FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, October 19, 2022
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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES CAST OF “LIFE OF PI”

2022 OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING BEST PLAY ADAPTED BY LOLITA CHAKRABARTI FROM BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY YANN MARTEL MAKES NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE IN CAMBRIDGE DECEMBER 4

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., announced today the cast of Life of Pi. Written by Lolita Chakrabarti based on the best-selling novel by Yann Martel and directed by Max Webster, Life of Pi begins performances at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square on Sunday, December 4; opens officially on Thursday, December 15, 2022; and runs through Sunday, January 29, 2023.

Adi Dixit leads the cast of Life of Pi in the title role, and is joined by Brian Thomas Abraham as Cook/Voice of Richard Parker; Usman Ali Ishaq as Ensemble; Rajesh Bose as Father/Ghost Father; Mahnaz Damania as Ensemble; Avery Glyph as Father Martin/Admiral Jackson; Mahira Kakkar as Nurse/Amma/Orange Juice; Kirstin Louie as Lulu Chen; Uma Paranjpe as Ensemble; Salma Shaw as Mrs. Biology Kumar/Zaida Khan; David Shih as Ensemble; Sathya Sridharan as Mamaji/Pandit-ji; Daisuke Tsuji as Mr. Okamoto/Captain; and Sonya Venugopal as Rani/Ghost Rani. The Puppeteers are Nikki Calonge, Fred Davis, Rowan Magee, Jonathan David Martin, Betsy Rosen, Celia Mei Rubin, Scarlet Wilderink, and Andrew Wilson.

In Life of Pi, sixteen-year-old Pi and his family set off to emigrate from India, but after their ship sinks in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Pi is left stranded on a lifeboat with just four other survivors: a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a Royal Bengal tiger. Time is against them, and nature is harsh—who will survive? Called “extraordinary and unmissable” by The Guardian for its inventive puppetry, this highly imaginative theatrical adaptation brings one of the most beloved works of fiction to the stage to tell its epic story of endurance and hope.

Life of Pi is currently playing at Wyndham’s Theatre in London’s West End where it won five Olivier Awards including Best New Play, Best Scenic Design, and Best Lighting Design. In an historic first for the Olivier Awards, the seven performers who play Royal Bengal tiger ‘Richard Parker’ were collectively awarded Best Actor in a Supporting Role. The London production, with its cutting-edge visual effects, has garnered great critical acclaim.

“★★★★★ Breathtaking. It will make you believe in the power of theater.” - The Times of London
“One of the most visually stunning shows I’ve ever seen.” - *Time Out London*

Written by Lolita Chakrabarti based on the best-selling novel by Yann Martell, *Life of Pi* is directed by Max Webster, with Set and Costume Design by Olivier Award winner Tim Hatley, Puppet and Movement Direction by Finn Caldwell, Puppet Design by Olivier Award winners Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell, Video Design by Olivier Award winner Andrzej Goulding, Lighting Design by Olivier Award winner Tim Lutkin, Sound Design by Carolyn Downing, Original Music by Andrew T. Mackay, and Dramaturgy by Jack Bradley.

*Life of Pi* is stage managed by Sharika Niles. Luke Anderson and Jonathan Castanien serve as assistant stage managers. Casting is by Stewart/Whitley.

Additional Production Support provided by Ann and Graham Gund, Janet and Irv Plotkin, and Sid Yog.


**A.R.T.’s ESSENTIAL QUESTION FOR LIFE OF PI**

*How does telling stories help us cope and survive?*

The A.R.T. leads with inquiry and believes in asking questions in a spirit of brave curiosity in a never-ending journey of learning and growth. In advance of each production, the creative team, company, and the Education & Engagement team develop one or more essential questions to guide work in the rehearsal room, onstage, and for engaging with audiences.

**TICKETING INFORMATION**

Tickets from $30 are available at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LifeOfPi. Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, and others. More information at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit.

