



Artists Repertory Theatre

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# ***LOOKING FOR TIGER LILY* BY ANTHONY HUDSON AN ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE WORLD PREMIER CANCELED**

**ARTISTS REP'S COMMISSIONED PLAY AND PRODUCTION OF WRITER-PERFORMER ANTHONY HUDSON'S *LOOKING FOR TIGER LILY*, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR ITS WORLD PREMIERE IN MAY 2020, AND WAS THEREFORE POSTPONED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS BEEN CANCELED**

**PORTLAND, OREGON – May 19, 2021** Artists Repertory Theatre and playwright Anthony Hudson on Wednesday announced that they are canceling the performance of Hudson's play, *Looking for Tiger Lily*. Originally commissioned by ART and scheduled in the Spring of the 2019/20 Season, *Tiger Lily* was postponed just three weeks before the beginning of rehearsals by the pandemic.

The pause in productions due to the pandemic afforded us all an opportunity to reexamine our relationship to our work and the demands it places upon us. "The show must go on" often demands that we give more of ourselves than is healthy or warranted, and Anthony is electing to step back from performing their play, *Looking for Tiger Lily*, and some other projects while they regroup from the pandemic (which Anthony touches on in their upcoming ART Audio essay, *Nobody's going to fund this*).

Hudson stated they are now "drawn to new, non-performance explorations of the issues that have always enlivened their work -- gender, Indigeneity, and queerness."

Due to the unique nature of the play, *Looking for Tiger Lily*, which requires Anthony to perform a version of themselves and their famed character Carla Rossi, the previously announced and postponed production at Artists Rep will no longer occur. Anthony is drawn now to explore the ideas in *Tiger Lily* in different ways, and Artists Rep is happy to support their artistic evolution. Artists Rep and Anthony remain collaborators and the theatre will continue to support their artistic evolution and looks forward to new collaborations in the future.

**Anthony Hudson** (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, filmmaker, and performer sometimes better known as Portland, Oregon's premiere drag clown Carla Rossi. Together they host and program *Queer Horror*, the only LGBTQ+ horror film and performance series in the country, at Portland's historic Hollywood Theatre. Anthony has received project support and fellowships from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, National Performance Network, Western Arts Alliance, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Community Foundation, USArtists International, Ucross Foundation, Caldera Arts Center, and more; Anthony's performances have been featured at the Portland and Seattle Art Museums, Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, PICA's TBA Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, La Mama, and have toured internationally. Anthony also co-hosts the weekly queer feminist horror podcast *Gaylords of Darkness* with writer Stacie Ponder. Find out more at [TheCarlaRossi.com](http://TheCarlaRossi.com).

**Kisha Jarrett** (Managing Director) is a creative change-maker with a background in marketing and development throughout her ten-year career in Arts Management. She has helped fundraise over \$50 million dollars for various organizations and has a cumulative ticket sales revenue of over \$5 million. A Virginia native, she has lived all over the country but now calls Portland, Oregon home. Kisha is also a writer, director, producer, actor, musician, and storyteller. She has performed for both stage and screen, been a musician at SXSW, and has been a costume designer for the stage and television, and an independent bakery owner. Through storytelling, she has performed for the Moth (2017 and 2018 GrandSLAM winner), Back Fence PDX, Seven Deadly Sins, Wildfang, and more. Most recently, Kisha was seen onstage at Portland Center Stage @ The Armory as the Headmistress in *School Girls; or The African Mean Girls Play*, a co-production with Artists Rep. Currently, she is working on her second feature-length screenplay, pre-production for a feature-length documentary (*Black Girl in the Woods*, documenting a hike-thru of the Pacific Northwest Trail) and an educational piece for the Oregon Bar Association (about the four black suffragettes in Oregon who deserve to have their stories told), post-production on the first devised DNA:Oxygen short film (*See Me*), and writing her first novel. Kisha is proud to be a co-founder of the DNA: Oxygen program at ART. She is in the inaugural cohort of the LORT EDI Mentor/Mentee program and serves on the LORT EDI committee. Kisha is on the Literary Arts Festival of the Book Committee and has served as an Event Producer for Oregon Media Production Association (OMPA), Children's Book Bank, Boys and Girls Club, Artists Rep, Live Arts, MTV Woodie Awards, Invisible Children, World Monuments Fund, and School of Visual Arts.

