

# ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

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Second show featuring innovative touring artists  
in Artists Rep's new FRONTIER SERIES

## WINNERS AND LOSERS

Created and performed by Marcus Youssef and James Long  
Produced by Theatre Replacement and Newworld Theatre  
in association with Crow's Theatre

**WHO:** [Artists Repertory Theatre](#) in association with [Risk/Reward](#)  
**WHAT:** [Winners and Losers](#)  
Created and performed by Marcus Youssef and James Long  
**WHEN:** ONLY FOUR PERFORMANCES: March 24-26, 2017  
Friday-Sunday @ 7:30pm; Sunday @ 2pm  
PRESS NIGHT: Friday, March 24 @ 7:30pm  
**WHERE:** Artists Repertory Theatre, Alder Stage, 1516 SW Alder, Portland  
**TICKETS:** \$30 regular price  
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or [www.artistsrep.org](http://www.artistsrep.org)  
**SHOW IMAGES:** [HERE](#)  
**WINNERS AND LOSERS VIDEO:** [HERE](#)  
**FRONTIER SERIES VIDEO:** [HERE](#)  
**INTERVIEW WITH WOOLLY MAMMOTH:** [HERE](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | March 3, 2017.** Artists Repertory Theatre, in association with Risk/Reward, presents *Winners and Losers* written and performed by acclaimed Canadian performance artists, Marcus Youssef and James Long, directed by Chris Abraham. Part of Artists Rep's FRONTIER SERIES and produced by Theatre Replacement and Newworld Theatre in association with Crow's Theatre, *Winners and Losers* will run for four performances, March 24 through March 26, 2017.

*Winners and Losers* is a staged conversation performance piece in which theatre artists and long-time friends, Marcus Youssef and James Long, sit at a table and play a game they made up called 'winners and losers'. In it, they name people, places or things – Tom Cruise, their fathers, rainforests, druids, etc. – and debate whether these things are winners or losers. Is Joe Biden a loser? Is Kanye West a winner? What about microwave ovens, Goldman Sachs or Mexico? With debate subjects updated for every city, what starts out as a friendly competition between friends quickly becomes personal as they unpack layers of privilege, class and status each seeking to defeat the other.

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"*Winners and Losers* has been a crowd favorite across the world." said Frontier Series curator, Jerry Tischleder. "It digs into our growing culture of quick takes and snap judgments in a way that is both hilarious and provocative. Marcus and James are two of Canada's finest theatre makers and I'm incredibly proud that Artists Rep is bringing them to Portland."

## SHOW HISTORY

*Winners and Losers* been performed throughout Canada and widely throughout Europe. In the U.S., the show has been presented at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, SoHo Rep and On the Boards. Full production history on [Theatre Replacement's](#) website.

[Newworld Theatre](#) writes this about *Winners and Losers*:

"In 2011, Marcus (Youssef of Newworld Theatre) and James Long of Theatre Replacement were making a play – a Kafka-esque thing about two office workers. To warm up they played a game called 'winners and losers': name a person, place or thing and debated whether it's a winner or a loser. They also made long lists of various skills or attributes (parenting, wrestling, cooking, ping pong, etc.) and debated who was better at them. They recorded and transcribed it all, and when they read it back, they realized the games were better and more dangerous than the play they were writing. Because the game was real.

Less than 5 years later, *Winners and Losers* has had over 100 performances in 17 cities. The play has been published by Talonbooks, filmed live and streamed online by On The Boards TV, and been seen by thousands of theatre-goers around the world. Through it all, we've collaborated with our good friends at Theatre Replacement. Which is ironic, in a way. It's a show about competition and the destructive impact of capitalism and privilege on our most intimate relationships. And we created and produced in the most collaborative, mutually supportive way we can imagine. And yes, they're still friends. Maybe it doesn't get any more real than that."

## REVIEWS

"Tour de force...the men's virtuoso wordplay is a delight...*Winners and Losers* is heady stuff. Formidable, indeed." -*Globe and Mail*

"...a sly theatrical microcosm of how people compete..." -*New Yorker*

"A winner. The kind of play that makes you want to talk, and better still, to listen."  
4 of 5 stars. Critics' Pick. -*Time Out New York*

"*Winners and Losers* hits the bull's-eye...a sly, utterly successful production."-*Village Voice*

"...a frisky theatrical symposium..." "...articulate, funny and breezily charming..."  
-*New York Times*

"When you no longer know what's real and what's a put on...You have to wonder how they can do this and still go for drinks together." 3 of 4 stars -*New York Post*

