



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE QUEST FOR POWER NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

ARTISTS REP PRESENTS MIKE LEW'S

TEENAGE DICK

A modern, comedic re-telling of Shakespeare's *Richard III*

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: [TEENAGE DICK](#)

By Mike Lew

Directed by Josh Hecht

WHEN: January 6 - February 3, 2019

Preview Performances: January 6, 8-11

Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, January 12 @ 7:30pm

Regular run: January 13 - February 3

Wednesdays-Sundays @ 7:30pm, Sundays @ 2pm

Additional Performances:

Tuesdays: January 15 & 29 @ 7:30pm

Saturday: February 2 @ 2pm

Wednesday: January 23 @ 12pm

Closed Captioned Performance: February 2 @ 2pm

Closing Performance: February 3 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison St. Portland, OR 97205

TICKETS: \$60 regular price; \$30 preview/student/under 35

Special Discounts:

Sliding Scale Sundays (tickets start at \$10): Sunday evening performances

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

PREVIEW WEEK PERFORMANCE SPECIALS:

January 6: Pay-What-You-Will + pre-show music with [Plastic Brains](#)

January 8.: Ten Buck Tuesday – \$10 tickets

January 9: Wine Down Wednesday – \$30 tickets + a glass of Dark Horse Wine

January 10: Thirsty Thursday – \$30 tickets + a pint of Lagunitas beer

January 11: Foodie Friday – \$30 tickets + discounted food at ArtBar

POST SHOW TALKBACKS:

Tech Talk with show designers: January 9 (after 7.30pm show)

Post Sunday Matinees: January 13, 20, 27 (after 2pm show)

Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Talk Back: February 3 (after 2pm show)

Post Wednesday Matinee: January 15 (after 12pm show)

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: [HERE](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | December 2018 Artists Repertory Theatre kicks off the new year with the West Coast Premiere and second production of Mike Lew's *Teenage Dick*. *Teenage Dick* premiered at the Public Theatre in June 2018. A touchingly hilarious take on Shakespeare's power hungry Richard III, *Teenage Dick* reimagines Richard as a bullied teenager with cerebral palsy, who will do anything he can to become his high school's Senior class president.

"There are so many reasons directing this play is meaningful to me," said **Director Josh Hecht**. "As the son of a mother with multiple sclerosis, the disability community has been an important part of my life since I was a kid. I've known and been a fan of Mike Lew, his wicked sense of humor and keen eye, from our days in New York and have been waiting for the opportunity to work together. And actor Christopher Imbrosciano and I first worked together a decade ago creating *Inside/Out* with Ping Chong and Company at the Kennedy Center. That we three might come together to make this important play in my new home of Portland, Oregon is an unforeseen delight."

"As we began assembling our 2018/19 season, the first play we committed to producing was *Teenage Dick*," said **Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez**. "The staff and I were thrilled by the play's contemporary dialogue mixed with fully-committed Shakespearean soliloquy and the script's simply stated mandate that producers hire disabled actors to play the characters of 'Richard' and his best friend 'Buck' pushed us to reflect on our own history of not representing the disabled experience on our stages. I'm grateful for the opportunity the play has given us to examine our values and the strides we must continue to take to ensure that we create inclusive theatre experiences for artists and audiences alike."

"I'm really looking forward to the Artists Rep rehearsal process," said **Playwright Mike Lew**. "It will allow me to continue adapting the script to this particular set of performers. I'm curious to see what will stay consistent and what's going to be adapted."

Artists Rep has consulted with the [NW ADA Center](#), which provides training and guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as the [Disability Arts and Culture Project](#), which utilizes the performing arts as a method of examining disability in relation to society and supports established and emerging artists, as well as the community at large, in developing knowledge and expression of disability culture and pride.

Artists Rep will also have an exhibition of the cartoon work of [Mat Barton](#) (of the Please Remain Seated comics) during the run of *Teenage Dick*.

Artists Rep's production of *Teenage Dick* is sponsored by [The Oregon Community Foundation](#) and the [Oregon Cultural Trust](#).

ABOUT THE PLAY

High school is hard enough, but when you have a power hungry 17-year-old threatening to overthrow anyone in his way to becoming Senior class President, it can be downright murderous. Richard is the king of insults and after alienating the only friend he has, he relies on himself to snatch the crown while securing the heart of the ex-girlfriend of the popular high school quarterback. As Richard struggles to keep all of his plots from going awry, he gains an ally in the most unlikely of suspects. Touchingly hilarious, *Teenage Dick* is the modern comedic re-telling of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, and ponders if it is better to be loved or feared.

"...whenever Mr. Lew's update questions or complicates Shakespeare's assumptions, even if that means departing from his template, it is riveting."

