



ARTSBOSTON



PHOTO: ERIC LEVIN

Residents at Midway Studios



PHOTO: MICHAEL J. LUTCH

James Levine

2009

FALL ARTS PREVIEW

Diane Paulus of American Repertory Theater

PHOTO: DARIO ACOSTA

THEATER MUSIC

The economic times may be uncertain, but Boston's leading theater companies are being bold and adventurous this fall, with world, New England, and Boston premieres that are sure to challenge, entertain, and inspire you. **Page 4**

Diane Paulus

Diane Paulus' return to Boston is bringing an exciting new season to the re-branded American Repertory Theater, beginning with the "Shakespeare Exploded!" trio of theatrical events. We interviewed Paulus for an insightful look into her first season. **Page 11**



Diane Paulus

This fall, Boston's music offerings are as enticing as ever, from the American Premiere of Elliott Carter's Flute Concerto to Opera Boston's "Tancredi," plus World Music/CRASHArts touring presentations and Blue Heron Renaissance Choir's 10th Anniversary. **Page 7**

Boston Opera House

Renovated and re-opened in 2004, The Boston Opera House is about to become the new home for Boston Ballet's 2009/10 season. We'll take you through the history of the theater and how it came to be restored to its former glory. **Page 14**



The Boston Opera House

Boston Conservatory

With 31 Hemenway Street under construction, Boston Conservatory is relocating certain performances to Midway Studios this season. **Page 13**

VISUAL ARTS

Boston is graced with some of the country's best visual art museums and galleries. We preview Ortega's "Do It Yourself" at the ICA, "Vida y Drama" at the MFA, and upcoming special events at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. **Page 9**

Arts Education

For those seeking a more participatory role in the arts this fall, visit ArtsBoston.org to find the right class for you or your children. **Page 14**

Local Media Recommendations

As the media landscape continues to change, Boston has developed a wide array of first-rate online journalists, writers, and critics. We asked some of our favorites what they were looking forward to this fall and collected it all just for you. **Page 3**

Recommendations from arts lovers

It's often said that word-of-mouth marketing is the most potent way to spread the word. We asked some ArtsBoston.org users and BosTix customers what they are most looking forward to this season... **Page 8**

Free Stuff in the Visual Arts

As with so many things in life, it's all about knowing how and where to get a good deal! ArtsBoston helps you discover some great free opportunities in the visual arts and tricks of the trade! **Page 11**

Local Media Recommendations

“Let me be the hundredth person to say **Damián Ortega: Do It Yourself**, opening in September at the **ICA**. This should be both a hot ticket and a thought-provoking look at an exciting artist not overly lionized elsewhere - just like the Anish Kapoor, Tara Donovan, and Shepard Fairey exhibits. More importantly, it's another building block for Boston's late-emerging but fast-growing profile in the contemporary art world.” – *Joel Brown, HubArts.com, Newburyport*



Damián Ortega: Do It Yourself

“Change waits in the wings for Boston's local theater scene and I am eager to see how it all resonates. Indomitable in spirit and energy, new Artistic Director **Diane Paulus** promises a supremely adventurous season at the **A.R.T.**, while **Kate Warner** arrives with an infectious exuberance as she takes the helm at **New Repertory Theater**. And Boston Ballet moves into its new permanent home, The Opera House—a space much more intimate than its previous home, The Citi Wang Theater. The **Boston Ballet's** escalating excellence unfolding in the grandeur of that theater should make for even more dynamic dance.” – *Jared Bowen, Reporter, Greater Boston, wgbh.org*



Jared Bowen



For 35 years ArtsBoston has brought Boston arts and audiences together. We've created this new virtual Fall Arts Preview to make it easier than ever to find your favorite artists and also to discover new cultural experiences. Maureen Dezell, one of Boston's most respected arts journalists, curated our exploration of what we have to look forward to in the coming months in Greater Boston's theatres, concert hall and museums. We also have recommendations from Boston arts bloggers and fun postings of what BosTix patrons are most highly anticipating. You can find more information on - and buy tickets for - all of these shows, concerts, exhibits and classes at ArtsBoston.org, Boston's most comprehensive arts and entertainment online calendar.

“There is an enormous number of performances and events going on in Boston.”

