



Artists Repertory Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTISTS REP ANNOUNCES ART: MERCURY COMPANY II

From audio dramas to short films, and plays written for post-pandemic production, a repertory company of over 90 artists were hired to create 20 projects in a six-week period in October and November of 2020

PORTLAND, OREGON – December 5, 2020 For six weeks during October and November 2020 (building upon the collaborative process established in June 2020's Mercury Company I), Artists Repertory Theatre hired nearly 90 writers, directors, educators, actors, technicians, designers, and producers (including several ART staff) to create theatre-inspired work that moves beyond the traditional form in response to public assembly restrictions. Individuals were involved in a multitude of projects, forming a repertory company dubbed **ART: Mercury II**.

COVID has been a transformative experience creating unprecedented uncertainty. In the inaugural Mercury Company, ART found a model to employ with confidence as the pandemic timeline continues to shift. Individual donors, along with State of Oregon distributed COVID relief grants, funded the additional round of creative work that took place during the six-week intensive process (20 projects were worked on by nearly 90 artists). A series of audio dramas and experimental short films will be released to audiences in the winter, spring, and summer of 2021. ART is planning its next Mercury Company development process which will occur in the spring of 2021.

See the trailer by Shuttersky Pictures for [ART: Mercury II](#) and the original **ART: Mercury Company** and visit the [Mercury Company](#) website page for all the projects.

"We are not paused and waiting for a return to pre-pandemic normal. Instead, we are fully immersed in a period of transition and transformation," said ART Artistic Director, Dámaso Rodríguez. "We are using the time to re-imagine the way we work. At the forefront of it all is dismantling biased systems that have held theatres back from achieving the diverse, welcoming, accessible, and equitable spaces to which we aspire."

“For Mercury II, we solicited pitches from our community of artists, which resulted in an exceptional mix of projects that ranged from early drafts to be heard for the first time, to well-developed projects ready to be recorded,” said **Luan Schooler, Director of New Works**. *“This structure, in which Mercury Company was shaped by the artists involved, yielded an eclectic group of twenty new works that are thrillingly diverse. The large number of BIPOC-driven projects, which range from the newly devised short film, See Me, to the deeply personal storytelling in Flower Joy, to the outrageous comedy of The Carlalogues, reflect a promising moment of change, which ART is wholeheartedly embracing .”*

“The ART: Mercury Company name was initially inspired by the legendary 1930s The Mercury Theater of the Air,” said **Managing Director, J.S. May**. *“The Mercury Theater (founded by Orson Welles and John Houseman) was funded during the Great Depression in part through the Federal Theatre Project and WPA (Works Progress Administration) and created ambitious plays and radio dramas like The War of the Worlds (1938). We began this program by using PPP (Payroll Protection Program) funding and have since inspired new support to ensure we continue to explore different mediums and create new ways of working.”*

ART: MERCURY COMPANY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN GIRL

Mikki Gillette depicts real life in *American Girl* in honor of transgender teen Nikki Kuhnhausen, who was murdered in Vancouver, WA in 2019. Trans playwright Gillette committed herself to bringing Nikki’s story to the stage. Based on extensive interviews with Nikki’s family members and friends, *American Girl* dramatizes the final years of Nikki’s life.

THE CARLALOGUES

Written and performed by Anthony Hudson (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) *The Carlalogues* is an audio play featuring Anthony’s famed drag-clown persona, Carla Rossi, who is starving for attention during the pandemic and takes a few people hostage so she can perform for a live audience.

DROP THE MIC

A storytelling project collaboration with Artists Rep and Back Fence PDX featuring the work of some of Portland’s best storytellers: Chris Williams, Darshenpreet Gill, Katie Nyguen, Kisha Jarrett, Lauren Modica, Monica Choy, Shauna Hahn, and Vin Shambry; co-produced and co-hosted by B. Frayn Masters and Mindy Nettifee.

