



MICHAEL J. BOBBITT  
artistic director

HARRIET SHEETS  
managing director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
321 Arsenal Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-923-8487 BOX OFFICE  
newrep.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
400 Talcott Ave  
Building 131  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-923-7060 BUSINESS  
617-923-7625 FACSIMILE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Thursday, October 17, 2019**

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NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

# *Oliver!*

Book, Music, & Lyrics By Lionel Bart

Directed & Choreographed by Michael J. Bobbitt

November 29 – December 29, 2019

**[WATERTOWN, MA]** New Repertory Theatre presents *Oliver!*, the classic, intergenerational musical by Lionel Bart is based on Charles Dickens' famous novel, *Oliver Twist*. Appropriate for all generations of theatre-goers, this timely story brings to light the importance of friendship and caring for one another when the world is set against you from the very beginning. Directed and choreographed by Michael J. Bobbitt, the new Artistic Director of New Rep. The production runs November 29 through December 29, 2019 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available, as well as free tickets for WIC/EBT cardholders.

**The press performance is Monday, December 2 at 7:30pm.**

## **About *Oliver!***

*Oliver!* follows the life of a courageous orphan and a band of misfit children, fighting against seemingly hopeless circumstances. Still relevant today, this Victorian-era tale explores the contrast between the rich and poor, the struggles of the Industrial Revolution, and the results of an absent middle class and no upward mobility.

"We are delighted to produce *Oliver!* with such a fantastically talented cast," shares New Rep Artistic Director and the production's director, Michael J. Bobbitt. "The Hollywood and Broadway veteran Austin Pendleton is a good friend to New Rep, and he always adds something special to a performance. And Ben Choi-Harris has the star-power and resume of a much older actor. We could think of no one better to play our Oliver."

## **About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE**

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For 35 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in the 340-seat MainStage Theater. New Rep is also dedicated to the development of new plays by producing regional and world premieres each season. New Rep produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page to Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series. Annually, New Rep serves over 30,000 patrons, including 1,600 season subscribers.

### **New Rep's Mission**

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

#### **What we do:**

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays, and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

### **Artistic Bios**

**Michael J. Bobbitt (Director)** ◇ has directed, choreographed and performed at many theatres in the DC region, including Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre Society, Next Stop Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Metro Stage, Rorshach Theatre Company, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Center Stage, Roundhouse Theatre, 1st Stage, The Music Center at Strathmore, The Kennedy Center, The Helen Hayes Awards and the Washington National Opera. He has been nominated for numerous Helen Hayes Awards. His national and international credits include the NY Musical Theatre Festival, Mel Tillis 2001, La Jolla Playhouse, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Jefferson Performing Arts Center, and 1996 Olympics. He studied creative writing and music at Susquehanna University and theater and dance at The Washington Ballet, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, The American Musical and Dramatic Academy and NY University's Tisch School of the Arts (Cap 21).

**Ben Choi-Harris (Oliver)** National Tour: *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. Regional: *South Pacific* (The Cape Playhouse); *Peter Pan, Beauty and The Beast, The Music Man*-IRNE Award nominee (North Shore Music Theatre); *Mame* (Reagle Music Theatre); *Caroline, Or Change*,



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*Cabaret* (Moonbox Productions); *Gypsy* (Lyric Stage Company); *Ragtime*, *Billy Elliot*, *Beauty and the Beast*-IRNE Award nominee (Wheelock Family Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Central Square Theater); *Mary Poppins*-EMACT-DASH Award nominee (Marblehead Little Theater). Thrilled to be part of this special season at New Rep; many thanks to Michael and the entire “*Oliver!*” family!

**Austin Pendleton (Fagin)** has worked five times at New Rep: *1776* (co-director), *Fiddler on the Roof* (director) and as an actor in *Quills*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *King Lear*. Some of his recent directing credits elsewhere include *A Thousand Pines* (Westport Playhouse), *The Saintliness of Marjery Kempe* (NY), and *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Original NY production, Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2015). He is also an actor (Broadway, off-Broadway, off-off-Broadway, as well as extensive film and TV), a playwright (*Orson’s Shadow*, *Uncle Bob*, *Booth*), and a teacher of acting at HB Studio in NY.

