

# American Repertory Theater 64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138

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www.americanrepertorytheater.org

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# AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR "EVITA" REVIVAL DIRECTED BY SAMMI CANNOLD

# SHEREEN PIMENTEL TO PLAY FIRST LADY OF ARGENTINA

# PERFORMANCES TO BEGIN MAY 17—TICKETS ON SALE NOW

## PRINCIPLE CAST IMAGE FOR DOWNLOAD

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 and creative team of *Evita*. Featuring music by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and book and lyrics by **Tim Rice** and directed by **Sammi Cannold**, *Evita* begins performances at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square, Cambridge on Wednesday, May 17, opens officially on Thursday, May 25, and runs through Sunday, July 16, 2023. *Evita* is presented in association with Shakespeare Theatre Company and included in its 2023/24 season.

Tony Award nominee **Shereen Pimentel** (she/her) leads the cast in the role of Eva Perón and isjoined by **Gabriel Burrafato** (he/him) as Magaldi, **Omar Lopez-Cepero** (he/him) as Che, **Caesar Samayoa** as Perón, and **Naomi Serrano** (she/her) as Mistress.

The ensemble includes Martín Almirón (he/him), Julian Alvarez (he/him), Adrienne Balducci (she/her), Leah Barsky (she/her), Bianca Bulgarelli (she/her), Camila Cardona (she/her), 2008 Tango Dance World Champion Melody Celatti (ella), Esteban Domenichini (he/him), Rebecca Eichenberger, Sean Ewing (he/him), Nicole Fernandez-Coffaro (she/her), David Michael Garry (he/him), Eddie Gutierrez (he/him), Eric Anthony Lopez, Jonatan Lujan (he/him), Caleb Marshall-Villarreal (he/him), Ilda Mason (she/her), Jeremiah Valentino Porter (he/him), Leonay Shepherd (she/her), and Maria Cristina Posada Slye (she/her). Sky Vaux Fuller (she/her) will appear as Child. Marissa Barragán (she/her), Mathew Bautista (he/him), Isabella Lopez (she/her), and Miguel Angel Vasquez (he/him) are offstage swings.

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's Tony Award-winning rock opera *Evita* follows the adored and reviled Eva Perón's meteoric rise to first lady of Argentina before her death at 33. Sammi Cannold (*Endlings*, *Violet*, *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 Hollywood & Entertainment) helms this eagerly anticipated revival. The first day *Evita* tickets were available to the public set an A.R.T. record for the highest day of sales in the theater's history.

Cannold is joined on the *Evita* creative team by co-choreographers *Emily Maltby* (she/her) and award winning Argentine tango choreographer *Valeria Solomonoff* (she/her) and associate choreographer *Kelsey Burns* (she/they). Music supervision is by *Kristen Blodgette* (she/her), associate music supervision is by *Michael Patrick Walker* (he/him), and music direction is by *Mona Seyed-Bolorforosh* (she/her). Orchestration is by David Cullen and Andrew Lloyd Webber based on Orchestration originally by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Scenic design is by Emmy Award winner **Jason Sherwood** (he/him), costume design is by Helen Hayes Award winner **Alejo Vietti** (he/him), lighting design is by Tony Award winner **Bradley King** (he/him), sound design is by **Connor Wang** (he/him), and hair and wig design is by **Ashley Rae Callahan** (she/her). **Rebecca Aparicio** (she/her) is associate director, **Claire Warden** (she/her) is the intimacy director, and **Max Rodriguez** (he/him) is the assistant director.

**Evita**'s stage management team includes production stage manager **Victoria Navarro** (she/her), stage manager **Derric Nolte** and assistant stage manager **Elizabeth Ramirez** (she/they). Casting is by Benton Whitley CSA and Micah Johnson-Levy of **Whitley Theatrical**.

"I could not be more thrilled to be working with this extraordinary company, led by the phenomenal Shereen Pimentel," said director Sammi Cannold. "After completing an international casting search and welcoming back many *Evita* veterans, I'm delighted to announce this group of exceptional performers."

Production support of *Evita* is provided by **Fay and Bill Shutzer**. Additional choreography residency support is provided by **Andy and Mariann Youniss**.

A.R.T.'s 2022/23 programming is supported by Harvard University, The Barr Foundation, 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.

# TICKETING INFORMATION

**Tickets from \$30** are available at <a href="AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Evita">AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Evita</a>. 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 <a href="AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit">AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit</a>.

Visit A.R.T.'s website for a full list of current ticketing and attendance protocols and procedures: AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Covid19Protocols.

<b>EVITA</b> - <i>LOEB DRAMA CENTER</i> MAY 17 - JUL 16, 2023						
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# **NOTABLE DATES**

# **Teacher Tuesday**

Tuesday, May 28
A.R.T. **Teacher Tuesdays** are fun-filled theater experiences just for educators. Join us for an educatorsonly evening of conversation and theater-going connected to the Essential Question. Teachers planning to bring a student group are particularly encouraged to attend.

Register at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TeacherTuesday.

# **Morning Matinee Performance**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 and Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11 AM For booking availability for student or other group tickets contact <a href="mailto:Groups@amrep.org">Groups@amrep.org</a> or call 617.547.8300.

# **Access Performances**

Book Access seats online, by contacting Access @amrep.org, or calling 617.547.8300

# Open Captioned

Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 2PM

#### Audio Described

Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:30PM & Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 2PM

#### Relaxed

Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 2PM

Open to all audience members who could benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere at the theater

#### ASL Interpreted

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 7:30PM & Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 2PM

# ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

For more than 35 years, the Tony Award-winning Shakespeare Theatre Company has dedicated itself to being the nation's premier classical theater. Classical plays are realized best not by originalism but by walking the path Shakespeare himself followed, creating works that spoke to his own contemporary audience. We tell vital stories in audacious forms. We tell stories that are Shakespearean in the deepest sense, even if (and especially when) they are not written by Shakespeare. By focusing on works with profound themes and complex characters, STC's artistic mission is unique among regional theaters: to bring to vibrant life groundbreaking, thought-provoking, and eminently accessible theater.

# 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 coleads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in 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 *Life of Pi*; *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.

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. Recent 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.