FLOWER JOY

Written and performed by Resident Artist, Vin Shambry, *Flower Joy*, is one in a series of four storytelling works following Shambry’s journey on the road to wholeness, with a goal to inspire audience members to connect with the “human-ness” of one another by sharing personal stories of joy and heartache and shame and family.

FORGET ME NOT AMERICA

Written by Resident Artist, Josie Seid, *Forget Me Not America* is a short film of a living poem that goes on an emotional ride through American history and centers on Black Americans. From Seid, “*It is a journey that travels through pain and strength, frustration and hope, as it crafts a map of the African American experience in this country.*”

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Resident Artist and Mellon Playwright-in-Residence, E.M. Lewis once again tackles an epic script with *The Great Divide*. On January 2, 2016, an armed militia group seized control of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon, and held it for sixty-one days. As these events unfolded, the presidential election electrified and polarized our nation. *The Great Divide* is a fictional story inspired by these real events. This is a story about America in this divided moment.

THE HUSTLE

Resident Artist and actor John San Nicolas pens this wild romp of a ride with *The Hustle*, that tackles working in the entertainment industry. Written for a cast of entirely BIPOC actors, the script calls for each of these performers to play multiple characters.

THE KILLING FIELDS

An updated re-telling of Agamemnon, Anya Pearson’s *The Killing Fields* is set in East Oakland during the late 1980’s at the height of the crack epidemic. This workshopped script is poised to move from stage play to audio drama. Maca Subiabre acted as line producer.

MARS ON LIFE

Created and performed by Resident Artist Susannah Mars, and building on her solo shows of the past, Mars uses her unique blend of music and storytelling to reconcile growing up as the daughter of a famous actor with her own artistic aspirations. This is a reconceiving Mars’ concert-style performance to the Zoom era.

NOBODY’S GOING TO FUND THIS

Written and performed by Anthony Hudson, *Nobody’s Going to Fund This* is a very personal audio essay about the humiliations and insecurities of being an individual artist, compounded by being valued for their indigeneity more than their artistry. This piece was published in its entirety in the inaugural issue of [ART Quarterly](#) and American Theatre Magazine.

PERFORMANCE IN A BOX

***Performance in a Box* began as an exploration of a way** to create an object that is an at-home performative experience. Five puzzle stories were visioned with the participant being able to enact or engage with the experience in the privacy of their own home.

REFUGEE RHAPSODY

Written by Yussef El Guindi, focuses on Sakinah, an Arab American woman, who undergoes a mental health evaluation to determine what led to the violent crime she committed against Emily, a rich

heiress. The play explores race, class, privilege, and how those factors collide and play out in today's culture.

[THE REVOLUTION OF THE UNBEARABLE DEPARTED YEARNING](#)

A collaboratively written project featuring the work of playwrights Lava Alapai, Linda Alper, Dan Kitrosser, Josie Seid, Susannah Mars, Anthony Hudson, and ART Director of New Works, Luan Schooler. This 5-part, collaboratively written serial podcast centers on a small, dying Oregon town, a queer kid, and space aliens. Originally conceived during Mercury 1 as an outdoor, progressive piece of theatre for socially distanced audiences, this project was re-imagined as an audio project during Mercury II.

[SEE ME](#)

Conceived by the original seven members of Oxygen, *See Me* is a short film that is a slice-of-life depiction of three Black people living in Portland, Oregon during COVID. The film is Creative Executive Produced by Kisha Jarrett, Directed by Dawn Jones Redstone, Line Produced by Ashley Mellinger and shot with a cast and creative team of entirely BIPOC artists. *See Me* was created by the support of Anonymous, Koerner Camera, Open Signal, and Gearhead Grip.

[THE SIMPLE TRUTH](#)

Conceived and written by Ken Yoshikawa, *The Simple Truth* is both a prequel to Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and a story of struggle and revolution. We follow Sebastian and Antonio to Bonavia, which is a beautiful city and a more beautiful forest. We also follow Princess Ethelia as she navigates an unstable kingdom.

[TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY](#)

Written by Susan Soon He Stanton, *Today is My Birthday* is a quirky comedy. Exploring the loss of genuine intimacy when all communication is digitally mediated; all interactions in the production are over the phone, online, or over the radio. Directed by Dámaso Rodríguez, with Barbie Wu as associate director and sound design by Sharath Patel, this audio project features a BIPOC cast of 20 actors. It will be released in March 2021 and streamed via ART's website for the year.

[TRUBADOR](#)

Written by Resident Artist Val Landrum, *Trubador* tells the story of a young woman in the Spring of 1998 who leaves her home state of Texas to meet her estranged father in New York City. After a successful two months, an emotional event forces her to return to her southern roots, but not before she's taken hostage by her fears and the fears of others. What happens when Trauma calls you up and tells you that it has tickets to go see the best Boy Band ever? What happens when you and trauma decide to hit that seedy strip club at 1am?

[UNTITLED REVENGE SHORT](#)

Written and directed by acclaimed Portland filmmaker Dawn Jones Redstone, *Untitled Revenge Short* is about a young woman who returns home for her Uncle Ron's birthday after

being away for some time. This development project used the theatrical play development model to dive into this cinematic script.

THE VERTICAL CITY

Written by Diana Burbano, *The Vertical City*, is a character study set in a future-Portland built to survive the effects of climate change, and imagines how technology might evolve society at the end of the 21st century, both for better and worse. This 70-minute audio drama was created especially for ART's partnership with The Actors Conservatory @ ART, and features the actors from the second-year Conservatory class.

WHY THIS NIGHT

Written by award-winning screenwriter ([We the Animals](#)) and playwright, Dan Kitrosser, *Why This Night* is a new play based on his screenplay, a screwball murder-mystery comedy set in a Russian shtetl in the 1880s.

The ART: Mercury Company II members are:

Andrés Alcalá, Lava Alapai, Fajer Al-Kaisi, Naiya Amilcar, Roy Arauz, Adriana Baer, Becca Blackwell, Ayanna Berkshire, Bobby Bermea, Liz Brazill, Katie Bredemeier, Bobby Brewer-Wallin, Magnolia Brown, Joe Bowden, Amanda Boyd, Diana Burbano, Maya Caufield, Monica Choy, Leslie Crandell Dawes, BreeAna Eisel, Yuseff El Guindi, Quinlan Fitzgerald, Dustin Fuentes, Tracy Cameron Frances, Blanca Forzan, Sarah Gahagan, Francisco Garcia, Bitty Garrett, Darshenpreet Gill, Mikki Gillette, Charles Grant, Shauna Hahn, Erica Hatfield, Matthew Hayes, Chris Harder, Kanon Havens, Wyatt Hodgson, Anthony Hudson, Kisha Jarrett, Phil Johnson, Kayla Kelly, Dan Kitrosser, Emily Kuroda, Shawn Lee, EM Lewis, Sarah Lucht, Tamera Lyn, Treasure Lunan, Sue Mach, Jamil Mangan, Susannah Mars, B. Frayn Masters, Ashley Mellinger, Michael Mendelson, Nathan Miles, Lauren Modica, Maria Moreno, Kristen Mun, Mindy Nettifee, Amy Newman, Katie Nguyen, Roldofo Ortega, Kai Pacifico, Sharath Patel, Tess Raunig, William (Bill) Early Ray, Dámaso Rodríguez, Calista Rodriguez, Dawn Jones Redstone, Aki Ruiz, Zeina Salame, John San Nicolas, Luan Schooler, Miriam Schwartz, Josie Seid, Velma Shambry, Vin Shambry, Avital Shira, Susan Soon He Stanton, Maca Subiabre, Jenna Sulecki, Ithaca Tell, Christina Uyeno, Andrea Vernae, Gabi Villaseñor, Greg Watanabe, Josh Weinstein, Megan Wilkerson, Kristeen Willis, Chris Williams, Carol Ann Wohlmutter, Barbie Wu, Ken Yoshikawa

