

American Repertory Theater 64 brattle street, cambridge, massachusetts 02138

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 2, 2024 Contact: Rebecca Curtiss | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF GATSBY

Performances begin May 23 in Cambridge, MA— Tickets on sale now.

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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 design and music teams for its world-premiere musical *Gatsby*, an adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's legendary novel.

The *Gatsby* design team includes MacArthur Fellow and Tony Award-winning scenic designer **Mimi Lien**, who returns to A.R.T. having previously designed *Moby-Dick* and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Academy Award-winning costume designer **Sandy Powell** (*The Young Victoria, The Aviator, Shakespeare in Love*) makes her A.R.T. debut. Lucille Lortel Award-winning lighting designer **Alan Edwards** (*Henry Clark*) returns to the A.R.T. having previously designed *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* in the 2022/23 Season. Olivier Award-winning sound designer **Tony Gayle** (*My Neighbour Totoro*) makes his A.R.T. debut.

Gatsby music supervision is by **Kimberly Grigsby** (music direction of *Days of Wine and Roses: The Musical*), and **Wiley DeWeese** (*The Lightning Thief*) is the music director.

As previously announced, **Gatsby** is directed by Tony Award-winning director Rachel Chavkin (*Hadestown;* **Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812; Moby-Dick**) with choreography by Tony Award winner **Sonya Tayeh** (*Moulin Rouge!*). The production features an original score by international rock star **Florence Welch** (Florence + The Machine) and Oscar and Grammy Award nominee **Thomas Bartlett** (Doveman), and a book by Pulitzer Prize winner **Martyna Majok** (*Cost of Living*). **Keenan Tyler Oliphant** is associate director and **Camden Gonzales** is associate choreographer. Casting will be announced at a later date.

Production support of *Gatsby* is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust** and **Katie and Paul Buttenwieser.** Additional production support of *Gatsby* is provided by **Janet and Irv Plotkin**.

A.R.T.'s 2023/24 season support is provided 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, Barton & Guestier, and Meyer Sound.

GATSBY TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets from \$35 are available at <u>AmericanRepertoryTheater.Org/Gatsby</u>. 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 <u>AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit</u>.

NOTABLE DATES

- Opening Celebration
 Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 7:30 PM
- ASL Interpreted* Tuesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM & Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 2PM
- Audio Described* Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7:30 PM & Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 2 PM
- Open Captioned* Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7:30 PM & Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 2 PM
- Relaxed Performance* Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 2PM

*Book Access seats online, by contacting <u>Access@amrep.org</u>, or calling 617.547.8300

ARTISTS BIOS

MIMI LIEN (Scenic Design, she/her) A.R.T.: *Moby-Dick*; *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; *Communist Dracula Pageant*. Broadway: *Uncle Vanya*; *Sweeney Todd*; *True West*; *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Tony Award). Off-Broadway: *Fairview, An Octoroon*, Soho Rep/TFANA; *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, St. Ann's Warehouse. Opera: *Grounded*, Washington National Opera; *Intelligence*, Houston Grand Opera; *Antony and Cleopatra*, San Francisco Opera; *Parsifal*, Bayreuth Festival; *Die Zauberflöte*, Staatsoper Berlin. Awards: Drama Desk, Lortel, Bessie, Hewes Design Award, Obie Award, MacArthur Fellowship.

SANDY POWELL (Costume Design) A.R.T.: Debut. Film: *Caravaggio*, *The Young Victoria*, *The Aviator*, *Shakespeare in Love* (Academy Awards); *Carol*, *Cinderella*, *Hugo*, *Mrs Henderson Presents*, *Gangs of New York*, *The Wings of the Dove*, *Orlando*, *The Irishman* (Academy Award nominations); *The Young Victoria*, *Velvet Goldmine* (BAFTA Awards); *The Favourite*, *Mary Poppins Returns* (Academy Award nominations, Costume Designers Guild Award and nomination, Critics' Choice nominations, BIFA); *The Glorias*, *Living*, Disney's *Snow White*. Other Awards: Costume Designers Guild Career Achievement Award, London Film Critics' Circle Dilys Powell Award for Excellence in Film, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, first Costume Designer to be awarded the BAFTA Fellowship. Education: London's Central School of Art.

ALAN EDWARDS (Lighting Design, he/him) A.R.T.: *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*. Broadway: *The Testament of Mary* (Assoc. to Jennifer Tipton). West End: *Harry Clarke*. Off-Broadway: *Sally & Tom*, The Public; *The Hot Wing King, Fires in the Mirror* (Lortel nomination), *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, Signature; *Harry Clarke* (Lortel Award), Vineyard; *Kill Move Paradise* (world prem., Drama Desk nomination), National Black Theatre. Regional: *Sally & Tom* (world prem.), Guthrie; *Lights Out: Nat King Cole, Paradise Blue*, Geffen Playhouse. Education: MFA, Yale School of Drama.

