



Artists Repertory Theatre

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ARTISTS REP ANNOUNCES LUAN SCHOOLER AS INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The theatre's dramaturg and director of play development will serve as Interim Artistic Director,

while the board continues its national search for ART's next Artistic Director

PORTLAND, OREGON – November 17, 2021 Following the announcement that current Artistic Director, Dámaso Rodríguez, is stepping down at the end of the calendar year, Artists Repertory Theatre's Board of Directors has appointed Director of New Works, Luan Schooler as the Interim Artistic Director. Luan has been at ART since 2015 serving as Director of New Play Development & Dramaturgy.

Luan has been pivotal in ART's artistic direction and will continue to guide the play selection for next season. "I am honored to be entrusted by the Board to carry forward the work that Dámaso and the entire ART team established, and to serve as a bridge between artistic visions. I am excited to work with our dedicated, smart, and imaginative staff to build a thrilling 2022/2023 season, and look forward to ART's evolution when we have a new artistic director in place." In addition to overseeing the commissioning and development of new work, she has directed Artists Rep's World Premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse, *A Doll's House, Part 2* by Lucas Hnath, and *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* by David Grieg. Later this season, Luan will direct the Tony-nominated play *The Children* by Lucy Kirkwood as well as produce the Mercury Festival, a weeklong festival of in-person concert stagings of new plays developed online by ART during the 18 months that the theatre was closed due to the pandemic.

"Luan is a wise choice to serve as ART's Interim Artistic Director," says Executive Director J.S. May. "Her deep theatrical knowledge and familiarity with all aspects of our artistic programs enables ART to not miss a beat while the Board of Directors conducts the national search for Dámaso's successor. I look forward to collaborating with Luan in her expanded role."

The Board is committed to a transparent and equitable search process for the next Artistic Director. To help conduct the search process, the Board, in collaboration with Executive Director JS May and Luan Schooler, will hire a professional recruiting firm. That firm will guide the process with Resident Artists, staff, donors, members, and supporters to pursue candidates from across the country, and help with the interview and selection process. While it was the Board's wish to have a new director in place before Dámaso left, they are committed to taking the time needed to ensure a thorough and transparent process. "We look forward to the challenge of finding the next leader to continue that pathway into the future." added Board Chair, Pancho Savery. "We believe that Luan is uniquely qualified to lead the transition and continue the theatre's legacy of provocative theatre along with broadly diverse plays and casting." The Board's Succession Committee is currently interviewing search firms and expects the recruiting process to take about six months.

ABOUT LUAN

Prior to joining Artists Rep in 2015, Luan worked with many theaters around the country, including Perseverance Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Cal Shakes, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Play House, A Traveling Jewish Theatre, Play On!, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. She has developed new plays with exceptional artists including David Edgar, Naomi Iizuka, Salman Rushdie, Dominique Serrand, Rinde Eckert, Leon Ingulsrud, Lisa Peterson, Paula Vogel, Per Olav Sorensen, Molly Smith, John Luther Adams, and many others. Following a seven year tenure as Literary Manager/Dramaturg at Berkeley Rep, Luan took a seven year hiatus from theatre during which she became a cheesemonger and opened a shop in Northeast Portland.

In 2015, she returned to theatre and was appointed by Artists Rep to launch Table|Room|Stage, the theatre's new play development program. Through T|R|S, she commissioned and developed work with Yussef El Guindi (*The Talented Ones*), Larissa FastHorse (*The Thanksgiving Play*), Andrea Stolowitz (*Recent Unsettling Events*), Linda Alper (*Shanghai*), Dael Orlandersmith (*Shades Between Two Worlds*), Hansol Jung (*Wolf Play*), Steve Rathje (*Signs*), Anthony Hudson (*Looking for Tiger Lily*), and through second productions, Isaac Gomez (*La Ruta*) and Mike Lew (*Teenage Dick*). Presently, Luan is working with E.M. Lewis on *The Great Divide*, which was co-commissioned with Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions program, with Kareem Fahmy on *American Fast*, and is in the early stages of developing a new musical. In ART's Mercury Company, Luan served as dramaturg/generative artists on sixteen of the forty-two projects between June 2020 and August 2021.

In addition to developing new work at ART, Luan has provided production dramaturgy on many shows over the last seven seasons (*The Miracle Worker*, *Mothers and Sons*, *We Are Proud To Present*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Trevor*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Feathers and Teeth*, *The Talented Ones*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Caught*, *The Humans*, *Magellanica*, *I and You*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Teenage Dick*, *Wolf Play*, *The Revolutionists*, *1984*, *La Ruta*, *Indecent*, and *The Chinese Lady*). As a director at ART, Luan has taken on the world premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Doll's House, Part 2*, and *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (with Dámaso Rodríguez) on the mainstage, as well as audio projects *The Carlalogues* and *nobody's*

going to fund this (released in Spring 2021). She is also working on multiple new projects for ART, including *The Event*, a narrative podcast written with Lava Alapai, Linda Alper, Anthony Hudson, Dan Kitrosser, Susannah Mars, and Josie Seid.

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

[ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE'S \(Artists Rep or ART\)](#) mission is to produce intimate, provocative theatre and provide a home for a diverse community of artists and audiences to take creative risks. Artists Rep (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 developed 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. In 2021, the Oregon Media Production Association (OMPA) honored Artists Rep with the Creative Innovation Award for the company's pivot to digital mediums in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. ART 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 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. To learn more about our organization and programs, please visit <https://artistsrep.org/about/>

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