



American Repertory Theater
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American Repertory Theater
presents

Gatz

by Elevator Repair Service
directed by John Collins
January 7 – February 7, 2010
Loeb Stage

“James Gatz — that was really, or at least legally, his name.” – Chapter 6, *The Great Gatsby*

WHAT: The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) presents **Gatz**, the critically acclaimed international touring production by Elevator Repair Service directed by ERS founder and artistic director John Collins.

A theatrical tour-de-force, **Gatz** is conceived as a single six-hour production in which the ensemble brings to life every word of the novel with no text added and none removed. **Gatz** is a one-of-a-kind theatrical event defined by its radical commitment to one of the 20th Century’s greatest novels.

WHEN: January 7— February 7, 2010. Press viewing options available from January 9, 2010

WHERE: Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge

TICKETS: \$25 - \$75. Student rush \$20. Seniors \$10 off ticket price.

Group Rates available. Can be purchased phone at 617-547-8300, online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org, or in person at the A.R.T. box office.

THE PLOT:

Gatz begins one morning in the low-rent office of a mysterious small business when an employee finds a ragged old copy of *The Great Gatsby* in the clutter of his desk and starts

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to read it out loud. And doesn't stop. At first his coworkers hardly seem to notice, but then strange coincidences start happening in the office, one after another, until it's no longer clear whether he's reading the book or the book is doing something to him...

THE PERFORMANCES:

The performance schedule for **Gatz** has been structured to enable audiences to view the entire production in one day (Saturdays, Sundays, Monday 1/18, Fridays 1/15, 1/29, and 2/5). These performances include **two intermissions and an hour-long dinner break, for a total running time of approximately seven and a half hours.** Audiences attending weekday evening performances will be able view the first half (Chapters 1-5 of the novel) and the second half (Chapters 6-9) in succession on different days. A complete performance schedule follows below.

Originally created by ERS in late 2004, **Gatz** has subsequently toured to nine countries on four continents, playing the Sydney Opera House, the Holland Festival, the Vienna Festival, the Dublin Theatre Festival, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Minneapolis' Walker Art Center, and the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, among others. **Gatz** stars Wooster Group veteran **Scott Shepherd** and features New York City Players' **Jim Fletcher** in the title role.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

" . . . a thrillingly theatrical and moving show." — *New York Times*

"There IS such a thing as genius . . . [**Gatz**] is a strangely seductive, often revelatory, and altogether ingenious production." — *Chicago Sun Times*

"Breathtakingly good theater." — *Het Parool*, Amsterdam

"This could be mere event theatre gimmickry . . . but every aspect of the production is so brilliantly conceived and executed that all doubts are overcome." — *The Independent*, London

RATING: 10 and up.

THE COMPANY:

A cast of thirteen is led by **Scott Shepherd** as Nick, the narrator (The Wooster Group's *Hamlet*) and includes actors **Victoria Vazquez** as Daisy (ERS' *The Sound and the Fury (April Seventh, 1928)* at New York Theatre Workshop; company member, NYC Players),
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Jim Fletcher in the title role (Forced Entertainment and NYC Players), and **Gary Wilmes** as Tom (Obie winner, Adam Rapp's *Red Light Winter* at Steppenwolf and the Barrow Street Theater; films include *A Mighty Heart*, *I Hate Valentines Day*, *Salt*.) It also includes **Susie Sokol** (Jordan), **Sibyl Kempson** (Jordan), **Laurena Allan** (Myrtle), **Aaron Landsman** (Wilson), **Frank Boyd** (Wilson), **Annie McNamara** (Catherine), **Kristen Sieh** (Catherine), **Kate Scelsa** (Lucille), **Vin Knight** (Chester), **Mike Iveson** (Klipspringer), **Ben Williams** (Michaelis), and **Ross Fletcher** (Henry C. Gatz).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team is led by ERS' longtime director and founder **John Collins**. Also contributing is associate director **Steve Bodow**, ERS' former co-director, a founding member of the company, and now the head writer for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* (six Emmy awards and a Peabody Award.) Obie Award-winner **Louisa Thompson** (*Blasted* at Soho Rep) designs the set. **Mark Barton**, a Lortel Award nominee whose numerous off-Broadway credits include *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The Shipment*, *Chair*, *No Child...* and *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* designs the lighting. **Colleen Werthmann** (13P's *American Treasure*, *Beast* at New York Theatre Workshop) designs costumes.

John Collins (director) founded Elevator Repair Service (ERS) in 1991 with his first production, *Mr. Antipyrine, Fire Extinguisher*. In the 18 years since, he has directed or co-directed all of the company's shows. From 1993 to 2006 he worked for The Wooster Group as a sound designer (two Drama Desk nominations and two Bessie Awards). As a lighting designer, he won a Bessie Award for his design of ERS' *Room Tone*. John was born in North Carolina and raised in Vidalia, Georgia. He holds a B.A. in English and Theater Studies from Yale.

