



EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 @ 1PM

CONTACT:

Rebecca Curtiss, Public Relations Director | rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu

Madeleine Wright, Marketing and PR Coordinator | madeleine_wright@harvard.edu

**AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER
ANNOUNCES FIRST THREE TITLES OF
2026/27 SEASON PROGRAMMING**

INCLUDING A WORLD PREMIERE ROCK OPERA;

AN AWARD-WINNING HIP-HOP MUSICAL; &

DIANE PAULUS’S FINAL PRODUCTION AT THE LOEB DRAMA CENTER,

A NEW ADAPTATION OF A TIMELY CLASSIC

Productions will be at the Loeb Drama Center and Farkas Hall

in Harvard Square through January 2027—

Goel Center Inaugural Production To Be Announced in the Coming Weeks

[ARTIST IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

CAMBRIDGE, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus, announced today the first three titles of its 47th Season. From August 2026 through January 2027, A.R.T. will produce and present three productions at the Loeb Drama Center and Farkas Hall in Harvard Square. In May 2027 A.R.T. will welcome audiences to its first production in the theater’s new home, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance.

“A.R.T.’s 2026/27 programming tells stories of resilience in the most turbulent of times,” said Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus. “From a reimagining of a classic play, to a world-premiere rock opera, to a live-looped new musical, these productions invite us to draw inspiration from characters who find courage and compassion in human connection.”

A.R.T. will begin its season August 12 at the Loeb Drama Center with ***RHINOCEROS***, directed by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus. In Eugène Ionesco’s landmark play, one man is forced to decide: will he follow the crowd amidst pressures to conform or stand his ground and hold on to his

humanity. The production will feature a new adaptation by American Repertory Theater of Derek Prouse's translation. **Rhinoceros** will be the final production Paulus directs at Harvard Square's Loeb Drama Center before A.R.T. moves to its new Boston home next year.

Starting October 27 at Harvard's Farkas Hall, A.R.T. will produce **1972**. The world-premiere rock opera is inspired by true stories of the Janes, an underground network of courageous women who risked everything to provide a choice to women with nowhere to turn. **1972** is written by musician-activist **Chadwick Stokes** of the Boston-based indie bands DISPATCH and State Radio with **Jessie Nelson** (*I Am Sam*, *Waitress* the musical) and features an ensemble of actor/musicians that includes **Stokes**.

Beginning December 4 at the Loeb Drama Center, A.R.T. will present the Helen Hayes Award winner **MEXODUS**. The hip-hop musical reveals a hidden chapter of American history: an underground railroad for freedom-seekers across the Rio Grand into Mexico. Created by **Brian Quijada** and **Nygel D. Robinson**, **Mexodus** features live-looped music as layered as our country's past.

The inaugural production at the Goel Center for Creativity & Performance will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Three- and four-play subscriptions starting at \$167 (including a \$25 per order subscription administration fee) will be available to A.R.T. supporters beginning in late April, to renewing subscribers on May 7, and the general public on May 21. Subscriptions include an invitation to an exclusive first-look event at the Goel Center for Creativity & Performance to be held in February 2027. Visit AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/Subscribe for more information.

Single tickets to **Rhinoceros** go on sale June 25. Single ticket on-sale dates for subsequent productions will be announced in the coming weeks.

A.R.T. productions and affiliated projects will also continue to be seen beyond its Harvard University headquarters.

- **TWO STRANGERS (CARRY A CAKE ACROSS NEW YORK)** — which received its North American premiere at A.R.T. in May 2025 — runs on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre.
- **DEAR EVERYTHING**—developed and premiered as **WILD: A Musical Becoming** by A.R.T. in December 2021—returns for a one-day-only concert on Earth Day at Brooklyn Academy of Music.
- **THE BLACK CLOWN**—developed and premiered by A.R.T. in August 2018—begins performances at Opera Philadelphia in May 2026.
- **BECOMING A MAN**—commissioned and premiered by A.R.T. in February 2024—makes its West Coast premiere at Z Stage beginning in May 2026.
- **WAITRESS**—developed and premiered by A.R.T. in August 2015—began its UK and Ireland tour in April 2026 and will start its Australian tour in May 2026. A US tour will begin in the fall. The Broadway production featuring Sara Bareilles is currently available to stream on various platforms.
- **SLEEP NO MORE**—developed and premiered by A.R.T. in October 2009—runs in Seoul at the McKithan Hotel.

