



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicole Lane

[nlane@artistsrep.org](mailto:nlane@artistsrep.org) | 360.601.4298

Artists Repertory Theatre presents

Limited Portland engagement of a “theatrical experiment” that’s taken the world by storm

## WHITE RABBIT RED RABBIT

By Nassim Soleimanpour

presented in association with Aurora Nova Productions & Boat Rocker Entertainment

**WHO:** Artists Rep, in association with Aurora Nova Productions and Boat Rocker Entertainment

**WHAT:** [WHITE RABBIT RED RABBIT](#)

by Nassim Soleimanpour

**WHEN:** ONLY FOUR PERFORMANCES: April 12-15, 2018

Thursday - Saturday @ 7:30pm; Sunday @ 2pm

**WHERE:** Artists Repertory Theatre, Alder Stage, 1516 SW Alder Street, Portland

**TICKETS:** \$25 regular price

Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or [www.artistsrep.org](http://www.artistsrep.org)

**PHOTOS:** [HERE](#)

**AURORA NOVA VIDEO TRAILER:** [HERE](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | March 22, 2018.** Artists Repertory Theatre, in association with Aurora Nova Productions and Boat Rocker Entertainment, presents *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* by Nassim Soleimanpour featuring one local actor for each show who performs the play cold. This one-weekend engagement is the final production of Artists Rep’s 2017/18 FRONTIER SERIES which brings new work in performance to Portland. *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* will run for only four performances Thursday, April 12 through Sunday April 15, 2018.

*White Rabbit Red Rabbit* has been called a play. But, it’s a lively, global sensation that no-one is allowed to talk about. Slyly humorous and audaciously pointed, this ‘theatre entertainment meets social experiment’ is unlike anything else, and encourages audiences to question everything.

The play is written by award-winning Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour. In spite of not being able to leave his country to escort his work to the stage, Soleimanpour got his play out of Iran in 2011. His words escaped censorship, have now been translated into over 25 languages, and interact with actors and audiences worldwide.

(more)

As the performance begins, the play, in a sealed envelope, is presented to a guest actor who encounters it for the first time. This actor, on stage now to perform immediately, has never seen the script or the play – and they’ve only been told what is absolutely necessary. There is a new actor for every performance. No rehearsals. No director. No set.

The actors cast for *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* performances in Portland are: Susannah Mars\*^ (April 12), John San Nicolas\*^ (April 13), Ayanna Berkshire\*^ (April 14), and Darius Pierce\* (April 15).

\* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers  
^Artists Rep Resident Artist

“*White Rabbit Red Rabbit* is both unpredictable and unforgettable –it’s easy to see why it has become one of the most talked about theatre experiences across the world right now” said Jerry Tischleder, Frontier Series curator. “I knew very little about it (as intended) before I saw it in Los Angeles last year. The experience was super-charged, the performer and the audience were both hyper-present, and connected, as we all discovered what we were creating together. *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* has very smart and playful language, but the real joy is watching how the performer reacts to what they're being asked to say, and do on the spot. The show hits on personal, political, and emotional levels – all while pushing the envelope of how theatre is created and shared as an art form. I honestly cannot think of a single person that wouldn't enjoy it and can't wait to see the reactions from both Portland audiences and the incredible team of actors we've assembled.”

## **ABOUT NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR | Playwright**

Nassim Soleimanpour is an independent multidisciplinary theatre maker from Tehran, Iran. His plays have been translated into more than 20 languages. Best known for his play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, written to travel the world when he couldn't, his work has been awarded the Dublin Fringe Festival Best New Performance, Summerworks Outstanding New Performance Text Award, and The Arches Brick Award (Edinburgh Fringe) as well as picking up nominations for a Total Theatre and Brighton Fringe Pick of Edinburgh Award.

By the time Nassim was permitted to travel for the first time in early 2013, his play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* had been performed over 200 times in 15 languages. Since then Nassim has facilitated workshops and panels in different countries including World Theatre Festival (Brisbane), Tolhuistuin (Amsterdam), SESC Vila Mariana (Sao Paulo), Schauspielhaus (Vienna), DPAC (Kuala Lumpur), Theatretreffen (Berlin), British Council (London), Asia House (London), and University of Bremen (Germany).

