

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing Artists Rep's 35th Season New. Now. Necessary.

World, Regional & Portland Premieres

*by Brendan Jacobs-Jenkins, Christopher Chen, Stephen Karam,
Stephen Adly Guirgis, Larissa FastHorse, Lauren Gunderson
Plus World Premiere of E.M. Lewis' Epic MAGELLANICA*

PORTLAND, OREGON – February 7, 2017. For their 35th anniversary as Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre company, Artists Repertory Theatre announces six plays as part of their regular season, plus one limited run theatrical event. Among these plays are Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winners, the second Artists Rep Table|Room|Stage commission, and the World Premiere of the epic, five-act MAGELLANICA, by Portland playwright E.M. Lewis.

"Our 2017/18 season includes some of the most provocative, talked about and acclaimed new plays in recent memory. These seven playwrights are urgently responding to our complicated times and will make you think, feel and start a conversation," said Dámaso Rodríguez, Artists Rep's Artistic Director. "I am especially proud that Artists Rep will take on the challenge of producing the timely World Premiere of Oregon playwright E.M. Lewis' extraordinary epic MAGELLANICA, a play with the immersive grip of a great novel. It will be an unforgettable theatre experience."

The 2017/18 selections emphasize a strong commitment to reflecting the world we live in today through a wide variety of voices. This group of plays is unflinching, topical and designed to create robust dialogue.

As Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez and Managing Director Sarah Horton recently stated for our [The Ghostlight Project](#) ceremony:

"We believe that it is the special role of theatre to create art that illuminates our commonality, seeks truth, promotes empathy and encourages connection. It has always been our responsibility as art-makers to do that. For us, the key to fulfilling that potential lies in using the power of theatre to share and amplify many perspectives, voices and points of view. We reaffirm our commitment to our mission statement: to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for artists of varied backgrounds to take creative risks ...with renewed urgency."

Artists Rep’s productions feature the work of our Resident Artist Company, alongside guest artists from Portland’s professional theatre community and beyond. Now comprised of more than two dozen theatre practitioners, [Artists Rep’s Resident Artists](#) represent some of Portland’s finest talent, in a variety of theatrical disciplines.

Full season ticket packages are on sale now by calling the Artists Rep box office at 503.241.1278. The six-show, full season ticket package prices are \$150/Previews, \$210/Regular Run, \$330/Opening Night. Season Ticket holders get first access to tickets for the World Premiere of MAGELLANICA for \$45. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about becoming a season ticket holder. Starting April 1, four- and five-show season ticket packages will be available for \$40 per show. Starting August 1, single tickets will be available.

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE’S 2017/18 SEASON

AN OCTOROON

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Brace yourself for this raucously irreverent *Gone with the Wind* meets *Looney Tunes* mash-up that The New York Times calls “...this decade’s most eloquent theatrical statement on race in America today.” It’s gasp-inducing satire from one of America’s most thrilling writers.

- Shocking Comedy
- 2014 OBIE Award for Best New Play
- McArthur Genius Award-winning playwright
- "entertainingly demented" *New York Post*
- NW Premiere

CAUGHT

by Christopher Chen

Ripped from today’s headlines and breaking the theatrical mold, CAUGHT presents a sly philosophical puzzle that investigates the murky intersections of fact and fiction in the crafting of art ... and news.

- Timely, One-of-a-Kind Drama
- 2015 Barrymore Award for Best New Play
- “...an ingenious, beguiling play...” *Lily Janiak, San Francisco Chronicle*
- Dramatist Guild’s 2017 Lanford Wilson Award
- NW Premiere

THE HUMANS

by Stephen Karam

It’s the small family dinner that made big waves on Broadway. As a middle-class family gathers for Thanksgiving, darkness falls, the world creaks curiously around them, and the layers of their fragile lives are revealed. “The finest play of the Broadway season – by a long shot” – *The New York Times*

- Tragicomic Family Drama

- FIVE Best New Play Awards
 - 2016 Tony Award
 - New York Drama Critics' Circle
 - Outer Critic Circle
 - Drama League
 - Drama Desk
- 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist
- Portland Premiere

MAGELLANICA

by E.M. Lewis

In 1985, eight scientists and engineers from around the world converge at the South Pole Research Station in Antarctica trying to figure out, among other things, if there really is a hole in the sky. Hailing from vastly different cultures and experiences and isolated from the outside world, these men and women face life or death challenges and must depend upon each other for survival. Grappling with scientific questions over looming global implications and their own inner demons, what they discover will change the world forever.

