



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Artists Rep Takes on Topical, Intense, Poetic, Comic **BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY**

2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama Winner by Stephen Adly Guirgis

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre
WHAT: [BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY](#)
By Stephen Adly Guirgis
Directed by Adriana Baer
WHEN: March 4 – April 1, 2018
Preview Performances: March 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, March 10 at 7:30pm
Regular run March 10 through April 1: Wed-Sun @ 7:30pm, Sun @ 2pm
Additional Performances:
Tuesdays: March 6 & 27 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday: March 21 @ noon
Saturday: March 31 @ 2pm
Post Show Discussions:
Sunday 2pm matinee: March 11, 18, 25 & April 1
Oregon Psychoanalytic Center: Sunday 2pm matinee March 18
Open Captioned Performance: March 21 @ 2pm
Closing Performance: April 1 @ 2pm
WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, Alder Stage, 1516 SW Alder St., Portland
TICKETS: \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org
PREVIEW PERFORMANCE SPECIALS:
March 4: Sunday Sounday – Pay-What-You-Can First Preview
Featuring music by [Lisa Mann](#)
March 6: Ten Buck Tuesday – Tickets only \$10
March 7: Wine Down Wednesday – \$25 preview ticket + a glass of Dark Horse wine
March 8: Pizza Love Thursday – \$25 preview ticket + slice of Hot Lips Pizza
March 9: Happy Hour Friday – \$25 preview ticket + a beer from Lagunitas

SHOW IMAGES ATTACHED: Design credit Jeff Hayes

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: March 8, 2018

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | February 15, 2018. Artists Rep presents the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner *Between Riverside and Crazy*, by Stephen Adly Guirgis. The play is directed by Adriana Baer and runs from March 4 through April 1 on the theatre's Alder Stage.

Retired cop and recent widower Walter "Pops" Washington slings back whiskey while his newly paroled son and friends wander in and out of his longtime apartment on Riverside Drive. The dog is a nuisance, the landlord wants him gone, and the NYPD is demanding a settlement on an outstanding lawsuit. After an enlightening encounter, Pops decides to take things in his own hands while everyone else hustles to get what they think they deserve.

"This play feels like a tightly wound spring - when you let it go, it takes off and doesn't stop until the final beat. The writing is so precise that I believe my job is mostly to just lean in and listen, acting as a witness for where our actors take this story," said director Adriana Baer. "This is a play about gentrification and how identity is linked to place, about race, mistakes, and second chances. It's set in New York City, right around the corner from where I lived during grad school, but its themes are universal and highly relevant."

"Following our 2014 production of Stephen Adly Guirgis' brilliant *The Motherfucker with The Hat*, we knew it would only be a matter of time before we returned to the work of this extraordinary playwright," said Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez at the play's first rehearsal, "Guirgis' distinct and masterful style of writing uses language that is at once naturalistic and poetic, and both tender and blisteringly funny. *Riverside* takes on incendiary issues including racism, money, corruption, co-dependency, and responsibility in humane and highly entertaining ways."

For *Between Riverside and Crazy*, Resident Artist Kevin Jones will return to the stage in the lead role as Walter "Pops" Washington, who has retired after 30 years from the NYPD after being shot by a white, rookie cop, and is struggling to make life-changing decisions. Jones is known widely for his work with the [August Wilson Red Door Project](#) and *Hands Up*, as well as his deft work as a director with Artists Rep (*We Are Proud To Present...*, *The Motherfucker With the Hat*, *Seven Guitars*), Profile Theatre (*A Lesson Before Dying* and *Blood Knot*) and Portland Playhouse (*How I Learned What I Learned*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson*). This production also features a talented six-person supporting cast: Artists Rep Resident Artists Val Landrum and Ayanna Berkshire; returning guest artists Julana Torres and Bobby Bermea; and Illya Torres-Garner and Ben Newman making their Artists Rep debuts.

Between Riverside and Crazy (2014) won the 2015 [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#), the 2015 [New York Drama Critics Circle Award](#) for Best Play, the 2015 [Lucille Lortel Award](#) for Outstanding Play, the 2015 [Outer Critics Circle Award](#) for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play and the 2015 [Off Broadway Alliance Award](#) for Best New Play. Artists Rep's production is the play's Northwest Premiere.

