



## American Repertory Theater

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**EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020**

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**American Repertory Theater and  
Healthy Buildings Program at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Announce Collaboration to Develop a Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater  
In Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Team to Share Principles and General Guidance that Address Theater's Particular Challenges,  
A.R.T. to Serve as Case Study, Will Host Framework Online**

**Cambridge, MA—The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University** and researchers from the **Healthy Buildings program at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** announced today that they are collaborating to develop a roadmap for recovery and resilience for theater in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Led by A.R.T. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Dr. Joseph Allen, assistant professor of exposure assessment science at Harvard Chan School and director of the Healthy Buildings program, this interdisciplinary collaboration will model the use of translational science to develop principles and general guidance that address the particular challenges the theater faces as a result of the pandemic. The A.R.T. will offer its planning and activities as a case study for the field.

The Roadmap to Recovery and Resilience for Theater will be a living document hosted on the A.R.T.'s website for theaters across the country and around the world to access. Guided by principles of placing health and safety first and a dynamic approach that responds to changing conditions, the roadmap will address areas such as rehearsal and performance practice; audience interactions, including ticketing, restrooms, and concessions; back-of-house operations; and overall healthy building strategies. The Roadmap will also offer ideas for pivoting to new models, including outdoor experiences. The initial framework will be available online in the coming weeks. It will be continuously updated as the science evolves.

"The question of how the theater can safely come back is our field's most pressing challenge," said Paulus. "As the professional theater at Harvard, the A.R.T. is uniquely positioned to collaborate with the University's research community to address this crisis. I am deeply grateful to Joe and his team for their collaboration to iterate a plan so that we can once again experience theater's healing power, which I believe we need now more than ever before."

“This is an all-in moment for the world, and the arts have a critical role to play in our recovery,” said Allen. “I share Diane’s passion and sense of responsibility to leverage two of Harvard’s strengths—arts and health science—to provide a path forward for theater. To get there, we will draw on decades of research and practice on how to keep people safe as we consider how to effectively minimize the risk of disease transmission in ways that will allow theaters to continue their work.”

### **ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER**

**American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.)** at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking, artistic inquiry, and passionate inquiry. Led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. expands the boundaries of theater by producing groundbreaking and transformative theatrical experiences where the audience is a central partner. The A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for *All the Way* (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for *Pippin* (2013) and *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; and the Regional Theater Tony Award. Additional Broadway productions include *Jagged Little Pill* (fall 2019); *Waitress* (also US National Tour and in London’s West End); *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; and *Finding Neverland*.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard’s undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, 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.

### **ABOUT HEALTHY BUILDINGS PROGRAM**

The **Healthy Buildings program** at the Harvard T.H. Chan School Public Health is a team dedicated to conducting research on the relationship between the 9 Foundations of a Healthy Building and human health, well-being, and performance. The program is directed by Dr. Joe Allen, assistant professor of exposure assessment science, and is comprised of professional scientists, postdoctoral researchers, doctoral, and masters students. It is dedicated to driving research into practice and delivering on its

mission of healthy buildings for all people, in all buildings, everywhere, every day. More information on the Healthy Buildings' research and reports on homes, schools, offices, and other settings, can be found at: [www.ForHealth.org](http://www.ForHealth.org).

### **ABOUT JOE ALLEN**

**Dr. Joseph G. Allen** is an assistant professor of exposure science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and co-author of "Healthy Buildings: How Indoor Spaces Drive Performance and Productivity," with John Macomber at Harvard Business School. At Harvard, Dr. Allen directs the Healthy Buildings program where he created *The 9 Foundations of a Healthy Building*.

Dr. Allen is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (C.I.H.) and has been involved with infectious disease research and control strategies for over 12 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Allen has published ten op-eds in leading newspapers including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *STAT News* translating science into actionable tips for the public.

Dr. Allen was the lead investigator for several Legionnaires' disease outbreaks in major U.S. hospitals, responsible for testing, assessing risk, and developing control strategies. He was the lead author on a report for the National Academies of Sciences Airport Cooperative Research Program titled, "Infectious Disease Mitigation in Airports and Airplanes." He has published peer-reviewed papers on the influence of humidity on risk from influenza, upper respiratory illness in dormitories using university electronic medical health records, and modeling how building factors can reduce measles risk in schools. He began his career conducting forensic health investigations of sick buildings in several hundred buildings across a diverse range of industries, including healthcare, biotechnology, education, commercial office real estate and manufacturing.

Dr. Allen works with Fortune 500 companies on implementing Healthy Building strategies in their global portfolios and presents internationally on the topic of Healthy Buildings. His work has been featured widely in the popular press, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Business Review*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, NPR, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *Fortune* and *The New York Times*. Dr. Allen is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* and an Associate Editor of the journal *Indoor Air*. He earned his Doctor of Science (DSc) and Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees from the Boston University School of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Biology from Boston College.

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