

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXTENDED BEFORE OPENING

We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915

Now running March 8 – April 10

- WHO:** Artists Repertory Theatre
- WHAT:** *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*
By Jackie Sibblies Drury. Directed by Kevin Jones.
- WHEN:** March 8– April 10, 2016
- Preview performances: March 8-11
 - Opening Night: March 12
 - Regular run: Wednesday-Sunday @ 7:30; Sundays @ 2pm; Wednesday, March 23 @ 11am; Sunday, March 27 @ 7:30 (Open-captioned); Saturday, April 3 @ 2pm (ASL Interpreted).
 - Extended run performances: Tuesday, April 5 through Saturday, April 9 @ 7:30pm; closing show Sunday, April 10 @ 2pm.
- WHERE:** Artists Repertory Theatre, Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison Street, Portland
- TICKETS:** \$48 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25; \$20 rush
- Pay-What-You-Can First Preview performance: March 8
 - Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org
- POST SHOW DISCUSSIONS:** Scheduled following every Sunday 2pm performance; others TBD.
- > Production [PHOTOS HERE](#)
- > VIDEO with director Kevin Jones [HERE](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Portland, Oregon | March 8, 2016. Artists Repertory Theatre is thrilled to announce the extension of *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*, due to outstanding advance ticket sales. This is the third play this season that has been extended prior to opening due to demand.

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We Are Proud to Present... is a provocative and highly original play by one of the newest voices on the American theatre scene, Jackie Sibblies Drury. Artists Rep is honored to bring the Portland premiere of this deeply powerful Off-Broadway hit to local audiences and offer an impetus to have constructive dialogue around our society's race issues.

A multiracial cast of six idealistic actors sets out to improvise a story about the first colonial genocide of the 20th Century in Africa, but get lost in the reality of their undertaking. The unusual presentation, humor and inevitable discomfort of this provocative new play gripped theatre hubs like New York, Chicago, London, Washington D.C. and Seattle with its unique theatrical investigation of prejudice, power and perspective.

"Boldly funny, insightful, ironic, urgent, unsettling and electrifying," wrote Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez of Sibblies Drury's play in the production's playbill. "I propose that it will be difficult to walk away at the finish of *We Are Proud to Present...* without engaging in an immediate conversation about the questions asked and the lines crossed during the course of the play."

At the helm of this risk-taking and incendiary production is Director Kevin Jones. "Jackie Sibblies Drury poses many questions for us to wrestle with and yet she offers very few answers," wrote Jones for the production's playbill. "One of the questions Drury's provocative play asks is: What is our responsibility as artists to the stories that we tell and to the owners of those stories? Is it actually possible in America, in the 21st Century, to tell a story about a distant genocide, without the story being appropriated by a contemporary conversation about race? In this day and age when we engage with information on a 'sound byte' level, what is our role in sifting through the rhetoric and extracting useful meaning?" Read his full essay [HERE](#).

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Jackie Sibblies Drury is a Brooklyn-based playwright. Her plays include *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*, *Social Creatures* and *And now I only dance at weddings*. The presenters of her plays include Soho Rep, Victory Gardens, Trinity Rep, Matrix Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Undermain Theatre, InterAct Theatre, Actors Theater of Louisville, Available Light, Company One, and The Bush Theatre in London. Sibblies Drury has developed her work at Sundance, The Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., The Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, New York Theatre Workshop, PRELUDE.11&14, The Civilians, The Bushwick Starr, The LARK, The Magic Theatre, The Bay Area Playwrights Festival and The MacDowell Colony. She was a dramaturg for *Zero Cost House* by Pig Iron Theatre Company & Toshiki Okada and *The Garden* by Nichole Canuso Dance Company. She received the 2012-2013 Van Lier Fellowship at New Dramatists and was the inaugural recipient of the 2012-2014 Jerome Fellowship at The LARK. She is a NYTW Usual Suspect and is currently a member of The Writer's Room at Manhattan Theatre Club and Ars Nova.

AUDIENCE ENRICHMENT

To create an opportunity for dialogue, discussion and reflection around the provocative topics this play explores, we will offer a variety of conversations and are pursuing additional programming.

