



## American Repertory Theater

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**“ALICE IN RAINBOWLAND”  
TO PREMIERE THURSDAY, JUNE 10  
AS PART OF AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER’S VIRTUALLY OBERON SERIES**

**Reimagining Of “Alice in Wonderland” Told Through Dance, Music, And LGBTQ Pride  
To Stream Through June 30**

[{Images for Download}](#)

**Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University and Ana Masacote** announce today that tickets are now on sale for *Alice in Rainbowland*, to run as part of A.R.T.’s **Virtually OBERON** series June 10 - 30, 2021. The virtual production is produced and curated by Ana Masacote through her Queer Bodies in Motion project funded in part by The Boston Foundation’s Live Arts Boston grant.

Queer Bodies in Motion is a dance project aiming to build awareness of LGBTQ discrimination and celebrate queer identity. Its debut artistic endeavor, *Alice in Rainbowland*, is a re-imagining of *Alice in Wonderland* told through dance, music, and LGBTQ pride. This collaborative show is devised by and highlights queer artists and allies—including dancers, musicians, and the creative community from MA, NY, and RI. This is dedicated to queer youth and community, for the courage to show up. *Sponsored by The Boston Foundation’s Live Arts Boston Grant, Virtually OBERON, Cambridge Arts, Burju Shoes, Boston Dance Alliance, Snatched Entertainment, and Dance to Power.*

Pay-what-you-can tickets with a recommended household price of \$15 are available at [AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/AliceInRainbowland](http://AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/AliceInRainbowland). A virtual premiere celebration featuring a DJ will begin at 7:30PM ET on Thursday, June 10, prior to the 8PM ET premiere of the show.

*“Alice in Rainbowland* is an invitation into a world where love is Queen and pride is a daily celebration,” says Masacote. “Many advances in LGBTQ rights have been made in recent years, but anti-LGBTQ legislation and discriminatory practices still exist and have an adverse effect on mental health. The Queer Bodies in Motion (QBM) project is about taking up space, building visibility, and providing resources for support. Our cast and creative team has collaborated remotely over six months to curate a show that embraces the spirit of the queer community through dance and music.”

The *Alice in Rainbowland* creative team includes Masacote (Producer, Creative Director), Madison Lusby (Production Manager), Burju Perez (Shoe Designer), Andrea Sala (Stage Manager), Justin Paice (Lighting Designer), and The Loop Lab (Video Production).

Masacote will be a guest on *The Lunch Room*, A.R.T.’s weekly virtual talk show, Tuesday, June 8 at 12PM ET to discuss Queer Bodies in Motion (QBM), *Alice in Rainbowland*, and her vision for using dance to facilitate social change. Free and open access to *The Lunch Room* and A.R.T.’s other virtual events is provided by the generous support of A.R.T. Members. Register at <http://amrep.org/LunchRoom>.

### **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **ANA MASACOTE**

Ana Masacote (she/her/hers) is an award-winning Afro-Latin dance specialist and arts leader who passionately believes that through dance, we can facilitate social change within communities. She has spread the salsa bug to more than 30 countries across five continents as founder of Dance to Power, an online Afro-Latin dance academy, and former partner of internationally-renowned Masacote Entertainment. Through her social impact initiatives, Ana advocates for gender and LGBTQ inclusivity and racial equity in the arts. She was most recently named a 2020/21 Kennedy Citizens Fellow, the 2019 YWCA Cambridge Woman of the Year, and a 2019 WBUR Artery 25 honoree. She has received the 2020 NEFA New England Dance Fund, the 2020 Next Steps for Boston Dance, The Boston Foundation's 2019/2020 Live Arts Boston Grant, the 2015 New England Salsa Music Award for lifetime achievement in dance, and the 2014 SBA's MA Minority-Owned Business of the Year Award. Ana holds a Bachelor's in Management Science from MIT in Cambridge.