ART: MERCURY COMPANY PROJECT CASTS & CREATIVE TEAMS

Mercury Company Production Team

Artistic Director | [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^{^^}

Managing Director | [JS May](#)

Producing Director | [Shawn Lee](#)*

Director of New Works | [Luan Schooler](#)

Associate Producer & Production Manager | [Kristeen Willis](#)

General Manager & Casting Director | [Vonessa Martin](#)*

Development & Marketing Director | [Kisha Jarrett](#)

Assistant Production Manager | [Carol Ann Wohlmuth](#)[^]

Assistant Production Manager & DNA: Oxygen Administrator | [Kristen Mun](#)

American Girl (Writers Room)

By [Mikki Gillette](#)

American Girl Cast

[Liz Brazill](#) as Nikki

[Susannah Mars](#)^{^*} as Lisa

[John San Nicolas](#)^{^*} as Kane

[Kayla Kelly](#) as Nicole

[Naiya Amilcar](#) as Tiffany

[Josh Weinstein](#)[^] as Conrad

American Girl Creative Team

Dramaturg | [EM Lewis](#)[^]

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmuth](#)[^]

Carlalogues (Audio Play)

By [Anthony Hudson](#)

Directed by [Luan Schooler](#)

Carlalogues Cast

[Anthony Hudson](#) as Carla/Performer

[Ken Yoshikawa](#) as Jeffrey

Carlalogues Creative Team

Line Producer | [Maca Subiabre](#)

Sound Producer | [Rodolfo Ortega](#)[^]

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

Drop the Mic (Audio Storytelling)

An ART x Back Fence PDX Collab

Drop the Mic Storytellers

[Chris Williams](#)

[Darshenpreet Gill](#)

[Katie Nyguen](#)

[Kisha Jarrett](#)

[Lauren Modica](#)

[Monica Choy](#)

[Shauna Hahn](#)

[Vin Shambry](#)^{^*}

Drop the Mic Creative Team

Story Producer/Co-Host | [B. Frayn Masters](#)

Story Producer/Co-Host | [Mindy Nettifee](#)

Line Producer | [Ashley Mellinger](#)

Producer/Sound Mixing Engineer | [Phil Johnson](#)

Flower Joy (Project Development)

Written/Directed by [Vin Shambry](#)^{^*}

Flower Joy Cast

[Bobby Bermea](#)^{*} as Ensemble

[Amy Newman](#)^{^*} as Ensemble

[Velma Shambry](#) as Velma

[Vin Shambry](#)^{^*} as Vin

Flower Joy Creative Team

Creative Producer | [Shawn Lee](#)^{*}

Sound Engineer/Producer & Composer | [Sharath Patel](#)

Assistant Sound Designer | [Leslie Crandell Dawes](#)

Line Producer | [Kristen Mun](#)

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

Forget Me Not America (Short Film)

Written/Co-Directed by [Josie Seid](#)[^]

Co-Directed by [Shawn Lee](#)^{*}

Forget Me Not America Cast

[Josie Seid](#)[^] as Ensemble

[Vin Shambry](#)^{^*} as Ensemble

Forget Me Not America Creative Team

Sound Engineer/Producer & Composer | [Sharath Patel](#)

Editor | [Shawn Lee](#)^{*}

Sand Artist | [Katie Bredemeier](#)

Sand Box Builder | Gavin Burgess

The Great Divide (Project Development)

Written by [EM Lewis](#)[^]

Directed by [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^{^^}

The Great Divide Cast Ensemble

[Andrea Vernae](#)[^]

[Ken Yoshikawa](#)

[Michael Mendelson](#)^{^*}

[Josie Seid](#)[^]

[Josh Weinstein](#)[^]

[Barbie Wu](#)[^]

[Francisco Garcia](#)^{*}

[Miriam Schwartz](#)

[Sarah Lucht](#)^{^*}

The Great Divide Creative Team

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmut](#)[^]

The Hustle (Writers Room)

Written by [John San Nicolas](#)^{^*}

Directed by [Roy Arauz](#)

