



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicole Lane

nlane@artistsrep.org | 360.601.4298

**Artists Rep with Portland production of Stephen Karam's
Tony Award Winning Play**

THE HUMANS

The small family dinner that made big waves on Broadway

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre
WHAT: [THE HUMANS](#)
By Stephen Karam
Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez
WHEN: November 19 – December 17, 2017
Preview performances: November 19, 21, 22, 24
No performance Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, Nov. 25
Regular run Nov. 19 through Dec. 17: Wed-Sun @ 7:30pm, Sun @ 2pm
Additional performances:
Tuesdays: Nov. 21 and Dec. 12 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday: Dec. 6 @ noon
Saturday: Dec. 16 @ 2pm
Sunday: Dec. 17 @ 2pm
Open Captioned Performance: Sunday, Dec. 10 @ 2pm
WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, Morrison Stage, 1515 SW Morrison Street, Portland
TICKETS: \$50 regular price; \$25 preview/student/under 25
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

PREVIEW WEEK SPECIALS

Sounday Sunday | Pay-What-You-Can First Preview with music from [United by Music](#):
Nov. 19
-\$5-\$25 sliding scale to book ahead or PWYC at the door, preshow live music
Ten Buck Tuesday: Nov. 21
-\$10 ticket
Wine Down Wednesday | Preview Play Price & Wine: Nov. 22
-\$25 ticket & Dark Horse wine
(more)

Happy Hour Friday | Preview Play Price & Beer: Nov. 24
-\$25 ticket & Lagunitas Beer

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pre Show Music | Soundy Sunday first preview 11/19 @ 6:30pm featuring [United by Music](#)

Post Show Discussions | Follow matinees on Nov. 26, Dec. 3*, 10 & 17

**with Oregon Psychoanalytic Center*

SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED: Design credit Jeff Hayes

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: November 23, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | November 1, 2017. Artists Rep presents the 2016 Tony Award winner for Best New Play *The Humans*, by Stephen Karam, directed by Dámaso Rodríguez from November 19 through December 17 on the theatre's intimate Morrison Stage. Artists Rep is one of the first regional theatres in the nation to produce *The Humans* featuring a local cast and design team.

It's the small dinner party that made big waves on Broadway about a fractured family at its not-so-finest. *The Humans* layers the fabric of a family's past as they gather at the New York Chinatown apartment of the youngest daughter and her boyfriend for a holiday meal. As the Blake family pokes at old wounds and forcibly stumbles through treasured traditions, tensions bubble over, secrets fight their way to the surface, and the world creaks curiously around them.

"I had the opportunity to experience *The Humans* in its Broadway run and marveled at how Karam had made a living document, a time capsule, of our early 21st Century American experience in the same way that Clifford Odets did of the 1930s and Arthur Miller of the 1940s and 1950s," said play director and Artists Rep Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez. "I immediately wanted to share the experience with our Portland audiences in Artists Rep's intimate venue. That we're opening our production on Thanksgiving weekend just as families begin to gather for seasonal celebrations is perfect timing."

Rodríguez continues: "Running 90 minutes, real-time, *The Humans* is a hyper-realistic imitation of life. With humor and compassion, Karam masterfully evokes the ubiquitous anxieties of the U.S. middle class – from health stresses to class tensions to an uncertain financial future – within the three generations of the Blake family. I know I see myself, my siblings, cousins, parents and grandparents represented in this family on stage – and I believe audiences will, too."

The Humans cast includes Resident Artists Val Landrum, John San Nicolas and Vana O'Brien, Portland actors Luisa Sermol and Quinlan Fitzgerald, and Seattle-area actor Robert Pescovitz. Along with director Dámaso Rodríguez, the production's Portland creative team includes Megan Wilkerson (Scenic Design), Gregory Pulver (Costume Design), Kristeen Crosser (Light Design), Phil Johnson (Sound Design), Mary McDonald-Lewis (Voice & Text Director) along with Luan Schooler serving as Dramaturg and Roy Arauz as Assistant Director.