Lobby Exhibit

Patrons will be given a question to reflect on in their playbills, and are invited to post their response in the lobby. The lobby will stay open post-show for theatre-goers.

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Scheduled Post Show Discussions hosted by a skilled facilitator

Sunday, March 13 @ 2pm; Wednesday, March 16 @ 11am (free student matinee);
Sunday, March 20 @ 2pm & 7:30pm; Wednesday, March 23 @ 11am; Sunday, March 27
@ 2pm; Sunday, April 3 @ 2pm with the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center; and Saturday,
April 9. Additional dates TBD. Please see [website](#) for updates.

Pre-show Sunday Conversation Series

Speakers and topics TBD. In partnership with the World Affairs Council of Oregon.
Please see [website](#) for updates.

MUSICAL CONNECTION

Artists Repertory Theatre will present *Loveness Wesa and the Bantus* as part of its *Artists Rep In Concert* series. Zimbabwe-born Loveness Wesa, with her band the Bantus, will perform Afro-Pop on the set of *We Are Proud to Present...* The rollicking African sound of Loveness Wesa is driven by the beat of the inspired musicians in the Bantus Band and promises an evening of joyous music.

Tuesday March 22, 7:30pm on the set of *We Are Proud to Present ...*

Tickets are \$20. More information [here](#).

GALLERY INSTALLATION

Once again, The Geezer Gallery, one of the Resident Companies of Artists Rep's ArtsHub, brings a diverse and talented group of artists together with work that supports and enriches the work being presented on stage. Titled *Cultural Fusion*, this exquisite exhibition provides an intercultural exchange and understanding of a world whose cultural traditions have been diminished and often lost through colonization, gentrification and globalization. The diverse works celebrate the people, customs, traditions and way of life of world nations whose cultural history and contributions are stunning, vibrant and reflect the richness and diversity of Indigenous cultures and the distinct differences between nations, languages and geographic landscapes. Exhibit artists: Paula Benjaminson, Diane Flack, Cheryl Rogers-Tadevich and Leroy Elie. The Geezer Gallery will host an artist reception at 6:30 pm in the Morrison Lobby before the Wednesday, March 16 performance. More information [here](#).

COMMUNITY PARTNER PERFORMANCES

We believe that with Artists Rep's play offerings we have a great opportunity to partner with community organizations in order to build community and create the space for lively dialogue. These Community Partner Performances offer that organization space to gather and the opportunity to receive 20% per promotion-coded ticket sale or to offer their group reduced price tickets.

Current Partners:

[The Color of NOW](#) – Saturday, April 3 @ 7:30pm

[Spit/WRITE](#) – TBD

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Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German
Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915***

By Jackie Sibblies Drury

Directed by Kevin Jones^

CAST

Chantal DeGroat*	Actor 6/Black Woman
Joshua J. Weinstein*^	Actor 1/White Man
Vin Shambry*^	Actor 2/Black Man
Chris Harder*^	Actor 3/Another White Man
Joseph Gibson	Actor 4/Another Black Man
Rebecca Ridenour*	Actor 5/Sarah

CREATIVE TEAM

Kristeen Willis Crosser^	Scenic Designer
Peter West	Lighting Designer
Wanda Walden	Costume Designer
Matt Tabor	Composer
Jen Raynak#	Musical Director
Mary McDonald-Lewis^	Dialect Coach
Kemba Shannon	Choreographer
Luan Schooler	Dramaturg
Production Stage Manager	Michelle Jazuk +
Assistant Director	Chelsea Burwasser
Will Bailey	Props Master
Jonathan Cole	Fight Director
Production Assistant	Jessica Evans Irvine
Production Assistant	Kira Atwood-Youngstrom
Production Intern	Grace Owens
Board Op	Dave Petersen

* *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*

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 2015/16 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
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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.

The 2015/16 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate and David and Christine Vernier. *We Are Proud to Present ...* is presented at Artists Rep with support from show co-sponsors Trish & Bennett Garner and Kris Olson & Les Swanson. Our season media sponsors are The Oregonian and KINK. Other season support comes from the Regional Arts Culture Council, Oregon Community Foundation, Collins Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and Work for Art.

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