

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2013 Pulitzer Prize Finalist, TIME Magazine #1 Play of 2012 *4000 Miles* by Amy Herzog Gets Portland Premiere at Artists Rep

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: Mainstage production of *4000 Miles* by Amy Herzog

WHEN: April 28 – May 24, 2015 | **Opening Night is Saturday, May 2**

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre – Morrison Stage, 1515 Morrison St. Portland, OR 97205

TICKETS: \$25-\$55; Students, under 25 tickets \$25

- Pay-What-You-Can first preview performance: Tuesday, April 28
- Preview performances: Tuesday – Friday, April 28 – May 1
- Regular run: Wednesday-Sunday at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm
- Additional performances: Wednesday, May 13 at 11am; Tuesdays, May 12 & 19 at 7:30pm; Saturday, May 23 at 2pm (ASL interpreted performance)
- Buy tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

TRIFECTA PACKAGE: A one-of-a-kind curated evening of local art including *4000 Miles*, two installations from The Geezer Gallery with *4000 Miles*-inspired artwork created by ORA Northwest Jewish Artists, and dinner at Jamison Restaurant. More information [here](#).

SHOW IMAGE: Attached. Photo by David Straub. Featuring Joshua J. Weinstein.

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: April 29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 13, 2015. Artists Repertory Theatre is proud to present *4000 Miles*, a heartfelt and funny drama by one of American theatre’s important new voices, Amy Herzog. One of the most acclaimed and widely produced new plays in recent years, *4000 Miles* features a diverse, four-person cast and is directed by Alana Byington, a Portland director who has a long history with Artists Rep and who has directed many of the theatre’s productions throughout its 33-year history.

“I love this play for its rare ability to speak so authentically across two seemingly different generations,” said Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez. “Herzog’s subtle, funny and heartfelt writing presents audiences with two finely crafted characters who are portrayed in our production by Resident Artist and Portland theatre legend Vana O’Brien and Resident Artist Joshua J. Weinstein, one of the city’s most exciting and versatile young actors.”

(more)

"Some plays demand stylization and technology to tell a compelling story," said Director Alana Byington at the production's first rehearsal. "This play isn't like that. It's deceptively simple, and rooted in authenticity and emotional truth. So you can't hide behind a particular style, or effect. It's just these people, in this place, at this time. It's as simple and as complex as that."

ABOUT THE PLAY

A cross-country bike trip from the Pacific NW brings 21-year-old Leo, unannounced, to his 91-year-old grandmother's West Village apartment. Trapped in inertia and trying to escape his past, the young man's world views are rattled by his grandmother's recollections of her radical, bohemian past. Ideological sparks fly in this subtle, comedic drama as the two discover where their worlds intertwine.

4000 Miles premiered as part of Lincoln Center Theater's new works initiative LCT2 in 2011 and became the first play from LCT3 to graduate to a full Off-Broadway run at Lincoln Center Theater in 2012. The production won the Obie Award for Best New Play, the *New York Times* Outstanding Playwright Award, and *TIME Magazine's* #1 Play of 2012. Herzog's play was also a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Amy Herzog graduated with an MFA in playwriting from Yale School of Drama. Only a few years after her graduation, Herzog's career as a playwright took off. Her plays include *After The Revolution* (Williamstown Theatre Festival; Playwrights Horizons; Lilly Award), *4000 Miles* (Lincoln Center; Obie Award for Best New American Play, Pulitzer Prize Finalist), *The Great God Plan* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Belleville* (Yale Rep; New York Theatre Workshop; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist, Drama Desk Nomination). Herzog is also the recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, the Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Helen Merrill, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, and the *New York Times* Outstanding Playwright Award.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alana Byington came to Portland in 1979 to become a member of The New Rose Theatre, founded by friends she knew from her undergraduate years at the University of Minnesota. Some favorite shows from that era include *Hay Fever*, *Design for Living*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Talley's Folly*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

She soon began to work at other theatres in town and her history with Artists Rep goes back (almost) to its very beginning. She directed *The Mound Builders*, the theatre's second show, followed by *Angels Fall*, and *Toys in the Attic* in the next two seasons. Alana then attended graduate school at Ohio University, where she earned an MFA in Directing; spending her summers at The Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod.

Upon returning to Portland she directed *Ten November* and *A Lie of the Mind* for Storefront Theatre. She became the Associate Artistic Director of The Oregon Stage Company, where she directed *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Misanthrope* and *Smoke on the Mountain* (where she met her husband, Grant Byington).

She returned to Artists Rep several times over the years, as an actor and director, most recently directing *Enchanted April* and *String of Pearls*. Other recent credits include several shows at Northwest Classical Theatre Company, among them *Bloody Poetry*, *Arms and the Man* and *Hamlet*.

(more)

CAST

Joshua J. Weinstein^{^*} – Leo Joseph-Connell
Vana O’Brien^{^*} – Vera Joseph
Carolyn Marie Monroe⁺ – Bec
Danielle Ma⁺ – Amanda

CREATIVE TEAM

Alana Byington – Director
Kristeen Willis Crosser[^] – Scenic Designer
Russel Terwelp – Costume Designer
Carl Faber^{**} – Lighting Designer
Rodolfo Ortega[^] – Composer/ Sound Designer
Natalie Rae Heikkinen – Props Designer
Michelle Jazuk^{*} – Production Stage Manager
Rebecca James Ridenour – Assistant Director
Emma Wykes Ruhlig – Production Assistant
Assistant Scenic Designer – Sarah Kindler
Assistant Costume Designer – Sara Ludeman

** Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers*

+ Equity Membership Candidate

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

*** Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.*

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

Portland’s premiere mid-size regional theatre company 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. For the 2014/15 season Artists Rep will offer eight bold and entertaining plays written by internationally acclaimed playwrights, and guided by esteemed directors. Artists Rep productions will feature the work of a core group of accomplished Resident Artists, each with a shared history and a shorthand for collaboration, working alongside guest artists from Portland and beyond.

Artists Rep’s mission is to engage diverse audiences in fresh, thought-provoking and intimate theatre. We are committed to world-class acting, directing, design and stagecraft that support new playwriting and aspire to embody great literature, moving audiences to truly feel — to *experience* — storytelling in a way that only the best live theatre can.

The 2014/15 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate. *4000 Miles* is presented at Artists Rep with support from Kris Olson, Dave Pollock and The Geezer Gallery. Our season media sponsors are The Oregonian and KINK. Other season support comes from the Regional Arts Culture Council, The Oregon Community Foundation, the Collins Foundation, the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and Rafati’s Catering.

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