



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BASED ON THE NOVEL BY GEORGE ORWELL,
ARTISTS REP PRESENTS THE PORTLAND PREMIERE OF
A NEW PLAY BY ROBERT ICKE AND DUNCAN MACMILLAN

1984

A haunting reflection of how far technology and falsifying reality has come.

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: **1984**

By George Orwell

A New Play by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez

WHEN: September 7 – October 6, 2019

Preview Performances: September 7, 8, 10, 11, 12

Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, September 13 @ 7:30pm

Regular run: September 14 – October 6

Tuesdays – Sundays @ 7:30pm, Saturdays and Sundays @ 2:00pm

Open Captioned Performance: October 5 @ 2:00pm

Closing Performance: October 6 @ 2:00pm

WHERE: **Imago Theatre, 17 SE 8th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214**

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

Special Discounts:

Sliding Scale Sunday (tickets start at \$10): only applies to Sunday evening performances

SATMAT: \$25 tickets with code

20for20: 20 tickets available at every performance for \$20

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:

September 7 & 8: Sliding Scale Saturday and Sunday (tickets start at \$10)

September 10: Ten Buck Tuesday – \$10 tickets

September 11: Techie Wine Down Wednesday sponsored by Dark Horse Wine – \$30 ticket + a glass of Dark Horse Wine + post show tech talk moderated by Production Manager Kristeen Willis

September 12: Vortex Music Magazine presents Thirsty Thursday sponsored by Lagunitas – \$35 ticket + a Lagunitas beer + post-show musical performance by Nosila

POST SHOW TALKBACKS:

Techie Wine Down Wednesday with production team: September 11 (after 7:30pm show)

Post Sunday Matinees: September 15, 22, 29 (after 2:00pm show)

Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Talk Back: October 6 (after 2:00pm show)

Post Thursday Matinee: September 19 (after 12:00pm show)

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

SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED: Design credit – Jeff Hayes, Kisha Jarrett, and Leslie Crandell Dawes

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: [HERE](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | August 2019 Artists Repertory Theatre (ART) is proud to present *1984* by George Orwell, A New Play by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan. The adaptation of the iconic novel is a theatrical reflection of how skewed reality and technology have become.

In the dystopian society known as Oceania, everyman Winston Smith is a cog in the system, working in the office of the Ministry of Truth. Individual thought, monitored by the Thought Police is an offense punishable by torture and Winston has been keeping a diary filled with his deepest desires and questions. Even though there's "no love except love of Big Brother. No loyalty except to the Party," Winston falls in love with Julia, but is unsure if she is a government spy sent to turn him in to Big Brother. Desperate to keep this book a secret, he has to navigate who or what he can trust.

The engrossingly prophetic novel comes to life in an intensely visceral theatrical reflection of our current climate of fear, austerity, terrorism, surveillance, censorship, and subjective truth. *1984* begs the question, how much of reality is really real? **Director of New Play Development & Dramaturgy Luan Schooler** adds, "if you looked up 'prescient' in the dictionary, it should say 'see: Orwell, *1984*.' It's chilling that this story written in 1949 so profoundly channels our present-day concerns about living when privacy is a delusion, the notion of objective truth is demolished daily, power and servility are cozy, and corruption is so complete that rebellion seems futile. Yet, in spite of this dark view, *1984* offers hope: there does come a time when the worst is past and the light returns."

“What I especially love about the adaptation is its inspired dramatization of the oft-overlooked ‘Appendix’ that concludes Orwell’s novel,” says **Artists Rep Artistic Director and Director of 1984, Dámaso Rodríguez**. “It indicates that Big Brother’s totalitarian society of Oceania, 1984—as it exists in the text of *1984*—is a piece of historical record, a thing of the past. This idea is brought to life on stage in the form of a mysterious company that seems to be gathered to study the text of the book from some point in the future, in the same way that the Bible, the Declaration of Independence, or Shakespeare is studied. It makes the play feel thrillingly in-the-moment, shifting seamlessly between Orwell’s future-past ‘1984’ and Portland, 2019.”