### **GABRIEL COLON-SCIABARRASI**

Gabriel Colon-Sciabarrasi (he/him/his) is proud to identify as a gay, Puerto Rican, dog dad who loves to dance, cook, and enjoy adventures with loved ones. Graduating from Northeastern University in 2014, he has worked for Boston Beer Company for over eight years. Throughout his time in Boston, Gabriel has been an active member and leader in the Boston Dance Community. Gabriel has had the opportunity to dance with and choreograph for many dance teams, but his favorite had to be QWAM; an all male dance family in support of promoting inclusivity and self-empowerment in one's own identity. He co-founded QWAM in 2016 and has led the group's growth for the past 5 years. A huge thank you to Ana for the invitation to be a part of Queer Bodies in Motion; grateful to everyone who has made this event such a success! IG: @go\_gabriel\_go

### **JUST JP**

From El Salvador via Cambridge MA, it's Just JP! They use any pronouns, please mix them up! He appreciates it. They love makeup, editing videos, fighting oppression, and eating pupusas. Just JP was the winner of the first cycle of Worcester Drag Wars in 2018, and since then, she has been a staple in the New England drag scene. She has performed on the stages of Boston Pride, Worcester Pride, NOHO Pride and Providence Pride, as well as weekly in-person shows (pre-covid) and currently producing tons of digital content through [twitch.tv/theservenetwork](https://www.twitch.tv/theservenetwork). Their monthly show *First Impression* airs every second Friday at 8PM ET. They are the Assistant Producer of *Full Spin*, every second and fourth Tuesdays at [twitch.tv/majentawithaj](https://www.twitch.tv/majentawithaj). Follow Just JP in all social media at @dragqueenjp.

### **LILLY ROSE-VALORE**

Lilly Rose Valore (she/her/hers) is a Dancer/Model/Trans Activist from Boston, MA. She is a Program Assistant at Futures Without Violence, a nonprofit organization working to end domestic violence for women and children. Her work for Black Trans Lives has led her to become an artist/activist. Lilly has always had an interest in developing the lives of marginalized groups specifically within the city of Boston. Her activism work has included speaking on LGBTQ+ awareness panels and teaching vogue classes, as well as history and performing at LGBTQ fundraising events. Lilly's art often has queer symbolism weaving in and out of her work to bring awareness until her people don't have to suffer anymore. Stylistically she's a retro 1950s girl at heart but her values don't come from that era, she says. She has been creating art from home since March telling her story through Photo, Film, Dance. She uses her social media platforms as a way to reach out to a wider demographic and has been reaching the hearts of her followers since March 2020. Some of her work touches on topics such as Racial Injustices, Uplifting Marginalized Groups, and using trans puns here and there to represent trans women of color. Attached to her 2021, projects Lilly often includes donation links depending on what the topic of the photo shoot is about. Some organizations that Lilly has donated to and included in her post online are The Native American Rights Fund, The Transgender Emergency Fund Of MA, and the Animal Rescue League. She finds this is a great way to get people in on donating if she promises content. IG: @lillyrosevalore

### **MORI GRANOT-SANCHEZ**

Mori Granot-Sanchez (she/her/hers), based in RI, is the founder and director of Rhode Island Latin Dance, a dance school she started in 2012. In 2017 she launched her professional dance team, RILD-

Synergy. Through her community work, Mori teaches weekly salsa classes at the Brown University Salsa Club and directs their performance team Alma Salsera. Mori also runs various after school dance programs and art credit-eligible dance classes for inner-city youth in high schools throughout the State. Mori began dancing at the age of five in Haifa, Israel, delving into Israeli folk, jazz, modern, and ballet. She began dancing salsa at age seventeen. Her travels led her to the U.S. in 2006, where she would later pursue her love of salsa and embark on her professional dance career. In 2008, Mori started dancing and performing in RI with Mambo Pa-Ti. In 2011, she started training and working with Masacote Entertainment and participated in a dance & music research trip in Cuba and Puerto Rico through Meta-Movements Dance Co. In 2017, Mori started teaching and performing with Masacote Dance Company. Currently, Mori teaches and performs with her own Dance Company and collaborates with different artists for various dance projects. Mori is a dancer, teacher, choreographer and a performer who focuses on salsa as a teaching tool for self-development and to further inclusivity. For her, life is a never-ending cycle of lessons—she believes each day should be lived to better one's self. Personal enrichment means nothing unless one can bring the best out of fellow dancers and improve the dance community by creating a safe, non-judgmental space for people of all races, genders, and backgrounds to come together and dance.

