



Curt Columbus, Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director, Tom Parrish, Executive Director  
201 Washington Street • Providence • Rhode Island 02903 • [www.trinityrep.com](http://www.trinityrep.com)

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# TRINITY REP CLOSSES SEASON WITH *RAGTIME*

## Award-winning musical gets revitalized production

### April 26 – May 27

**PROVIDENCE, RI:** Trinity Rep closes out its 2017-18 Season with the Tony Award-winning musical *Ragtime*, which was written by Terrence McNally (book), Stephen Flaherty (music), and Lynn Ahrens (lyrics). Under the direction of Artistic Director **Curt Columbus**, Trinity Rep's production examines how the musical, which is set in 1906, reflects the country's current political and social climate. Based on the celebrated 1975 novel of the same name by E.L. Doctorow, the musical tackles race, women's rights, immigration, and workers' rights. *Ragtime* runs **April 26 – May 27** in Trinity Rep's Elizabeth and Malcolm Chace Theater, with **press opening on Monday, April 30 at 7:30 pm**. Tickets start at \$25. More information can be found at [www.trinityrep.com/ragtime](http://www.trinityrep.com/ragtime).

The musical interweaves the stories of an upper-class white family living in New Rochelle, NY at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an African American musician from Harlem named Coalhouse Walker, Jr., and Tateh, a Latvian immigrant to New York. Their paths are initially connected only by the famous, real-life figures that also appear in the show, including Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford, and others. Over the course of the show, the main characters' lives intersect in ways that profoundly affect their families' fates.

The Trinity Rep production of *Ragtime* focuses not on the lavish production that characterized the original 1998 Broadway production, which included fireworks and on-stage car, in addition to a large cast and orchestra. Instead, Columbus is focusing on the music and the story – and how this story that takes place over 100 years ago remains relevant – even urgently so – for contemporary audiences. This production features a cast of 16 and a six-person band, compared to 32 cast members and more than 2 dozen musicians in the original production.

Columbus' goal is that audiences will travel through time to witness our past and bring inspiration and lessons back to the present. This vision is reflected in Eugene Lee's set design, which places the action in a rehearsal hall. Columbus notes, "This scenic metaphor could not be more accurate. At its core, *Ragtime* is about how we rehearse the same issues, time and again, in the telling of the American tale. We rehearse, as in re-hear, re-learn, and then only repeat. The show asks difficult questions like, do we ever progress? Do we even know how?"



Set Designer Eugene Lee also designed the set for the original Broadway production. He has been Trinity Rep's resident designer since the company's founding in 1963, and has won three Tony Awards for his work on Broadway, which also includes *Wicked*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Candide*.

### CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

**Director Curt Columbus** has been Trinity Rep's artistic director since 2006. His Trinity Rep directing credits include last season's innovative musical *Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage*. In addition to directing more than a dozen other productions at Trinity Rep, he is also an accomplished playwright, translator and adaptor. He recently directed his translation of *Uncle Vanya* at the Gamm Theater.

Columbus is joined on the creative team by **Sharon Jenkins**, choreographer, who most recently worked on *Oklahoma!* at Trinity Rep. **Michael Rice** will music direct and **Andrew Smithson** is the Choral Director. Julia Locascio is the Associate Director and Foley Artist.

Joining Eugene Lee on the design team are **Kara Harmon** (costume design), **Dan Scully** (lighting design), and **Peter Sasha Hurowitz**, (sound design).

The cast features many of Trinity Rep's resident acting company members: **Janice Duclos** (Emma Goldman), **Mia Ellis** (Sarah), **Taavon Gamble** (Booker T. Washington), **Rebecca Gibel** (Evelyn Nesbit), **Mauro Hantman** (Father), **Brian McEleney** (Grandfather), **Fred Sullivan, Jr.** (J.P. Morgan), **Stephen Thorne** (Harry Houdini), **Charlie Thurston** (Tateh), **Rachael Warren** (Mother). In addition to the acting company, the production will also highlight the work of Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Students **Alexander De Vasconcelos Matos '19** (Younger Brother), **Evan Horwitz '19** (Boy), **Antonio Woodard '19** (Matthew Henson), and **Olivia Miller '19** (Girl). The cast is rounded out by visiting artists **Wilkie Ferguson III** (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.) **Taavon Gamble** (Booker T. Washington) and **Carla Martinez** (ensemble).