It's your turn now. Read all about what's coming up and start making your plans. Then join us in spreading the word by writing your own review at ArtsBoston.org after you've been to an event. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warmest wishes,

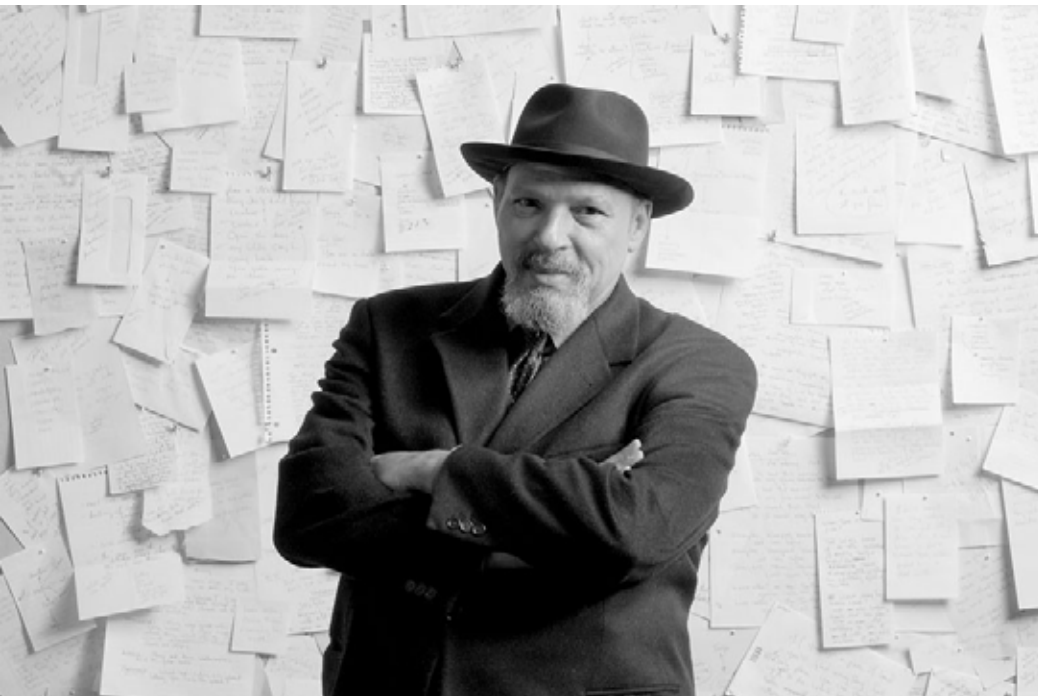
Catherine Peterson, Executive Director, ArtsBoston

THEATER

The **Huntington Theatre Company** is telling American stories this season, which opens September 11 with August Wilson's "Fences." The 1987 Pulitzer and Tony® award-winner has taken its place beside Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" as a classic American family drama of dashed hopes, opportunities denied, and the struggle to live an American dream.

Set in 1957 Pittsburgh, Wilson's story of Troy Maxson, son of a sharecropper, onetime star in baseball's Negro Leagues and now a garbage collector, "Fences" is the sixth chapter in the dramatist's 10-play cycle chronicling 20th century African-American experience. It is the ninth staged at the Huntington Theatre Company, one of the late playwright's longstanding artistic homes. Kenny Leon, a frequent Wilson collaborator who directed Wilson's "The Gem of the Ocean" and "Radio Golf" on Broadway and at the Huntington, returns to Boston to helm "Fences."

"The Huntington Theatre Company is telling American stories this season..."



August Wilson

The Huntington will also presents Maureen McGovern in "A Long and Winding Road" at the Wimberly Theatre, the Huntington's second stage in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End. McGovern's musical memoir of moments that help define the Baby Boom experience is told through classic songs by Bob Dylan, Carole King, Randy Newman, The Beatles, and James Taylor. It opens October 9 and runs through mid-November.

"After months of anticipation, I'm looking forward to the October 17 opening of **Rare Bird of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel** at Peabody Essex Museum. The personal collection of this style icon and her eclectic mix of haute couture with costume jewelry will be on display. It's a different kind of dress-up for Salem in the fall. Everyone seems particularly excited about this exhibit, from the folks at PEM, to those who work in local fashion. Rumor has it that Apfel's own jewelry collection will be sold at the museum shop. A companion show explores perception and beauty through the photography of Valerie Belin." – *Dinah Cardin, Salem, Editor-in-Chief, Art Throb* nsarthrob.com



"This fall, opera fans across the city are waiting to see Ewa Podles in her signature role of "**Tancredi**," Rossini's epic tragedy (not seen in Boston for a century), presented by **Opera Boston** from October 23-27. Diva-worshippers should also not miss the great mezzo Frederica von Stade, who makes a **Celebrity Series** "farewell" appearance on Oct. 4. In theater, my fall must-sees include **Merrimack Rep's** production of "The Seafarer" (10/15-11/08) and the **A.R.T.'s** "Sleep No More," a re-working of "Macbeth" by Britain's avant-garde troupe Punchdrunk (October 8-31). In dance, the big news is the return of **Boston Ballet's** "Giselle" (10/1-10/11). And of course everyone is going to want to listen to Frank Rich interview Stephen Sondheim at **Celebrity Series** on Nov. 14." – *Thomas Garvey, The Hub Review, Boston, MA, hubreview.blogspot.com*

American Repertory Theatre's Diane Paulus may be this Fall's most talked new Artistic Director (*see our profile on page 11*), but there's intriguing new talent at the top at the **New Repertory Theatre** in Watertown. New Rep's new Artistic Director Kate Warner, an award-winning stage director and former Artistic Director of Dad's Garage Theatre Company in Atlanta, introduces herself and



Kate Warner

her inaugural season in September, when Warner helms the New Rep season opener, "Mister Roberts." The classic 1948 comedy about a restless crew on a cargo ship in the South Pacific opens September 13 and runs through October 3, when "Mister Roberts" clears the deck for David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow," directed by Robert Walsh, a founding member of Actors' Shakespeare Project. It opens October 18.

