



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Award-Winning playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Returns to Artists Rep with 2018 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

EVERYBODY

Audacious, Soul-Searching Comedy with Roles Assigned by Lottery

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: [EVERYBODY](#)
By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Directed by Jessica Wallenfels & Dámaso Rodríguez

WHEN: November 25, 2018 – December 30, 2018
Preview Performances: Nov. 25, 27, 28, 29, 30
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, Dec. 1 @ 7:30pm
Regular run Dec. 2 through Dec. 30
Wednesdays-Sundays @ 7:30pm, Sundays @ 2pm
Additional Performances:
 Tuesdays: Dec. 11 & 18 @ 7:30pm
 Saturday Matinees: Dec. 8, 22, 29 @ 2pm
 Wednesday: Dec. 12 @ noon
Post-Matinee Talkbacks:
 Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23* – post 2pm performances
 Dec. 12 – post noon performance
 *Oregon Psychoanalytic Center
Post-Show Discussion “Tech Talk” with show designers: Wednesday, Nov. 28
Open Captioned Performance: Dec. 22 @ 2pm
Closing Performance: Dec. 30 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, Alder Stage, 1516 SW Alder St., Portland

TICKETS: \$60 regular price; \$30 preview/student/under 35
Artists Rep participates in [Arts for All](#) and the [Multnomah County Library’s Discovery Pass Program](#).
Buy Tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

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PREVIEW PERFORMANCE SPECIALS:

- Nov. 25: Sunday Souday – Pay-What-You-Will + pre-show music with [Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble](#) @ 6:30pm
- Nov. 27: Ten Buck Tuesday – \$10 ticket
- Nov. 28: Wine Down Wednesday – \$30 ticket + a glass of Dark Horse wine
- Nov. 29: Thirsty Thursday – \$30 ticket + Lagunitas beer
- Nov. 30: Foodie Friday – \$30 ticket + discounted food at ArtBar

BOOK & FILM LIST: [Play-inspired recommendations](#) by Multnomah County Library staff

SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED: Design credit – Jeff Hayes, Kisha Jarrett, Mary Beth Leavens

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Nov. 29, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | November 7, 2018. Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Everybody*, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama. The production is co-directed by Jessica Wallenfels and Dámaso Rodríguez, and is an inventive twist on a medieval morality play. *Everybody* runs from November 25 through December 30 on the Alder Stage.

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, a two-time Obie Award winner, a MacArthur “Genius Grant” Award recipient, and was awarded the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, among many other honors. Artists Rep’s 2017/18 season opened with the much-lauded Jacobs-Jenkins satire *An Octoroon*, which was co-directed by Rodríguez and Lava Alapai.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Death tells *Everybody* that their time is up. But *Everybody* doesn’t want to greet Death alone, so *Everybody* seeks the company of their friends Stuff, Kinship, Friendship, Cousinship, and Love to make the trip bearable. From the scintillating mind that brought you *An Octoroon*, *Everybody* is an audacious riff on the 15th century morality play *Everyman*. Of the robust 10-person cast, five brave actors will play a multitude of roles with their characters chosen by lottery onstage every night — with a possible 120 combinations — as they fight to cheat Death.

“Let’s start with a spoiler, the ultimate spoiler: *Everybody* dies.”

- Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

“*Everybody* is 90 minutes of theatrical whimsy.”

- Robert Hofler, *The Wrap*

“With *Everybody*, Jacobs-Jenkins has written a play about love—or, rather, a play that shows how impossible it is to write about love—and it fills the heart in a new and unexpected way.”

- Hilton Als, *The New Yorker*

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FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

“In *Everybody*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s modern, funny, and haunting riff on the archetypal medieval morality play *Everyman*, Death comes for Everybody, and they’re not ready to go,” said *Everybody* **Co-Director and Artists Rep Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez**. “Unfortunately, for us all, the moment we face the end of life is determined by chance. It’s a universal truth that unites us. And at every performance of *Everybody*, the casting will also be left up to chance. Five of the actors in this cast of 10 will be assigned their role on stage during the performance, including the title role. There are 120 possible combinations and the resulting role assignments will create specific adjustments to every aspect of the performance, including dialogue, characterization, choreography, technical cues, costumes, and props. I’m inspired by plays that break free from formula and, to a certain extent, that are a mystery to me as I begin producing and rehearsing them. Any theatre performance you’ll ever attend is fueled by adrenaline and nervous energy, and is to some degree wholly unique, but you’re unlikely to experience a fully staged piece of theatre with so much left to chance.”