Between Riverside and Crazy is sponsored by Trish and Bennett Garner.

"A rich new play... Mr. Guirgis has a splendid ear in blurring lines between the sacred and profane and it is a dizzying and exciting place to be."

– Ben Brantley, [The New York Times](#)

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"Riverside explores, with both street-smart, sometimes-profane wit and disarming tenderness, the different ways in which we cling to, reject and exploit faith. Never one to settle for simple answers or snarky observations, Guirgis portrays his characters, and their twisting journeys, with humor and compassion."

– [USA Today](#)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Stephen Adly Guirgis is a member and former co-artistic director of LAByrinth Theater Company. His plays have been produced on five continents and throughout the United States. His most recent play, *Between Riverside and Crazy* (dir: Austin Pendleton) premiered at Atlantic Theater Company, moved to Second Stage Theatre, and garnered numerous awards including the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Other plays include: *The Motherfucker With the Hat* (6 Tony nominations, including Best Play, dir: Anna D Shapiro), *Den of Thieves* (dir: by Max Daniels), *Dominica The Fat Ugly Ho* (dir: Adam Rapp), as well as *Our Lady of 121st Street*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *In Arabia, We'd All Be Kings*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Public Theater) and *The Little Flower of East Orange* (Public Theater) - all five directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman and world premiered at LAByrinth Theater Company.

In London, his plays have premiered at The Donmar Warehouse, The Almeida (dir: Rupert Goold), The Hampstead (Robert Delamere), and at The Arts Theater in the West End (dir: Philip Seymour Hoffman). As an actor, he has appeared in theater, film and television, including roles in Alejandro Inarritu's Oscar-winning "Birdman," Kenneth Lonergan's "Margaret," Todd Solondz's "Palindromes," and Brett C. Leonard's "Jailbait" opposite Michael Pitt. He co-created and executive produced Netflix's "The Get Down" with Baz Luhrmann. Other awards include: the Yale Wyndham-Campbell Prize, The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Award, PEN/Laura Pels Award, Whiting Award, TCG fellowship, Fringe First Award, NY Drama Critics Circle, L.A. Drama Critics Prize, and a Lucy Lortel Award. He is a former violence prevention specialist and H.I.V. educator, and lives in New York City.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Adriana Baer previously directed *Marjorie Prime* by Jordan Harrison and *The Price* by Arthur Miller for Artists Rep. Other Portland credits include *Dead Man's Cell Phone* and *In the Next Room... or The Vibrator Play* by Sarah Ruhl, *Buried Child* and *True West* by Sam Shepard, and *The Road to Mecca* and *My Children! My Africa!* by Athol Fugard (Profile Theatre, Artistic Director 2012-2015). Other directing credits include *Woyzeck* (Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), *The Maids* and *No Exit* at the Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco (Associate Artistic Director, 2004-2007), and productions in New York including *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Seagull* and *The Hairy Ape* (Columbia Stages), and work at Atlantic Theatre Company Stage 2 and The Acting Company. New play development workshops and festivals include Profile Theatre's In Dialogue Series, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Cutting Ball Theater, Primary Stages and The Lark Play Development Center. Additionally, Adriana has worked with Opera Boston, The Public Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Circus Center/Pickle Circus, Theatre Communications Group, American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Theater and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Adriana is an adjunct professor of theatre at Portland State University. She holds a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University. Adriana is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers (SDC) theatrical union.

