



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A WILD ROMP THROUGH SCOTTISH BALLADS, KARAOKE MAINSTAYS, AND
DEVILISH ENCOUNTERS
ART on Tour PRESENTS

The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart

A fun theatrical journey

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: **The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart**
By David Grieg
Directed by Luan Schooler and Dámaso Rodríguez

WHEN: November 30, 2019 – January 5, 2020
Preview Performances: Nov 30, Dec 1, 3, 4, 5
Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, Dec 6 @ 7:30pm
Regular run: Dec 10 – Jan 5
Tuesdays – Sundays @ 7:30pm
Open Captioned Performance: Jan 5 @ 7:30pm
Closing Performance: Jan 5 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: **Tiffany Center, 1410 SW Morrison Street, Portland, OR 97205**

TICKETS: \$60 regular price; \$30 preview/student/under 35
Special Discounts:
Sliding Scale Sunday (tickets start at \$10): only applies to Sunday evening performances
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:

Nov 30 & Dec 1: Sliding Scale Saturday and Sunday (tickets start at \$10)

Dec 3: Ten Buck Tuesday – \$10 tickets

Dec 4: Tech 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

Dec 5: Vortex Music Magazine presents Thirsty Thursday sponsored by Lagunitas – \$35 ticket + a Lagunitas beer + post-show musical performance by Katie Jane Band

POST SHOW DISCUSSIONS:

Tech Wine Down Wednesday with production team: Dec 4 (after 7:30pm show)

Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Post Show Discussion: Jan 5

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:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hb9G8CcbB0R6n5rbERx4m-V0oFuEXLuN?usp=sharing>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | November 2019 Artists Repertory Theatre (ART) presents *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* by David Greig, a uniquely bewitching theatre experience performed in a Scottish pub-style setting.

Prudencia Hart is passionate about traditional Scottish folk songs and has no space for popular music. In fact, she wishes it would disappear. She gets waylaid in a small village with her academic arch nemesis, Colin Syme, whose phone ring of Kylie Minogue drives her insane. After a long night in a pub filled with drams and draughts, Prudencia gets lost in a snow-covered forest on her way to the bed-and-breakfast she is supposed to be staying. She is saved by a man named Nick, who may not be exactly who he seems to be. Bewitchingly exuberant, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* is a wild romp through Scottish ballads, karaoke mainstays, and devilish encounters.

“I first encountered *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* in 2013, when the National Theatre of Scotland brought the show to the PuSh Festival in Vancouver, and I have wanted to do it ever since,” says **Director of New Play Development & Dramaturgy and co-director of the play, Luan Schooler**. “The show is part ballad, part ghost story, party myth, and part rom-com. In some ways, *Prudencia Hart* is like a Mobius strip, playfully turning reality and unreality into the other and back again.”

“It’s rare for a playwright to so generously trust a company to make the play their own,” says **Artistic Director and co-director of the play, Dámaso Rodríguez**. “On the page, Greig’s play

takes the form of endlessly clever verse in mostly rhyming couplets. There's no punctuation, no casting breakdown, and very few songs specified in the text. Nearly every production choice from cast size, to the score, to assignment of dialogue is left up to the team telling the story. In that spirit, we began the unique journey of bringing Portland's own version of the supernatural Scottish ballad to life."

The cast and musicians of *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* perform scenes in and around audience members seated in pub-style tables and mingle with willing participants.

The ART cast of *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* features Resident Artists Amy Newman and Susannah Mars, alongside longtime collaborators Darius Pierce and Luisa Sermol. Debuting at Artists Rep are Eric Little, Katie Jane Lubiens, and Adam Easley (Katie Jane Band). The ensemble is rounded out by Portland Actors Conservatory students; Rachel Bentzen, Kerie Darner, Corey Silver, Haley Stone, and Alicia Hueni.

Artists Rep's production of *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* is sponsored by Romy Klopper and J.S. & Robin May.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Prudencia Hart is an academic scholar of traditional Scottish folklore and immensely dislikes all things pop culture, including her professional nemesis, Colin Syme. After a particularly long night full of draughts and drams at a pub, Prudencia gets lost in the snow-covered forest and winds up getting saved by a man who may have nefarious intentions. Bewitchingly exuberant, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* is a wild romp through Scottish ballads, karaoke mainstays, and devilish encounters.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

