

American Repertory Theater

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AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER PREMIERES WEST END HIT MUSICAL COMEDY TWO STRANGERS (CARRY A CAKE ACROSS NEW YORK)

EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 13!

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Diane Paulus and Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., produces the North American premiere of the West End hit *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York*), playing now through Sunday, June 29, 2025, at the Loeb Drama Center. *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York*) opens officially on Friday, May 30, 2025. The "uplifting" (*British Vogue*), "fresh, funny, ironic, and moving" (*The Observer*) acclaimed new musical about new beginnings and seeing the world through fresh eyes is by Jim Barne and Kit Buchan and directed and choreographed by Tim Jackson.

ABOUT TWO STRANGERS (CARRY A CAKE ACROSS NEW YORK)

A naïve and impossibly upbeat Brit, Dougal, has just landed in New York for his dad's second wedding—the dad he's never known. Robin, the sister of the bride, is at the airport to pick him up—and she's late for work. Hungry for an adventure in the city he's only seen in movies, Dougal hopes native New Yorker Robin will be his guide. Taking inspiration from traditional rom-coms, this "fresh, funny, ironic, and inventive" (*The Observer*) new musical balances life's sweetness and

struggle as Dougal and Robin discover the meaningful impact on each of their lives a stranger can make.

Christiani Pitts and Sam Tutty star in A.R.T. production of the West End hit *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)*. Phoenix Best and Vincent Michael are understudies.

Two Strangers is written and composed by Jim Barne and Kit Buchan. The creative team includes Tim Jackson (direction and choreography), Soutra Gilmour (scenic and costume design), Jack Knowles (lighting design), Tony Gayle and Cody Spencer (sound design), Earon Chew Nealey (hair, wig, and makeup design), Lux Pyramid (orchestrations), Nick Finlow (music supervision), Benedict Braxton-Smith (associate music supervision), and Jeffrey Campos (music direction). Judith Schoenfeld is the production stage manager. Fatimah Amill is the assistant stage manager. Casting is by C12 Casting / Stephen Kopel. Asmeret Ghebremichael is the associate director and choreographer, Brian Webb is the associate scenic designer, Ricky Lurie is the associate costume designer, and Kirk Fitzgerald is the associate lighting designer.

Production support of *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)* is provided by **The Linda Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust** and **Katie and Paul Buttenwieser**. A.R.T.'s 2024/25
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.**

TWO STRANGERS TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets from \$35 are available at <u>AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Two-Strangers</u> and 617.547.8300. Discounts are available to students and ticket-buyers under age 25, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, Harvard faculty and staff, groups of 10+, and others.

More information at <u>AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit</u>.

EVENTS AND CONVERSATIONS

• Two Strangers (Search for Clues): Harvard Art Museums at Night Scavenger Hunt Thursday, May 29 at 5PM | Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge

Join A.R.T., Harvard Art Museums, and the B-Side for another special addition to the Harvard Art Museums at Night: a themed scavenger hunt that will take you on an evening adventure through the galleries! You'll navigate twists, turns, and the occasional spontaneous musical number for a chance to win exclusive prizes, including free tickets to

A.R.T.'s *Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York)*, the hit musical rom-com with a delicious twist. Whether you win or not, don't let the fun end there—head over to the 7:30PM performance of *Two Strangers* that night!

Harvard Art Museums at Night features food and drink from local vendors, music, and an opportunity to explore the galleries after hours. Advance registration is encouraged, but walk-in visitors are always welcome. Please note that space may be limited due to capacity. More info at amrep.org/2Ssearchforclues.

WBUR is the media partner for Harvard Art Museums at Night. This event is part of ArtsThursdays, a university-wide initiative supported by Harvard University Committee on the Arts (HUCA).

• Two Strangers (Split a Popcorn): *Before* Trilogy with The Brattle Theatre
June 2, June 9, and June 16 at 8PM | Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge

Inspired by both traditional and non-traditional rom-coms, writers Jim Barne and Kit Buchan created a "fresh, funny, ironic, and inventive" (*The Observer*) new musical that balances life's sweetness and struggle, reminding us that brief interactions can make meaningful impact on our lives. Join A.R.T. and The Brattle Theatre for screenings of some of the rom-coms that inspired Jim and Kit in writing *Two Strangers*: Richard Linklater's *Before* trilogy, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy.

• Monday, June 2 at 8PM: Before Sunrise

Monday, June 9 at 8PM: Before Sunset

• Monday, June 16 at 8PM: Before Midnight

More info at <u>amrep.org/2SBrattle</u>.

 Two Strangers (Crash a Wedding): A Post-show Conversation with Meredith Goldstein and Rachel Raczka

Tuesday, June 10 following the 7:30PM show | Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge

Weddings are the best kind of mess. Big or small, they bring together unlikely friends, estranged family, an occasional ex from college, and random loved ones who try to behave, even when it's hard. Join *The Boston Globe* Love Letters advice columnist/podcast host Meredith Goldstein for a conversation with Rachel Raczka, who writes the *Globe*'s new weddings column, The Big Day. They'll talk about the performance, their columns, and how weddings can change us, even before we get there.

Free with a ticket to any performance of *Two Strangers*, which are available at amrep.org/2Scrashawedding.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER (A.R.T.) AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking theatrical experiences that catalyze dialogue and transformation. Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus began her tenure in 2008 and leads the theater in partnership with Executive Director Kelvin Dinkins, Jr., who began in 2022.

A.R.T. is a creative hub, launching productions seen on Broadway, across the US, and around the world and receiving dozens of Tony, Drama Desk, Olivier and other nominations and awards throughout its 45-year history. As the professional theater on campus, A.R.T. plays a central role at Harvard University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange, and sharing University resources with the broader community. Driven by its value to lead with inquiry, A.R.T. builds community with audiences, artists, students, staff, and neighbors across Greater Boston, embracing theater's power to cultivate the full breadth and beauty of our shared humanity. In 2026, A.R.T. will relocate from Harvard Square to its new home in Boston, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity and Performance. Currently under construction, this new, inspiring center will include flexible adaptive spaces to rehearse, create, teach, and convene in community, fueling A.R.T.'s vision and creative work for years to come.