IG: @Mori\_g\_sanchez / @ri\_latin\_dance

### **NADIA ISSA**

Nadia Issa (they/them/theirs) is a first-year Master of Theological Studies student at Harvard Divinity School focusing on African and African American Religious Studies, graduating in 2022. At HDS, they continue their work on Spiritual Reparations in Regla de Ocha-Ifá and other Black Caribbean Diasporic traditions and research on Black Cuban Womxn Akpwón/Apwanlás. Nadia spent over three years in Cuba and México pursuing fieldwork and dance study for both research projects that take form as Auto-Ethnographies and dance choreographies expanding Reparation politics and politics of being an Akpwón in Cuba and its diaspora. Nadia is a Company Dancer with Jean Appolon Expressions, a Haitian Contemporary dance company. Nadia has received training from and performed in dance works by Cristal Brown, Frederick Earl Mosley, Vincent Hardy, Princess Mhoon, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, Bebe Miller, Bárbara Balbuena, Yeniseit Galata Calvo, Eva Despaigne-Trujillo and Obini Batá, Camille A. Brown, and Emilio Hernández González of the company Raíces Profundas to name a few. Nadia's dance choreography has been presented at Boston University, Hampshire College, la Fundación de Alejo Carpentier Havana, Cuba, and Cambridge Carnival Festival 2020. Nadia is a current Research Associate at The Pluralism Project, contributing their research experiences in Afro-Caribbean spiritual-religious traditions. Nadia continues to work through the lens of Traditions and Religions of Afrikan origin, Survival, Blackness, and the Black Caribbean Diaspora within dance and written works. Nadia recognizes that dance is an embodied tool of ritual and resistance in their research and training. Through dance and ethnographic research, Nadia has been able to navigate and communicate Blackness, queerness, and the sacred. IG: @thechroniclesofnadia

### **SASI**

"SaSi" Marcelino (she/her/hers), is a multi-disciplined performing artist and educator with a passion for investigation. Born in the Caribbean and raised in Boston, SaSí brings an innovative lens to her artistic perspective. Sasi draws from her experience and evolution as a daughter of the Afro-Indigenous Diaspora. With over 25 years of performance experience, SaSi tours as an Actress, Vocalist, Dancer, and Percussionist. IG: @elevatedsassy

### **TINA CAVICCHIO**

Tina Cavicchio or (T) (she/her/hers) is an international dance artist and founder/director of Next Level Fusion Dance Company. T got her start in dance early in life, training in jazz and ballroom. She continued her studies into the Latin dance community with salsa and bachata as well as contemporary, Afro-Cuban, ballet, whacking, and hip hop. T is known for her creative fusion choreography and inspiring story telling through her dance. As a queer female lead, follow, and solo dancer, T has become a major advocate for individual empowerment and expression. T's goals as a teacher is to challenge her students to walk through fear, helping them to tell their story on stage, and to empower others along the way. Each day

inspires her to push the limits of Latin dance in her choreography while also paying respects to the history and roots of those dances. IG: @tinacavicchio

### **YYOYO ESCADA**

Yyoyo Escada (Yyoyo) is a member of the House of Escada, or Iconic House of Escada, a ballroom house based in Boston originally known as the House of Evangelista and founded by father Tony Escada. House of Escada appeared in the first season of the HBO Max original reality-competition series "Legendary", taking home third place. In order to be in the House of Escada, members explain you must be able to bear the weight of a crown. IG: @yyoyoescada

### **ZAYRA POLA**

Zayra Pola (she/her/hers) is a Puerto Rican American singer and percussionist. She was named "Pola" by one of her professors in honor of her grandfather Polo Ocasio, a well known folkloric Puerto Rican guitar player. Some of her fans have labeled her as "La Reina del Timbal" (The Queen of Timbales) since her outstanding performance in the 2009 "Salsa Festival Honoring a "La Fania." Zayra graduated with a full scholarship and Dean's List recognition for all semesters from Berklee College of Music, where she had the honor to record an album for Bill Whelan, an Irish music Grammy winner. Zayra has received the 2015 Best Timbales Player of the Year Award from the New England Salsa Music Awards and the 2017 Salsa Singer of the Year Award from Latin Boston USA (the only woman in the contest to receive this award). In 2016, Zayra launched [3NITY](#), the first Latin music female band in the Boston area. Her band strives to empower female talent in a male-dominated industry. She has released two singles, "No Renunciare" and "Puro Teatro," and she is currently producing her first album, scheduled for release in May 2021. IG: @zayrapolamusic

