sons.

In a career that spans four decades, singer-songwriter **Tom Waits** has adventurously delved into recording, literature, film and theater, as both actor and composer. His music, recognized for its distinctive orchestrations and arrangements, has ranged from country, blues, cabaret, waltz and field hollers to gospel, polkas and marches. He has recorded over 20 albums including *Bad As Me* and appeared in well over 20 films including, *Ironweed*, *Dracula*, *Down By Law*, *Short Cuts*, *Book of Eli* and *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*, working with such maverick directors like Jim Jarmusch, Terry Gilliam, Francis Ford Coppola, Hughes Brothers, Hector Barbenco and Robert Altman. Waits and his long time collaborator and wife, **Kathleen Brennan** were recently named number four in a list of the "100 Best Living Songwriters" published by America's Paste magazine. Paste said "In literature only a handful of writers have pulled off the near impossible. In music, it happens on every Tom Waits recording".

ASL interpreted performances are scheduled for June 3 at 7:30 PM and June 8 at 2:00 PM.

Audio described performances for blind and low-vision patrons are scheduled for June 4 at 7:30 PM and June 7 at 2:00 PM.

For more information on **The Tempest** and the upcoming A.R.T. season call 617-547-8300 or visit us on line at americanrepertorytheater.org

About the A.R.T.:

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. Visit americanrepertorytheater.org/access for more information.

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