- **LIFE OF PI**—which received its North American premiere at A.R.T. in December 2022—is currently available to stream on NT Live.
- **NOTES FROM THE FIELD**—which A.R.T. produced in August 2016—is currently available on HBO.
- **ALL THE WAY**—which A.R.T. produced in September 2013 and subsequently won the Tony Award for Best New Play—is currently available on HBO.

Throughout the 2026/27 Season, A.R.T. will continue to:

- Develop **Essential Questions** that will drive artistic exploration and audience engagement opportunities around each production;
- Partner with **Dr. Charmain Jackman** and **Innopsych** to support our artists and curate audience resources for learning, healing, and understanding around the themes and ideas sparked by our productions;
- Host free public events with Harvard scholars exploring themes related to its productions;
- Invest in creative artists and develop new theatrical work;
- Operate the **Lavine Learning Lab**, fostering season-long engagement rooted in A.R.T. programming with students from partner public high schools in Greater Boston.

See below for additional information about the titles. Additional programming and initiatives will be announced at a later date.

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.**

– A.R.T. 2026/27 SEASON –

[2026/27 Season Artist Bios](#)

• **RHINOCEROS**

By **Eugène Ionesco**

Translated by **Derek Prouse**

Adapted by **American Repertory Theater**

Directed by **Diane Paulus**

AUG 12 – SEP 20, 2026 | Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge)

Everything seems normal one Sunday morning...until it's not. One by one, friends and colleagues transform into rhinoceroses, and Berenger is forced to decide: will he follow the crowd or stand his ground? As resonant as when it premiered in the wake of the Second World War, **Rhinoceros** reminds us of the importance of holding on to our humanity amidst mounting pressures to conform. This new adaptation by A.R.T. based on Derek Prouse's seminal translation of Eugène Ionesco's landmark play is staged by Tony Award winner **Diane Paulus** ("one of the most imaginative forces

working in theater” –*Broadway.com*), directing her final production at the Loeb Drama Center before the A.R.T.’s move to its new home in Allston, the Goel Center for Creativity & Performance.

Principal Foundation Support of **Rhinoceros** is provided by **The Roy Cockrum Foundation**. Production support of **Rhinoceros** is provided by **Alan Jones, Janet and Irv Plotkin**, and **Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP**. **Karen Brooks-Hopkins** serves as Consulting Producer.

• **1972, A Rock Opera**

Music and Lyrics by **Chadwick Stokes**

Book by **Chadwick Stokes** and **Jessie Nelson**

Directed by **Jessie Nelson**

OCT 27 – NOV 22, 2026 | Farkas Hall at Harvard University (12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge)

When pregnant 19-year-old Hannah flees an abusive relationship, she finds unexpected camaraderie with three outcasts riding the rails of America, outrunning ghosts of their own. After barely escaping an illegal abortion, she meets the Janes, an underground network of courageous women who risk everything to provide a choice to women with nowhere to turn. Inspired by true stories of these hidden heroes, this world-premiere rock opera fuels the ongoing fight for personal freedom. **1972** is written by musician-activist **Chadwick Stokes** of the Boston-based indie bands DISPATCH and State Radio with **Jessie Nelson** (*I Am Sam*, *Waitress* the musical). It features an ensemble of actor/musicians that includes **Stokes**.

• **MEXODUS**

By **Brian Quijada** and **Nygel D. Robinson**

Choreographed by **Tony Thomas**

Directed by **David Mendizábal**

DEC 4, 2026 – JAN 10, 2027 | Loeb Drama Center (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge)

“A dazzling showcase not just for what music can be, but also for the ecstasy of making it.”

—*The New York Times* (*CRITIC’S PICK*)

A story reclaimed. A legacy looped. You know the story of the Underground Railroad that ran north—but what about the one that ran south, across the Rio Grande into Mexico? This hip-hop musical follows a freedom seeker and an unlikely ally as they forge a bond that transcends borders. With live-looped music as layered as our country’s past, this Helen Hayes Award-winning production reveals a hidden chapter of American history.

• **Goel Center Inaugural Production — To Be Announced**

Starts May 2027 | Goel Center for Creativity & Performance (175 North Harvard Street, Boston)

For more than four decades, A.R.T. has created groundbreaking experiences at the Loeb Drama Center. In May 2027, the theater begins writing its next chapter at its new home. The inaugural production at the Goel Center for Creativity & Performance will be revealed in the coming weeks.

— ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER —

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. Led by Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus, A.R.T. is a Tony Award-winning creative hub, launching productions seen on Broadway, across the US, and around the world 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. The A.R.T.'s new home in Boston, the David E. and Stacey L. Goel Center for Creativity & Performance is currently under construction and will begin welcoming audiences in spring 2027. 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.

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