**Audience, artist, and staff safety is A.R.T.’s top priority.** The theater is taking many steps to protect against COVID-19. Enhanced ventilation, universal masking, vaccination, and testing are critical cornerstones of our multi-layered mitigation efforts that prioritize the safety of our community. Visit A.R.T.’s website for a full list of current ticketing and attendance protocols and procedures: AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols.
**PERFORMANCE DATES**

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**NOTABLE DATES**

*Co-Presented with GBH*

**Beyond the Page and Onto the Stage of Life of Pi**

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7PM (virtual)

Join the play’s acclaimed theatrical adapter Lolita Chakrabarti and director Max Webster for this special preview event and discover the creative secrets behind this modern classic. Register at wgbh.org/events/beyond-the-page-and-onto-the-stage-of-life-of-pi.

**The Appetizer**

Friday, January 13, 2023 at 5:30PM

A pre-show experience designed for high school students by high school students from A.R.T.’s Youth Action Team featuring refreshments and guided conversation

**Relaxed Performance**

Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 2PM

*Open to all audience members who could benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere at the theater, book online at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/LifeOfPi.*

**Morning Matinee Performances**

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 10AM & Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 10AM

*For booking availability for student or other group tickets contact Groups@amrep.org or call 617.547.8300.*

**ASL Interpreted Performances**

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:30PM & Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 2PM

*Book seats online, by contacting Access@amrep.org, or calling 617.547.8300*
**Open Captioned Performances**
Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2PM
*Book seats online, by contacting Access@amrep.org, or calling 617.547.8300*

**Audio Described Performances**
Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 2PM
*Book seats online, by contacting Access@amrep.org, or calling 617.547.8300*

**Member Event**
Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 1PM
A Members-only pre-show reception for A.R.T. Supporters (donors of $75 dollars or more), followed by a matinee performance and on-stage puppetry demonstration

**Puppetry Demonstration**
Sunday, January 22, 2023 following the 2PM performance

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**BRIAN THOMAS ABRAHAM** (he/him/his) *(Cook/Voice of Richard Parker)* A.R.T.: Debut.

**USMAN ALI ISHAQ** (he/him/his) *(Ensemble)* A.R.T.: Debut. Regional: *Come Fall in Love,* The Old Globe; RENT, Signature Theatre; *Legally Blonde,* Mamma Mia! CRT; *The Rev Concert,* The Rev; *The Island of Dr. Moreau,* A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Synetic Theater. Readings: *Come Fall in Love,* We Are Ameena, *In The Light.* Film/TV: “WeCrashed,” *Wonder Woman 1984,* *Kringle Time,* *Heather Has Four Moms.* Education: BFA, Musical Theater from Ithaca College. @usmanaliishaq


**NIKKI CALONGE** (she/her/hers/siya) *(Puppeteer)* A.R.T.: Debut. Off-Broadway: *Psychic Self Defense,* HERE; *Esperpento,* Sundance Institute; *She Counts Her Dresses,* The Public Theater’s Under the Radar’s Incoming! Series; *Electric Lucifer,* The Kitchen; *Daily Life Everlasting,* Eterniday, LaMama; *A Play on War,* Connelly Theater. Awards: Tom Murrin Award. Education: Drama B.F.A., NYU/Tisch’s Experimental Theater Wing and Playwrights Horizons Theater School; Dance/Movement Therapy M.S. Pratt Institute student.

**MAHNNAZ DAMANIA** (she/her/hers) *(Ensemble)* A.R.T.: Debut. Theater (India): *Shikhandi - The Story of the Inbetweens* (Shikhandi; Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (2018) 2018: nomination, Best Actor - Female; Winner - Best Ensemble), NCPA; 07/07/07 (Reyhaneh Jabbari; Winner - Best Ensemble at META 2016), Prithvi; *Naqqash* (Village Women Ensemble); *Sundays With Chitra and*
NYU Award

Junk Broadway

Jonathan David Martin

Film: *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania, Tu Hai Mera Sunday, Specials.*

Fred Davis (he/him/his) (Puppeteer/Puppet Captain) A.R.T.: Debut. Theater: *Life of Pi,* Wyndham’s Theatre; *Ocean at the End of the Lane,* National Theatre; *Dido and Aeneas,* Bode Concert Hall, Norway; *Life of Pi,* The Sheffield Crucible Theatre; *Peter Pan, Running Wild,* Regents Park Open Air Theatre; *The Hartlepool Monkey,* *Running Wild,* UK Tour. Film/TV: “Don’t Hug Me I’m Scared”; *Jurassic World: Dominion;* “The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance.” Training: Chichester Festival Youth Theatre.


