

# ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

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## Artists Rep presents Horror Genre-Inspired Comedy **FEATHERS AND TEETH** by Charise Castro Smith

**WHO:** Artists Repertory Theatre  
**WHAT:** [FEATHERS AND TEETH](#)  
By Charise Castro Smith.  
Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez.  
**WHEN:** March 7 – April 2, 2017  
Preview performances: March 7, 8, 9, 10  
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, March 11  
Regular run through April 2: Wed-Sun @ 7:30pm, Sundays @ 2pm  
Tuesday performance: March 28 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday matinee: March 22 @ noon  
Accessibility Performances: Sun, March 26 @ 7:30pm (Open Captioned); Sat, April 1 @ 2pm (ASL Interpreted)  
Post-show discussions follow Sun 2pm matinee performances; noon  
**WHERE:** Artists Repertory Theatre, Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison Street, Portland  
**TICKETS:** \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25  
PREVIEW WEEK SPECIALS  
Pay-What-You-Can First Preview performance: Tuesday, March 7  
\$10 book ahead or PWYC at the door  
Preview Play & Pizza: Wednesday, March 8  
\$25 ticket & FREE slice of HotLips Pizza  
Preview Play & Beer: Thursday, March 9  
\$25 ticket & Lagunitas Beer  
Preview Play & Happy Hour + Live Music: Friday, March 10  
p:ear Partner Performance: Tuesday, March 28  
\$40 ticket, \$20 goes to [p:ear](#)  
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or [www.artistsrep.org](http://www.artistsrep.org)  
**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
Post Show Discussions | Sundays after 2pm matinee + Wed, March 22 @ noon + TBA  
Pre Show Music | See website for schedule  
**SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED:** graphic credit, Jeff Hayes  
**PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE:** March 9, 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | February 14, 2017.** Artists Repertory Theatre presents the Northwest Premiere of FEATHERS AND TEETH by Charise Castro Smith, directed by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez. Previews performances begin March 7, the play opens March 11 and runs through April 2 on the Morrison Stage.

FEATHERS AND TEETH is a stew of dark comedy, family drama and fantastical horror that makes for a crackling good time. It's 1978 and young Chris is reeling from her mom's illness and recent death. Throw in dad's new girlfriend (mom's ex-nurse!), a few freaky little creatures and the boy next door, and things really get out of hand. Part monster tale and revenge tragedy, the highly theatrical FEATHERS AND TEETH delivers a meaty exploration of grief and obsession.

Artists Rep's production features acclaimed child actor Agatha Day Olson as the play's 13-year-old protagonist, along with Darius Pierce making his Artists Rep debut as her father, Sara Hennessy as the intruding new girlfriend and the young Dámaso J. Rodríguez as the boy-next-door, Hugo. The titular creatures featured throughout the play are voiced live at every performance by actor Nelda Reyes as part of Composer and Sound Designer Rodolfo Ortega's intricate soundscape. The production requires highly theatrical animation sequences created by Animation and Projection Designer Andrés Alcalá which were inspired by the drawings of Chagall and Lorca.

"Be prepared for Castro Smith's pitch dark comedy, heightened theatrical style and subversive intentions," said director Dámaso Rodríguez at the play's first rehearsal. "On the surface, this play is a lot of fun, with its nostalgic 1970s setting and its outrageous blend of sitcom, fairytale and monster movie plot, but I invite you to look beneath this façade. FEATHERS AND TEETH has more in common with HAMLET than *The Brady Bunch*."

#### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

CHARISE CASTRO SMITH is a playwright, television writer and actor from Miami, currently residing in Los Angeles. Playwriting credits include: FEATHERS AND TEETH (Goodman Theater/ Developed at Atlantic Theater Company), ESTRELLA CRUZ [THE JUNKYARD QUEEN] (Ars Nova/ Yale Cabaret/ Halycon Theatre), THE HUNCHBACK OF SEVILLE (Washington Ensemble Theater/ Trinity Repertory Theatre), WASHETERIA (Soho Rep) and BOOMCRACKLEFLY (Miracle Theatre). She is currently under commission by South Coast Rep and Trinity Repertory Theatre, and is developing a new drama series at ABC. Select acting credits include ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (Royal Shakespeare Company/ Public Theater), AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE (Baltimore Center Stage) and THE GOOD WIFE (CBS). Charise is the recipient of a Van Lier Fellowship at New Dramatists, and is an alumna of Ars Nova's Playgroup and New George's The Jam. MFA: Yale School of Drama, BA: Brown University.