In opening its first season of ART on Tour, Rodríguez and the creative team sought out work that would exemplify Artists Rep’s commitment to provocative new plays, while seeking subjects and themes that might especially intrigue Portland audiences who have yet discovered the 37-year old company. The timely new adaptation of the classic novel, which has been required reading in schools for generations, became available only months before the season was announced. “I can’t imagine a better fit to open our season than this thrilling adaptation by award-winning writers and theatre directors, Duncan MacMillan and Robert Icke,” said **Artistic Director and Director of 1984, Dámaso Rodríguez**. “*1984* toured the U.K. before making its way to Broadway in 2017. Seventy years since it was first published, *1984* remains a story for our time, taught in schools, and cited by both sides of the political spectrum. The play manages to compress the novel into a theatrical and breathless 100 minutes. Orwell’s vision is a scary and all-too-real one, but there’s much needed comfort in gathering together to face our fears; and I believe telling a story is always a hopeful act. We’re pleased to bring *1984* to ART.”

Artists Rep is partnering with Pacific University who is conducting a study to track transient emotional reactions during the production using heart rate monitors and GSR (Galvanic Skin Responders) to test audience reactions to stress and fear caused by scenes in the play. The study that Pacific is conducting (set to be published in May/June 2020) is one of the first studies of its kind.

The ART cast of *1984* features Resident Artists Chris Harder, Sara Hennessy, Allen Nause, Michael Mendelson, and John San Nicolas, alongside Artists Rep alums Jeb Berrier and Claire Rigsby, and making their Artists Rep debuts Ken Yoshikawa, Layla Foster, and Prudence Dawes. Ensemble members Rachel Bentzen, Kerie Darner, Corey Silver, and Haley Novasio round out the cast.

Artists Rep’s production of *1984* is sponsored by Bob & Janet Conklin, Tom Gifford & Patti Fisher, and Len & Susan Magazine.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Always under the watchful eye of Big Brother, Winston has nowhere to turn and no one to trust as anyone or anything could be running surveillance on behalf of the government. The Thought Police monitor society and dole out nightmarish punishments on behalf of the authoritarian Party, who propagandize ‘Ignorance is Strength.’ Based on the iconic novel by George Orwell, *1984*, is an intense theatrical reflection of how far technology and falsifying reality has come.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Robert Icke is an award-winning writer and theatre director. He is currently Associate Director at the Almeida Theatre in London. From 2010-2013 he was Associate Director at Headlong, where he worked on all of the company's productions and directed three of his own. He was the Artistic Director of the Arden Theatre Company from 2003-2007 and of the Swan Theatre Company from 2005-2008. *Oedipus* was selected for the Holland Theater Festival 2018.

Oresteia won 'Best Director' at the 2016 Olivier Awards, and 'Best Director' at both the Critics Circle and Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2015. *1984* won 'Best Director' at the UK Theatre Awards 2014, 'Best Director' at the Liverpool Arts Awards 2013, and was nominated for 'Best New Play' at the 2014 Olivier Awards.

Duncan Macmillan is an award-winning writer and theatre director whose plays include *Lungs*, *Every Brilliant Thing* and *2071* (all published by Oberon Books). His play *People, Places and Things* transferred from the National Theatre to the West End in 2016. Duncan Macmillan's other plays include: *1984*, co-adapted/co-directed with Robert Icke (Headlong/Nottingham Playhouse, UK tour, Almeida Theatre and West End), *The Forbidden Zone* (Salzburg Festival/Schaubühne Berlin), *Wunschloses Unglück*, adaptation with Peter Handke (Burgtheater Vienna), *Reise durch die Nacht*, adaptation Friederike Mayröcker created with Katie Mitchell and Lyndsey Turner (Schauspielhaus Köln, Theatertreffen, Festival d'Avignon), *Atmen* (Schaubühne Berlin), *Monster* (Royal Exchange/Manchester International Festival).

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dámaso Rodríguez is in his seventh season as Artistic Director of Artists Repertory Theatre (ART). He is a Co-Founder of L.A.'s Furious Theatre, where he served as Co-Artistic Director from 2001-2012. From 2007-2010 he served as Associate Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse. His directing credits include work at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Pasadena Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, A Noise Within, The Playwrights' Center, The Theatre@Boston Court, Odyssey Theatre, The New Harmony Project, New Dramatists, and Furious Theatre. Dámaso 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 recognized by the Portland Area Musical Theatre Awards, LA Weekly, Stage Scene LA, and the Los Angeles Stage Alliance. In 2010, Furious Theatre Company was named to LA Weekly's list of "Best Theatres of the Decade." In 2012, he was honored as a Finalist for the Zelda Fichandler Award by the Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation. In 2014 he was named a Knowledge Universe Rising Star by Portland Monthly. Dámaso is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).

