

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

Media Contact: Nicole Lane
nlane@artistsrep.org
503.241.9807x102(o) | 360.601.4298(c)

2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist

MARJORIE PRIME

by Jordan Harrison featuring all-star Artists Rep cast

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: [MARJORIE PRIME](#)

By Jordan Harrison

Directed by Adriana Baer

WHEN: February 7 – March 5, 2017

- Preview performances: Feb 7, 8, 9, 10
- Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, Feb 11
- Regular run through March 5: Wed-Sun @ 7:30pm, Sun @ 2pm
Tuesdays: Feb 7 & 28 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday: Feb 22 @ noon
Accessibility Performances: Sun, Feb 26 @ 7:30pm (Open Captioned); Sat, March 4 @ 2pm (ASL Interpreted)
- Post-show discussions follow Sun 2pm matinee performances; Wed, Feb 22 @ noon
- p:ear Partner Performance: Tue, Feb 28
 - \$40 ticket split with [p:ear](#)

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

TICKETS: \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25

Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

PREVIEW WEEK SPECIALS

- Pay-What-You-Can First Preview performance: Tuesday, Feb 7
 - \$10 book ahead or PWYC at the door
- Preview Play Price & Pizza: Wednesday, Feb 8
 - \$25 ticket & slice of HotLips Pizza
- Preview Play Price & Beer: Thursday, Feb 9
 - \$25 ticket & Lagunitas Beer
- Preview Play Price & Happy Hour + Live Music: Friday, Feb 10
 - \$25 ticket & preshow

SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED | PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: February 9, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | January 25, 2017. Artists Repertory Theatre presents the Northwest Premiere of MARJORIE PRIME, a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, by Jordan Harrison. Featuring Vana O'Brien, Chris Harder, Linda Alper and Michael Mendelson, MARJORIE PRIME runs through March 5 on the Alder Stage.

(more)

In this 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.

“Harrison ambitiously explores themes as grand and challenging as our inevitable relationship to Artificial Intelligence technology, the ephemeral nature of memory and the stories we leave behind when we pass from life,” said Artists Rep Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez.

“What we see in this play is an idea of *our current future*,” wrote the play’s director Adriana Baer. “It is not purely science fiction – the inspiration for this play came from Jordan Harrison’s interaction with technology currently available. MARJORIE PRIME inspires audiences to consider our relationships with our devices – not in a negative, Luddite way, but in a curious, thoughtful way.”

On January 23, the [film adaptation](#) of MARJORIE PRIME, written and directed by Michael Almereyda, premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival starring Jon Hamm, Lois Smith, Geena Davis and Tim Robbins.

FROM THE CRITICS:

“It’s the kind of experience that keeps unfolding in the mind long after the 80-minute play is over.”
- *Los Angeles Times*

“A thought-provoking play about memory, its corruption and our insistence that technology help us outwit death.” - *The New York Times*

“Mr. Harrison’s play succeeds as a poignant portrayal of everyday existences, of unexceptional people given just enough characterizing detail to make us fear for their losing what individuality they have.”
- *The New York Times*

“Chilling and poignant” - *Hollywood Reporter*

“Aging, the loss of identity and the thin line between reality and fantasy are but a few of the themes of this thoughtful, poetic work by *Orange Is the New Black* staff writer Harrison.” - *Hollywood Reporter*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Jordan Harrison’s play MARJORIE PRIME, a 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist, premiered at the Mark Taper Forum and recently had its New York premiere at Playwrights Horizons. A film adaptation, directed by Michael Almereyda, will be seen in the Sundance Film Festival. Jordan’s play MAPLE AND VINE premiered in the 2011 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville and went on to productions at American Conservatory Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, among others. His other plays include THE GROWN-UP (2014 Humana Festival), DORIS TO DARLENE, A CAUTIONARY VALENTINE (Playwrights Horizons), AMAZONS AND THEIR MEN (Clubbed Thumb), ACT A LADY (2006 Humana Festival, Portland Center Stage), FINN IN THE UNDERWORLD (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), FUTURA (Portland Center Stage/NAATCO), KID-SIMPLE (2004 Humana Festival), STANDING ON CEREMONY (Minetta Lane Theatre), and THE MUSEUM PLAY (WET). Jordan is the recipient of the 2016 Horton Foote Prize, Guggenheim and Hodder Fellowships, the Kesselring Prize, the Roe Green Award from Cleveland Play House, the Heideman Award, the Loewe Award for Musical Theater, Jerome and McKnight Fellowships, a NYSCA

