

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ART on Tour and Profile Theatre in association with Portland State University
PRESENT

INDECENT

A riveting backstage drama filled with music

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre and Profile Theatre in association with Portland State University

WHAT: **Indecent**
By Paula Vogel
Directed by Josh Hecht
Choreographed by Adin Walker

WHEN: February 19, 2020 – March 8, 2020
Preview Performances: February 19, 20, 21
Opening Night/Press Night: Saturday, February 22 @ 7:30pm
Regular run: February 23 – March 8
Tuesdays – Sundays @ 7:30pm
Open Captioned Performance: February 29 @ 7:30pm
Closing Performance: March 8 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: **Lincoln Hall, Portland State University, 1620 SW Park Ave, Portland OR 97201**

TICKETS: \$60 regular price; \$30 preview/student/under 35; \$15 PSU student with ID
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:

February 20: Vortex Music Magazine presents Thirsty Thursday sponsored by Lagunitas – \$35 ticket + post show talkback with civil rights advocate Emily Simon and Reed College Religion professor Steve Wasserstrom + post-show musical performance by [Christina Crowder](#)

POST SHOW DISCUSSIONS:

Tech Wine Down Wednesday with production team: Feb 19 (after 7:30pm show)
From Purification to Prostitution: Feb 23 (after 2pm show)

Whose America Is It?: Mar 1 (after 2pm show)

Oregon Psychoanalytic Center Post Show Discussion: Mar 8 (after 2pm show)

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: Email Media contact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. Portland, Oregon | February 2020 Artists Repertory Theatre (ART) and Profile Theatre in association with Portland State University presents *Indecent* by Paula Vogel, a boldly touching portrayal of the original theatrical company who presented Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance*.

Sholem Asch's play *The God of Vengeance* made a splash on Broadway in 1923, when it was shut down after six weeks of running, and all of the actors were arrested on charges of obscenity. Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Paula Vogel weaves scenes of Asch's play with the imagined conversations of the risk-taking company that brought the script to the stage. *Indecent* is a riveting backstage drama filled with music, the history of Jewish theatre, and stage magic.

"Our need to tell our own stories is one of the most ancient needs we have," says **Artistic Director of Profile Theatre and director of the play, Josh Hecht**. "It's not just the telling that is important. It's the witnessing. It's the confirmation that comes from speaking our truths and having someone else say, "Yes, that's me, too. Yes, I recognize that. We may be different, but in this way we are the same."

"This original production of Vogel's acclaimed, moving, and ultimately joyous play is a collaboration between Profile Theatre, Artists Repertory Theatre (ART), and Portland State University (PSU)," says **Dámaso Rodríguez, Artistic Director of Artists Repertory Theatre**. "This ambitiousness and scale of this project, which affords opportunities for PSU students to interact with and learn from some of our city's most accomplished theatre artists, might have been out of reach for all of our companies had we not combined our resources to make it possible."

The cast of *Indecent* features Artists Rep Resident Artists Michael Mendelson, Joshua Weinstein, and Linda Alper; alongside collaborators Miriam Schwartz, Jamie M. Rea, Gavin Hoffman, and David Meyers; as well as Andrew Alikhanov on clarinet, Michelle Alany on Violin, and Christina Crowder on accordion.

This production of *Indecent* is sponsored by Tom Gifford & Patti Fisher, The Kinsman Foundation.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Sholem Asch's play *The God of Vengeance* made a splash on Broadway in 1923, when it was shut down after six weeks of running, and all of the actors were arrested on charges of

obscurity. Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Paula Vogel weaves scenes of Asch's play with the imagined conversations of the risk-taking company that brought the script to the stage. *Indecent* is a riveting backstage drama filled with music, the history of Jewish theatre, and stage magic.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Paula Vogel has written HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE (Pulitzer Prize, New York Drama Critics Award, Obie Award, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and many more.) Other plays include A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS, THE LONG CHRISTMAS RIDE HOME, THE MINEOLA TWINS, HOT 'N' THROBBIN, THE BALTIMORE WALTZ, DESDEMONA, AND BABY MAKES SEVEN, and THE OLDEST PROFESSION. Her plays have been produced by Second Stage, New York Theatre Workshop, the Vineyard Theatre, Roundabout and Circle Repertory Company. Her plays have been produced regionally all over the country at the Center Stage, Intiman, Trinity Repertory, Woolly Mammoth, Huntington Theatre, Magic Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Dallas Theatre Berkeley Repertory, and Alley Theatres to name a few. Harrogate Theatre and the Donmar Theatre have produced her work in England. Her plays have been produced in Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand as well as translated and produced in Italy, Germany, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, Romania, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland Slovenia, Canada, Portugal, France, Greece, Japanese, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Brazil and other countries. John Simon once remarked that Paula Vogel had more awards than a "black sofa collects lint." Some of these include Induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame, Thornton Wilder Award, Lifetime Achievement from the Dramatists Guild, the William Inge Award, the Elliott Norton Award, two Obies, a Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Award, a TCG residency award, a Guggenheim, a Pew Charitable Trust Award, and fellowships and residencies at Sundance Theatre Lab, Hedgebrook, The Rockefeller Center's Bellagio Center, Yaddo, MacDowell, and the Bunting. But she is particularly proud of her Thirtini Award from 13P, and honored by three Awards in her name: the Paula Vogel Award for playwrights given by The Vineyard Theatre, the Paula Vogel Award from the American College Theatre Festival, and the Paula Vogel mentorship program, curated by Quiara Hudes and Young Playwrights of Philadelphia.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Josh Hecht is a Drama Desk Award-winning director and the artistic director of Profile Theatre. At Profile, he has directed *In The Wake* by Lisa Kron and the rotating repertory productions of Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water By The Spoonful* and *The Happiest Song Plays Last*. His productions have been seen in New York at MCC Theater, The Cherry Lane, The Duke on 42nd Street, New World Stages, Culture Project, regionally at The Guthrie Theater, the Berkshire Theatre Group, the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Signature Theatre (DC), and internationally at the Dublin Arts Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and elsewhere. His collaboration with Ping Chong and Company was commissioned by and premiered at The Kennedy Center before touring the northeast. His writing has received the support of the Jerome Foundation. He is formerly the director of playwright development at MCC Theater and the director of new play development at Women's Expressive Theatre, and has worked at most of the play development centers across the country including The National Playwrights Conference at The

