



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BREAKING THE THEATRICAL MOLD

CAUGHT

**Art. Truth. Deception. Fake News. Cultural appropriation.
Artist Lin Bo, in collaboration with playwright Christopher Chen**

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: [Caught](#)
By Christopher Chen

WHEN: October 1 – October 29, 2017
Preview performances: Oct. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 @ 7:30pm
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, Oct. 7 @ 7:30pm
Regular run Oct. 7 through Oct. 28: Wed-Sun @ 7:30pm, Sun @ 2pm
Additional performances:
Tuesdays: Oct. 3 and 24 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday: Oct. 18 @ noon
Saturday: Oct. 28 @ 2pm
Sunday: Oct. 29 @ 2pm

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday, Oct. 28 @ 2pm

*Visual Art Exhibit opens one hour before curtain. Early arrival suggested.

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison Street, Portland

TICKETS: \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

PREVIEW WEEK SPECIALS

Sunday Sunday | Pay-What-You-Can First Preview & Music from [Joe Kye](#): Sunday, Oct. 1
-\$5-\$25 sliding scale to book ahead or PWYC at the door, preshow live music

Ten Buck Tuesday | Tuesday, Oct. 3

-\$10 ticket

Wine Down Wednesday | Preview Play Price & Wine: Wednesday, Oct. 4

-\$25 ticket & Dark Horse wine

Pizza Love Thursday | Preview Play Price & Pizza: Thursday, Oct. 5

-\$25 ticket & slice of Hot Lips Pizza

Happy Hour Friday | Preview Play Price & Beer: Friday, Oct. 6

-\$25 ticket & Lagunitas Beer

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gallery Exhibit | Preshow; Lobby installation open Tuesday-Sunday, noon-6pm through October 29.

Pre Show Audio Tour of the Exhibit narrated by Susannah Mars

Pre Show Music | Oct. 1, Sunday first previews. Additional dates on website and social media.

Post Show Discussions | Follow matinees on Oct. 8, 15*, 18, 22 and 29.

**with Oregon Psychoanalytic Center*

SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED: Design credit Jeff Hayes

PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Oct. 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | September 13, 2017. Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Caught*, a show centered around Chinese dissident artist Lin Bo that combines visual art and live theatre installations. *Caught* is presented in partnership with The Chújú Gallery/SF and The Geezer Gallery, and features dozens of collaborators including playwright Christopher Chen. The production runs October 1 through October 29, 2017 on Artists Rep's newly configured Morrison Stage.

PUBLIC PRODUCTION DESCRIPTION

Ripped from today's headlines and breaking the theatrical mold, artist Lin Bo's work, *Qín (Caught)*, presents a sly philosophical puzzle that investigates the murky intersections of fact and fiction in the crafting of art and news. The show features Lin, a dissident visual, performance and conceptual artist whose piece, *Shìwēi (Rally)* led to his arrest and two-year detention by the Chinese government in 2012. After his release, Lin moved to San Francisco and launched a traveling exhibition of his work to Vancouver BC, Tacoma, Portland, Las Vegas and Minneapolis. In each city, Lin is partnering with theatre companies rather than traditional gallery spaces; in Portland, Artists Rep is hosting the exhibit.

The Artists Rep exhibition includes his current work, as well as a new theatrical piece, *Qín (Caught)*, a lively exploration of the American obsession with story and narrative as markers for authenticity. Lin will be introducing the work at each performance, and discussing his harrowing experiences in detention under the Chinese authorities. Recently profiled by The New Yorker Magazine, he is writing a book about his journey as a dissident artist in an authoritarian culture, which will be published following this tour. In Portland, Lin is collaborating with artists: playwright Christopher Chen, Dmae Roberts, Chris Harder, Sara Hennessy, Greg Watanabe, Horatio Law, Megan Wilkerson, Sarah Gahagan, Jennifer Lin, Rodolfo Ortega, Luan Schooler, Mary McDonald-Lewis, Samson Syharath and Shawn Lee to recreate this piece for Portland viewers.