Actors' Shakespeare Project recently announced its own leadership changes: founding Artistic Director Ben Evett is bowing out of his position after five years to become ASP's Resident Director, a

"I am looking forward to Company One's upcoming season...of New England and world premieres..."

– Bill Marx, *TheArtsFuse*

perch from which he plans to concentrate on acting and directing. Evett plays Petruchio, opposite Sarah Newhouse as Kate, in ASP's season-opener "The Taming of the Shrew," directed by Melia Bensussen. He'll then direct "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Midway Studios in late December.

Allyn Burrows, an ASP acting company founding member, is taking on the role of acting Artistic Director for the 2009-10 season, while Actors Shakespeare seeks a permanent artistic leader. Burrows, who won a 2006 Elliot Norton Award for his performances as Kent in ASP's "King Lear," "The Homecoming" at Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and "Five By Tenn" at SpeakEasy Stage Company, is a veteran producer and director who's been a board member and artistic associate at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Massachusetts.

"My top pick has to be the **Publick Theater Boston's 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'**

production slotted for the BCA from Thursday, Oct. 1 to Saturday, Oct. 24. It's a comeback of sorts for director Diego Arciniegas and the Publick Theater after ceasing its 2009 summer series of outdoor shows to focus on upgrading the lighting and sound system at the Christian Herter Park stage. And, I can't get enough of razor-tongued Martha spewing lines like, 'I hope that was an empty bottle, George. You can't afford to waste good liquor, not on your salary.' Ouch." – Sam Baltrusis, *Jamaica Plain, Loaded Gun Boston*, loadedgunboston.com



Sam Baltrusis

"**Regina Spektor** has been called 'quirky' and 'a folk-pop chanteuse,' but to label Regina Spektor is to miss what really makes her special: an amazing voice that rises and falls in fluttering waves. She is touring behind her newest album, *Far*, a collection of mostly piano-driven songs of love, relationships and Regina's unique observations about everyday life. 'Wallet' tells the story about her returning a lost



Rich Kassirer

wallet to Blockbuster. Weird, huh? Yes, but it actually moves you. And her single, 'Laughing With,' deals with the power of God: 'No one laughs at God in a hospital/No one laughs at God in a war/No one's laughing at God/When they've lost all they've got /And they don't know what for.' It's powerful stuff in itself. **Regina Spektor** plays the **House of Blues** on Sept. 21 and the **Orpheum Theater** on Sept. 22" – Rich Kassirer, *Hamilton, MA, Modern Acoustic* modernacoustic.com, modernacoustic.blogspot.com

Speaking of **SpeakEasy Stage Company**, the South End company dedicated to staging lively Boston premieres kicks off its new year with the New England premiere of Evan Smith's "The Savannah Disputation." A quirky, unexpected comedy about a Pentecostal missionary, a pair of Catholic spinsters, and a crisis of faith spurred by the fundamentalist belief that Catholicism is a Christian heresy, the play earned plaudits in its recent Chicago and New York premieres. Nancy E. Carroll and Paula Plum, two of Greater Boston's best and most beloved actresses, star in the play directed by SpeakEasy producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault. It opens September 18 and runs through mid-October in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.



"Given **Company One's** winning production of "After the Quake" this summer I am looking forward to its upcoming season, which includes a refreshingly nery (and healthy) round-up of New England and world premieres. Purely selfish motives dictate my pick of the litter. When I was visiting Chicago last May I couldn't get seats for a heralded, sold-out production of J. T. Roger's "**The Overwhelming.**" Company One gives me a chance to see what sounds like an intriguing drama about bumbling Americans set in Rwanda." – *Bill Marx, TheArtsFuse, Somerville, MA, theartsfuse.com*



Tina Packer stars as Martha and Nigel Gore plays George in **Publick Theatre Boston's** production of "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?" at the Boston Center for the Arts this fall. Diego Arciniegas directs Edward Albee's harrowing night with Nick, Honey, Martha, and George, which runs October 1 through October 24 at the BCA's Plaza Theater.



