



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kisha Jarrett

kjarrett@artistsrep.org | 404.272.3037

ARTISTS REP PRESENTS PORTLAND PREMIERE OF
LAUREN GUNDERSON'S

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

A women-empowered comedy about grace and power in the face of unrest

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: **THE REVOLUTIONISTS**

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed Lava Alapai

WHEN: April 28 – May 26, 2019

Preview Performances: April 28, 30, May 1-3

Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, May 4 @ 7:30pm

Regular run: May 5 – May 26

Wednesdays-Sundays @ 7:30pm, Sundays @ 2pm

Additional Performances:

Tuesdays: May 7, May 21 @ 7:30pm

Saturdays: May 18, May 25 @ 2pm

Wednesday: May 15 @ 12pm

Open Captioned Performance: May 25 @ 2pm

Closing Performance: May 26 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison St. Portland, OR 97205

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

Special Discounts:

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

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:

April 28: Pay-What-You-Will + pre-show music with [Leah Hinchcliff](#)

April 30: Ten Buck Tuesday – \$10 tickets
May 1: Wine Down Wednesday – \$30 tickets + a glass of Dark Horse Wine
May 2: Thirsty Thursday – \$30 tickets + a pint of Lagunitas beer
May 3: Foodie Friday – \$30 tickets + discounted food at ArtBar

POST SHOW TALKBACKS:

Tech Talk with show designers: May 1 (after 7:30pm show)
Post Sunday Matinees: May 5, 12 (after 2pm show)
Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Talk Back: May 19 (after 2pm show)
Post Wednesday Matinee: May 15 (after 12pm show)

BOOK & FILM LIST: [Play-inspired recommendations](#) by Multnomah County Library staff
SHOW IMAGE ATTACHED: Design credit – Jeff Hayes, Kisha Jarrett, Mary Beth Leavens
PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: MAY 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | April 2019 Artists Repertory Theatre is proud to present *The Revolutionists* by the Steinberg Playwright Award-Winner, Lauren Gunderson. *The Revolutionists* is a women-empowered comedy set during the Reign of Terror where four women are willing to lose their heads for the equality of all women and for the love of their country.

"I can't imagine a more fitting finish to Artists Rep's 18/19 season than Lauren Gunderson's witty, inspiring, and perfectly timed comedy *The Revolutionists*," said **Artistic Director Dámaso Rodríguez**. "Gunderson's play features four real-life women fiercely fighting to write their own stories amidst a rapidly changing world, and it stars an equally fierce team of women, including ART Resident Artists Ayanna Berkshire and Amy Newman (who returns to Portland after three seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival), led by director Lava Alapai, who brought last season's hit *An Octoroon* to vivid life on our stage."

Lauren Gunderson is the most produced living playwright in America of 2016 and 2017, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Company. Her work has been produced all over the country, including South Coast Rep (*Silent Sky*), The Kennedy Center (*The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful and Her Dog!*), and last year at Artist Rep (*I and You*). We're pleased to bring another one of her works, *The Revolutionists*, to Artist's Rep.

When describing why live storytelling and plays are produced, **playwright Lauren Gunderson** expressed, "they bring us together physically, intellectually and emotionally; and they teach us how to be better humans." She remarked that theatre is "portable, contagious wisdom. [Humans] are big brained and [highly] social creatures which means we think all the damn time, and most of the time we're thinking about each other. We have to think about other humans. Humans die in isolation. We need each other. Thus we need to understand each

other. Thus we need theatre so that we can get up close and personal to tragedy, lies, love, betrayal, decision, heroism, confession, and mystery. Theatre is our secret weapon to live long and prosper and find meaning and connection.”

Director Lava Alapai expressed that equality is at the forefront of our consciousness. “We want to see the women represented in the play that, when faced with their mortality, could find friendship and strength to fight for the rights of everyone. Each character is responsible for writing their story.”

“It might be fiction, but it’s not fake. The beating hearts in front of you are real. The gathering of people, the time spent is real. The story is real when it starts. And this story will capture our hearts.” **Olympe, in Lauren Gunderson’s *The Revolutionists***

Cast consists of ART Resident Artists Ayanna Bershire and Amy Newman, alongside Artists Rep alum Jamie Rea and Joellen Sweeney, in her Artists Rep debut,.

