



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicole Lane

nlane@artistsrep.org | 360.601.4298

Artists Rep takes on Climate Science in Epic Play set in South Pole

MAGELLANICA

World Premiere by award-winning Oregon playwright E.M. Lewis

- WHO:** Artists Repertory Theatre
- WHAT:** [MAGELLANICA](#)
By E.M. Lewis
Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez
Play includes five parts.
Three 10-minute intermissions and one 25-minute dinner break.
Runtime is approximately 6 hours.
Limited Run. Only 18 performances.
- WHEN:** January 20 – February 18, 2018
Preview Performances: Jan 20 & 21 at 2pm, Jan 25 & 26 at 5:30pm
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, Jan 27 at 2pm
Regular run Jan 27 through Feb 18:
Thursdays & Fridays: Feb 1 – 16 at 5:30pm
Saturdays & Sundays: Jan 27 – Feb 18 at 2pm
- WHERE:** Artists Repertory Theatre, Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison St., Portland
- TICKETS:** \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org
- DINNER:** [Dinner Break meals](#) purchased separately, at least four days in advance, through the box office.
- PREVIEW PERFORMANCE SPECIALS:**
All Preview Performances are \$25 and feature Happy Hours sponsored by Dark Horse wine and Lagunitas Beer.
Fertile Ground Festival of New Works performances on Jan 20 & 21.
- SHOW IMAGES ATTACHED:** Design credit Jeff Hayes
- PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE:** January 25, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | December 15, 2017. Artists Rep presents the World Premiere of *Magellanica*, by E.M. Lewis, directed by Dámaso Rodríguez from January 20 through February 18 on the theatre's Morrison Stage. *Magellanica* is a five-part epic play written by Oregon playwright E.M. Lewis. This production is made possible through major funding from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Creative Heights Initiative and the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. *Magellanica* is a part of the [Fertile Ground Festival of New Works](#).

In 1986, scientists and engineers from around the world converge at the South Pole Research Station to figure out, among other things, if there really is a hole in the sky. In the darkest, coldest, most dangerous place on Earth, eight imperfect souls are trapped together. Utterly isolated from the outside world for eight and a half months, this research team must face life or death challenges, their own inner demons and depend upon each other for survival.

With epic scope in the tradition of *The Kentucky Cycle* or *Angels in America*, this play takes its inspiration from the true story of the discovery of the hole in the ozone layer at the height of the Cold War. Part historical adventure, part love story and mystical foray into the unknown, Lewis has constructed a demanding, five-part epic that tackles issues of political, social and scientific urgency on a global scale. As Lewis says, "It has scientists as heroes. It's about the importance of truth. It's about a world that can either tear apart or come together for its own survival."

"*Magellanica* falls into that rare category of plays that becomes more relevant with each news cycle," says Artistic Director and Director of the production Dámaso Rodríguez, "the play grips you from its first moment and the five acts fly by. A piece of this magnitude doesn't get produced every day, and requires in-depth exploration from all sides."

Artists Rep is committed to premiering this piece because of its timely importance as tensions mount between the United States and Russia, the clock ticks on the warming planet and divisions widen between cultures. It's a vital story for today and an extraordinary excursion for audiences to the ends of the Earth.

FOUNDATION AWARDS

Artists Rep received two major gifts in support of the World Premiere production of *Magellanica*. The Oregon Community Foundation Creative Heights Initiative awarded the company \$75,000 and the Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards awarded \$44,000 through the Theatre Communications Group.

The scale and complexity of the piece required that Artists Rep seek special "risk capital" for *Magellanica*, above and beyond the theatre's typical contributed income. While the play has received developmental work at multiple theatres, no theatre has taken on the challenge of producing it. With a play that extends past the five hour mark and includes a large cast working in multiple languages, *Magellanica* needed three additional weeks of rehearsal. The technical and aesthetic demands of the design and the narrative structure also add complexity and expense. The Edgerton Foundation funded the additional rehearsal weeks, and OCF's Creative Heights Award funded the increased production expense and covers some of the risk the theatre is taking on earned income, as the play's length dictates a shortened run and fewer performances than a typical play would receive.

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Over the last 11 years, the Edgerton Foundation has supported an extended rehearsal process for 385 World Premiere productions. Through this support, many plays have scheduled numerous subsequent productions, with 27 making it to Broadway. Fifteen plays were nominated for Tony Awards, with *All the Way*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *Oslo* winning the best play or musical awards. Nine plays have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, with *Next to Normal* winning in 2010, *Water by the Spoonful* in 2012, *The Flick* winning in 2014, and *Hamilton* winning in 2016.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

E. M. LEWIS is an award-winning playwright, teacher, and librettist. Her work has been produced around the world, and is published by Samuel French. She received the Steinberg Award for *Song of Extinction* and the Primus Prize for Heads from the American Theater Critics Association, the Ted Schmitt Award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle for outstanding writing of a world premiere play, an L.A. Weekly Award for Production of the Year, a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, a playwriting fellowship from the New Jersey State Arts Commission, and the 2016 Oregon Literary Fellowship in Drama. Her play *Now Comes the Night* was part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival in Washington DC, and was published in the anthology *Best Plays from Theater Festivals 2016*. *The Gun Show* premiered in Chicago in 2014, and has since been produced in more than a dozen theatres across the country, including Coho Theatre in Portland, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland; it was published in *The Best American Short Plays 2015-2016*. Other plays by Lewis include: *Infinite Black Suitcase*, *Goodbye, Ruby Tuesday*, *Reading to Vegetables*, *True Story*, *Apple Season*, and *You Can See All the Stars* (a play for college students commissioned by the Kennedy Center). In 2018, Lewis' epic Antarctica play, *Magellanica*, will have its World Premiere at Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland. *How the Light Gets In* will have a reading in the Fertile Ground Festival. *Song of Extinction* will have a reading at the Portland Civic Theater Guild. And Lewis will spend five weeks in residence at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, teaching playwriting and working with students on the workshop production of a big, new political play set in her home state of Oregon called *The Great Divide*. In addition, Lewis will premiere *Town Hall*, a new opera written with composer Theo Popov, at the University of Maryland Opera Studio in February, and continue to work on a full-length, family-friendly opera, written with composer Evan Meier, commissioned by American Lyric Theater, called *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant*. Lewis is a proud member of LineStorm Playwrights, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