Tina Packer

The **Lyric Stage Company** launches its 2009-10 season with "Kiss Me, Kate," Cole Porter's inspired musical version of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew." Spiro Veloudos directs the show that won the first Tony® Award for Best Musical in 1949, with a stand-out score that includes "Brush up your Shakespeare," "Too Darn Hot," and "So in Love." In October, the Lyric presents an eagerly anticipated Boston premiere: Sarah Ruehl's comedy "Dead Man's Cell Phone," directed by Carmel O'Reilly, opening October 16 and running through November 14.



Across the river in Cambridge, writer/performer and self-described recovering mathematician **Gioia De Cari** ponders the question "Are women inherently inferior to men in math and science?" in Central Square, when the Underground Railway Theatre presents "**Truth Values: One Girl's Romp Through M.I.T's Male Math Maze.**" The autobiographical solo show runs September 10-20 at the Central Square Theatre.

The Nora Theatre Company's production of Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker," directed by Daniel Gidron, is next up at the Central Square Theatre, opening October 1.

For a complete listing of theatre events, visit ArtsBoston.org/theatre.

"**Diane Paulus** has single-handedly made the A.R.T. interesting and relevant again with her first season of shows. '**Shakespeare Exploded**' includes three productions that expand the boundaries of theater -- literally and figuratively. 'The Donkey Show' sets 'A Midsummer Night's' in a 70s disco. 'Sleep No More' (based on Macbeth) will transform a Brookline school house into a Hitchcockian haunted house. And 'Best of Both Worlds' gives 'The Winter's Tale' a gospel and R&B makeover. Every show seems consistent with Paulus's intent for the A.R.T., which is to respect the past, with an eye toward the future. I can't wait to see all three." – *Christopher Caggiano, blogger "Everything I Know I Learn From Musicals," Jamaica Plain, MA, www.ccaggiano.typepad.com*

“Of all the stand-out music being released by Boston-based bands this season, I’m probably most excited by the arrival of **Hallelujah the Hills’** second full-length album, “Colonial Drones,” and the events that will help mark the occasion. While the album itself doesn’t hit shelves until Tuesday, September 22nd, Cambridge bar **River Gods** will host a special preview listening party a week earlier, on Monday, September 14th, and the band will celebrate with a live show the following week across the river at Allston’s **Great Scott** on Saturday the 26th with guests You Can Be A Wesley (who’ve recently released their own excellent debut) and The Big Big Bucks.” – *Brad Searles, Bradley’s Almanac, Allston, MA, bradleysalmanac.com*

“Gibby Haynes, the lead singer of the **Butthole Surfers**, did a lot of wild things in his day. Some of those, it’s fair to say, were drug-filled days. And nights. He filled upturned cymbals with lighter fluid and lit a match; he fired shotgun blanks out into a Lollapalooza crowd at Great Woods; he enlisted a naked female dancer to perform during a set; he screened genital surgery films behind the band as they played their careening psychedelic rock. He’s been sober for a while now, and when we spoke early last year he told me, “I did all my drugs and I drank all my booze and I did some of your drugs too,” (Haynes once rehabbed with Kurt Cobain, whom he called “real friendly.”) When we spoke, the Surfers were on what Haynes called “permanent hiatus,” as he fronted an all-star band of teens from the Paul Green School of Rock. That’s right, he was Prof. Haynes. But that’s changed. They toured last summer and are on the road again, hitting the **Paradise Rock Club** Wednesday Sept. 30. What do we expect? A wild – and very loud show – that mixes pop melody, blistering psychedelic rock and a skewed worldview. We expect to be assaulted sonically, not literally or physically.” – *Jim Sullivan, Brookline, MA, jimsullivanink.com*

MUSIC

Maestro James Levine leads the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** in the world premiere of John Williams’s “On Willows and Birches” for harp and orchestra at an Opening Night gala at Symphony Hall on September 23. Williams, who wrote the piece for long-time BSO principal harpist Ann Hobson Pilot, is the first of four influential but diverse American composers whose works will receive premieres at the BSO this year.



James Levine and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Photo: Michael J. Lutch

The American premiere of Elliott Carter’s Flute Concerto (a BSO co-commission) and world premieres of two BSO commissions—Peter Lieberman’s “Farewell Songs” and John Harbison’s Double Concerto for Violin and Cello —highlight a BSO season roster that also features the American premieres of James McMillan’s “St. John Passion” and Augusta Read Thomas’s “Helios Chorus II (Sun God Dancers).” Both were co-commissioned by the BSO.

Music director **James Levine** will lead 15 BSO programs this season, including the complete Beethoven symphonies, Mahler’s Fourth and Seventh Symphonies, Mozart’s Requiem, and Strauss’s *Four Last Songs* with Renee Fleming.

The Celebrity Series opens a season packed with 37 music, dance, and entertainment events with mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade’s Farewell Recital October 4 at Symphony Hall, where special guest, soprano Kiri Te Kanawa, will join her.