His latest play *Nassim* is now touring internationally with recent visits to London, Edinburgh, Sydney, Melbourne, Seoul, and Copenhagen. Nassim now lives in Berlin with his wife Shirin and dog Echo.

### **URGENT – All media and press agents**

*This play is NOT overtly political, and should not be portrayed as such. It operates on a deeper, metaphoric level, and very expressly avoids overt political comment. We therefore ask the press to be judicious in their reportage.*

(more)

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

Since its joint premiere in 2011 in Edinburgh and at the Summerworks Performance Festival, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* has been translated into more than 25 different languages and been performed over 1,000 times by some of the biggest names in theatre and film including actors John Hurt, Whoopi Goldberg, Nathan Lane, Stephen Rea, Sinead Cusack, Marcus Brigstocke, Dominic West, and film director Ken Loach. *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* was originally produced by Volcano Theatre in association with Necessary Angel and Wolfgang Hoffman with show dramaturgy by Daniel Brooks and Ross Manson. Learn more [here](#).

## REVIEWS

"A playful, enigmatic and haunting show that takes on a gravity that prickles your skin, and keeps taking unexpected turns that often lead us back to the relief of laughter. Any worthy theatrical experience is a dive down into a rabbit hole, where the destination is unknown. The distinction of *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* is that the performer moves right alongside us on the journey."

— Charles Isherwood, *The New York Times*

"A dazzling, transcendent piece of alive-and-kicking theater...I experienced a play that no one in the world will ever experience again... the whole building felt like it was living and breathing."

— *Entertainment Weekly*

"A theatrical high-wire act. I can't wait to see it again." — *The Hollywood Reporter*

"An eye-popping experience for everyone." — *Associated Press*

"Fascinating and engrossing hour of thinly veiled social commentary and an edgy, contemporary take on the theatre genre." — *Broadway Baby*

"A stunning piece of theatre, thought-provoking and morally unsettling." — *Fringereview*

"Nassim Soleimanpour is a fiercely – even frighteningly – original voice, and a thrillingly adept craftsman... Go see!" — *The Skinny*

"Wildly unpredictable and completely unforgettable, *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit* is a punch in the air for self-expression; a testament to the power of words to transcend cultures and borders. You have to be there." — *New Zealand Herald*

"A thoughtful, playful response to oppression." — *The Guardian*

"The whole experience is altogether funny and serious and surprising and you — by which I mean we — are all in it together." — *San Francisco Examiner*

## KEY MEDIA COVERAGE

The New York Times [HERE](#)

The Guardian [HERE](#)

The Denver Post [HERE](#)

(more)

## ABOUT FRONTIER SERIES

Artists Rep offers the second year of their groundbreaking [FRONTIER SERIES](#) that 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 Schmerz](#) 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.

## 2017/18 FRONTIER SERIES

**SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2017**

[They, Themselves and Schmerz](#) written & performed by Becca Blackwell

Co-presented with PICA'S Time-Based Art (TBA) Festival

**MARCH 8-11, 2018**

[The Holler Sessions](#) written, directed & performed by Frank Boyd

Created in collaboration with the TEAM

**APRIL 12-15, 2018**

[White Rabbit Red Rabbit](#) by Nassim Soleimanpour

Presented in association with Aurora Nova Productions and Boat Rocker Entertainment

---

## 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/Interim Managing Director Dámaso Rodríguez. Founded in 1982, Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre company in Portland. Artists Rep became the 72<sup>nd</sup> 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 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season can be [found here](#).

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.

(more)

[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 Yussef El Guindi (2017). The second T|R|S commission is *The Thanksgiving Play*, by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) (2018). Current playwright commissions include: Linda Alper, Larissa FastHorse, Hansol Jung, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Rathje, and Andrea Stolowitz. T|R|S is also developing work with playwrights Anthony Hudson and Susannah Mars. 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 T|R|S [visit here](#).

[ARTSHUB](#) – Artists Rep is also home to the ArtsHub, where 12 arts organizations find a home in the building. A diverse range of artists and arts organizations thrive here with access to affordable administrative, performance, and rehearsal space, as well as myriad support services. The ArtsHub serves as a community arts center, where performance venues and lobbies buzz with creative energy and Portland’s arts-loving audiences gather. Over the past 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, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, The Renaissance Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Shubert Foundation, Work for Art, and Media Sponsor The Oregonian.

[artistsrep.org](http://artistsrep.org)

###