



American Repertory Theater

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER WELCOMES AUDIENCES BACK FOR LIVE, IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING BEGINNING AUGUST 2021

Featuring A Free Outdoor Experience at the Arnold Arboretum Created by
Kirsten Greenidge, Tim Hall, Jill Johnson, and Summer L. Williams
And New Work and Performances from
Ayodele Casel and Torya Beard
Whitney White, Tyler Dobrowsky, and Taibi Magar
Rhiannon Giddens and Silkroad Ensemble
V, Justin Tranter, Caroline Pennell, and Idina Menzel
Julia Riew and Ian Chan
Lisa D'Amour, Katie Pearl, Sxip Shirey, and Jennifer Kidwell
Plus "1776" Revival Co-Directed by Jeffrey L. Page and Diane Paulus

[Artist Images for Download](#) | [Programming Teaser to Embed](#)

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, celebrates the return of live, in-person theater with a free outdoor experience for all at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University beginning in August 2021; dance, music, and theater events at the reopened Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square, Cambridge beginning September; and the return of A.R.T. productions on Broadway and beyond this fall.

The theater will continue to offer digital programming and live-streams for audiences to enjoy from anywhere in the world. Additional information about A.R.T.'s OBERON programming, pop-up performances, and learning and engagement opportunities will be announced at a later date.

"It has been a long time since we were all together in a theater, and we need this now more than ever—artists and audiences alike," says Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. "We have spent the last year in deep learning and reflection at the A.R.T., and we are excited to share our 2021/22 programming, which welcomes audiences back in person and reflects our core values, from centering anti-racism to embracing regenerative practice that promotes the health of our planet, our organization, and each other."

Subscription packages beginning at \$99 and including three productions or more will be available beginning in July; single tickets to individual productions will be available on a rolling basis over the coming months. More information is available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/2021-22-Programming.

A.R.T. continues its collaboration with the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health on the *Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater*, following its guiding principles to prioritize the health and safety of audiences, artists, and staff. Protocols for in-person attendance based on disease dynamics and state and local guidelines will be announced at a later date.

A.R.T.'s 2021/22 programming support is provided by **Harvard University, The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund, The Shubert Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Bank of America, Barton & Guestier, Meyer Sound, and JetBlue.**

— LIVE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING —

• **THE ARBORETUM EXPERIENCE - *World Premiere***

A celebration of nature and resilience—free and outdoors!

Beginning August 21, 2021 | Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Created by **Kirsten Greenidge, Tim Hall, Jill Johnson, and Summer L. Williams**

Produced in collaboration with the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

“The Arnold Arboretum was created to be a place where America’s democratic ideals could become manifest, where all members of society could intermingle and enjoy the profound lessons and graces of the natural world.” - William (Ned) Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum

Visitors are invited to experience the natural beauty of the Arnold Arboretum on an outdoor, self-guided journey that centers resilience, healing, wellness, and joy. Created by a team of artists that includes playwright Kirsten Greenidge, musician Tim Hall, choreographer Jill Johnson, and director Summer L. Williams, this collaboration between the A.R.T. and the Arboretum features audio plays written and performed by artists from Greater Boston and beyond, movement experiences, as well as pop-up music and dance performances, all set against the 281-acre backdrop of one of the jewels of Boston’s Emerald Necklace.

Virtual Event - Behind the Scenes: *The Arboretum Experience* to be held Wednesday, June 24, 2021 at 7:30PM. Hear firsthand from the creative team and Director of the Arnold Arboretum William (Ned) Friedman about the project.

Production support of ***The Arboretum Experience*** is provided by **The Bob and Alison Murchison New Work Development Fund** and the **Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation**. Development of ***The Arboretum Experience*** has been supported by the **Harvard University Committee on the Arts**.

• **AYODELE CASEL: CHASING MAGIC - *Live Premiere***

Tap Dance. Music. And the Joy of Connection.