Frederica von Stade

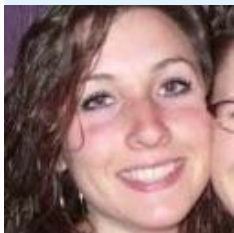
Recommendations from arts lovers

"The arts event I am most looking forward to this fall is **Opera Boston's** production of Rossini's "**Tancredi**" with the great Polish mezzo-soprano, Ewa Podles. Although I was an opera singer myself and lived in Europe for many years, I have never heard this opera--not many have--and I can't wait to hear the opera and this fine singer. Also, Opera Boston does wonderful productions with first class operatic voices." – *Anna, Belmont, MA*

"I hope to see a play at **New Rep Theatre** because I've heard such good things. The music programming at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** looks really diverse and the first Masterworks Chorale's opening concert ought to be amazing." – *Aideen, Boston, MA*

"The show I'm most looking forward to seeing is the A.R.T.'s production of **The Donkey Show**. It's 'A 'Midsummer Night's Dream'- Disco Style! I LOVE Shakespeare, LOVE disco, and can't WAIT to see those Go-Go boys! Hope that doesn't make an ASS out of me!" – *Leslie, Boston, MA*

"I'm excited to take my 12 year old sister to see **Blue Man Group!** I'm a Girl Scout leader so this site is perfect for planning fun, affordable trips on a budget. Last winter we saw "**The Urban Nutcracker**"! What a great show!" – *Aimee from Carver, MA*



Aimée

"I most enjoy the productions in the smaller houses. It is a much more intimate setting and one can really feel connected to the actors and their characters." – *Domenico, Boston, MA*

World Music/CrashArts presents a passel of premieres and special appearances by artists from around the world every season...and this one's no different. Early autumn offerings include "Remember Me," a collaboration between Parsons Dance and lead vocalists of the Grammy-nominated rock opera group East Village Opera Company, from September 25-27 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. The British folk-rock legends Steeleye Span come together for a rare performance September 19 at the Somerville Theatre and four-time Grammy award-winning jazz singer Dianne Reeves performs October 23 at Berklee Performance Center.

Opera Boston brings world-renowned Polish contralto Ewa Podles to the US for her Boston debut singing the title role in "Tancredi." Gioacchino Rossini's tale of disinherited and exiled Syracusan knight, with a libretto by Gaetano Rossi and Luigi Lechi, is based on Voltaire's 1759 play "Tancredi." Gil Rose conducts and Kristine McIntyre directs October 23, 25, and 27 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre.



Parson's Dance – World Music

"I am looking forward to attending the Blue Man Group, Opera shows, The Boston Ballet and a couple of kids shows as well." – *Naida, Lowell, MA*

Blue Heron Renaissance Choir celebrates its tenth season by singing the opening performance of the Boston Early Music Festival's 20th concert season. Music director Scott Metcalfe and Blue Heron present a special program of music by Hugh Aston, Nicholas Ludford, Robert Fayrfax among others Friday, October 16 at 8 pm in St. Paul Church in Harvard Square.



Diane Reeves – World Music

Chamelon Arts Ensemble opens its 2009-2010 chamber music season with "music and all silence held," works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Claude Debussy, Toru Takemitsu and Olivier Messiaen, Saturday October 3 at 8 p.m. and Sunday October 4 at 3 at the Goethe-Institut, 170 Beacon Street in Back Bay.

For a complete listing of music events, visit ArtsBoston.org/music.

VISUAL ARTS

Premieres, firsts, and one-of-a-kinds are the **Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston**'s stock-in-trade. The ICA presents "Damián Ortega: Do It Yourself," the first survey exhibition of one of Mexico's leading artists this fall. A former political cartoonist who caught the international art world's eye in 2003 at the 50th Venice Biennale with "Cosmic Thing," a dismantled Volkswagen Beetle suspended from the ceiling, Ortega captivated public attention earlier this year with an exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

"Damian Ortega: Do It Yourself" is the first exhibition spanning the range of Ortega's work, which includes sculpture, video, and photography. It opens September 18 and runs through January at the ICA on Boston's waterfront, 100 Northern Avenue, adjacent to Anthony's Pier 4 restaurant.

"I've been to the MFA a handful of times, but I always discover something new..." – Gene, Boston



Alberto Betrán (Mexican, 1923–2002) - *Vida y Drama de Mexico*, 1957 - Black ink & opaque watercolor over graphite on architectural blueprint paper. - Courtesy of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. George Peabody Gardner Fund

Museum of Fine Arts: Vida y Drama: Modern Mexican Prints

In the Fenway, the **Museum of Fine Arts** explores an early chapter in the history of Mexican graphic arts with "Vida y Drama: Modern Mexican Prints," an exhibition of prints made between 1926 and 1932 by Rufino Tamayo and los tres grandes (the "big three" muralists): Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. The exhibit and "Viva México! Edward Weston and His Contemporaries," a companion photography exhibit, are on view through November 2 at the MFA.