- Epic. Immersive. Unforgettable.
- 5-part, 4-intermission adventure, with a dinner break
- Oregonian playwright. Winner of the 2016 Oregon Literary Fellowship in Drama
- Limited 3-week Run
- World Premiere

BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY

by Stephen Adly Guirgis

In the churning world of retired NYC cop Walter "Pops" Washington, everyone hustles to get what they think they deserve. A gritty, Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by the writer of THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH THE HAT.

- Explosive Comedy
- 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama
- 2015 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play
- 2015 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play
- 2015 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play
- 2016 Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- Special NW Release

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

by Larissa FastHorse

Four mismatched artists attempt to devise an ethnically-sensitive school play to celebrate Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month. This wickedly funny satire was commissioned as part of Artists Rep's Table|Room|Stage program.

- Provocative Satire
- Highly commissioned playwright
- Multiple Fellowship and Award-winning Playwright

- PEN USA Literary Award for Drama
- 2015/16 Joe Dowling Annaghmakerrig Fellowship Award
- National Endowment for the Arts Distinguished New Play Development grant recipient
- TABLE|ROOM|STAGE commission
- World Premiere

I AND YOU

by Lauren Gunderson

Two teens – a sick and snarky girl, and a sweet and sporty boy – are thrust together to work on a school project about Walt Whitman’s poems. With growing urgency and searing poignancy, the pair works through *Song of Myself* to crack open the mysteries of life, death and love.

- Revelatory Drama
- 2014 Harold and Mimi Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award
- 2014 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize
- Dramatist Guild 2016 Lanford Wilson Award Finalist
- 2016/17 most-produced living playwright in the U.S.
- Portland Premiere

[2017/18 SEASON ON ARTISTS REP WEBSITE](#)

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[Artists Repertory Theatre](#)’s mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for artists of varied backgrounds to take creative risks. Artists Rep is Portland’s premiere mid-size regional theatre company and is led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez and Managing Director Sarah Horton. Founded in 1982, Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre company in Portland. Artist Rep became the 72nd member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) in 2016 and is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network (NNPN).

Artists Rep has become a significant presence in American Regional Theatre with a legacy of world, national and regional premieres of provocative new work with the highest standards of stagecraft. The organization is committed to local artists and features a company of Resident Artists, professionals of varied theatre disciplines, who are a driving force behind Artists Rep’s creative output and identity.

Artists Rep is committed to developing new work through its new play development program Table|Room|Stage. With T|R|S, Artists Rep strives to empower and support Oregon-based playwrights while also creating a Portland home for writers from around the country to develop their work. Additionally, this program strives to make a meaningful impact on diversity, equity and inclusion in the theatre field by mandating opportunities for women writers and writers of color, and cultivating the next generation of theatre-goers by creating work specifically for young people (13 and up). Artists Rep makes a vital impact on the Portland arts community with its ArtsHub, creating space and offering a home to ten multidisciplinary arts organizations within its facility.

[RESIDENT ARTISTS](#) – Artists Rep productions feature the work of a core group of over two dozen multidisciplinary theatre professionals. Hailing from around the country, our Resident Artists are nationally renowned and award-winning actors, directors, writers, designers and educators who

have chosen to make Portland and Artists Rep their artistic home. Working together and independently, they create inventive and theatrically rich experiences for our audiences while playing a major role in defining Portland's cultural landscape.

[TABLE|ROOM|STAGE](#) – Through T|R|S, Artists Rep is committed to becoming an engine for new play development. As a recipient of a \$125,000 Oregon Community Foundation Creative Heights grant to establish a robust new play development program, the company is creating opportunities for local and national playwrights to ensure that underrepresented voices are heard on stage. The T|R|S program will commission a total of eight plays by year-end 2017 – at least four of the eight commissions will go to writers of color, at least four will go to women, one play will be written for young adults and one will be the [Oregon Play Prize](#), which was awarded to Oregon playwright Steve Rathje for his play SIGNS. Artists Rep has announced five of the eight play commissions to Yussef El Guindi, Linda Alper, Larissa FastHorse and Andrea Stolowitz.

[ARTSHUB](#) – Artists Rep is also home to the ArtsHub, serving as a community arts center, where its performance venues and lobbies buzz with creative energy and Portland's arts-loving audiences can gather. Artists Rep offers a home within its facility to a diverse range of artists and arts organizations. They can thrive here with access to affordable administrative, performance and rehearsal space, as well as a myriad of support services. Over the last year, hundreds of performances, events and happenings by Portlanders found a place in Artists Rep's building.

artistsrep.org

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