Avery Glymph (Father Martin/Admiral Jackson) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *The Skin of Our Teeth,* The Tempest. Off-Broadway: Roundabout Theatre Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, and Lincoln Center Theatre, among others. Regional: *One Night in Miami,* Pittsburgh City Theatre; and leading roles with Shakespeare Theatre Company, Syracuse Stage, Northern Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, St. Louis Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, The Old Globe (West Coast premiere of *The Whipping Man*); San Diego Critics Circle Award and NAACP Theatre Award nominations), Playmakers Rep, Crossroads Theatre (Regional Tony season), and others. Film/TV: “Search Party,” *Out and About.* “She’s Gotta Have It,” *He Got Game,* “Madam Secretary,” “Law & Order” (original and C.I.), and many more. Education: BFA, The University of North Carolina School of the Arts; MFA, The Academy at STC and the George Washington University. Instagram: @averygoodactor. AveryGlymph.com


Jonathan David Martin (he/him/his) (Puppeteer) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *War Horse* (original Broadway cast). Off-Broadway: *Olityelwe* (Ndebele Funeral), 59E59 Theaters. Regional: *The Heiress and Junk,* Arena Stage; *Describe the Night,* Woolly Mammoth; *Silent Sky,* Ford’s Theatre; *Trouble in Mind,* Two River Theater; *The Chosen,* Portland Center Stage; *The Occupant,* Theater J. Virtual Reality: *Finding Pandora X* (Best Immersive Experience, Venice International Film Festival; Audience Award-SXSW); TV: “Believe,” “Unforgettable.” Awards: Annenberg Fellow for the Arts. Education: MFA, NYU.


DAISUKE TSUJI (he/him/his) (Mr. Okamoto/Captain) A.R.T.: Debut. Regional: Cambodian Rock Band (Duch), South Coast Rep, OSF, La Jolla Playhouse; Snow in Midsummer (Handsome), OSF; With Love and a Major Organ, Boston Court Pasadena; Imogen Says Nothing (William Shakespeare), Yale Rep; The Orphan of Zhao (The Orphan of Zhao), American Conservatory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse. International: Dralion (Public Clown), Cirque du Soleil. TV: “Invasion,” “Love, Death & Robots,” “Brockmire,” “The Man in the High Castle.” Video Games: Ghost of Tsushima, Death Stranding, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II.

SONYA Venugopal (she/her/hers) (Rani/Ghost Rani) A.R.T.: Debut. Regional: Come Fall in Love: The DDLJ Musical (Ensemble/Simran Cover), The Old Globe; Atlantis (Oracle), Virginia Rep; Wedding Singer (Julia Sullivan); The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Marcy Parks). Educational: Next to Normal (Diana), Boston Conservatory; The Riverbride, Footloose, Little Shop of Horrors, SCU.
Readings: MÃYÃ, Hi My name is Ben, Picnic at Hanging Rock, Goodspeed Musicals; In Emily’s Words. Film: Little Boxes. Education: MFA Musical Theater, Boston Conservatory; BA, Santa Clara University.


ANDREW WILSON (he/him/his) (Puppeteer) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: Cats. Tours: Newsies The Musical, Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan, Cats, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. NYC: Dave Malloy’s Love Around the Block, 2021 Met Gala. Opera: Turandot (Popolo Acrobat), Met Opera; Pagliacci (Troupe Gymnast), NYC Opera. Regional: Casa Mañana, Chase Brock Experience, Disneyland, La Mirada, MUNY, Pittsburgh CLO, Riverside, Sacramento Music Circus, TUTS. Film: Newsies: The Broadway Musical. Thank you to the entire team of Life of Pi and A.R.T. for this opportunity. Instagram: @andrewwilsonny

ABOUT 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 Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in 2008 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in June 2022.

The Loeb Drama Center where the A.R.T. performs is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Boston and Cambridge. We pay respect to the people of the Massachusett Tribe, past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

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 eighteen 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 _1776, 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, was recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and 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.