Youssef and Long "jump from topic to topic at lightning speed, leaving your mind swimming. They're also very funny." -*Theatermania*

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*“Winners and Losers looks a lot like open heart surgery. Metaphoric blood is spilled but, strangely, the experience for the audience is exhilarating. The possibility that friendship can survive or even be strengthened by such excruciating honesty is inspirational and opens up floodgates of introspection.” -Vancouver Courier*

*“As the gloves come off, the intensity increases. The guiding theory behind the game is that you can’t have two winners sitting next to each other; for there to be a winner, the men reason, there has to be a loser.” -Globe and Mail*

### **THEATRE REPLACEMENT | Co-Producer**

Theatre Replacement is an ongoing collaboration between James Long and Maiko Bae Yamamoto. Whether working together or apart, we use extended processes to create performances from intentionally simple beginnings. Our work is about a genuine attempt to coexist. Conversations, interviews and arguments collide with Yamamoto and Long’s aesthetics resulting in theatrical experiences that are authentic, immediate and hopeful. [www.theatrereplacement.org](http://www.theatrereplacement.org)

### **NEWORLD THEATRE | Co-Producer**

Newworld Theatre creates, produces, and tours new plays and performance events. We tell stories that are as complicated and contradictory as the enormously small country we live in. Historically, our work is rooted in an experience of ethnic and cultural diversity. While diversity remains a core value, our programming now asks a broader range of questions about political responsibility, identity, and difference. We ask artists and audiences to embrace work which challenges assumptions about the nature of theatre and its function in the world. [www.newworldtheatre.com](http://www.newworldtheatre.com)

### **MARCUS YOUSSEF | Writer/Performer**

Marcus’ plays include *Winners and Losers*, *Leftovers*, *Jabber*, *How Has My Love Affected You?*, *Ali & Ali and the axes of Evil*, *Everyone*, *Adrift*, *Peter Panties*, *Chloe’s Choice* and *A Line in the Sand*. They have been performed dozens of times at theaters and festivals across North America, Australia and Europe, including: the Dublin Theatre Festival, Soho Rep, Festival Trans Ameriques, PuSh Festival (four times), Noorderzon (Netherlands), Ca Foscari (Venice), Brno Festival (Czech), Aarhus Festival (Denmark), On the Boards (Seattle) the Magnetic North Festival (five times), and many others. Marcus’ essays, journalism and fiction have appeared in Vancouver Magazine, the Vancouver Sun, Grain, This Magazine, the Georgia Straight, The Tyee, and many programs on CBC Radio and TV.

Awards and nominations include: Governor General’s, Rio-Tinto Alcan Performing Arts, Chalmer’s Canadian Play, Seattle Times Footlight, Arts Club Silver Commission, and Vancouver Critics’ Choice (three times). Marcus is Artistic Director of Vancouver’s Newworld Theatre, sits on the city’s Arts and Culture Policy Council, and co-founded the East Vancouver production hub, PL1422. He has served on the faculties of Concordia and Capilano Universities, teaches widely, and is currently a Canadian Fellow to the International Society of Performing Arts. [marcusyoussef.com](http://marcusyoussef.com)

### **JAMES LONG | Writer/Performer**

James Long has been making theatre since 1995 and is currently the artistic director of Theatre Replacement with Maiko Bae Yamamoto. The company’s work has been presented in 40 cities and venues across North America and Europe and includes *Clark and I Somewhere in Connecticut*, *Sexual Practices of the Japanese*, *BIOBOXES: Artifacts of Human Experience*, *WeeTube*, *Dress me up in your love*, *The Greatest Cities in the World*, *Winners and Losers* and *Kate Bowie* among others. Upcoming  
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works with TR include *Town Criers* and *Three Lectures on the North*. As a freelance artist he has worked as a director, writer and actor with Rumble Productions, Newworld, urban ink, Leaky Heaven Circus (now Fight with a Stick), The Only Animal, The Chop Theatre, CBC radio and The Electric Company, among others. Recent favorite freelance work includes: *Morko* and its upcoming partner piece *Loch* – both site oriented performances created with visual artist and animator Cindy Mochizuki; *How To Disappear Completely* created for the Chop Theatre with lighting designer Itai Erdal; and, with Newworld, a new incarnation of the King Arthur story as told by Niall McNeil and Marcus Youssef. In addition to creating new work, James has taught performance and methods of creation to established artists across Canada and to students at The University of British Columbia, The University of Regina, Simon Fraser University, Studio 58 and Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts. He is a graduate of SFU's School of Contemporary Arts.