The Hustle Cast

[Barbie Wu](#)[^]

[Charles Grant](#)

[Andrea Vernae](#)[^]

[John San Nicolas](#)^{^*}

[Josie Seid](#)[^]

[Vin Shambry](#)^{^*}

[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^{^*}

The Hustle Creative Team

Line Producer | [Blanca Forzan](#)

Dramaturg | [Roy Arauz](#)

The Killing Fields (Project Development)

Written by [Anya Pearson](#)

Directed by [Kisha Jarrett](#)

The Killing Fields Cast

[Bobby Bermea](#)^{*} as Agamemnon

[Charles Grant](#) as Block Boy

[Ithica Tell](#)^{*} as Pelopia

[Kayla Kelly](#) as Iphigenia

[Lauren Modica](#) as Aerope

[Jamil Mangan](#)^{*} as Aegisthus

[Quinlan Fitzgerald](#) as Cassandra

[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^{^*} as Clytemnestra

The Killing Fields Creative Team

Dramaturg | [Pancho Savery](#)
Line Producer | [Maca Subiabre](#)

Mars on Life (Project Development)

By [Susannah Mars](#)^{^*}

Directed by [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^{^^}

Mars on Life Cast

[Susannah Mars](#)^{^*} as herself

Mars on Life Creative Team

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

Video and Sound Designer | [Shawn Lee](#)^{*}

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmuth](#)[^]

Intern | [Jenna Sulecki](#)

Nobody's Going to Fund This (Audio Play)

By [Anthony Hudson](#)

Directed by [Luan Schooler](#)

Nobody's Going to Fund This Cast

[Anthony Hudson](#) as Performer

Nobody's Going to Fund This Creative Team

Line Producer | [Maca Subiabre](#)

Sound Producer | [Rodolfo Ortega](#)[^]

Performance in a Box (Project Development)

Directed by [Megan Wilkerson](#)[^]

Performance in a Box Collaborators

[Megan Wilkerson](#)[^]

[Kristeen Willis](#)

[Bobby Brewer-Wallin](#)[^]

[EM Lewis](#)[^]

[Lava Alapai](#)[^]

[Rodolfo Ortega](#)[^]

[Sarah Gahagan](#)[^]

[Sharath Patel](#)[^]

Performance in a Box Creative Team

Line Producer | [Kristeen Willis](#)

Refugee Rhapsody (Project Development)

Written by [Yussef El Guindi](#)

Directed by [Tracy Cameron Francis](#)

Refugee Rhapsody Cast

[Zeina Salme](#) as Sakinah

[Lauren Modica](#) as Jenny

[Fajer Al-Kaisi](#) as Fouad

[Bobby Bermea](#)* as Richard and Waleed

[Miriam Schwartz](#) as Emily

Refugee Rhapsody Creative Team

Line Producer | [Kristen Mun](#)

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

The Revolution of the Unbearable Departed Yearning (Project Development)

Written by [Lava Alapai](#), [Linda Alper](#), [Anthony Hudson](#), [Dan Kitrosser](#), [Susannah Mars](#), [Luan Schooler](#), and [Josie Seid](#)

Directed by [Luan Schooler](#)

The Revolution of the Unbearable Departed Yearning Cast Ensemble

[Naiya Amilcar](#)

[Andrea Vernea](#)[^]

[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^{^*}

[Sarah Lucht](#)^{^*}

[Chris Harder](#)^{^*}

[Diana Burbano](#)^{*}

[Andrés Alcalá](#)

The Revolution of the Unbearable Departed Yearning Creative Team

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmuth](#)[^]

See Me (Short Film)

Written by [Dawn Jones Redstone](#), [Kisha Jarrett Vin Shambry](#), [Josie Seid](#), [Aki Ruiz](#)

Directed by [Dawn Jones Redstone](#)

See Me Cast

[William \(Bill\) Earl Ray](#) as Jones

[Andrea Vernea](#)[^] as Akira

[Treasure Lunan](#) as CL

See Me Creative Team

Creative Executive Producer | [Kisha Jarrett](#)

