



American Repertory Theater
64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138
617.495.2668 TEL
617.495.1705 FAX
617.547.8300 TICKETS
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, February 23, 2023

Contact: Rebecca Curtiss 617.496.2000 x8841 | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES EVENTS
ASSOCIATED WITH
*THE WIFE OF WILLESSEN***

***THE BOSTON GLOBE'S* "LOVE LETTERS" VISITS THE PUB,
PLUS CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS, MEMBER
NIGHT, THE APPETIZER
& ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

**North American Premiere of Zadie Smith's Bawdy, Beautiful Comedy Begins this
Saturday, February 25**

[DOWNLOAD ASSOCIATED IMAGES](#)

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 programming associated with its upcoming production of *The Wife of Willesden*. Performances begin Saturday, February 25 at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square.

CONVERSATIONS AND EVENTS WITH ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS

- Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5PM | Loeb Drama Center
TEACHER TUESDAY
A.R.T. Teacher Tuesdays are fun-filled theater experiences just for educators! Join us for an educators-only evening of conversation and theater-going, jam-packed with fun, refreshments, and raffle prizes. The evenings will be led by A.R.T.'s Education and Engagement Director and our Learning Lead team, include a ticket to the show that night, and may have special guest appearances!

Learn more and register for Teacher Tuesdays
at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TeacherTuesday.

- Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30PM | In-Person
MEMBER EVENT
Supporters of \$75+ are invited to a special behind-the-scenes experience including an exclusive pre-show reception, the 7:30PM performance, and a post-show, private backstage tour with our production team.

Contact DonorEmails@amrep.org for more information—space is limited.

- Friday, March 10, 2023 following the 7:30PM Performance| In-Person
LOVE LETTERS AT THE WIFE OF WILLEDEN
Presented in collaboration with The Boston Globe
Boston Globe “Love Letters” columnist and podcast host **Meredith Goldstein** has heard more than a few elaborate tales about romance, but do they rival the ones in Zadie Smith’s bawdy, beautiful new comedy ***The Wife of Willesden***? Join Meredith and actor **Clare Perkins** (Alvita) for a post-show conversation about how—and why—we rewrite our narratives, and the power we have to shape the stories of our lives.

Included with a ticket to the performance; book at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/The-Wife-of-Willesden.

- Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 12PM | Loeb Drama Center
THE APPETIZER
The Appetizer is a pre-show experience designed for high school students by high school students from A.R.T.’s Youth Action Team. Before a performance of ***The Wife of Willesden***, participants will enjoy refreshments and engage in a guided conversation around the themes of the play, reflecting on how society’s expectations affect our lives. Participants will receive a free ticket to attend ***The Wife of Willesden*** after the pre-show event. ***The Wife of Willesden*** is recommended for grades 9+.

High schoolers can RSVP at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/TheAppetizer.

- Monday, March 13, 2023 at 4PMPM | Virtual
CIVICALLY SPEAKING: THE WIFE OF BATH, A MODERN WOMAN
Ever since the triumphant debut of the Wife of Bath in Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, few literary characters have led such colorful lives or matched her influence or capacity for reinvention in poetry, drama, fiction, and film. Harvard Assistant Professor of English Anna Wilson and Marion Turner, author of *The Wife of Bath: A Biography*, will discuss how Chaucer’s character related to real medieval women, and where her many travels have taken her since the fourteenth century—from Falstaff and Molly Bloom to a pub in Willesden, #MeToo, and Black Lives Matter.

Marion Turner is the J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language at the University of Oxford and award-winning author of *Chaucer: A European Life*. A.R.T.’s **Civically Speaking** series features virtual conversations, lectures, and performance events on history, politics, justice, and the meaning of democracy.

Free, register at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/CivicallySpeaking.

ACCESS PERFORMANCES

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

Open Captioned Performances

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 2PM & Thursday, March 16,, 2023 at 7:30PM
Captions provided by c2 Captioning

Audio Described Performances

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 2PM & Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 7:30PM
Audio Description Consultant: Amber Percy
Audio Describers: Maria Hendricks, Mel Watkins

ASL Interpreted Performances

Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2PM & Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:30PM

Director of ASL: Kristin Johnson

ASL Interpreters: Julia Barney, Sho Grant

Relaxed Performance

Open to all audience members who could benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere at the theater, particularly audience members with sensory sensitivities.

Friday, March 17, 2023 at 7:30PM

Occupational Therapy Consultant: Mary Beth Kadlec

NICE(r) Relaxed Performance Consultant: Spectrum Theatre Ensemble

DONATION DRIVE FOR TRANSITION HOUSE

During the run of ***The Wife of Willesden***, A.R.T. is hosting a donation drive for Transition House in Central Square. The first domestic violence shelter on the East Coast, Transition House provides housing resources, support services, and prevention tools to sustain family stability and emphasize a whole-community approach to violence prevention.

The shelter is most in need of the following clean, unused items:

- Gift cards to Target, Market Basket, CVS, or Walgreens
- Pre-loaded CharlieCards
- Laundry detergent
- Full size body lotion
- Deodorant
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Journals

Items can be left in the provided bins in the Loeb Drama Center lobby; gift cards and CharlieCards should be left with the receptionist at the Loeb Information Desk.

ABOUT THE WIFE OF WILLESDEN

"A celebration of community and local legends, of telling a good story and living a life worth telling."
- *The Guardian*

"★★★★★ A stunning piece of freewheeling stagecraft. Clare Perkins is magnificent." - *The Times of London*

A proper local legend, Alvita will tell her life story to anyone in the local West London pub—there's no shame in her game. The question is: are you ready to hear it? Because this woman's got the gift of the gab: she can rewrite mistakes into triumphs, turn pain into parables. And her love life? It's an epic poem. They call her the Wife of Willesden. Join her for an evening that celebrates the human knack for telling elaborate tales, especially about our own lives. Winner of the 2022 Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright, critically acclaimed and multi award-winning best-selling author Zadie Smith transforms an excerpt from Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* into the unbelievable—and unforgettable.

Adapted by **Zadie Smith** from Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath* from *The Canterbury Tales* and directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**, ***The Wife of Willesden*** begins performances at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square on Saturday, February 25; opens officially on Thursday, March 2; and completes its limited run Friday, March 17, 2023. ***The Wife of Willesden*** is a Kiln Theatre Production and is presented in association with BAM.

The A.R.T. production is sponsored by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust**. Additional Production Support is provided by **Brenda and Kevin Jarrell**.

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 AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/The-Wife-of-Willesden. 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.

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

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 [Massachusetts 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. Recent collaborations include those 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.