### **CHRIS ABRAHAM | Director**

Chris Abraham has been the Artistic Director of Crow's Theatre since 2007. At Crow's, he has directed numerous productions including *Eternal Hydra*, *I, Claudia*, *Boxhead*, *The Country*, and *Instructions to any future socialist government wishing to abolish christmas*. Chris is a multi-award winning theatre and film director, dramaturg and teacher who has worked with Canada's foremost artists and theatres, including the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Tarragon Theatre, Segal Centre, Centaur Theatre, Globe Theatre, Theatre Junction, among many others. In 2000, he co-founded and was the Co-Artistic Director of Bill Glassco's Montreal Young Company. In 2003, Chris directed the film adaptation of Kristen Thomson's award winning hit *I, Claudia* for which he won a Gemini award. The film was also named one of 2004's top ten Canadian films by the Toronto International Film Festival.

A graduate of the National Theatre School's directing program, Chris later served as Co-Director of the school's renowned directing program (2006-2010). Chris was the recipient of the John Hirsch and Ken MacDougall awards and the Siminovitch award for Directing in 2013, as well as the Siminovitch protege award in the award's inaugural year. Chris has directed the highly lauded Stratford Shakespeare Festival productions of *For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*, *The Little Years*, *The Matchmaker*, *Othello* in 2013 and returns in 2014 to direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Chris lives in Toronto with his wife, actor Liisa Repo-Martell, their daughter Hazel and son Leo.

### **ELIA KIRBY | Stage Manager/Production Manager**

Elia Kirby (BA, SFU; MA, UBC), is a professional Technical Director and Production Manager for Theatre, Public Art, and Live Events. Significant recent projects include: scenery for *Times of India Film Awards (May 2013, BC Place)*, *CODE Live (VanOc 2010)*, *Calm, Plaza*, and *Horizon Sky* for Vancouver Art Gallery Off Site, *West Side Story* set construction for Vancouver Opera, and the international tours of *Dress Me Up In Your Love*, (Theatre Replacement) and *Winners and Losers* (Theatre Replacement and Newworld Theatre). In 2003, Elia founded and continues to manage the Great Northern Way Scene Shop, where he has been involved in over 300 art projects, theatre and film sets, and performance events. Elia has taught Production Management and Technical Direction at Capilano University, UBC and SFU; and Human Geography at UBC. Elia grew up with the Caravan Stage Company, the world's foremost horse drawn theatre company. Elia has worked on site-specific spectacle theatre in the UK with Welfare State International & Theatre of Fire; and with Legs on the Wall in Australia. Elia is currently the President of the Arts Factory Society and working on developing 281 Industrial Avenue into professional artist studios and a scene shop.

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## **JONATHAN RYDER | Lighting Designer**

Jonathan completed a BA Honours in Drama in 1989 at the University of Saskatchewan, and has since worked as a technician, technical director, stage manager, production manager, director, performer, producer and lighting designer. In Vancouver, he has designed for Kidd Pivot, Edam Dance, Touchstone Theatre, Carousel TYA, Green Thumb TYA, MovEnt, Mandala Arts, Coriograph Theatre, Shakti Dance, Modern Baroque Opera, Theatre Terrific, the shameless hussies, Judith Marcuse Projects, NeWorld Theatre, Theatre Replacement, Studio 58, Solo Collective, Ruby Slippers and The Electric Company. Jonathan is currently the Production Manager at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, co-artistic director of (r)evolution theatre, and bass player for the band China Repair.

## **ABOUT FRONTIER SERIES**

Artists Rep's new FRONTIER SERIES features internationally acclaimed artists who are breaking new ground in theatrical creation and presentation. These short-run presentations are offered for one weekend only. This inaugural season features innovative works by internationally acclaimed artists from London, Vancouver, B.C. and Los Angeles.

### 2016/17 FRONTIER SERIES

December 1-4, 2016

*The Future Show* by Deborah Pearson

March 24-26, 2017

*Winners and Losers* created and performed by Marcus Youssef & James Long

Produced by Theatre Replacement and Newworld Theatre in association with  
Crow's Theatre

April 21-23, 2017

*Rodney King* by Roger Guenveur Smith

## **ABOUT 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 Rodríguez 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's 35th season is announced, the 2017/18 play selections can be found [here](#).

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

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makes a vital impact on the Portland arts community with its ArtsHub, creating space and offering a home to 10 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.

The 2016/17 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by sponsors Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate and David & Christine Vernier and the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz and Renaissance Foundations. Other season support comes from the Collins Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Theatre Communication Group and the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art. The Frontier Series is sponsored by the Oregon Community Foundation.

[artistsrep.org](http://artistsrep.org)

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