"*Caught* unfolds with a unique theatrical style like nothing I have ever seen," said Shawn Lee, *Caught* director at the play's first rehearsal. "Our interactive rollercoaster of a production is part theatre, part art installation, and is sure to keep audiences questioning everything they are seeing. Whatever preconceived ideas we have about what theatre is and should be, Christopher Chen's piece is sure to shake them up. Prepare to be surprised."

The static elements of Lin Bo's work may be viewed throughout October in the Morrison Lobby at Artists Rep, Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6pm. The visual art exhibit will open one hour prior to the show – early arrival is suggested. An audio tour of the exhibit, narrated by Resident Artist Susannah Mars, will be available for download.

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LEARN MORE about Lin Bo [HERE](#).

INTERVIEW with Christopher Chen [HERE](#).

Conducted by Mitch Miller for the Willamette Week Fall Arts Guide, September 2017.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MEDIA PURPOSES

Artists Rep's production of *Caught* is intended to be a theatrical puzzle that will unfold for audiences when they attend. The play grapples with today's lightning rod issues about truth in media. From fake news and manipulation of truth to public gullibility, and from cultural appropriation to race-influenced perceptions, this production of *Caught* takes the playwright's intentions to the furthest edge.

Artists Rep will need the collaboration of the media for the production to succeed in its attempt to lead the audience on their own journey to discovering what is true on their own.

Efforts on the direction of our production are with approval from the playwright, Christopher Chen, and the cooperation of all the artists involved on the project. All contributors will be noted in the show's playbill that will be given to audience members following each show. Audience members will be asked to "keep the secret" as they leave.

Among many contemporary topics, this show addresses truth and deception in the media, as well as the fine line between intention and manipulation. This is not a new development, but today's "fake news" culture makes this piece particularly relevant now. Some recent related examples include:

- [Mike Daisy's interview on "The Agony and The Ecstasy of Steve Jobs" on NPR's *This American Life* with Ira Glass](#)
- [James Frey's book "A Million Little Pieces," a false memoir exposed on the Oprah Winfrey show](#)
- [Jayson Blair, former journalist with The New York Times exposed for flagrant plagiarism and story fabrication](#)
- [Stephen Glass, former reporter for The New Republic, a master of complex story fabrication](#)

"*Caught* takes an unusual approach to craft the audience experience," said Dámaso Rodríguez, Artists Rep Artistic Director. "We acknowledge this makes it tricky for press to not report on the spoilers and maintain objective truth. We ask that reporters use their best judgment in describing this performance and with the intention of letting audiences experience it for themselves."

Attached is the performance synopsis. Artists Rep requests that media members use this solely as research.

NATIONAL REVIEWS

Read production reviews from other cities [HERE](#).

Fabricated reviews on Artists Rep's website:

"Lin Bo's artwork – in combination with the theatrical installation, *Qín (Caught)* – is a fascinating labyrinth. The performance itself is compulsively engaging, chockfull of twists and impish conspiracy. Spoiler Alert: Come prepared to be surprised!" – San Francisco News

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“What distinguishes Lin from most conceptual artists is how elegantly he blends personal stories, historical digressions and philosophical ruminations. He has the curiosity of a highly literate dilettante and a preoccupation with alternative histories, secrets large and small, and the fuzzy line where truth and fiction blur.” – Art Leap Quarterly

“Lin Bo’s work is as funny as it is uncomfortable, all the more so because the issues it brings up are serious — questions on the veracity of scholarship versus lived experience, whose accounts can be seen as authoritative, and the reliability of memory.” – The Mercury Tribune

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Christopher Chen is an international award-winning playwright whose full-length works have been produced and developed across the United States and abroad. Plays include *The Hundred Flowers Project* and *The Late Wedding* and *Caught*, which was a New York Times Critics Pick in Fall 2016. Honors include the 2015-16 Sundance Institute/Time Warner Foundation Fellowship for theater; the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, through which he was the 2013-14 playwright-in-residence at The Vineyard; the Barrymore Award; the Glickman Award. Current commissions include American Conservatory Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, Crowded Fire, LCT3, Manhattan Theatre Club, San Francisco Playhouse and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Chris is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and holds an M.F.A. in playwriting from S.F. State. He is a San Francisco native. www.christopherchen.org