O'Neill, New York Stage and Film, The Playwrights Center, The Lark, PlayPenn, New Harmony Project, JAW at Portland Center Stage and others. He is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect and an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. He's served on the faculty of the New School for Drama MFA Directing program, the Fordham University MFA Playwriting program, Purchase College SUNY's BFA Dramatic Writing program and has been a guest artist at The Juilliard School, NYU's Dramatic Writing MFA program, Carnegie Mellon's MFA Playwriting program, University of Minnesota's BFA Acting program, and others.

Indecent

By Paula Vogel

Directed by Josh Hecht

Choreographed by Adin Walker

CAST

Michael Mendelson^{^*} as Lemml | *1984, Everybody, Small Mouth Sounds, Magellanica, An Octoroon, Majorie Prime, Trevor, Mothers & Sons, The Skin of Our Teeth*

Miriam Schwartz as Chana | Guthrie Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Artistry MN, 7th House Theatre Company

Joshua J. Weinstein^{^*} as Avram | *Magellanica, We are Proud to Present..., Miracle Worker, Foxfinder, Tribes, 4000 Miles, Red Herring*

Jamie M. Rea^{*} as Halina | *The Revolutionists, A Doll's House, Arcadia, The Snowstorm, Bloody Poetry, The Visit, Trojan Women, A Flea in Her Ear, Blithe Spirit*

Gavin Hoffman^{*} as Mendel | *American Hero, The Understudy, The Monster Builder, Crossing Mnisose, Major Barbara, Astoria Parts 1 & 2*

Linda Alper^{^*} as Vera | *A Doll's House Part 2, The Importance of Being Earnest, Marjorie Prime, The Skin of Our Teeth, The Price, Tribes, The Quality of Life, Ten Chimneys, Superior Donuts*

David Meyers^{*} as Otto | The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Portland Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Perseverance Theatre, Southwest Repertory Theatre, Neil Simon Festival

Andrew Alikhanov as Mayer Balsam | Clarinet

Michelle Alany as Nelly Friedman | Violin

Christina Crowder as Moriz Godowsky | Accordion

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Josh Hecht^{^^}

Choreographer | Adin Walker^{*}

Scenic & Projections Designer | Peter Ksander

Costume Designer | Wanda Walden

Lighting Designer | Kristeen Willis[#]

Sound Designer | Matt Weins

Properties Master | Lauren Chilton

Dramaturg | Pancho Savery
Dramaturg | Luan Schooler
Dramaturg | Karin Magaldi
Dialect & Voice Coach | Stephanie Gaslin
Fight Choreographer | [Jonathan Cole](#)^^^
Intimacy Consultant | Amanda K Cole#
Directing & Choreography Intern | Tommy O’Flannigan
Stage Manager | Carol Ann Wohlmutter*^
Assistant Stage Manager | Jamie Lynne Simons*
Production Assistant | Ariela Subar
Sound Engineer | Rory Breshears
Costume & Wardrobe Head | Alana Wight-Yedinak
PSU Design & Technical Instructor | James Mapes

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

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE

Founded in 1997, Profile Theatre quickly established itself as a leading voice in Portland’s cultural scene. In 2010, Profile was awarded the inaugural New National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, designed to bring national attention to “the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape.” More recently, Profile has twice been recognized by Advance Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in the field, and its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has been profiled in Howlround. 2018-2019, Hecht’s first fully programmed season as Artistic Director, included the commission and world premiere of (Un)Conditional by National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, a community-invested work amplifying the themes of the Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith season, and brought Lisa Kron to Portland for a week-long Playwright’s Residency.

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 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; 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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