1984

By George Orwell

A New Play By Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez

CAST

Chris Harder*^ as Winston Smith | *Wolf Play, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, The Thanksgiving Play, Caught, Marjorie Prime, The Skin of Our Teeth, We Are Proud to Present..., Intimate Apparel, Ten Chimneys, The History Boys, Chasing Empires Soul* (Artists Rep)

Claire Rigsby+ as Julia | *The Thanksgiving Play* (Artists Rep)

Allen Nause*^ as O'Brien | *Magellanica, Grand Concourse, The Liar, Blithe Spirit, The Invisible Hand* (Artists Rep)

Michael Medelson*^ as Charrington | *A Doll's House Part 2, Everybody, Small Mouth Sounds, Magellanica* (Artists Rep)

Ken Yoshikawa+ as Martin | *Mojada, A Medea in Los Angeles* (Portland Center Stage/Oregon Shakespeare Festival)

John San Nicolas*^ as Syme | *Everybody, Small Mouth Sounds, Magellanica, The Humans An Octoroon, The Talented Ones, Trevor, A Civil War Christmas, Grand Concourse, The Liar, The Invisible Hand, Exiles, The Motherfucker with the Hat* (Artists Rep)

Jeb Berrier* as Parsons | *Playboy of the Western World* (Artists Rep)

Sara Hennessy*^ as Mrs. Parsons | *Everybody, Magellanica, Caught, Feathers and Teeth, The Skin of Our Teeth, Cuba Libre, Blithe Spirit, Intimate Apparel, and Foxfinder* (Artists Rep)

Layla Foster as Child | *The Nutcracker* (School of Oregon Ballet Theatre)

Prudence Dawes as Child | *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Theatre in the Grove)

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Dámaso Rodríguez

Scenic Designer | Megan Wilkerson#^

Costume Designer | Sarah Gahagan^

Lighting Designer | Kristeen Willis#

Sound Designer | Rodolfo Ortega

Dramaturg | Luan Schooler and Pancho Savery

Stage Manager | Carol Ann Wohlmut*^

Props Master | Laura Savage

Intimacy Choreographer | Amanda Cole

Fight Choreographer | Jonathan Cole^^

Projection Designer | Alan Cline

Video Director | Shawn Lee

Wig Designer | Diane Trapp

Assistant Director | Logan Starnes

Associate Sound Designer | Jake Newcomb

Production Assistant 1 | Megan Thorpe

Production Assistant 2 | Erin MacGillivray

Assistant Costume Designer | Alex Pletcher

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Director | Shawn Lee

Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis#

General Manager & Casting Director | Vonessa Martin

Company Manager | Caleb Bourgeois

Costume Shop Manager/Wardrobe | Alana Wight

Technical Director | Nathan Crone

Scene Shop Foreman | Eddie Rivera

Master Carpenter | Charlie Capps

Scenic Charge Artist | Sarah Kindler

Master Electrician | Gavin Burgess

Sound Technician | Dave Petersen

Board Op | Dave Petersen

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

+Actors' Equity Associate Candidate

^^ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

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

^ 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. ART 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 2019/20 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 and professionals of varied theatre disciplines, who are a driving force behind Artists Rep's creative output and identity.

TABLE|ROOM|STAGE (T|R|S) was established in 2015 and is Artists Rep's new play program whose mission is to develop and produce new work that vividly expresses Artists Rep's aesthetic values. We focus on work by writers of color, women, LGBTQIA+ and gender nonconforming writers, and offer an environment where these playwrights can create provocative, intimate new theatre pieces that challenge, illuminate, and inspire.

T|R|S has produced the following commissions: *The Talented Ones* by Yussef El Guindi (April 2017), *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) (April 2018), the NNP Rolling World Premiere *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung (March 2019), and *Looking for Tiger Lily* by Anthony Hudson (May 2020).