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lin Bo (b. 1976, Shanghai) is a Chinese visual, performance and conceptual artist. Lin was a seminal figure of the [Dashanzi Factory 798 Art District](http://www.dashanzi.com), in Beijing. Along with artists Ai Weiwei and Huang Rui, their politically tinged work brought them to the attention of the Chinese authorities. His conceptual piece, *Shìwēi (Rally)* led to his arrest and two-year detention in 2012. Released in 2014, Lin moved to San Francisco where he began a series of installations, *Shénshèng (Sacred)*, featuring cheap figurines imported from China that are transformed by rice grains and gilding to resemble sacred objects, a commentary on Western commodification and consumption of ‘Asian Exotica’. This work brought him to the attention of curators at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and The Chújú Gallery/SF, and launched a travelling exhibition of his work to Vancouver BC, Tacoma, Portland, Las Vegas, and Minneapolis. In each city, Lin is partnering with theatre companies rather than traditional gallery spaces; in Portland, Artists Rep is hosting the exhibit. The exhibition at Artists Rep includes his current work, as well as a new theatrical piece, *Qín (Caught)*. www.iamlinbo.com

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Shawn Lee is excited to direct Artists Rep’s first production in the newly reconfigured Morrison Theatre space for the premiere of Christopher Chen’s *Caught* and to collaborate with visual artist Lin Bo. Last season he directed the Portland premiere of Bess Wohl’s *American Hero* on the Alder Stage. He recently directed and co-produced the international tour of E.M. Lewis’ *The Gun Show* starring Resident Artist Vin Shambry, which premiered last fall with CoHo Productions’ 21st Season. After a sold out run, *The Gun Show* was remounted at Artists Repertory Theatre before traveling to the Logan Festival of Solo Performance at 1st Stage in Tysons, Virginia and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Shawn is in his fourth season as Artistic Producer of Artists Rep. In 2001, he co-founded the Furious Theatre Company in Los Angeles where he served as co-artistic director until moving to Portland in 2014. He is the recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, the Back Stage Garland Award, LA Weekly
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Theatre Award, LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award and the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award. With Furious, over 25 productions including the award-winning rolling U.S. Premiere of FOXFINDER with Artists Rep and THE PAIN AND THE ITCH with The Theatre@Boston Court. In 2010, Furious Theatre Company was named to LA Weekly's list of "Best Theatres of the Decade." He is a co-creator of realfoundfootage.com with Matt Pelfrey (MTV Skins) and directed the short film *The Foodie* by Kirk Pynchon, *She* and several episodes of the web series *A.G.A.N.G.*

Caught

By Christopher Chen

Directed by Shawn Lee

COLLABORATING ARTISTS

Greg Watanabe*, Dmae Roberts, Sarah Hennessy*, Chris Harder*^, Shawn Lee*, Horatio Law, Megan Wilkerson#, Sarah Gahagan, Jennifer Lin, Rodolfo Ortega^, Michelle Jazuk*^, Luan Schooler, Mary McDonald-Lewis^, Tashia Williams, Samson Syharath, Kristeen Willis Crosser, Michelle Jazuk^*, Charlie Capps, Tamera Lyn, Alan Cline, Clare Hungate-Hawk, Nathan Crone, Eddie Rivera, Ronan Kilkelly, Sarah Kindler

Artistic roles revealed in the show playbill, after the performance.

* 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

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[Artists Repertory Theatre](http://ArtistsRep.org)'s mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for artists and audiences 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. 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 and Artistic Director of Risk/Reward Festival.

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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 12 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](#) – 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. With this program, Artists Rep is committed to bringing the work of exciting women, transgender and non-binary writers and writers of color to its stages. Artists Rep's first completed T|R|S commission was *The Talented Ones*, by Yussef El Guindi. They will produce Larissa FastHorse's *The Thanksgiving Play* as part of their regular 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, more than 500 performances, events and happenings by Portlanders found a place in Artists Rep's building. To learn about the arts organizations 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. *Caught* is made possible by show sponsors Marcy & Richard Schwartz.

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