Artists Rep’s production of *The Revolutionists* is sponsored by Julie and Robert Ball, Mike Barr, Dark Horse, and in part by Patti Brewer & Nick Giustina, and Len & Susan Magazine.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Who runs the world? GIRLS! In 1793, during France’s Reign of Terror – a playwright, an assassin, a former queen, and a Caribbean spy walk into a room and attempt to save the soul of France while avoiding the edge of the guillotine’s blade. Olympe is desperate to pen the perfect piece of revolutionary art for her generation, while Charlotte is determined to become an assassin. Prophetic Marie is happy to reminisce about her time in the palace while Marianne gathers intelligence to send home to the Caribbean.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Lauren M. Gunderson is the most-produced living playwright in America of 2016 and 2017, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation’s 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU’s Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her work has been commissioned, produced and developed at companies across the US including South Coast Rep (*Emilie, Silent Sky*), The Kennedy Center (*The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful And Her Dog!*), The O’Neill, The Denver Center, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Theatre, Synchronicity, Olney Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire and more. She co-authored *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* with Margot Melcon. Her work is published at Playscripts (*I and You, Exit Pursued By A Bear, The Taming, and Toil and Trouble*), Dramatists (*Silent Sky, Bauer, Miss Bennet*) and Samuel French (*Emilie*). Her picture book "Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon" was released from Two Lions/Amazon in May 2017.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Lava is originally from Okinawa, Japan and grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii where she learned the art of Bunraku puppetry. She graduated with an MFA in acting from California Institute of the Arts and has been creating theatre in Portland for more than a decade. Credits include design and acting work for Portland Playhouse, defunkt theatre, Tears of Joy Theatre, and Many Hats Collaboration, among others. Directing credits include *Columbinus*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Locomotion* for Oregon Children's Theatre, and staged readings for Profile Theatre and Playwrights West. She is an associate member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC). She would like to thank her amazing team and beautiful cast for giving her the opportunity to create this show with them, and her wife, Alex, for agreeing to go on this crazy ride with her. Visit www.lavaalapai.com to see Lava's work as a photographer.

The Revolutionists

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Lava Alapai

CAST

[Jamie M. Rea](#)* as Olympe De Gouges | *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Artists Rep), *A Doll's House*, *The Snowstorm* (CoHo & Many Hats Productions), *Bloody Poetry* (NW Classical Theatre Co), *The Visit* (Broken Toy Piano), *Trojan Women* (Classic Greek Theatre of Oregon), *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Arcadia* (Lakewood Theatre Co), *References to Salvador Dali make me hot*, *Lorca in a Green Dress* (Miracle Theatre) and *Blithe Spirit* (Wilcox Stage Co).

[Joellen Sweeney](#)+ as Charlotte Corday | *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Anonymous Theatre), *Uncle Vanya* (Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Shaking the Tree), *Elephant & Piggie: We Are In a Play*, *Alice In Wonderland* (Northwest Children's Theatre), and *Othello* (Post5 Theatre).

[Amy Newman](#)*^ as Marie Antoinette | *All My Sons*, *Design for Living*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *Red Herring*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Tribes*, *The Liar*, *The Miracle Worker* (Artists Rep).

[Ayanna Berkshire](#)*^ as Marianne Angelle | *Teenage Dick*, *Wolf Play*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *An Octoroon*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Grand Concourse*, *The Understudy*, *Intimate Apparel*, and *Race* (Artists Rep).