“A reminder of the present moment is what I think theatre does best while providing the insight to change the course of the future in the next instant,” said *Everybody* **Co-Director Jessica Wallenfels**. “*Everybody* uses randomness to point to the universality at the core of humanity. For example, the people working on this production, by my estimation, span ages from 10 to 69. It is perhaps our differences of all kinds that are most instructive in this life and present us with our chance to grow. Looking at *Everybody*, I recognize the desperation, the negotiating, and the avoidance patterns that apparently humans have engaged in since at least medieval times. I can laugh about those flaws, especially through Jacobs-Jenkins’s telling of this funny-sad-serious-wacky play, and I can see myself within the timeless pattern of humankind’s folly.”

Everybody is sponsored by Charlotte Rubin, Bob & Janet Conklin, and Hotel deLuxe.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s plays include *Everybody* (Signature Theatre; [Pulitzer Prize finalist](#)), *War* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Appropriate* (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep; Obie Award), and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). A Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre, his most recent honors include the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright from the London Evening Standard, a London Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwriting, a MacArthur fellowship, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, the Benjamin Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award. He sits on the board of Soho Rep and, with Annie Baker, he is an associate co-director of the Hunter College MFA program in playwriting.

- 2017 [The New Yorker interview](#) with Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, by Hilton Als
- 2017 [Observer interview](#) with Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, by Harry Haun
- 2016 [The Guardian interview](#) with Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, by David Smith

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ABOUT THE CO-DIRECTORS

JESSICA WALLenfELS is a director/choreographer and educator. Wallenfels works as a freelance director and creates new work that is music and movement-driven with her company, Many Hats Collaboration. Recent projects include co-directing the new musical *Scarlet* at Portland Playhouse, and directing *Ella Enchanted* and *Pete the Cat* for Oregon Children's Theatre. Selected choreography credits include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Playhouse, Artists Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. Wallenfels directed the original work *The Snowstorm*, which won the Drammy Award for Best Production in 2015. She has guest directed at Portland State University, Willamette University, Western Oregon University, and others. Wallenfels teaches movement and devising with Staged! and the Portland Playhouse apprentice program. She holds a BFA from California Institute of the Arts and an MFA in directing from the University of Portland. Upcoming projects include *The Undertaking* through Many Hats, to debut in the Fertile Ground Festival 2019, and *Into the Woods* at Broadway Rose.

DÁMASO RODRÍGUEZ is in his sixth season as artistic director of Artists Repertory Theatre. He is a co-founder of the Los Angeles-based Furious Theatre Company, where he served as co-artistic director from 2001-12. From 2007-10 he served as associate artistic director of Pasadena Playhouse. His directing credits include work at Pasadena Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, A Noise Within, The Playwrights' Center, The Theatre @ Boston Court, and Furious Theatre. Rodríguez is a recipient of an LA Drama Critics Circle Award, *Back Stage* Garland Award, NAACP Theatre Award, and Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award.

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 World Premiere production of E.M. Lewis's five-part epic *Magellanica*; the Portland premieres of Stephen Karam's *The Humans*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's *An Octoroon* (co-director), Nick Jones's *Trevor*, David Ives's 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. His upcoming projects include *Mi Cuba* (in development) by Caridad Svich at American Conservatory Theatre, and the World Premiere of *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung at Artists Rep. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).
damasorodriguez.com

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EVERYBODY

By [Branden Jacobs-Jenkins](#)

Co-Directed by [Jessica Wallenfels](#) & [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)

CAST

All parts are ensemble

[Alex Blesi](#)~ | *Boeing, Boeing, Making God Laugh* (Prairie Repertory Theatre)

[Andrea Vernae](#) + | *An Octoroon, A Civil War Christmas* (Artists Rep); *Building the Wall* (Triangle Productions); *Pen/Man/Ship, Peter and the Starcatcher* (Portland Playhouse); *The Every 28 Hours Plays* (Confrontation Theatre); *Antigone Project* (Profile Theatre)

[Barbie Wu](#) ± | *Magellanica* (Artists Rep); *The Mermaid Hour* (Milagro Theatre); *Mother Courage* (Oregon Contemporary Theatre); *Slavs!* (Southern Methodist University)

[Eva Rodríguez](#) | *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Artists Rep); *Alice Inside Out in Wonderland* (Northwest Children's Theatre In-School Playlab)

[Falynn Burton](#) ~ | *Hurl* (Corrib Theatre); *A Woman Called Truth, Black Nativity* (Bonstelle Theatre)

[John San Nicolas](#) +^ | *Small Mouth Sounds, Magellanica, The Humans, An Octoroon, The Talented Ones, A Civil War Christmas, Grand Concourse, Trevor, The Liar, The Invisible Hand, Exiles, The Motherfucker with the Hat* (Artists Rep); *Twist Your Dickens, Cymbeline* (PCS); *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Portland Playhouse)

[Michael Mendelson](#) +*^ | *Small Mouth Sounds, Magellanica, An Octoroon, Marjorie Prime, Trevor, Mothers and Sons, The Price, Tribes, The Quality of Life, Mistakes Were Made, Ten Chimneys, Red Herring, Sherlock Holmes and The Case of The Christmas Carol, God Of Carnage, Superior Donuts* (Artists Rep)