DÁMASO RODRÍGUEZ is in his fifth year as Artistic Director of Artists Repertory Theatre. In 2001 he co-founded the Los Angeles-based Furious Theatre Company, where he served as Co-Artistic Director until 2012. From 2007-2010 he served as Associate Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse. His directing credits include work at Artists Rep, Playwrights' Center, the Pasadena Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, A Noise Within, The Theatre@Boston Court, Naked Angels and Furious Theatre. Rodriguez is a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, the Back Stage Garland Award, the NAACP Theatre Award and the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award. His productions have been nominated for multiple LA Weekly Theatre Awards and LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards. In 2012, Rodriguez was honored by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation as a Finalist for the Zelda Fichandler Award. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

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Directing credits at Artists Rep include the World Premiere musical *Cuba Libre* by Carlos Lacámara featuring the music of three-time Grammy-nominated band Tiempo Libre; the Portland premieres of Stephen Karam's *The Humans*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *An Octoroon* (co-director), Nick Jones' *Trevor*, David Ives' adaptation of Pierre Corneille's *The Liar*, Nina Raine's *Tribes* and *Exiles* by Carlos Lacámara; the U.S. premiere of Dawn King's *Foxfinder*; the West Coast premieres of Charise Castro Smith's *Feathers and Teeth*, Jeffrey Hatcher's *Ten Chimneys* and Dan LeFranc's *The Big Meal*; and revivals of *The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder, *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson and *The Playboy of the Western World* by J.M. Synge. Credits at other theatres include productions by contemporary and classic playwrights including Craig Wright, Neil LaBute, Matt Pelfrey, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Richard Bean, Owen McCafferty, Alex Jones, William Shakespeare, Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Noel Coward, Bernard Shaw, Clifford Odets and Lillian Hellman. Upcoming directing projects for Rodríguez are *Magellanica* by E.M. Lewis at Artists Rep, *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and *We, the Invisibles* by Susan Soon He Stanton at Actors Theatre of Louisville. www.damaso-rodriguez.com/

MAGELLANICA

By E.M. Lewis

Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez

CAST

Vin Shambry*^ as Captain Adam Burrell | *Intimate Apparel*, *Superior Donuts* (Artists Rep), *The Gun Show* (CoHo Theatre, international tour)

John San Nicolas*^ as Freddie De La Rosa | *An Octoroon*, *The Talented Ones*, *Trevor* (Artists Rep)

Michael Mendelson*^ as Dr. Vadik Chapayev | *An Octoroon*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Mothers and Sons* (Artists Rep)

Sara Hennessy* as Dr. Morgan Halsted | *Caught*, *Feathers and Teeth*, *Cuba Libre* (Artists Rep)

Allen Nause*^ as Dr. Todor Kozlek | *The Big Meal*, *The Gin Game*, *No Man's Land* (Artists Rep)

Eric Pargac* as Dr. Lars Brotten | *Paradise Lost* (Intiman Theatre), *Canned Peaches in Syrup*, *Grace* (Furious Theatre, founding ensemble member)

Joshua J. Weinstein*^ as Dr. William Huffington | *We Are Proud to Present...*, *Tribes*, *Foxfinder* (Artists Rep)

Barbie Wu⁺ as Dr. May Zhou | *The Mermaid Hour* (Milagro Theatre), *Mother Courage* (Oregon Contemporary Theatre), *Slavs!* (Southern Methodist University)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Dámaso Rodríguez~

Scenic Designer | Stephanie Kerley Schwartz #

Costume Designer | Bobby Brewer-Wallin ^

Lighting Designer | Carl Faber #

Composer & Sound Designer | Rodolfo Ortega ^

Projection Designer | Megan Wilkerson #^

Dramaturg | Luan Schooler

Voice & Text Director | Mary McDonald-Lewis ^

Resident Fight Choreographer | Jonathan Cole~

Stage Manager | Jamie Lynne Simons *

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Assistant Director | Tamera Lyn
Props Master | Robert Amico
Assistant Lighting Designer: Trevor Sargent
Assistant Stage Manager: Michelle Jazuk *^

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Producer | Shawn Lee
Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Crosser
Board Op | David Peterson
Production Assistant: Karen Hill +
Wardrobe | Clare Hungate-Hawk
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 scenic, costume, lighting, projection & sound designers are represented by United Scenic Artists
~ *Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*
^ *Artists Rep Resident Artist*
+ *Equity Membership Candidate*

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[Artists Repertory Theatre](#)'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 Scherm* 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.

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
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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 and Media Sponsor The Oregonian. *Magellanica* is the recipient of a 2017 Edgerton New Play Award and an Oregon Community Foundation Creative Heights grant with additional support from show sponsors the Kinsman Foundation, Steve Fenwick & Martha Wilson and Karl & Linda Boekelheide.

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