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | [Lava Alapai](#)^^

Scenic Designer | [Megan Wilkerson](#)#^

Costume Designer | [Bobby Brewer-Wallin](#)^

Lighting Designer | Jeff Woods

Sound Designer | Annalise Albright Woods

Dramaturg | [Luan Schooler](#)

Stage Manager | [Carol Ann Wohlmut](#)*^

Wig Designer | Diane Trapp

Props Master | [Robert Amico](#)
Resident Fight Choreographer | [Jonathan Cole](#)^{^^}
Puppet Designer | Lance Woolen
Assistant Director | Audrey O'Farrell
Production Assistant 1 | Megan Thorpe
Production Assistant 2 | Erin MacGillivray
Scenic Design Intern | Brianna Fisher

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 | Clare Hungate-Hawk
Technical Director | Nathan Crone
Scene Shop Foreman | Eddie Rivera
Master Carpenter | Charlie Capps
Scenic Charge Artist | Sarah Kindler
Master Electrician | Chris Stull
Sound Technician | David Petersen
Board Op | Jason Coffey
Wig Maintenance | Jael Green

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

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

[RESIDENT ARTISTS](#)—Artists Rep productions feature the work of a core group of two dozen multidisciplinary theatre professionals. Hailing from around the country, the Resident Artists are nationally renowned and award-winning actors, directors, writers, designers, and educators who have chosen to make Portland and Artists Rep their artistic home. Working together and independently, they create inventive and theatrically rich experiences for audiences while playing a major role in defining Portland's cultural landscape.

[TABLE | ROOM | STAGE](#)—Established in 2015, Table | Room | Stage (T | R | S) is Artists Rep's new play program that offers development opportunities for local and national playwrights, and ensures that underrepresented voices are heard on stage. This program strives to make a meaningful impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the theatre field by mandating opportunities for women, non-gender conforming, and writers of color, and cultivating the next generation of theatre-goers. Artists Rep is committed to bringing the exciting work of women, transgender, and non-binary writers and writers of color to its stages with this program. Artists Rep's first completed T | R | S commission was *The Talented Ones*, by Yussef El Guindi (premiered April 2017). The second T | R | S commission was *The Thanksgiving Play*, by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) (premiered April 2018) and went on to Playwrights Horizons. The third T | R | S was *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung, a National New Play Rolling World Premiere, which World Premiered in 2019 at Artists Rep before continuing to productions across the U.S. Current playwright commissions include: Linda Alper, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Rathje, E.M. Lewis, and Andrea Stolowitz. T | R | S is also developing work with actor-playwright Susannah Mars. To learn more about all the projects, playwrights, and programs of T | R | S [visit here](#).

[EDUCATION](#)—The 2018/19 Artists Rep season launched a robust education program with a dedication to programs that help develop theatre artists and arts professionals. These education opportunities focus on engaging and elevating our community by offering professional-level [classes, coaching and workshops](#) with our Resident Artists and guest artists. These classes serve artists seeking professional development, as well as curious community members who can take classes on subjects such as dramaturgy, script-writing, acting for communication, and more. With the innovative [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. The purpose of the program is to introduce students to the full range of skills and ideas that are essential to running a professional theatre and to foster the next generation of arts leaders and professionals. Access and enrichment continues for [schools and educators](#) who enjoy ticket discounts, school programming, and workshops. Artists Rep's [pre- and post-show discussions](#) have been enhanced to include post-show mingling with the cast, director and staff, and a dedicated conversation with production designers.

[ARTSHUB](#)—Artists Rep is also home to the ArtsHub, where a diverse range of artists and arts organizations find a home and thrive with access to affordable administrative, performance, and rehearsal space, as well as myriad support services. The ArtsHub serves as a community arts center, where performance venues and lobbies buzz with creative energy and Portland’s arts-loving audiences gather. Over the past year, Artists Rep hosted 324 rehearsals and more than 600 performances, events, and other happenings by over 50 groups. To learn about the arts organizations of Artists Rep’s ArtsHub [visit here](#).

Artists Repertory Theatre receives generous support from our community of patrons, including significant leadership gifts from: Anonymous, The Collins Foundation, The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation, Ronni Lacroute, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Regional Arts & Culture Council, The Shubert Foundation, and David & Christine Vernier. Additional Corporate and Foundation support comes from: Advance Gender Equity in the Arts (AGE); Hotel deLuxe; Jackson Foundation; Kinsman Foundation; Oregon Arts Commission, a State Agency; Oregon Community Foundation; Oregon Cultural Trust; The Oregonian/OregonLive (media sponsor); Rafati’s Catering; Dark Horse Wine; and US Bank.

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