TONY GAYLE (Sound Design) A.R.T.: Debut. West End: *My Neighbour Totoro* (Olivier Award, Best Sound Design), *Next to Normal, Get Up Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical.* Off West End: *Two Strangers (Carry A Cake Across New York), Newsies, Spring Awakening, Lazarus.* UK Tour: *Greatest Days, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.* International: Disney's *Aida.* Awards: WhatsOnStage Award for Best Sound Design (*My Neighbour Totoro*), 2019 & 2021 Black British Theatre Awards (BBTA) Light & Sound Recognition Award.

KIMBERLY GRIGSBY (Music Supervision) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *Amélie*; *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*; Spring Awakening; The Light in the Piazza; Caroline, or Change; The Full Monty; You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown; Twelfth Night. Off-Broadway: The Fortress of Solitude, Here Lies Love, Coraline, Mother Courage and Her Children, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Songs from an Unmade Bed, The Immigrant, Radiant Baby, Twelfth Night. Regional: *My Life Is a Fairy Tale, Orphan of Zhao*, Lincoln Center Festival; *Telaio: Desdemona*, Jeanine Tesori's *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (world premiere), Washington National Opera.

WILEY DEWEESE (Music Director) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway: *The Lightning Thief, Girl from the North Country, Amélie.* Off-Broadway: *The Lightning Thief, Girl from the North Country, Whisper House, The Lucky Ones, The Wildness, Preludes, First Daughter Suite, The Fortress of Solitude.* Regional: *Amélie,* Center Theatre Group and Berkeley Repertory Theater; *The Abominables,* Children's Theater Company.

CAMDEN GONZALES (Associate Choreographer) A.R.T.: Debut. Broadway/International: *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* (Associate Choreographer). Off-Broadway: *Sherlock Carol* (Assistant Director). Regional: *Sing Street* (Associate Choreographer), The Huntington; *Peter and The Starcatcher* (Choreographer), White Heron Theatre. Educational: *Forget Me Not* (Choreographer), Manhattan School of Music. Select performing credits include: Broadway: *Groundhog Day* (Dance Captain/Swing); National Tour: *Hamilton* (Dance Captain/Swing), *Matilda* (Dance Captain/Swing).

KEENAN TYLER OLIPHANT (Associate Director) A.R.T.: *Moby-Dick* (Second Assistant). Broadway: *Hadestown* (Associate Director); Off-Broadway: *TERCE: a practical breviary*, Here Arts; *Will You Come with Me?*, PlayCo; *Oratorio for Living Things*, Ars Nova (Associate Director). Off-Off-Broadway: *To the Ends of the Earth*, JACK; *Self-Combustion of a 30-Something-Year-Old...*, New Ohio; *Kyk Hoe Skyn die Son*, Clubbed Thumb Winterworks; *queen*, Dixon Place. Regional: Drama League Fellow 2021/2022; Clubbed Thumb Directing Fellow 2020/2021.

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. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus began her tenure in 2008 and co-leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began his tenure in June 2022. A.R.T.'s mission is to expand the boundaries of theater, always including the audience as partner.

The A.R.T. focuses on the research and development of groundbreaking theatrical experiences, serving as a creative hub that has launched productions seen across the US and around the world. A.R.T. received 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. A.R.T.'s Tony Awardwinning and nominated productions include *Life of Pi*, *1776*; *Jagged Little Pill*; *Waitress*; *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; *All the Way*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *Pippin*; *Once*; *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*. International productions include *Waitress*, *Nice Fish*, *The Glass Menagerie* (West End); *Waitress*, *Pippin* (Japan); *Jagged Little Pill*, *Pippin* (Australia); *Sleep No More* (China). *Sleep No More* currently runs in New York City.

Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many other distinguished awards including a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theatre Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. plays 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 also engaged in a number of multiyear initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day.

A.R.T. is dedicated to making great theater accessible to all. It builds community with its audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors, actively engaging 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.

In 2024, A.R.T. will break ground on its new home, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance. Designed by Haworth Tompkins, the new center will include two flexible performance venues, rehearsal studios, teaching spaces, a spacious public lobby, and an outdoor performance yard designed to host ticketed and free programming. Porous and welcoming intentional architecture will galvanize creativity and collaboration and fuel the mission.

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