All creative bios will soon be available at [www.newrep.org](http://www.newrep.org).

## Oliver! at a Glance

Company:	New Repertory Theatre	
Artistic Director:	Michael J. Bobbitt ◊	
Production:	<i>Oliver!</i>	
Venue:	MainStage Theater   Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal Street   Watertown, MA 02472	
Book, Music, Lyrics:	Lionel Bart	
Director:	Michael J. Bobbitt ◊	
Stage Manager(s):	Brian Robillard* Caleb Spivey*	
Cast:	Rashed Alnuaimi Johanna Carlisle-Zepeda* Ben Choi-Harris Noura Deane Daniela Delahuerta* Ian Freedson Falck	Bill Widow Corney/Mrs. Bedwin Oliver Adult Ensemble Bet/Charlotte Youth Ensemble



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Jane Jakubowski  
Jackson Jirard  
Sydney Johnston  
Mark Johnson  
Daisy Layman  
Shannon Lee Jones\*  
H.C. Lee\*  
Luis Negron\*

Andy Papas\*  
Austin Pendleton\*

Youth Ensemble  
Noah Claypole  
Artful Dodger  
Youth Ensemble  
Nancy  
Mrs. Sowerberry/ Old Sally  
Adult Ensemble  
Mr. Sowerberry/Mr.  
Brownlow  
Mr. Bumble/Mr.Grimwig  
Fagin

## Production Team:

Hannah Huling  
Sariva Goetz  
Luciana Stecconi°  
Rachel Padula-Shufelt  
Frank Meissner°  
Caleb Spivey\*  
Jackson Jirard  
Emma Cavage  
Zoë Sundra  
Brittany Meehan  
Kevin Alexander  
Renee Goudreau  
Lucas Dixon  
Jessica Malone  
Lee Nishri-Howitt  
Sam Martin  
Katie Hoolsema Lamm

Production Manager  
Music Director  
Scenic Designer  
Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Asst Choreo/Dance Capt  
Asst Director/Dramaturg  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Wardrobe Supervisor  
Sound Designer  
Sound Board Operator  
Production Assistant  
Fight Choreographer  
Dialect/Vocal Coach  
Properties  
Master Electrician

- \* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)
- ◇ Denotes member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society
- ° Denotes member of USA/IATSE

## Performance Schedule:

Friday, November 29, 8:00PM	Preview 1
Saturday, November 30, 8:00pm	Preview 2
Sunday, December 1, 4:00pm	Preview 3
<b>Monday, December 2, 7:30PM</b>	<b>Press Opening</b>



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Thursday, December 5, 7:30PM	
Friday, December 6, 8:00PM	Talk-About
Saturday, December 7, 3:00PM	Spotlight Symposium
Saturday, December 7, 8:00PM	
Sunday, December 8, 2:00 PM	Talk-About
Thursday, December 12, 1:00PM	Talk-About
Thursday, December 12, 7:00PM	
Friday, December 13, 8:00PM	
Saturday, December 14, 3:00PM	Open Caption
Saturday, December 14, 8:00PM	
Sunday, December 15, 2:00PM	Talk-About
Wednesday, December 18, 7:30PM	
Thursday, December 19, 7:30PM	
Friday, December 20, 8:00PM	
Saturday, December 21, 3:00PM	
Saturday, December 21, 8:00PM	
Sunday, December 22, 2:00PM	Talk-About
Thursday, December 26, 1:00PM	
Thursday, December 26, 7:00PM	
Friday, December 27, 8:00PM	
Saturday, December 28, 3:00PM	
Saturday, December 28, 8:00PM	
Sunday, December 29, 2:00PM	Closing

Tickets: \$25 + Up. Student, senior, and group discounts available.  
 Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: newrep.org  
 In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays  
 Mosesian Center for the Arts  
 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Parking: Free, six-level parking garage next to the  
 Mosesian Center for the Arts

Public Transportation: #70 or #70A bus to the School Street stop from  
 Central Square Station, Red Line

Accessibility: Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop, Open  
 Caption performances, Large-Print and Braille Programs  
 Available



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Season Sponsors:

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Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Northlight IT  
The Shubert Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Branch Line

For Media Inquiries:

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8205

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