"For me going to the theatre is a great thing to do with friends. We take turns choosing what we want to see, so we try new things. Our picks for the fall: **"Superheroine Monologues"** by Phoenix Theatre and Company One at the Boston Center for the Arts. I saw it last year and it's super funny and I think my friends will enjoy it. I love the social commitment of Whistler in the Dark's work, so Daniel MacIvor's "In On It" is a must. Tennessee Williams' "The Remarkable Rooming House of Madame Le Monde" by **Charlestown Working Theatre** and Beau Jeste is new to me but we'll go see anything with Larry Coen in it. And for something completely different- **"Bash"** by Neil LaBute, another collaboration-between Charlestown Working Theatre and Theatre on Fire." Gale/Cambridge

"I look for shows I can enjoy with my kids. I want to introduce them to one of my favorites from my childhood: **"A Tale of Two Cities"** at Wheelock Family Theatre. I also really want them to see Hal Holbrook's one man show as Mark Twain (Hanover Theatre/Worcester). My sister saw **"The Sparrow"** in Chicago and loved its fresh story telling, so that's also on my list (Stoneham Theatre)." Barbara/Medford

"How lucky are we to live in such a great classical music town? I like to combine familiar works - Boston Philharmonic doing Violin Concerto and **Dvorak's** Symphony No. 7 - with rarities - **Händel's** Amadigi di Gaula conducted by Marty Perlman/Boston Baroque." Gerrit/Brookline

"We have taken advantage of the same day ½ price tickets on a few occasions this past year and it was well worth it. I took my girlfriend, my adult daughter and her two adult daughters to see "Dirty Dancing" when it was at the Opera House. I was having my doubts that it wouldn't live up to the movie, but it was extremely entertaining and the ending actually sent chills through my body when the two singers performed the closing song, "Time of My Life." I also was in Boston to attend the Health Fair at the Hynes Auditorium sponsored by WBZ within the past few months and

Fans of **American Arts and Crafts** should catch “A New and Native Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene,” a commemoration of the decorative arts and architecture of Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene, on display through October 18 in the museum’s Torf Gallery. “Seeing Songs,” a mix of work from the MFA collections that draw on music as inspiration, is on view in the Foster Gallery through February.

“**The Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC,**” an exhibition that explores concepts of the afterlife in Egypt’s Middle Kingdom (2040-1640 BC), takes visitors on a “journey” through a tomb that was discovered by archaeologists during a 1915 Harvard University and Boston Museum of Fine Arts expedition to Egypt.

With the approval of the Egyptian government, the MFA transported the tomb filled with sculptures, jewelry, furniture, and other objects to Boston in 1920. Many of the objects have been stored in the museum basement and never before exhibited in the museum galleries. The exhibition opens October 18 and runs through May.

The **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** doesn’t appear to change much. Mrs. Gardner’s will famously stipulates that her collection of paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture, and decorative arts spanning dozens of cultures and several centuries remain essentially as she left them at Fenway Court when she died in in 1924. But the Gardner is as dynamic as its garden courtyard, thanks in part to the popular Sunday afternoon concerts in the Tapestry Room, regular Neighborhood Nights and “Gardner After Hours,” which offers music, art, cocktails and conversation in the museum on the third Thursday evening of each month.

decided to see if we could get tickets to see “The Color Purple” which was playing at the Wang. Sure enough we went by the BosTix Booth in Faneuil Hall and got two great seats for 1/2 price. Thanks!” – *Dick & Deena, Marblehead, MA*



Secrets of Tomb 10 A



Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

For complete visual arts listings, visit ArtsBoston.org/visualarts

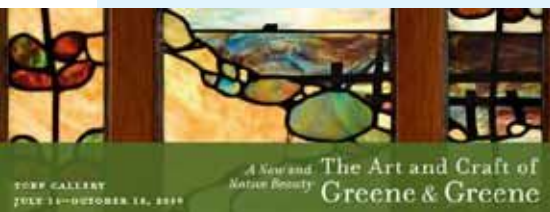
FREE STUFF IN THE VISUAL ARTS

If you are a customer of ArtsBoston's ½ price ticketing programs through BosTix, you already know how to take advantage of day-of-performance discounts and special offers, so you can enjoy more theater, music, and dance.

It seems harder to find deals on admissions to museums, galleries, and small neighborhood arts centers. Most museums do offer deep discounts to members or subscribers, and free admission to everyone at certain times of the month or week. Here are some museum and gallery-going deals you should know about:

The Museum of Fine Arts

Wednesday nights and Community Days at the MFA are free. (Yes, free.) That means there's no general admission charge between 4 and 9:45 PM on Wednesdays, or at any time during museum hours during the museum's monthly community days. The next two are on Sunday, September 20 and Monday, October 12.