Line Producer | [Ashley Mellinger](#)

Director of Photography | [Matthew Hayes](#)

Assistant Director | [Maria Moreno](#)
Animator | [Aki Ruiz](#)
Editor | [DJ Scott](#)
First Assistant Camera | [Kanon Havens](#)
Second Assistant Camera & DP Shadow | [Tamera Lyn](#)
Audio/Boom Operator | [Kai Pacifico](#)
Gaff | [Nathan Miles](#)
Key Grip | [Joe Bowden](#)
Production & Costume Designer | [Gabi Villaseñor](#)
Sound Engineer | [Leslie Crandell Dawes](#)
Health & Safety Officer | [Kayla Kelly](#)
Production Assistant | [Andrea Vernea](#)
Production Assistant & Director Shadow | [Amanda Boyd](#)
Administrative Associate | [Kristen Mun](#)

The Simple Truth (Writers Room)

Written by [Ken Yoshikawa](#)

The Simple Truth Cast Ensemble

[Ashley Mellinger](#)
[Diana Burbano](#)*
[Greg Watanabe](#)*
[John San Nicolas](#)^*
[Tess Raunig](#)
[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^*

The Simple Truth Creative Team

Line Producer | [Maca Subiabre](#)
Dramaturg | [Sue Mach](#)

Today is my Birthday (Audio Play)

Written by [Susan Soon He Stanton](#)

Directed by [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^^

Today is my Birthday Cast

[Andrés Alcalá](#) as DJ Loki
[Lava Alapai](#)^ as Mrs. Asuncion
[Fajer Al-Kaisi](#) as Sebastian
[Naiya Amilcar](#) as Hostess
[Ayanna Berkshire](#)^* as Joyce
[Diana Burbano](#)* as voice
[Charles Grant](#) as Landon
[Emily Kuroda](#) as Mom
[Treasure Lunan](#) as voice

[Lauren Modica](#) as Amazingpresence83
[John San Nicolas](#)^{^*} as Richard
[Sharath Patel](#)[^] as Hawai'ian Public Radio Voice
[William \(Bill\) Earl Ray](#) as Bill Tapia
[Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^{^^} as Kurt
[Zeina Salame](#) as Halima
[Vin Shambry](#)^{^*} as Marcus
[Christina Uyeno](#) as Emily
[Andrea Vernae](#)[^] as DJ Solange
[Greg Watanabe](#)^{*} as Dad
[Barbie Wu](#)[^] as Mrs. Kobayashi
[Ken Yoshikawa](#) as Keoni/Jonathan/Franklin
[Susan Soon He Stanton](#) as Alyssa

Today is my Birthday Creative Team

Producer | [Kristeen Willis](#)
Line Producer | [Kristen Mun](#)
Associate Director | [Barbie Wu](#)[^]
Sound Designer | [Sharath Patel](#)[^]
Assistant Sound Designer | [Leslie Crandell Dawes](#)

Trubador (Writers Room)

Written by [Val Landrum](#)^{^*}
Directed by [Adriana Baer](#)^{^^^}

Trubador Cast

[Maya Caufield](#) as Trubador
[Josie Seid](#)[^] as Lu/Judy
[Phil Johnson](#) as Reuben/Huggy Bear/Midshipman
[Shawn Lee](#)^{*} as Tim/Karl
[Josh Weinstein](#)[^] as Ray/Others
[Kayla Kelly](#) as Oogy Bear/Others

Trubador Creative Team

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmuth](#)[^]

Untitled Revenge Short (Film Development)

Written/Directed by [Dawn Jones Redstone](#)

Untitled Revenge Short Cast

[Bobby Bermea](#)^{*} as Rebecca's Dad
[Diana Burbano](#)^{*} as Linda
[Blanca Forzan](#) as Mary
[Naiya Amilcar](#) as Rebecca

[Francisco Garcia](#) as Sousin Ritchie
[Chris Harder](#)* as Robert
[Michael Mendelson](#)^* as Uncle Ron