-Jesse Green, *The New York Times*

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

[Mike Lew](#)'s plays include *Teenage Dick* (Ma-Yi at the Public, Artists Rep, and Perseverance productions; Public Studio, O'Neill, OSF workshops), *Tiger Style!* (Olney, Huntington, La Jolla Playhouse, and Alliance productions; O'Neill and CTG workshops), *Bike America* (Ma-Yi and Alliance productions), *microcrisis* (Ma-Yi, InterAct, and Next Act productions), *Moustache Guys*, and the book to the musical *Bhangin' It* (Jerome Robbins Project Springboard and Rhinebeck Writers Retreat "Triple R" workshops). He is a Tony voter, Dramatists Guild Council member, and resident of New Dramatists. Honors include a Mellon National Playwrights Residency at Ma-Yi and La Jolla Playhouse Artist-in-Residence (both with Rehana Lew Mirza); Lark Venturous and NYFA fellowships; and the PEN Emerging Playwright, Lanford Wilson, Helen Merrill, Heideman, and Kendeda awards. He is co-director of Ma-Yi Writers Lab, the largest collective of Asian-American playwrights in the country. He is married to fellow playwright [Rehana Lew Mirza](#), who he met in Ma-Yi Lab. Training: Juilliard (2013), Yale (2003). Check out his website at www.mikelew.com.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

[Josh Hecht](#) is a Drama Desk Award-winning director and the artistic director of Profile Theatre. At Profile, he has directed *In The Wake* by Lisa Kron and the rotating repertory productions of Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water By The Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. His productions

have been seen in New York at MCC Theater, The Cherry Lane, The Duke on 42nd Street, New World Stages, Culture Project, regionally at The Guthrie Theater, the Berkshire Theatre Group, the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Signature Theatre (DC), and internationally at the Dublin Arts Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and elsewhere. His collaboration with Ping Chong and Company was commissioned by and premiered at The Kennedy Center before touring the northeast. His writing has received the support of the Jerome Foundation. He is formerly the director of playwright development at MCC Theater and the director of new play development at Women's Expressive Theatre, and has worked at most of the play development centers across the country including The National Playwrights Conference at The O'Neill, New York Stage and Film, The Playwrights Center, The Lark, PlayPenn, New Harmony Project, JAW at Portland Center Stage, and others. He is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect and an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. He's served on the faculty of the New School for Drama MFA Directing program, the Fordham University MFA Playwriting program, Purchase College SUNY's BFA Dramatic Writing program and has been a guest artist at The Juilliard School, NYU's Dramatic Writing MFA program, Carnegie Mellon's MFA Playwriting program, University of Minnesota's BFA Acting program, and others.

Teenage Dick

By [Mike Lew](#)

Directed by [Josh Hecht](#)

CAST

[Christopher Imbrosciano](#)* as Richard Gloucester | *Teddy Ferrara* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Unexpected Guest*, *Inside/Out...Voices from the Disability Community* (Off-Broadway), *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Guild Hall), *Rock Doves* (Adreanne Theatre)

[Tess Raunig](#)+ as Barbara "Buck" Buckingham | Disability Art and Culture Project, Impetus Arts, Genderbomb, PHAME

[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^* as Elizabeth York | *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *An Octoroon*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Grand Concourse*, *The Understudy*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Race* (Artists Rep), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Ahmenson Theatre), *Fuente Ovejuna* (Milagro), *The Tales of Canterbury* (Ensemble Loupan)

[Nick Ferrucci](#)* as Eddie Ivy | *John*, *The Angry Brigade* (Third Rail Repertory Theatre), *Luna Gale* (CoHo Productions), *Astoria: Parts One and Two*, JAW (Portland Center Stage), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Portland Playhouse), *True West* (Profile Theatre), *Pigeon & A Boy* (Jewish Theatre Collaborative)

[Alex Ramirez de Cruz](#)+ as Clarissa Duke | *An Octoroon* (Artists Rep), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.* (Third Rail Repertory Theatre), *This Girl...* (CoHo Productions), *26 Miles* (Profile Theatre), *The Oregon Trail* (Portland Center Stage), *db* (CoHo Productions), *Passion Play* (Shaking the Tree Theatre), *Dance for a Dollar* (Milagro)

[Kailey Rhodes](#)+ as Anne Margaret | *An Octoroon*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Artists Rep), *Ordinary Days* (Broadway Rose Theatre), *Sense and Sensibility* (Clackamas Repertory Theatre), *Chicago* (Metropolitan Community Theatre Project)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | [Josh Hecht](#)
Scenic/Projection Designer | [Peter Ksander](#)
Associate Projection Designer | Alan Cline
Costume Designer | [Sarah Gahagan](#)
Lighting Designer | [Kristeen Willis Crosser](#)#
Sound Designer | [Sharath Patel](#)#^
Choreographer | [Kemba Shannon](#)
Fight Choreographer | [Jonathan Cole](#) ~
Intimacy Consultant | [Amanda K. Cole](#)
Dramaturgs | [Pancho Savery](#), [Luan Schooler](#)
Voice & Text Consultant | [Mary McDonald-Lewis](#)+
Stage Manager | [Karen Hill](#)+
Props Master | Eric Lyness
Production Assistant | Megan Moll
Board Op | Jason Coffey

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 Artist | Sarah Kindler
Master Electrician | Ronan Kilkelly
Sound Technician | David Petersen
Board Op | Jason Coffey

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

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

~ 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](#).

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 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) and went on to Playwrights Horizons. 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, 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 Community Foundation; Oregon Cultural Trust; The Oregonian/OregonLive (media sponsor); Rafati's Catering; Dark Horse Wine; and US Bank.

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