(more)

grant, and a NEA/TCG Residency with The Empty Space Theater. His children's musical, THE FLEA AND THE PROFESSOR, won the Barrymore Award for Best Production after premiering at the Arden Theatre. A graduate of Stanford University and the Brown MFA program, Jordan is an alumnus of New Dramatists. He is an Affiliated Artist with Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, and The Playwrights' Center. Jordan is a writer/producer for the Netflix original series *Orange is the New Black*.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Previously for Artists Rep, Adriana directed THE PRICE by Arthur Miller. Other Portland credits include DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE and IN THE NEXT ROOM... OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY by Sarah Ruhl, BURIED CHILD and TRUE WEST by Sam Shepard, and THE ROAD TO MECCA and MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA! by Athol Fugard (Profile Theatre, Artistic Director 2012-2015). Other directing credits include WOYZECK (Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), THE MAIDS and NO EXIT at the Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco (Associate Artistic Director, 2004-2007), and productions in New York including ROMEO AND JULIET, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, SEAGULL and THE HAIRY APE (Columbia Stages), and work at Atlantic Theatre Company Stage 2 and The Acting Company. New play development workshops and festivals include Profile Theatre's In Dialogue Series, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Cutting Ball Theater, Primary Stages and The Lark Play Development Center. Additionally, Adriana has worked with Opera Boston, The Public Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Circus Center/Pickle Circus, Theatre Communications Group, American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Theater and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Adriana is an adjunct professor of theatre at Portland State University. She holds a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University.

MARJORIE PRIME

By Jordan Harrison

Directed by Adriana Baer

CAST

Marjorie | Vana O'Brien*^ (THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, BROOMSTICK, 4000 MILES, BLITHE SPIRIT)

Walter | Chris Harder*^ (THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT..., INTIMATE APPAREL)

Tess | Linda Alper*^ (THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, THE PRICE, TRIBES, THE QUALITY OF LIFE)

Jon | Michael Mendelson*^ (TREVOR, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, MOTHERS AND SONS, THE PRICE)

CREATIVE TEAM

Adriana Baer° | Director

Kristeen Willis Crosser | Scenic Designer

Gregory Pulver^ | Costume Designer

Jennifer Lin | Lighting Designer

Em Gustason | Sound Designer

Kaye Blankenship | Props Master

Luan Schooler | Dramaturg

Matt Pavik | Assistant Director

Sarah Kindler | Assistant Scenic Designer

Melinda Roddy | Assistant Costume Designer

(more)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Producer | Shawn Lee
Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis Crosser
Stage Manager | Michelle Jazuk*^
Board Op | Jason Coffey
Production Assistant | Karen Hill+
Wardrobe | Will Bailey
Costumer | Clare Hungate-Hawk
Interim Technical Director | Nathan Crone
Master Carpenter | Eddie Rivera
Master Electrician | Ronan Kilkelly
Scenic Charge | Sarah Kindler

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

° *The director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*

^ *Artists Rep Resident Artist*

+ *Equity Membership Candidate*

GALLERY INSTALLATION

For MARJORIE PRIME – a drama about aging, memories, and identity –The Geezer Gallery presents the art works of 101-year-old Estelle Meadoff with the exhibit “It’s About Time.” A unique element of this exhibition is that the featured collages and paintings are not what build connection to the play, but rather a reflection to the artist herself in terms of themes in the play. As memories fade, Estelle uses her painting to make her memories immortal, to document things that inspire her. In Artists Rep’s Alder Lobby beginning February 7.

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[Artists Repertory Theatre](#)’s mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for artists 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. Artist Rep became the 72nd member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) in May 2016 and is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network (NNPN).

[Artists Rep’s 2016/17 season](#) offers 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 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 company.

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, 24 professionals of varied theatre disciplines, who are a driving force behind Artists Rep’s creative output and identity.

(more)

Artists Rep is committed to developing new work through the recently launched 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 will make a meaningful impact on equity in the arts 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 significant impact on the Portland arts community with its ArtsHub, creating space and offering a home to more than eight multidisciplinary arts organizations within its facility.

[RESIDENT ARTISTS](#) – Artists Rep productions feature the work of a core group of 26 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](#) – Through T|R|S, Artists Rep is committed to becoming an engine for new play development. As a recipient of a \$125,000 Oregon Community Foundation Creative Heights grant to establish a robust new play development program, the company is creating opportunities for local and national playwrights to ensure that underrepresented voices are heard on stage. The T|R|S program will commission a total of eight plays by 2017 – at least four of the eight commissions will go to writers of color, at least four will go to women, one play will be written for young adults and one will be the [Oregon Play Prize](#), awarded to Oregon playwright Steve Rathje for his play SIGNS. Artists Rep has now extended five of the eight play commissions to Yussef El Guindi, Linda Alper, Larissa FastHorse and Andrea Stolowitz.

[ARTSHUB](#) – Artists Rep is also home to the ArtsHub, serving as a community arts center, where its performance venues and lobbies buzz with creative energy and Portland’s arts-loving audiences can gather. Artists Rep offers a home within its facility to a diverse range of artists and arts organizations. They can thrive here with access to affordable administrative, performance and rehearsal space, as well as a myriad of support services. Over the last year, hundreds of performances, events and happenings by Portlanders found a place in Artists Rep’s building.

The 2016/17 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by sponsors Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate and David & Christine Vernier and the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz and Renaissance Foundations. Sponsors for MARJORIE PRIME include: An anonymous donor and Jon & Jan Swanson. Other season support comes from the Collins Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Theatre Communication Group and the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art.

###