[Sara Hennessy](#) + | *Magellanica, Caught, Feathers and Teeth, The Skin of Our Teeth, Cuba Libre, Blithe Spirit, Intimate Apparel, Foxfinder* (Artists Rep)

[Sarah Lucht](#) +^ | *The Thanksgiving Play, The Importance of Being Earnest, Trevor, The Skin of Our Teeth, Ten Chimneys, And So It Goes, Othello, Design for Living* (Artists Rep); *Bus Stop, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Gypsy* (Portland Center Stage); *God of Carnage, Noises Off, Inspecting Carol* (Lakewood Theatre)

[Ted Rooney](#) + | *A Civil War Christmas* (Artists Rep); *Quietly* (Corrib Theatre); 35 TV guest-star credits, over 20 principal film roles, and over 35 commercials

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CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Director | [Jessica Wallenfels](#)
Co-Director | [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)*
Scenic Designer | [Tim Stapleton](#)
Costume Designer | [Bobby Brewer-Wallin](#)[^]
Lighting Designer | [Kristeen Willis Crosser](#)[#]
Sound Designer | [Phil Johnson](#)
Intimacy Consultant | [Amanda K Cole](#)
Dramaturg | [Pancho Savery](#)
Assistant Director | [Joel Patrick Durham](#)
Assistant Scenic Designer | [Samie Pfeifer](#)
Stage Manager | [Michelle Jazuk](#)^{+^}
Assistant Stage Manager | [Jamie Lynne Simons](#)⁺
Props Master, Puppet Design & Fabrication | [Robert Amico](#)
Production Assistant | [Ariela Subar](#)
Youth Coordinator | Haley Hanson
Board Op | Alan Cline

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Director | Shawn Lee
Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis Crosser
Casting Director | Vonessa Martin
Costume Shop Manager/Wardrobe | Clare Hungate-Hawk
Technical Director | Nathan Crone
Scene Shop Foreman | Eddie Rivera
Master Carpenter | Charlie Capps
Scenic Charge | Sarah Kindler
Master Electrician | Ronan Kilkelly
Sound Technician | David Petersen

+ Member of Actors Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

** Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*

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

± Equity Membership Candidate

~ Portland Actors Conservatory student

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

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 gratefully acknowledges our theatre rests on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.

Artists Rep is Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre company, and is led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez and Managing Director J.S. May. 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 2018/19 season can be found [here](#).

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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, the 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 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 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 (premiered April 2017). The second T|R|S commission was *The Thanksgiving Play*, by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) (premiered April 2018). The third T|R|S commission will be *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung (to premiere March 2019). Current playwright commissions include: Linda Alper, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Rathje, and Andrea Stolowitz. T|R|S is also developing work with playwrights Anthony Hudson and Susannah Mars. To learn more about all the projects, playwrights, and programs of T|R|S [visit here](#).

[EDUCATION](#)—The 2018/19 Artists Rep season launched a robust education program with a dedication to programs that help develop theatre artists and arts professionals. These education opportunities focus on engaging and elevating our community by offering professional-level [classes, coaching and workshops](#) with our Resident Artists and guest artists. These classes serve artists seeking professional development, as well as curious community members who can take classes on subjects such as dramaturgy, script-writing, acting for communication, and more. With the innovative [Student Ambassador Program](#), students learn about the inner-workings of a major nonprofit professional theatre, meet once per month, see shows for free, and participate in discussions with leading theatre artists and professionals. The purpose of the program is to introduce students to the full range of skills and ideas that are essential to running a professional theatre and to foster the next generation of arts leaders and professionals. Access and enrichment continues for [schools and educators](#) who enjoy ticket discounts, school programming, and workshops. Artists Rep's [pre- and post-show discussions](#) have been enhanced to include post-show mingling with the cast, director and staff, and a dedicated conversation with production designers.

[ARTSHUB](#)—Artists Rep is also home to the ArtsHub, where a diverse range of artists and arts organizations find a home and thrive with access to affordable administrative, performance, and rehearsal space, as well as myriad support services. The ArtsHub serves as a community arts center,

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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 600 performances, events, and other happenings by over 50 groups. To learn about the arts organizations of Artists Rep's ArtsHub [visit here](#).

Artists Repertory Theatre receives generous support from our community of patrons, including significant leadership gifts from: Anonymous, The Collins Foundation, The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation, Ronni Lacroute, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Regional Arts & Culture Council, The Shubert Foundation, and David & Christine Vernier. Additional Corporate and Foundation support comes from: Advance Gender Equity in the Arts (AGE); Hotel deLuxe; Jackson Foundation; Kinsman Foundation; Oregon Arts Commission, a State Agency; Oregon Cultural Trust; The Oregonian/OregonLive (media sponsor); Rafati's Catering; Dark Horse Wine; and US Bank.

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