**J.S. (John Stuart) May** is a seasoned fundraising, communications and nonprofit management professional and has worked with a wide range of local, regional, national and international nonprofit organizations. He has helped raise more than \$500 million. Since 2018 J.S. has been the Managing Director, now Executive Director, for Artist Repertory Theatre, Portland's oldest professional theatre. For eleven years prior, he was the chief fundraising, marketing and communications officer, and strategist for the Portland Art Museum - Oregon's premier visual arts institution. Before the Art Museum, for seven years J.S. led the fundraising practice for Metropolitan Group, a Portland-based social marketing firm that works to create a more just and sustainable world. For the six years prior to MG, he supported the growth of the region's leading pediatric teaching and research hospital as executive director for the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation at OHSU. Before Doernbecher, J.S. spent six years supporting the expansion and growth of the region's most trusted media source as the director of corporate support for Oregon Public Broadcasting. A graduate of the University of Oregon and a Navy veteran, J.S. has volunteered for numerous nonprofit organizations and has served multiple terms as president of the board for both the Portland Schools Foundation and the Portland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He currently serves as president of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition and a board member of Cycle Oregon.

**Dámaso Rodríguez** is in his eighth season as Executive Artistic Director of Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland's longest-running professional theatre company, which became a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) under his leadership. Plays developed during his tenure have been produced in New York, Chicago, London, and throughout the U.S. Acclaim for Artists Rep developed projects includes the Dramatists Guild Foundation Award, the Edgerton New Play Award, NEA Funding, American Theatre Magazine's Most Produced Plays list, and coverage in the New Yorker and the New York Times. He is a Co-Founder of L.A.'s Furious Theatre, where he served as Co-Artistic Director from 2001-2012 (named to LA Weekly's "Best Theatres of the Decade" list). From 2007-2010 he served as Associate Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse, where he directed main stage productions and oversaw programming for the Playhouse's second stage, including its Hothouse New Play Development Program. He has directed a broad range of new and classic plays including over 20 Artists Rep productions, along with work at South Coast Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Seattle Rep, Intiman Theatre, A Noise Within, The Playwrights' Center, New Dramatists, The New Harmony Project, The Theatre@Boston Court, Pasadena Playhouse, 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. He was honored as a Finalist for the Zelda Fichandler Award by the Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation and was named a Knowledge Universe Rising Star by Portland Monthly. His productions have received or been nominated for dozens of awards including the L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Award, LA StageScene Award, and the LA Weekly Theatre Award, among others. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and serves on the faculty of The Actors Conservatory at Artists Rep.

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## 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 Executive Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez, Executive Director J.S. May, and Managing Director, Kisha Jarrett, 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 72<sup>nd</sup> 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).

**DNA: OXYGEN**, At the same time an affinity space and a creative hub, DNA: Oxygen promises to be an industry-leading initiative in the radical restructuring of power in the regional theatre landscape. By centering BIPOC artists as leaders, as thinkers, and as generators, DNA: Oxygen is setting out to serve these theatrically underserved stories and makers, ensuring a pipeline to production for artists of color that disrupts historic molds.

**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; The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; Ronni Lacroute; The Oregon Legislature, The Oregon Cultural Trust and The Multnomah County Cultural Coalition; David & Christine Vernier; The Oregon Community Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Additional Corporate and Foundation support comes from The Kinsman Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; The Cowlitz Tribe Education and Arts Fund; Oregon Arts Commission; US Bank; The Jackson Foundation; PGE Foundation; Sheri and Les Biller Foundation; and Rafati's Catering.

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