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BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

Directed by Adriana Baer

CAST

Kevin Jones*^ as Pops

Nickel and Dimed (Artists Rep), *Radio Golf* (Portland Playhouse), *A Lesson from Aloes* (Third Rail)

Illya Torres-Garner as Oswald

Davita's Harp (Jewish Theatre Collaborative), TriptheDark Dance Company, *2030 CE* (Canadian TV series)

Julana Torres* as Lulu

Cuba Libre (Artists Rep), *Water by the Spoonful*, *26 Miles* (Profile Theatre), *Óye Oyá* (Milagro Theatre)

Bobby Bermea* as Junior

Exiles, *Topdog/Underdog*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Blue/Orange*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (Artists Rep)

Val Landrum*^ as Detective Audrey O'Connor

American Hero, *The Miracle Worker*, *The Motherfucker With the Hat*, *The Big Meal* (Artists Rep)

Ben Newman* as Lieutenant Caro

Astoria: Part One and Two (Portland Center Stage), *Pericles Wet* (Portland Shakespeare Project)

Ayanna Berkshire*^ as Church Lady

An Octoroon, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Intimate Apparel* (Artists Rep)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Adriana Baer~

Scenic Designer | Kristeen Crosser #

Costume Designer | Alison Heryer #

Lighting Designer | Carl Faber #

Sound Designer | Sharath Patel ^

Dramaturgy | Luan Schooler & Logan Starnes

Voice & Text Director | Mary McDonald-Lewis ^

Stage Manager | D Westerholm *

Props Master | Sarah Andrews

Intimacy Choreographer | Amanda K. Cole

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Producer | Shawn Lee

Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Crosser

Board Op | Jason Coffey

Production Assistant: Megan Moll

Production Assistant 2: Amanda Kishlock

Wardrobe | Clare Hungate-Hawk

Technical Director | Nathan Crone

Master Carpenter | Eddie Rivera

Master Electrician | Ronan Kilkelly

Scenic Charge | Sarah Kindler

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* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers
The scenic, costume, lighting, projection & sound designers are represented by United Scenic Artists
~ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
^ Artists Rep Resident Artist
+ Equity Membership Candidate

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[Artists Repertory Theatre's](#) mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for artists and audiences to take creative risks. Artists Rep is Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre company, and is led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez. Founded in 1982, Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre company in Portland. Artists 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 2017/18 season of play selections for the company's 35th anniversary season can be [found here](#).

Artists Rep offers the second year of their groundbreaking [Frontier Series](#) which presents internationally acclaimed artists who are reimagining how theatre is created and shared. The 2017/18 series features three bold new works: *They, Themselves and Schmeer* by Becca Blackwell (New York), *The Holler Sessions* by Frank Boyd (Seattle) and *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* by Nassim Soleimanpour (Iran). These are limited, one weekend engagements, offering Portland audiences access to fresh touring performances from around the world. The Frontier Series is curated by Jerry Tischleder, Artists Rep ArtsHub Director.

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.

[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](#) – Established in 2015, Table | Room | Stage (T | R | S) is Artists Rep's robust new play program that offers development opportunities for local and national playwrights, and ensures that underrepresented voices are heard on stage. 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. Artists Rep is committed to bringing the exciting work of women, transgender and non-binary writers and writers of color to its stages with this program. Artists Rep's first completed T | R | S commission was *The Talented Ones*, by Yusef El Guindi. They will produce Larissa FastHorse's *The Thanksgiving Play* as part of their regular
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season in April. Current playwright commissions include: Linda Alper, Larissa FastHorse, Hansol Jung, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Rathje and Andrea Stolowitz. The works created by these writers through T|R|S will establish Artists Rep and Portland as an engine for new play development and will enrich the national new play landscape. To learn more about all the projects, playwrights and programs of Table | Room | Stage [visit here](#).

[ARTSHUB](#) – Artists Rep is also home to the growing ArtsHub, where 12 arts organizations find a home in the building. A diverse range of artists and arts organizations can thrive here with access to affordable administrative, performance and rehearsal space, as well as a myriad of support services. The ArtsHub serves as a community arts center, where its performance venues and lobbies buzz with creative energy and Portland’s arts-loving audiences can gather. Over the last year, Artists Rep hosted 324 rehearsals and more than 602 performances, events, and other happenings by 51 groups. To learn about the arts organizations of Artists Rep’s ArtsHub [visit here](#).

The 2017/18 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by Ronni Lacroute, David & Christine Vernier, and The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation. Other season support comes from The Collins Foundation, The Renaissance Foundation, Regional Arts Culture Council, Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and Work for Art and Media Sponsor The Oregonian.

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