David Greig's award winning work includes *The Strange Undoing Of Prudencia Hart* (Tron Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland), *Midsummer* (Traverse Theatre and Soho Theatre/Tricycle Theatre), *Dunisnane* (RSC at Hampstead Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland tour), *Damascus* (Traverse Theatre and Scotland and the Tricycle Theatre), *Miniskirts Of Kabul* (Tricycle Theatre), *Brewers Fayre*, (Traverse Theatre), *Outlying Islands* (Traverse Theatre and Royal Court), *The American Pilot* (RSC, Soho, and MTC), *Pyrenees* (Paines Plough), *The Cosmonaut's Last Message To The Woman He Once Loved In The Former Soviet Union* (Donmar Warehouse), and *The Architect* and *Europe* (Traverse Theatre). Adaptations include *The Creditors* (Donmar Warehouse and BAM, NYC), *The Bacchae* (Edinburgh International Festival and Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Tintin In Tibet* (Barbican, Playhouse Theatre, London and National Tour), *When The Bulbul Stopped Singing* (Traverse Theatre), *Caligula* (Donmar Warehouse), and *Peter Pan* (Traverse Theatre). David's work for children and young people includes *The Monster In The Hall* (TAG Theatre Co. Glasgow and Traverse Theatre), *Yellow Moon* (TAG Theatre Co. Glasgow and Traverse Theatre), *Gobbo* (National Theatre of Scotland, Highlands tour), and *Dr Korczak's Example* (TAG

Theatre Co. Glasgow, Citizen's Theatre and BAC, London). He has also written extensively for radio.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Luan Schooler was born in West Texas, where she trailed her big sister into dance classes and community theatre. When she was twelve, the family packed up and moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where play practice and recitals continued to consume her. After being kicked out of high school, she studied theatre at CalArts. Since then, she has worked with many theaters around the country, including Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska (where she met and married the marvelous Tim), Denver Center Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Berkeley Rep. She once detoured from theatre to open a cheese shop, but then did a U-turn, and joined Artists Rep as the Director of New Play Development & Dramaturgy in 2015. In addition to overseeing the commissioning and development work, she also directed Artists Rep's World Premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse and *A Doll's House, Part 2* by Lucas Hnath.

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).

The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart

By David Greig

Directed by Luan Schooler and Dámaso Rodríguez

CAST

Amy Newman^{*} as Prudencia | *The Revolutionists, All My Sons, Design for Living, Ah, Wilderness!, The Cherry Orchard, Sherlock Holmes and the Cast of the Christmas Carol, Red Herring, The Playboy of the Western World, Tribes, The Liar, and Miracle Worker.*

Darius Pierce^{*} as Nick | *Small Mouth Sounds, Feathers & Teeth*

Eric Little^{*} as Colin

Susannah Mars^{^*} as Chorus A | *Small Mouth Sounds, A Civil War Christmas, On Life, The Quality of Life, Holidazed, Rabbit Hole, Chaps, and Dinner with Friends*

Luisa Sermol^{*} as Chorus B | *The Humans, Cuba Libre, Xmas Unplugged, Lost Boy, Three Sisters, The Goat, Night of the Iguana, Touch, Sideman, and Master Class.*

Katie Jane Lubiens and Adam Easley as the Katie Jane Band & Composers

PAC ENSEMBLE

Rachel Bentzen, Kerie Darner, Corey Silver, Haley Stone, Alicia Hueni

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Luan Schooler

Director | Dámaso Rodríguez ^^

Movement Choreographer | JoAnn Johnson^{^*}

Scenic & Lighting Designer | Kristeen Willis[#]

Music Director, Sound Designer, and Composer | Rodolfo Ortega^{^#}

Costume Designer | Sarah Gahagan[^]

Props Master | Robert Amico

Dramaturg | Pancho Savery

Wig Designer: Diane Trap

Intimacy Consultant | Amanda K Cole[#]

Fight Choreographer | Jonathan Cole^{^^^}

Dialect/Voice Coach | Luisa Sermol

Stage Manager | Karen M Hill^{*}

Production Assistant | Megan Thorpe

Board Operator | Gavin Burgess

Live Sound Op | Dave Petersen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Director | Shawn Lee

Associate Producer & Production Manager | Kristeen Willis[#]

General Manager & Casting Director | Vonessa Martin

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

^{*} 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

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE'S mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for a diverse community 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 NNPN 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: 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 reimaging 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; The Oregon Community Foundation; Regional Arts & Culture Council; The Shubert Foundation; David & Christine Vernier; and Wood Partners. Additional Corporate and Foundation support comes from:

Colliers International; The Kinsman Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Oregon Cultural Trust; Rafati's Catering; and Howard S. Wright/Balfour Beatty.

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