### THE MUSICAL AND ITS CREATORS

The original Broadway production led the Tony Awards nomination count with 13, and won four, including Best Original Score and Best Book. *Ragtime* was later revived on Broadway in 2009, the first musical from the 1990's to do so.

**Terrence McNally** (book) has won numerous awards for his work as a playwright. He is the winner of Tony Awards for his plays *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class* and his books for the musicals *Ragtime* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. **Stephen Flaherty** (music) and **Lynn Ahrens** (lyrics) have been collaborating for 32 years. Together, they have written the music and lyrics for some of Broadway's most well-known musicals. In addition to *Ragtime*, their credits include *Seussical*, *Once on this Island*, *Anastasia*, and *Rocky*.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Continuing Trinity Rep's tradition of offering affordable tickets for all, the theater will have discounted previews of *Ragtime*. Thursday, April 26 is a **Pay What You Can** performance. Pay What You Can tickets go on sale at 6:30 pm that evening, and are limited to one per person.

Other special performances for this production include an **Open Captioned** performance for the show on Sunday, April 29 at 2:00 pm. The **Next Generation Night** will be held on Thursday, May 3 and includes a pre-show reception for the next generation of theater-goers. The **Teens Talk Back** performance will be held on Friday, May 4. Trinity Rep's Teen Ambassadors will lead a discussion with the audience following the 7:30 performance that evening. **Context & Conversation** will be held on Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

*Ragtime* at Trinity Rep is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The 2017-18 Season Sponsors are **Ocean State Job Lot and Rhode Island Council on the Arts**. **Southwest** is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

#### **TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY**

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for 40 years and made memories for over a million audience members.

**For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (401) 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's website at [www.TrinityRep.com](http://www.TrinityRep.com).**

## AT A GLANCE

### *Ragtime*

Book by Terrence McNally; Music by Stephen Flaherty; Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
Based on the novel *Ragtime* by E.L. Doctorow  
April 26 – May 27, 2018

<b>Director</b>	Curt Columbus
<b>Associate Director</b>	Julia Locascio
<b>Musical Director</b>	Michael Rice
<b>Choral Director</b>	Andrew Smithson
<b>Choreographer</b>	Sharon Jenkins
<b>Set Designer</b>	Eugene Lee
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Kara Harmon
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Dan Scully
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Peter Sasha Hurowitz
<b>Production Stage Manager</b>	Kristen Gibbs

**Cast** Featuring company members: Janice Duclos, Mia Ellis, Rebecca Gibel, Mauro Hantman, Brian McEleney, Fred Sullivan, Jr., Stephen Thorne, Charlie Thurston, and Rachael Warren MFA  
Students/Alum: Alexander De Vasconcelos Matos '19, Evan Horwitz '19, Antonio Woodard '19, Olivia Miller '19 as well as guest artists Wilkie Ferguson III, Taavon Gamble and Carla Martinez.

***Ragtime* Opening Press Night | Monday, April 30 at 7:30 pm**  
**RSVP to [rsvp@trinityrep.com](mailto:rsvp@trinityrep.com)**

<b>Pay What You Can</b>	Thurs., April 26 at 7:30 pm
<b>Open Caption Performance</b>	Sun., April 29 at 2:00 pm
<b>Next Generation Night</b>	Thurs., May 3 at 6:00 pm
<b>Teens Talk Back</b>	Fri., May 4 after the show
<b>Context &amp; Conversation</b>	Thurs., May 10 at 7:00 pm

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.trinityrep.com">www.trinityrep.com</a>
<b>Box Office</b>	<b>(401) 351-4242</b> ; 201 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903
<b>Group Sales</b>	(401) 521-1100 x 225; discounts for groups of 10 or more.
<b>Ticket Prices</b>	Starting at \$25
<b>Season Supporting Sponsors</b>	Ocean State Job Lot and RISCA
<b>Project support in part by the National Endowment for the Arts</b>	

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