September - October 2021 | Loeb Drama Center

Created by **Ayodele Casel**

Directed by **Torya Beard**

“Astonishing! Casel’s joyful and generous spirit is as vivid as ever.” - *NY Times Critic’s Pick*

Trailblazing tap dancer Ayodele Casel captures the spark of connection and creation in ***Chasing Magic***, performed live on stage for the first time since its virtual premiere. Exploring the magic of tap dance and everyday life, this joyous production celebrates gratitude, friendship, trust, legacy, culture, ancestors, and collaboration.

• **MACBETH IN STRIDE - *World Premiere***

Lady M Takes the Mic

October - November 2021 | Loeb Drama Center
Created and performed by **Whitney White**
Directed by **Tyler Dobrowsky** and **Taibi Magar**

A dazzling theatrical event created and performed by Obie Award-winning artist Whitney White with a live band, ***Macbeth In Stride*** examines what it means to be an ambitious Black woman through the lens of one of Shakespeare's most iconic characters. The first of White's five-part series commissioned by A.R.T. excavating Shakespeare's women, the production uses pop, rock, gospel, and R&B to trace the fatalistic arc of Lady Macbeth while lifting up contemporary Black female power, femininity, and desire. Directors Tyler Dobrowsky and Taibi Magar (***We Live in Cairo***) co-stage this groundbreaking world premiere.

• **PHOENIX RISING - *Three Nights Only!***
Rebirth and celebration from Silkroad Ensemble

November 19 - 21, 2021 | Loeb Drama Center
Featuring **Silkroad Ensemble** and Artistic Director/Grammy Award Winner **Rhiannon Giddens**

"One of the most visionary arts initiatives of our time." - WNPR

Silkroad Ensemble debuts ***Phoenix Rising***, a musical rebirth and celebration featuring more than 25 Silkroad artists alongside Artistic Director and Grammy Award-winning musician and vocalist Rhiannon Giddens. Silkroad offers ***Phoenix Rising*** as a collective grieving song and a clarion call, uniting audiences through varied cultural experiences to create a more peaceful and just world as we emerge from a long and stunning upheaval.

As a performer, composer, and cross-cultural connector, Rhiannon Giddens has pursued a lifelong mission to shine light on previously under-recognized voices, genres, and musical traditions. Her performance with the Silkroad Ensemble in ***Phoenix Rising*** will be her first since beginning her tenure as Artistic Director of the organization, which was founded by cellist and humanitarian Yo-Yo Ma in 1998.

Silkroad's ***Phoenix Rising*** is made possible thanks, in part, to the generous support of **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, the **Alice L. Walton Foundation**, the **Barr Foundation**, and the **MAP Fund**.

• **WILD In Concert - *World Premiere***
A new musical fable about the magic of loving the earth

December 2021 | Loeb Drama Center
Book by **V (formerly Eve Ensler)**
Music by **Justin Tranter** and **Caroline Pennell**
Lyrics by **Justin Tranter**, **Caroline Pennell**, and **V**
With contributions by **Idina Menzel**
Directed by **Diane Paulus**

"I want you to act as if the house was on fire. Because it is." - Greta Thunberg

WILD is a new musical fable about a single mother struggling to hold on to her family farm and connect with her teenage daughter, whose determination to save the planet endows her and her friends with powers they never knew they had. Created by Tony and Obie Award-winning playwright V (formerly Eve Ensler, ***O.P.C.***, ***In the Body of the World***, ***The Vagina Monologues***), Grammy and Golden Globe-nominated songwriter Justin Tranter (Selena Gomez, Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, Imagine Dragons) and songwriter Caroline Pennell (Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez) and directed by Diane Paulus, this concert presentation features Tony Award-winning performer and songwriter Idina Menzel

(*Rent, Wicked, Frozen*) as a parent confronting what it means for her family and her community to survive in a world facing mass extinction.

• **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A MUSICAL ADVENTURE - Live Premiere**

For kids and their grownups—live on stage!