### **ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM**

**ANA MASACOTE** (Producer, Creative Director)  
See above.

**MADISON LUSBY** (Production Manager)

Madison Lusby (they/them) is a NYC-based producer and coordinator. They have a passion for creating work at the intersection of storytelling, accessible art, and live entertainment. In their 7+ years in the industry they've managed projects for companies such as Boston Ballet, Yo Soy LOLA, Nike, Twitter, ProductionGlue, Now & There, and more. They hold a BFA from Boston University in Theatre Management. In their spare time, you'll find Madison on outdoor adventures with their pup, getting back to their Pacific Northwest roots. IG: @madslusby

**BURJU SHOES** (Shoe Designer)

Burju Perez (she/her/hers) is the founder and CEO of Burju Shoes, an online dance and fashion shoe store worn by such artists as Jennifer Lopez, Normani, Christina Aguilera, and Cardi B. Her passion and creativity come from her experience of touring the world for 15 years as a professional Salsa instructor and performer. Wearing high heels for extremely long periods and having an obsession with fashion drove her to want more from her footwear and founding Burju Shoes. All dance shoes in the production have been custom designed by Burju Shoes.

**ANDREA SALA** (Stage Manager)

Andrea Sofia Sala (she/her/hers) was born in San Antonio, Texas, but grew up in Northern Mexico. During her high school years, she was heavily involved with the dance/theatre world and went on to earn a BFA in Lighting Design and minor in Engineering Sciences, specializing in Electrical Engineering, from Boston University in 2020. Since she could never truly stay away from the dance world, Andrea has worked at Jacob's Pillow and with BU Dance Theatre, as well as found time to work with local Boston artists as both a dancer and a designer. During COVID times, Andrea has dipped into the world of Production Management, acquiring a job as the Production Administrator at the Fisher Center at Bard College. IG: @andrea\_sofia2010

### **JUSTIN PAICE** (Lighting Designer)

Justin Paice (he/him/his) has previous A.R.T. credits that include **Black Light** (OBERON), **Greater Good**, **Clairvoyance**, **Wig Out!**, **Endlings** (Associate Lighting Designer), **The Triad** (Video Projections), and **The Conjurers' Club** (Digital Systems Programming).

### **The Loop Lab** (Video Production)

The Loop Lab is a BIPOC-led nonprofit social enterprise specializing in media arts internships and digital storytelling whose mission is to empower Womxn and People of Color in the media arts to develop careers in audio/video through job training and job placement. As an multi-racial organization, they are committed to ending inequality and racism through digital storytelling.

### **ABOUT VIRTUALLY OBERON**

A.R.T.'s **Virtually OBERON** series features streamed productions from the OBERON archives and new performances captured at OBERON and created in partnership with The Loop Lab, a BIPOC-led nonprofit whose mission is to empower Womxn and People of Color in careers in the media arts. Past events include Company One's **Hype Man: a break beat play**; Boston Circus Guild's **Keep the Light On** and **Cirque of the Dead**; **Housboi**; **The Triad** with Anjimile, Brandie Blaze, and Kaovanny; **Dragon Mama** by Sara Porkalob, Oompa's **Unbothered**, **Resistance Mic!**, **Anthem** by Justice Ameer and Chrysanthamum Tran, and **Queer Heartache** by Kit Yan.

*Production support of **Virtually OBERON** is provided by the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**. Additional production support is provided by **Bank of America**.*

### **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 and passionate inquiry. 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 the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner. A.R.T. is committed to a long-term process of centering anti-racism in its practice, policies, culture, pedagogy, governance and organizational structure.

Throughout its history, 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; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Additional Broadway productions include **Jagged Little Pill**; **Waitress** (also US National Tour and in London's West End); **Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812**; and **Finding Neverland**. Under Paulus's leadership, A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

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 collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change and with the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to develop a Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater that prioritizes a commitment to ethics, equity, and anti-racism as a guiding principle. 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.

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe.

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