

# ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Theatre of Cultural Diplomacy***

### ***Two Roles, Two Conversations***

***Allen Nause speaks at two separate events about his work  
as a director & diplomat in Pakistan***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Portland, Oregon – July 29, 2011.** Returning as a cultural ambassador for the United States State Department, Allen Nause, Producing Artistic Director of Artists Repertory Theatre, will speak at two different events, Tuesday, August 16 and Monday, August 22. He will discuss his role as goodwill envoy in Pakistan at the World Affairs Council event, and then hold a separate conversation about his role as a director and teacher.

#### **The Theatre of Cultural Diplomacy: A Director's Notes from Pakistan**

*Presented by the World Affairs Council*

August 16 – Noon-1:30pm – \$5 for WAC members; \$10 general admission

World Affairs Council of Oregon, 1200 SW Park Avenue, Third Floor, Portland, OR 97205

[Click here for more information](#)

Allen Nause will talk about his recent experiences in Pakistan as a U.S. Cultural Envoy, where he directed a production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* through the Pakistan National Council for Arts. With a multimedia presentation, Nause will touch on the challenges of working across cultures, why cultural diplomacy matters, and what he learned from teaching five workshops to over a hundred students and professionals in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

#### **The Theatre of Cultural Diplomacy: A Theatre Artist in Pakistan**

*Presented by Artists Repertory Theatre*

August 22 – 7pm-9pm – FREE

Morrison Stage at Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison, Portland, OR 97205

[Click here for more information](#)

Allen Nause will focus this discussion on his work as a director. There is a unique set of challenges, and subsequent successes, in working with an all-local cast and crew in Pakistan, as an American, and on an American play, Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, in particular. Photos from his trip will aid him as he tells his story of being a cultural ambassador from a theatre artist's perspective.

(more)

At the beginning of June, Artists Repertory Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Allen Nause left Portland, Oregon headed for Islamabad, Pakistan on a State Department visa. Through the Pakistan National Council for Arts he was to direct a local production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* presented by LUSH, an emerging theatre company, and the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

Nause, having served as Artistic Director of Artists Rep for the past 22 years and leading many theatre envoys to a number of countries in the Middle East, Northern Africa and Southeast Asia, thought he knew what he was getting into. What he didn't account for was how hungry the people of Pakistan (artists and others alike) and diplomatic ambassadors were to make meaningful contact through theatre.

"The people of Pakistan, the actors and crew I worked with, were amazing, curious and open," said Nause. "I was treated with such authentic interest and respect at every turn that it was equally an adventure and pleasure to represent the United States and American theatre."

In the seven weeks Nause spent in Pakistan, he not only directed *The Odd Couple* but also held five theatre workshops with over 150 Pakistanis participating, including the U.S. Ambassador and his wife. Cast with local actors and designers, the play was a resounding success attracting media raves and putting Nause on the front page of international newspapers, as well as hours-long radio and television interviews. This attention led to the U.S. Embassy arranging for Nause to visit Karachi to conduct another workshop and to Lahore to conduct three more workshops. In both cities Nause attended receptions in his honor, with local artists, politicians, and cultural and diplomatic affairs emissaries.

Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre in Portland. Artists Rep takes on challenging and provoking, premiere plays true to its mission of striving to challenge artists and audiences with plays of depth and vibrancy, and exploring the strengths, frailties, and diversity of the human condition primarily through regional premieres, commissioned works and selected classics appropriate to contemporary issues. For more information visit [www.artistsrep.org](http://www.artistsrep.org).

## **PHOTOS ATTACHED**

Allen Nause with cast of *The Odd Couple*

Allen Nause honored at a Pakistan-American Cultural Center reception in Karachi

*Photos provided by Allen Nause*

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