...at The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Admission is free on your birthday, and free to anyone named Isabella. The museum also offers discounts that can bring down the cost of the ticket so it's no higher than most movies.

You can save \$2 on admission to the Gardner if you:

- bring your ticket stub from the Museum of Fine Arts to the Gardner Museum within two days of purchase. You can also bring your Gardner Museum stub to the MFA and receive the same discount.
- turn up in Red Sox gear. Isabella Gardner was an avid Red Sox fan and season ticket holder, who once at-

Diane Paulus: American Repertory Theater

Shakespearean fairies and befuddled young lovers are tearing up a disco dance floor at a Harvard Square theater bar—and that means Diane Paulus's first season as American Repertory Theater's artistic director is underway.



Diane Paulus rehearses with the cast of "The Donkey Show"

Paulus's "The Donkey Show," a disco rendering of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" that ran off-Broadway for six years, opened August 21 at Oberon, the A.R.T.'s second stage and club performance space on Arrow Street near Mass Ave.

It's the first production in "Shakespeare Exploded!"—a trio of theatrical events inspired by Shakespeare that make up the first of three festivals Paulus has lined up for the 2009-10 season.

"Sleep No More," an "immersive" theatrical production inspired by "Macbeth" and Alfred Hitchcock movies, is a joint production with Punchdrunk, a British troupe that produces theatrical "experiences" in which audience members are encouraged to choose what they watch and where they go in a site-specific installation.

Punchdrunk is making its American premiere on October 8 with "Sleep No More," which will "literally create the world of 'Macbeth,' the characters of Macbeth in a site you are free to roam and explore in your own time and space, according to Paulus, who sounds excited when she adds: "It's almost like a living video game, a 3-D world with almost cinematic detail, where you can enter, say, Lady Macbeth's bedroom and open drawers and look in cupboards."

Paulus will direct the third leg of the first festival, "Best of Both Worlds," a rhythm & blues and gospel take on "The Winter's Tale," which opens November 21 on the A.R.T. main stage at the Loeb Drama Center.

A highly-regarded theater and opera director who recently directed the Tony® award-winning Broadway revival of "Hair" to her long list of credits, Paulus's inaugural A.R.T. season signals a shift in the 30-year-old company's artistic direction and its orientation.

Paulus programmed a season of festivals because, "unlike plays, festivals are events," she says. They are part and parcel of a larger culture. "My goal is to return to what theater was in its most vibrant times in history, in Elizabethan England and Athens. In ancient Greece, theater was part of the birth of democ-

tended a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert wearing a white headband on which she'd scrawled "Oh, you Red Sox!" Throughout the year, visitors to the Gardner Museum wearing Red Sox paraphernalia also receive a special \$2 off admission.

The Institute of Contemporary Art/



Boston. Admission is free for anyone 17 and under, and free for all ages from 5 PM to 9 PM every Thursday night.

Free Gallery Hopping **First Fridays in**



PHOTO: TRACY E. SMITH

Entrance to The Institute of Contemporary Art on Boston's Waterfront

SOWA

September 4, October 2, November 6: A slew of artists and art dealers in the past few years have moved to SOWA, [south of Washington Street] on and around Harrison Avenue in the South End. The First Friday of each month, artists and local merchants open their doors. It's free, fun and a terrific place for people watching.

racy, a place for debate and ritual, for satyr plays" that lampooned the mythologies of the day.

And Paulus has changed the A.R.T.'s name and logo in small but but significant ways. Rather than hewing to the preferred British spelling of "theater," the American Repertory Theatre now spells its name the American way. "It's a small move, but it is symbolic; more open, less elitist," says Paulus.

The new company logo, Experience the A.R.T., "says you should experience the A.R.T. Your presence matters. Your participation matters. We are offering something that is experience based. We can give you something that's alive," she says.

Paulus wants ongoing, active discussions, before and after shows and online, where she promises to interact with audience members. She also recently joined Twitter and can be followed at twitter.com/dianepaulus.

"I am absolutely interested in interacting and cross pollinating across the arts and arts institutions in Boston," she says. "We have great symphonies, great museums, and great art theaters. People in Boston don't have to go to New York to get their arts fix! Why can't we create a real culture club and claim Boston as what it is?"



From: The Donkey Show



Open Studios

In 1978, Fort Point Channel artists started opening their studios to the public on the third weekend of October each year, inviting people to see original art, ask questions, and buy art directly from the people who make it.

Open Studios proved popular and Fort Point artists expanded them to include in-studio demonstrations, music and performances, discounts at local restaurant and small neighborhood retail stores, and walking tours of the historic neighborhood. Open Studios events attract thousands of visitors to the neighborhood each year.

Artists in Allston, the South End, and Jamaica Plain followed Fort Point's lead in the 80s and 90s, sponsoring their own annual Open Studios weekends.

Today, more than 13 neighborhood artist communities hold Open Studios each year in the City of Boston alone.