Elevator Repair Service, a theater ensemble, was founded by director John Collins and a group of actors in 1991. Since that time, ERS has built a body of highly acclaimed work and has appeared on stages in downtown New York and across the U.S. and Europe. ERS shows are built around a broad range of subject matter including literary, dramatic and cinematic forms. They combine elements of hi-tech and lo-tech design, vaudeville, both literary and found text, found objects and discarded furniture and the group's own highly developed style of choreography. The company has generated a repertoire that includes 14 original full-length pieces and several short pieces and workshop productions. ERS is the recipient of the 2009 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Theater Grant, TCG's 2009 Peter Zeisler Memorial Awards for Outstanding Achievement. *The Sound and the Fury (April Seventh, 1928)* was nominated for the 2009 Lucille Awards for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Sound Design. During its run at the Sydney Opera House, **Gatz** was nominated for Australia's prestigious Helpmann Award for Best Play. /over

ABOUT THE A.R.T.:

The AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER (A.R.T.) is one of the country's most celebrated resident theaters and the winner of numerous awards — including the Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and numerous local Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. It was recently named one of the top three theaters in the country by *Time* magazine. Founded by Robert Brustein in 1980, over its twenty-nine-year history the A.R.T. has welcomed major American and international theater artists whose singular visions generate and define the theater's work, presenting a varied repertoire that includes new plays, progressive productions of classical texts, and collaborations between artists from many disciplines. The Company has performed throughout the US, and worldwide in twenty-one cities in sixteen countries on four continents. Last fall the organization welcomed its new Artistic Director, Diane Paulus, under whose helm the Company begins its 30th Season. Under the leadership of Diane Paulus, A.R.T. has developed a new initiative, **EXPERIENCE THE A.R.T.**, which seeks to revolutionize the theater experience through a sustained commitment to empowering the audience. This audience-driven vision will completely transform the way the company develops, programs, produces, and contextualizes its work. This speaks directly to the A.R.T.'s core mission — “to expand the boundaries of theater.” A.R.T. resources will give equal importance to the social aspects of theater and the potential for a full theater experience, including interaction and engagement with its audience before, during, and after the production. The initiative involves producing theater cycles that create a festival atmosphere and allow audiences to experience productions in the context of a larger event. By producing and promoting these cycles as citywide events, A.R.T. will seek to attract larger audiences from the greater Boston area and from the rest of the country and world.

The A.R.T., located at the Loeb Drama Center at 64 Brattle Street, and at its second space, the theater-club OBERON, at 2 Arrow Street, (corner of Arrow Street and Massachusetts Avenue), Harvard Square, Cambridge, is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating or first-floor restrooms. Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons can also reach the Theater by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.

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CALENDAR AND RELATED EVENTS AT A GLANCE

WHAT:

Gatz

Created by	Elevator Repair Service
Based on <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by	F. Scott Fitzgerald
Directed by	John Collins
Set Design by	Louisa Thompson
Costume Design by	Colleen Werthmann
Lighting Design by	Mark Barton
Sound Design by	Ben Williams
Associate Director	Steve Bodow
Assistant Director	Sarah Hughes
Production Manager	B.D. White
Producer / Company Manager	Ariana Smart Truman

CAST:

Nick	Scott Shepherd
Jim	Jim Fletcher
Lucille	Kate Scelsa*
Jordan	Susie Sokol (Jan 7 -10, Feb 2 - 7)
	Sibyl Kempson (Jan 12 - 31)
Daisy	Victoria Vazquez
Tom	Gary Wilmes*
Wilson	Aaron Landsman (Jan 7 - 24)
	Frank Boyd (Jan 27 - Feb 7)
Myrtle	Laurena Allan
Catherine	Annie McNamara* (Jan 7 - 17)
	Kristen Sieh* (Jan 21 - Feb 7)
Chester	Vin Knight*
Michaelis	Ben Williams
Klipspringer	Mike Iveson
Henry C. Gatz	Ross Fletcher

WHEN:

Full showings of **Gatz** begin at 3pm.

On full-show days Part 2 will begin at 7:30pm, following an hour-long dinner break.

Thursday, January 7, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Friday, January 8, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Saturday, January 9, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30 (Part 2) **PRESS OPENING OPTIONS**

Sunday, January 10, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30 (Part 2) **PRESS OPENING OPTIONS**

Tuesday January 12, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Friday, January 15, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Saturday, January 16, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Sunday, January 17, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Monday, January 18, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Thursday, January 21, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Friday, January 22, 7:30pm (Part 2 only)

Saturday, January 23, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Sunday, January 24, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Wednesday, January 27, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Thursday, January 28, 7:30pm (Part 2 only)

Friday, January 29, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Saturday, January 30, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Sunday, January 31, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30pm (Part 1 only)

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30pm (Part 2 only)

Friday, February 5, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Saturday, February 6, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

Sunday, February 7, 3pm (Part 1), 7:30pm (Part 2)

WHERE: Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA

TICKETS: \$25 - \$75

Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa or Master Card

Group rates are available

Box Office Phone and A.R.T. InfoLine: (617) 547-8300, tickets also available online at www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Email Address: press@amrep.org

High resolution production photos of **GATZ** can be downloaded from www.AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/media