The Humans is the second play by Stephen Karam produced by Artists Rep. In 2008, Karam's *Speech and Debate* enjoyed sold-out houses and an extended run.

(more)

NATIONAL REVIEWS

“There is so much love, dread, tenderness and brutality in *The Humans*...deeply-felt family tragicomedy thriller...” - *Newsday*

“Stephen Karam's kind, warm, beautifully observed and deeply moving new play [is] a celebration of working-class familial imperfection and affection and a game-changing work for this gifted young playwright.” - *Chicago Tribune*

“[A] blisteringly funny, bruisingly sad and altogether wonderful play.” - *The New York Times*

“[A] beautiful, funny-sad and ultimately wrenching portrait of a troubled lower-middle-class Pennsylvania family.” - *The Hollywood Reporter*

“[The play succeeds in] finding gorgeous balance between humor and sadness, love and disappointment, hope and dread, solace and hollow desolation.” - *The Hollywood Reporter*

“Drawn in subtle but indelible strokes, Mr. Karam’s play might almost qualify as deep-delving reportage, so clearly does it illuminate the current, tremor-ridden landscape of contemporary America.” - *The New York Times*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

STEPHEN KARAM is the author of *Sons Of The Prophet*, which recently ended its extended Off-Broadway run at the Laura Pels Theater in New York City (Roundabout Theatre Company) following its debut at the Huntington Theatre Company. Other plays include *Speech & Debate* (the inaugural production of Roundabout Underground); *Columbinus* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Girl On Girl* (Brown/Trinity Playwrights Rep); and *Emma* (a modern, musical version of Jane Austen's novel), performed by students at the Professional Performing Arts High School in NYC in association with Waterwell (published by Playscripts, Inc.). His other plays are published by Dramatists Play Service, American Theatre Magazine, Northwestern University Press and Dramatic Publishing Co.; his freelance writing has appeared in NY Magazine, The Advocate and McSweeneys.net. He is the author of the libretto for *Dark Sisters*, an original chamber opera with composer Nico Muhly (co-produced by Gotham Chamber Opera, MTG and Opera Company of Philadelphia). A MacDowell Colony Fellow, Stephen grew up in Scranton, PA and is a graduate of Brown University.

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).

(more)

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 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; and *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. www.damaso-rodriguez.com/

THE HUMANS

By Stephen Karam

Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez

CAST

Luisa Sermol* as Dierdre Blake | *Cuba Libre, Xmas Unplugged, Lost Boy, Three Sisters* (Artists Rep)
Val Landrum*^ as Aimee Blake | *The Miracle Worker, American Hero, A Civil War Christmas* (Artists Rep)
John San Nicolas*^ as Richard Saad | *An Octoroon, The Talented Ones, Trevor* (Artists Rep)
Vana O'Brien*^ as Fiona "Momo" Blake | *Marjorie Prime, Blithe Spirit, Superior Donuts* (Artists Rep)
Robert Pescovitz* as Erik Blake | *Bad Samaritan, The Librarians, Grimm, Without a Trace* (Film&TV)
Quinlan Fitzgerald+ as Brigid Blake | *The Angry Brigade* (Third Rail), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Portland Playhouse), *Trails* (Broadway Rose)

CREATIVE TEAM

Dámaso Rodríguez~ | Director
Megan Wilkerson#^ | Scenic Designer
Gregory Pulver^ | Costume Designer
Kristeen Crosser# | Lighting Designer
Phil Johnson | Composer/Sound Designer
Luan Schooler | Dramaturg
Mary McDonald-Lewis^ | Voice & Text Director
Carol Ann Wohlmut*^ | Resident Stage Manager
Roy Arauz | Assistant Director
Katrina Lind | Props Master
Colin Moore | Scenic Design Intern

(more)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Producer | Shawn Lee

Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis Crosser

Board Op | Alan Cline

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 Schmeer* 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 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.

(more)

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. *The Humans* is made possible by show sponsors Tom Gifford & Patti Fisher and Rosalie & Ed Tank and Hotel deLuxe.

artistsrep.org

###