#### **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

DÁMASO RODRÍGUEZ is in his fourth 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. Rodríguez 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, Rodríguez 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).

Directing credits at Artists Rep include 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, the World Premiere musical CUBA LIBRE featuring the music of three-time Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre, the Portland premieres of Nick Jones' TREVOR, David Ives' adaptation of Pierre Corneille's THE LIAR, Nina Raine's TRIBES, EXILES by Carlos Lácámara, the U.S. premiere of Dawn King's FOXFINDER, and the West Coast premieres of Jeffrey Hatcher's TEN CHIMNEYS and Dan LeFranc's THE BIG MEAL. 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. [www.damaso-rodriguez.com/](http://www.damaso-rodriguez.com/)

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## **FEATHERS AND TEETH**

By Charise Castro Smith

Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez

### **CAST**

Sara Hennessy\* as Carol | THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, CUBA LIBRE, BLITHE SPIRIT  
Agatha Day Olson+ as Chris | THE MIRACLE WORKER, THE NETHER (Third Rail Rep), THE BIG MEAL  
Darius Pierce\* as Arthur | SANTALAND DIARIES, STUPID F\*\*\*ING BIRD (PCS, Woolly Mammoth)  
Dámaso J. Rodríguez as Hugo Schmidt | THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, A CHRISTMAS CAROL (A Noise Within)  
Nelda Reyes as Creature Voices | THE SUN SERPENT (NWCT), VIVA LA REVOLUCION (Milagro)  
Sarah Taylor as Voice of Ellie

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Dámaso Rodríguez° | Director  
Megan Wilkerson#^ | Scenic Designer  
Sarah Gahagan | Costume Designer  
Kristeen Willis Crosser# | Lighting Designer  
Rodolfo Ortega^ | Composer/Sound Designer  
Andrés Alcalá | Projection Designer  
Emily Wilken | Props Master  
Jonathan Cole | Fight Choreographer  
Luan Schooler | Dramaturg  
Mary McDonald-Lewis^ | Voice & Text Director  
Nelda Reyes | Assistant Director  
Trevor Sargent | Assistant Scenic Designer  
Alex Platcher | Assistant Costume Designer

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Artistic Producer | Shawn Lee  
Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis Crosser  
Stage Manager | Carol Ann Wohlmut\*^  
Board Op | Dave Petersen

Production Assistant | Charlie Capps  
Wardrobe | Will Bailey  
Costumer | 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*

*° Stage Director and Choreographers Society*

*# The scenic, costume, lighting, projection & sound designers are represented by United Scenic Artists*

*^ Artists Rep Resident Artist*

*+ Equity Membership Candidate*

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## **FRESH EYES**

Artists Rep brings volunteers into the rehearsal process to bring a fresh, outside perspective to the process of bringing a script to the stage with [Fresh Eyes](#), a program of Table|Room|Stage. For FEATHERS AND TEETH, our Fresh Eyes volunteers are Anthony Hudson and Elizabeth Tavares. Learn about them and read their ongoing impressions about the creation process of FEATHERS AND TEETH on [the Fresh Eyes blog](#)

## **GALLERY INSTALLATION**

For FEATHERS AND TEETH, Geezer Gallery will present the “Vagary” exhibition. The play exposes the rawest feelings of comfort and pain in love and loss from the distorted view of a teenage girl accepting the new role of her stepmother. Reflected in the work of the five selected artists is the theme of conflicting light and dark, beauty and monstrosity. With a range of works including paintings, encaustic, hand-painted prints and intricate sculptures, a sense of delicacy is captured that challenges the dark subject matter in many of the pieces. This aims to reflect the fragility of the relationships and impending doom we anticipate with the outcome of Castro Smith’s FEATHERS AND TEETH. Side by side, these juxtaposed elements elevate the meaning of the works from something familiar to something far more impenetrable.

The exhibit runs March 7 through May 6 with the mixed media work of Gene Flores (Hand-painted prints), Dianne Erickson (Encaustics), Devin Bernard (Painting), Chayo Wilson (Sculpture), Francene Levinson (Modular paper folding sculpture). Artists Reception is on March 15 at 6:30pm.

## **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 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 35<sup>th</sup> season is announced, the 2017/18 play selections 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.

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 10 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](#) – 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 year-end 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](#), which was awarded to Oregon playwright Steve Rathje for his play SIGNS. Artists Rep has announced 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. 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.

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

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