Untitled Revenge Short Creative Team

Dramaturg/Advisor | [Diana Burbano](#)*
Line Producer | [Blanca Forzan](#)

The Vertical City (Audio Play)

An ART x The Actors Conservatory Collab

Written by [Diana Burbano](#)*
Directed by [Dámaso Rodríguez](#)^^

The Vertical City Cast

[Magnolia Brown](#) as Ash
[BreeAna Eisel](#) as Avory
[Dustin Fuentes](#) as Dylan
[Bitty Garrett](#) as Soleil
[Erica Hatfield](#) as Greta
[Wyatt Hodgson](#) as Orville
[Calista Rodriguez](#) as T.KA

The Vertical City Creative Team

Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmüt](#)^
Sound Designer | [Doug Newell](#)
Assistant Sound Designer & Engineer | [Em Gustason](#)
Sound Engineer | [David Hoerz](#)

Why This Night (Project Development)

Written by [Dan Kitrosser](#)
Directed by [Avital Shira](#)

Why This Night Cast

[Josh Weinstein](#)^ as Motke
[Michael Mendelson](#)^* as Alter
[Josie Seid](#)^ as Marya
[Miriam Schwartz](#) as Rivka
[Becca Blackwell](#) as Rabbi
[Ken Yoshikawa](#) as Fyodor/Feyful
[Dan Kitrosser](#) as Rebbitzen

Why This Night Creative Team

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)
Line Producer | [Carol Ann Wohlmüt](#)^

* Member SAG/AFTRA
^^ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE'S \(ART\)](#) mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for a diverse community of artists and audiences to take creative risks.

Artists Repertory Theatre recognizes that we are a predominately white organization and operate within systemic racism and oppression, and that silence and neutrality are actions of complicity. We recognize the critical role the arts play in our culture and national conversation, and accept our responsibility to make positive change through our work, our practices, and our policies. We commit ourselves to the work of becoming an anti-racism and anti-oppression organization, and will work with urgency to end racial inequities in our industry and our culture.

ART 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.

Led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez and Managing Director J.S. May, ART (est. 1982) is Portland's oldest professional theatre company and has become a significant presence in the U.S. regional theatre with a legacy of world, national, and regional premieres of provocative new work with the highest standards of stagecraft. In 2016, ART became the 72nd member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network (NNPN). Plays developed by ART have subsequently been produced in New York, Chicago, London, and throughout the country. Recognition for ART commissioned plays includes the Dramatists Guild Foundation Award, the Edgerton New Play Award, NEA Funding, the Mellon Foundation National Playwright Residency Program, American Theatre Magazine's Most-Produced Plays, and coverage in the New Yorker and the New York Times.

[TABLE|ROOM|STAGE \(T|R|S\)](#), established in 2015, is Artists Rep's new play program. The T|R|S mission is to develop and produce new work that vividly expresses Artists Rep's [aesthetic values](#). Focused on work by BIPOC writers, 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 the upcoming *Looking for Tiger Lily* by Anthony Hudson (Spring 2021).

T|R|S is home to Mellon Playwright-In-Residence and Steinberg Award Winner, E.M. Lewis, and Lacroute Playwright-In-Residence, Andrea Stolowitz. Playwrights under commission presently include Linda Alper, Anthony Hudson, Steve Rathje, Andrea Stolowitz, and E.M. Lewis, whose play *The*

Great Divide is co-commissioned with ART and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. New projects are also being developed with Susannah Mars and Vin Shambry.

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 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).

Through T|R|S, Artists Rep is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network (NNPN).

[RESIDENT ARTISTS](#) have an ongoing history of working on stage and behind-the-scenes of Artists Rep's mainstage 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, 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 life-long learners at every ability, interest, and level of expertise. Opportunities focus on engaging with 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, and communication for non-actors. 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 seven 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. 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 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; The Oregon Community Foundation; Regional Arts & Culture Council; The Shubert Foundation; David & Christine Vernier; The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; 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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