December 2021 | Loeb Drama Center
Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Julia Riew**
Orchestrations and Music Direction by **Ian Chan**
Directed by **Rebecca Aparicio**

After its digital world premiere in 2020, the beloved ***Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure*** comes to life onstage! Join Jack on an epic journey up the beanstalk to magical Storyland, where Jack meets the tyrannical King Giant, two Rockstar Mice, the Itsy Bitsy Spider, the Fiddler Cat, and the Grand Storyteller. The vivid imaginations of Harvard undergraduates Julia Riew and Ian Chan (***Thumbelina: A Little Musical***) transform the classic fairy tale into a contemporary celebration of the power of kindness, courage, determination, and creativity to overcome life's obstacles.

Production support of ***Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure*** is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust**. Additional production support is provided by **Bank of America** and **Bina and Robin Thompson**.

• **OCEAN FILIBUSTER - World Premiere**

A genre-crashing music theater experience

February - March 2022 | Loeb Drama Center
Created by **PearlDamour**
Written by **Lisa D'Amour**
Music by **Sxip Shirey**
Directed by **Katie Pearl**
Featuring **Jennifer Kidwell**

Commissioned and developed through a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment

Inside the Senate chamber of a global governing body, Mr. Majority introduces an “End of Ocean Bill” designed to shrink Earth’s oceans into a more manageable (and marketable) collection of inland seas. When the floor is opened for debate, the Ocean arrives to speak in its own defense...and so begins an epic Human-Ocean showdown. A world-premiere, genre-crashing music theater experience created by the Obie Award-winning company PearlDamour and featuring Obie Award-winning performer Jennifer Kidwell playing both Mr. Majority and the Ocean, ***Ocean Filibuster*** fuses myth, song, video, stand-up, and science to explore the vast depths crucial to our daily survival.

Known for award-winning site-specific works both intimate and large-scale, PearlDamour is the recipient of the 2011 Lee Reynolds Theater Award given to women theater artists who effect social change.

• **1776**

A revolutionary revival

May - July 2022 | Loeb Drama Center
Book by **Peter Stone**
Music and Lyrics by **Sherman Edwards**
Based on a Concept by **Sherman Edwards**
Directed by **Jeffrey L. Page** and **Diane Paulus**
Choreography by **Jeffrey L. Page**
A co-production with Roundabout Theatre Company

They knew they would make history, but not what history would make of them. Fed up with living under the tyranny of British rule, John Adams attempts to persuade his fellow members of the Continental Congress to vote in favor of American Independence and sign the Declaration. But how much is he willing to compromise in the pursuit of freedom? And who does that freedom belong to? Jeffrey L. Page and A.R.T. Artistic Director Diane Paulus direct a new production of the Tony Award-winning musical, reexamining this pivotal moment in American history with a cast that reflects multiple representations of race, gender, and ethnicity.

Creating Equal: In spring 2021, the **Creating Equal** collective of artists, organizers, and facilitators are generating public art-making projects, arts-based workshops, connectivity events, and original artworks in conversation with the themes of the musical **1776** in order to foster civic engagement in Greater Boston. Upcoming events include:

- ***Embodied Elements: Re-Emergence Through Movement***
Virtual event Tuesday, June 21 at 5:30PM ET
- ***Resistance Mic!***
Virtual event Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30PM ET
- **ArtWeek**
In-Person events Monday, June 28 - Friday, July 2

Learn more at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/CreatingEqual.

Following its run at A.R.T. **1776** will play at Roundabout Theatre Company in fall 2022 and begin a national tour in February 2023.

Production support of **1776** is provided by **Katie and Paul Bittenwieser, The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust, Allison Johnson, and Serena and Bill Lese**. Support for **1776** education and engagement programming is provided by the **Ford Foundation**. Additional production support is provided by **Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine, Janet and Irv Plotkin, and Professor Mark V. Tushnet**. Additional education and engagement support is provided by **Bank of America, Fresh Sound Foundation, Klarman Family Foundation, and Mass Humanities**. Production support of the run of **1776** at Roundabout Theatre Company is provided by **Elizabeth Armstrong**.