Boston Conservatory Heads South

Boston Conservatory moves its mainstage music, dance, and theater performances to Midway Studios in South Boston this season, while the conservatory theater building at 31 Hemenway Street in the Fenway undergoes expansion and renovation.



The Boston Conservatory Ensemble

An increasingly popular arts destination near Fort Point Channel, Midway Studios is a 200,000-square-foot artists' enclave developed jointly by the Fort Point Cultural Coalition and Keen Development Corporation in three former warehouses on Channel Center Street, about three quarters of a mile from South Station. Open since 2005, the complex houses 89 artists' live-work studios, a gallery, office/retail space, and a dramatic, two-story theater black box theater where Actors Shakespeare Project and local theater troupes perform.

Boston Conservatory students and faculty begin making music at Midway Studios with performances of the Boston Conservatory Wind Ensemble (a free concert on October 10) and "Sweet Charity," (opening October 21), among others.



TheMidway Studios

The Boston Ballet moves to the Boston Opera House

Much of the buzz around the Theater District this fall is about Boston Ballet's move to the Opera House, where its season gets underway October 1 with Maina Gielgud's lauded and applauded "Giselle."



Giselle

Boston Ballet presents a special "Night of Stars" on September 19 to showcase its dancers and offerings this season and to show off its new home theater. The dance company, which has staged its annual "The Nutcracker" at the Opera House since 2005, is delighted with the lavishly appointed, 2,500 seat theater's intimacy, superior sightlines, and state-of-the-art production amenities.

The Opera House sat unlit and unheated for 11 years on a seedy stretch of Washington Street in Downtown Crossing, before it was rescued, restored, and reopened with fanfare in 2004.

A rococo performance palace modeled on the Paris Opera, the theater opened in 1928 as the B.F. Keith Memorial. It was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin Keith, the "founding father of vaudeville"—an entertainment form that was born and died on Washington Street.

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- **Brookline Arts Center** near St. Mary's Street offers a wide variety of classes for both children and adults, including parent & child pottery, wheelthrowing, comics for adults, and jewelry & metal-smithing.
- **The Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts** in Jamaica Plain offers memoir writing, watercolor, woodworking, and more.



The Eliot School

- Dance and music more your style? **The Cambridge Center for Adult Education** in Harvard Square offers classes such as ballroom dance, guitar, opera lectures, and Latin dance.

Keith, who started his career as a circus barker and learned about sideshows from P.T. Barnum in lower Manhattan, moved to Boston and teamed up with a circus owner seeking winter lodgings for his animal acts, sword swallows and freaks of human nature. Keith put them in a curio museum in the Adams House Hotel Annex (next to what is now the Opera House) and charged admission for live entertainment.

The gaudy, bawdy vaudeville era was coming to an end in the mid-1880s, when Keith partnered with Edward F. Albee, cleaned out the annex, and started test marketing “clean vaudeville,” or family entertainment, which ran continuously, day and night, in Boston and around the country. The partners built, acquired, owned and operated hundreds of vaudeville houses that made up what was known as the Keith Circuit, an enterprise that made Keith a multimillionaire before he died in 1914. Albee, for his part, was believed to be worth \$27 million when he spent an estimated \$5 million on the **B.F. Keith Memorial**, which opened in October 1928.

Free radio, the talkies, and the Great Depression all helped put live vaudeville out of business. Boston’s Keith, like scores of others around the country, was turned into a movie house during the 1930s. Later named the Savoy, it showed movies off and on through the late 1970s, when opera impresario Sarah Caldwell and her company started performing in the dilapidated but still splendid cinema.

Caldwell’s Opera Company took over the Savoy, renamed it the **Boston Opera House**, and produced innovative programs that put Boston on the international music map during the 1980s. For all her artistic gifts, Caldwell was a negligible manager, incapable of meeting basic costs of owning and operating a large, poorly maintained theater. She and her company were forced to leave the building, which the city shuttered in 1991.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who made a personal and political crusade to help save the Opera House (and the neighboring Paramount and Modern theaters), cleared the way for Clear Channel Entertainment to purchase, restore and rejuvenate the Opera House so it could reopen with an extended run of “The Lion King” in July 2004, just in time for the Democratic Convention in Boston that year.

Clear Channel successors, **Broadway across America** and Live Nation, book touring Broadway shows and music acts at the Opera House. “Fiddler on the Roof” plays a one-week run in November, followed by “The Nutcracker,” which opens November 27. “The Lion King” roars back to town early in 2010.

For complete event listings and more visit artsboston.org

- Looking for something for the kids? Try the **Arsenal Center for the Arts** in Waretown: they offer dozens of classes for kids ages 3 and up, including drawing, pottery, and art basics.

- **Indian Hill Music School** in Littleton offers group and private lessons for the budding musician in your family.

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The Opera House



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