

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

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Artists Rep's 2016/17 Season Announced

*World and Regional Premieres by Yusef El Guindi,
Paula Vogel, Bess Wohl, Charise Castro Smith,
Jordan Harrison, Nick Jones
plus an irreverent Revival of Wilde's Earnest*

PORTLAND, OREGON – January 26, 2016. Artists Repertory Theatre announces a stylistically diverse season of seven imaginative and entertaining plays that grapple with family and the pursuit of happiness. The season features one World Premiere commissioned by Artists Rep's new play development program Table|Room|Stage, along with five Northwest Premieres (including a musical) by some of the best emerging contemporary playwrights in the country, and one re-imagined classic featuring an all-female cast. The 2016/17 selections emphasize the aesthetic and scope of work Artists Rep has been committed to producing for almost 35 years as Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre.

"Next season features a diverse, exhilarating and provocative mix of theatrical styles from intimate drama to bold satire, from musical theatre to classic comedy," said Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez about the play selections. "Each of these wildly different stories explores how families — biological, chosen, situational or ideological — can cross boundaries and unite or divide individuals over something they believe will make their lives better."

Artists Rep's productions feature the work of our Resident Artist Company, alongside guest artists from Portland's world-class theatre community and beyond. Now comprised of 24 theatre practitioners, [Artists Rep's Resident Artists](#) represent some of Portland's finest talent, in a variety of theatrical disciplines.

Full season subscriptions for all seven plays are on sale now by calling the Artists Rep box office at 503-241-1278. The current full, seven-show subscription prices are \$175/Previews, \$245/Regular Run, \$315/Opening Night. Partial season subscriptions will be available starting April 1, 2016. Single tickets become available August 1, 2016.

(more)

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE'S 2016/17 SEASON

Trevor

by Nick Jones

The star of this hilarious and heart-wrenching new comedy is Trevor, a 200-pound chimp intent on reviving his showbiz career. He worked with Morgan Fairchild, for crying out loud! He lives with his human “mom” — just a regular family, trying to get by in spite of neighbors who simply can't understand. Swinging between reality and fantasy, *Trevor* takes aim at the nature of humanity and the lies we tell ourselves.

- Award-winning new play inspired by true events from *Orange Is the New Black* writer, Nick Jones
- NW Premiere

American Hero

by Bess Wohl

When the American Dream is dashed, try making a sandwich! A trio of disparate and desperate ‘sandwich artists’ find themselves abandoned by their fast-food franchise and left to their own devices in this utterly amusing and ridiculously believable story of making ends “meat and cheese.” This post-recession, comedic commentary embraces the humor in misery, the creativity in despair, and the ingenuity of the human spirit as this indomitable group bands together to succeed on their own damned terms.

- Satirical comedy on the pursuit of happiness
- NW Premiere

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration

by Paula Vogel

A collaboration with Staged!

Set during a time when the country is divided by conflicting ideologies and convictions following a contentious presidential election, Vogel's sweeping, music-rich story plays out one frigid Christmas Eve on the banks of the Potomac River. Amid the hubbub of holiday preparations, an array of abolitionists and assassins, slaves and freemen, Union and Confederate soldiers, along with President Lincoln and Mary Todd, all pursue their paths to liberation. Propelled by traditional American songs, marches and spirituals — all revitalized for this production by luminary Portland musicians — *A Civil War Christmas* is a lively reminder for people of all beliefs about humanity's potential for compassion, reconciliation and hope.

- Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright
- Uplifting family excursion
- NW Premiere

(more)

Marjorie Prime

by Jordan Harrison

In this tender and inquisitive new drama, a family grapples with the difference between a life lived and a life remembered as 85-year-old Marjorie struggles to keep hold of her memories and identity, gently assisted by an artificial version of her late husband, Walter. An exploration of aging, memory and technology, *Marjorie Prime* peers into what lies ahead and how our past is rewritten to face today.

- 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama
- 2016 film adaptation starring John Hamm, Geena Davis & Tim Robbins
- NW Premiere

Feathers and Teeth

by Charise Castro Smith

The fairytale concoction of teen angst and devastating loss make for a grisly good time in this crackling new “thrilledy” — a stew of dark comedy, family drama and fantastical carnage. It’s 1976 and young Chris is reeling from her mom’s illness and recent death. Throw in dad’s new girlfriend (mom’s ex-nurse!), a few freaky little creatures and the boy next door, and things really get out of hand. Part campy horror show, part revenge tragedy, the highly theatrical *Feathers and Teeth* delivers a meaty exploration of grief and obsession.

- Make-believe farce of horrific humor
- NW Premiere

The Talented Ones

by Yussef El Guindi

The American Dream teeters on the edge of the abyss as immigrants Cindy and Omar face their thwarted dreams and unraveling marriage while Omar’s buddy Patrick connives to push them over the edge. In this surprisingly funny dark comedy, trouble erupts one night when bad choices are followed by *verrrrry* bad choices. The stakes become lethal as these characters manipulate the truth and do anything to justify their desires. *The Talented Ones* is Artists Rep’s first new play development commission for Table|Room|Stage as part of the Oregon Community Foundation’s “Creative Heights Initiative.”

- Award-winning playwright
- World Premiere

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The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

An all-female, all-star Portland cast leads a gender-bending production of Oscar Wilde's magnificent 19th Century comedy of manners and social status. Lovely Gwendolyn and adorable Cecily don't care who they marry as long as his name is Earnest (so manly and respectable!). Jack and Algernon are utterly smitten and only too happy to ditch their given names to bamboozle their way into the ladies' hearts. Imperious Lady Bracknell is aghast, agog and practically apoplectic, but her efforts to impose propriety prove useless against Cupid's earnest truth. High jinx, *bon mots* and cucumber sandwiches are served.

- "A trivial comedy for serious people." - Oscar Wilde
- A fresh take on an enduring farcical masterpiece

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 2016/17 season Artists Rep will offer seven 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 is also home to the ArtsHub, a program which offers residencies within Artists Rep's facility to smaller and emerging arts organizations with subsidized administrative, performance and rehearsal space, as well other infrastructural services. The Artists Rep facility serves as a community arts center, where performance venues and other public spaces are continually buzzing with activity.

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.

More information about the [2016/17 Season](#) at artistsrep.org.

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