Current playwright commissions include: Linda Alper, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Rathje, and Andrea Stolowitz. In addition, ART and Oregon Shakespeare Festival are co-commissioning playwright E.M. Lewis's *The Great Divide*. New projects are also being developed with Susannah Mars, Sue Mach, and Bill Wadhams.

T|R|S *At the Apex* has a hand in shaping World Premieres and vital second productions by some of the nation's most exciting emerging playwrights. *At the Apex* productions are: *La Ruta* by Isaac Gomez (November 2019), *Teenage Dick* by Mike Lew (January 2019), *Magellanica* by E.M. Lewis (January 2018), and *Cuba Libre* by Carlos Lacámara (Book) and Jorge Gómez (Music & Lyrics). To learn more about all the projects, playwrights, and programs of T|R|S [visit here](#).

RESIDENT ARTISTS have an ongoing history of working on stage and behind-the-scenes of Artists Rep's main stage productions. They collaborate with administrative staff on education, community engagement, new play development, and fundraising efforts. The Resident Artist title is offered by the Artistic Director in appreciation of each artist's achievements with ART and in the spirit of continued collaboration. These multidisciplinary theatre makers are deeply committed to ART's success, share organizational values, and participate in decision-making processes that impact the theatre's mission and its future. Through the Resident Artists program, we ensure that a diverse community of Portland-based artists are at the center of the day-to-day life of the theatre and play a vital part in creating the culture at ART.

EDUCATION is dedicated to developing theatre artists, students, business and arts professionals, and life-long learners at every ability, interest, and level of expertise. Education opportunities focus on engaging and elevating our community by offering professional-level classes, coaching, and workshops with our teaching artists. Programs like these serve artists and others seeking professional development, students seeking to engage in the transformative power of the arts, and life-long learners who can take classes in subjects such as dramaturgy, script-writing, communication for non-actors, and more. With the 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. Access and enrichment are available for educators who enjoy ticket discounts, school programming, and workshops. Enhanced viewing experiences include post-show discussions with the cast, panel discussions with experts, and a dedicated conversation with production designers.

ARTSHUB is Artists Rep's resource sharing and community-building initiative supporting Portland theatre makers, arts and education nonprofits, and community groups. The mission of the ARTSHUB is to create a cultural center by supporting Portland's rich artistic ecosystem. Programs and services include below market rates for rehearsal, performance, and meeting space; shared administrative work space for individuals and organizations; and production services such as set construction, scenic painting, and professional technical support from design through performance. We prioritize artists and organizations that support ART's values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and seek to provide a home for artists and audiences to take creative risks.

While the program's origin six years ago was in response to an opportunity to share underutilized performance space, we have found that the most vital and lasting impact of the ARTSHUB is the bustling community that has been formed, and the myriad ways it has led to the empowerment of local artists and the accelerated growth of participating organizations. In the 2018/19 Season, over 1,500 events were held in our building by 42 local nonprofits, including 11 resident companies — 380 ARTSHUB public events, 462 rehearsals, 422 classes and 306 ART events. Our new facility is being designed so that the ARTSHUB can include even more organizations than it currently serves.

RISE or The Campaign for Artists Repertory Theatre, is the capital funding drive that will make possible the reinvention of ART's building at 1515 SW Morrison. Originally an Elks Lodge health club, the Artists Rep building has reached the end of its useful life. A major gift in 2018 paid off the outstanding mortgage on the entire downtown block catalyzing the 2019 sale of the north half of the building. ART received \$9 million in the sale, which is now the lead investment for the reimagining of the remaining building. The roof and two massive wood beams will rise to create a modern multiuse performing arts center with two theatres, four rehearsal halls, and collaborative spaces that will give space to the many new stories waiting to be shared.

Artists Repertory Theatre receives generous support from our community of patrons, including significant leadership gifts from: The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation; Ronni Lacroute; Regional Arts & Culture Council; The Shubert Foundation; David & Christine Vernier; Colliers International; and Wood Partners. Additional Corporate and Foundation support comes from: Dark Horse Wine; Lagunitas Brewing Company; Nossa Familia Coffee; Kinsman Foundation; Rafati's Catering; Howard S. Wright/Balfour Beatty; and US Bank.

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