Mass Humanities receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Additional information about A.R.T.'s OBERON programming, pop-up performances, and learning and engagement opportunities will be announced at a later date.

— DIGITAL PROGRAMMING —

A.R.T. will continue to offer digital programming for audiences to enjoy from anywhere in the world, including:

- **Behind the Scenes**, with the writers, directors, composers, and choreographers who are making new work at the A.R.T. Hear new songs and scenes, and learn about the process, research, and development that goes into the creation of new plays and musicals.
*Production support for **Behind the Scenes** is provided by **Alison and Bob Murchison**. Additional production support is provided by **Maxine Isaacs**.*
- **The Lunch Room**, A.R.T.'s virtual talk show featuring the artists, activists, and civic leaders who are shaping our communities.
- **Civically Speaking**, featuring virtual conversations, lectures, and performance events on history, politics, justice, and the meaning of democracy.
- **A.R.T. Travels**, conversations with A.R.T.-affiliated theater-makers bring fans from both across the country and around the world.
*A.R.T. Travels Student Passports sponsored by **The Jarrell Family**.*

— A.R.T. IN THE WORLD —

- **Jagged Little Pill** (A.R.T. premiere May 2018) opens at the Theatre Royal Sydney, Australia in September 2021 and returns to Broadway in October 2021
- **Waitress** (A.R.T. premiere August 2015) begins a UK/Ireland tour in September 2021 and resumes a US national tour in October 2021

- The immersive phenomenon ***Sleep No More*** (A.R.T. October 2009) continues at The McKinnon Hotel in Shanghai and reopens at The McKittrick Hotel in New York City in October 2021
- ***1776*** (A.R.T. revival premiere May 2022) will open at Roundabout Theatre Company in fall 2022 and begin a national tour in February 2023
- ***Notes from the Field*** (A.R.T. production August 2016) is currently available on HBO
- ***All the Way*** (A.R.T. production September 2013) is currently available on HBO

— ABOUT THE AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER —

The 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 and has worked in partnership with Executive Producer Diane Borger since 2009.

A.R.T. acknowledges that its theaters are situated on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the [Massachusetts Tribe](#).

MISSION

The American Repertory Theater is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as a partner.

VISION

We focus on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. We believe that by engaging our hearts, minds and bodies, theater has the power to heal and imagine collective pathways forward.

We commit to advancing public health in our practice and our programming, recognizing that racism in America is a national public health crisis. Our new home in Allston will be a breathable and healthy building envisioned as a town hall for the twenty-first century. Inspired by the model of a teaching hospital, the building will be a vibrant center for research, experiential pedagogy, and performance.

We build community with our audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. We affirm and celebrate a multitude of perspectives and experiences that reflect the diversity of our country and world. We are dedicated to making a welcoming and accessible space for people of any identity, background, or ability.

VALUES

We hold the institution and each other responsible and accountable for living our shared values. There is no hierarchy to these values; they are all equally important and interrelated. We acknowledge that as an institution we must devote time to implementing and sustaining these values:

We center anti-racism

Habituate anti-racist practices in our policies, structure and culture.

We lead with inquiry

Ask questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in our never-ending journey of learning and growth

We believe in collaboration

Work together with trust and respect to unlock collective creativity

We practice adaptability

Challenge assumptions and create capacity to support “next” practices

We embrace regenerative practice

Promote the health and vitality of our planet, our organization, and each other

HONORS & AWARDS

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 ***SIX; Jagged Little Pill; Waitress; Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812; and Finding Neverland***. Since their premieres in Cambridge, A.R.T. productions have also [gone on](#) to reach audiences Off-Broadway, on US National Tour, and at partner theaters across the country, as well as in London’s West End, Tokyo, and Sydney. 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.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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. 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 mentor students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

A.R.T. is also engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day. Current work includes collaborations with the Harvard University Center for the Environment (to commission and develop a series of new works that address climate change and the environment), the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (to develop a [Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater](#)), and the Initiative for Racial Equity at Harvard Business School (to pilot the Program in Arts and Culture Organization Management).

ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages 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.

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