

L.A. THEATRE WORKS SUSAN ALBERT LOWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR, PRESENTS **THE GRADUATE**

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 8pm



Made possible by a gift from The McCarthy-Goldsmith Theater Fund.

Adapted by **Terry Johnson**

Directed by **Brian Kite**

Starring: **Diane Adair, Matthew Arkin, Heidi Dippold, Jill Renner, Darren Richardson, Brian Tichnell and Tom Virtue**

Based on the novel by **Charles Webb**

And the motion picture screenplay by
Calder Willingham and Buck Henry

By special arrangement with
Studio Canal

Originally produced on the London & Broadway stage by John Reid & Sacha Brooks.

There will be one intermission.

The taking of photographs or the use of any kind of recording device is strictly prohibited.

The Cast

Diane Adair (Mrs. Braddock/Stripper)
Diane graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BFA in Communications from Chapman University in Orange, California, and, upon graduation, was accepted as a company member of South Coast Repertory Theatre. She has appeared on stage with June Lockhart in *The William*; co-starred opposite John Glover in *The Traveler* at The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles and was seen Off-Broadway as 'Meg Greenfield' in a New York Theatre Workshop/Affinity Theatre/L.A. Theatre Works' production of *Top Secret: The Battle for Pentagon Papers* with Peter Strauss. A national tour was done of *Top Secret* starring John Heard, Susan Sullivan and Gregory Harrison. Diane also had the pleasure of touring as 'The Narrator' in *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* with Ed Asner. And most recently toured as 'The Narrator/Mrs. Gardiner/Kitty' in *Pride and Prejudice* with Jane Carr and Nicholas Hornmann. Her film credits include the critically acclaimed *UFOría* with Harry Dean Stanton;

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

and the 2002 Winner of the New York International Film Festival's Best Mockumentary, *Instant Trauma*. Her numerous television guest star appearances include Fonzie's girlfriend on "Happy Days," and a recurring alien on "Babylon 5." She has done both on-camera work and voiceovers for national commercials, as well as voicing the Emmy Award winning mini-series "The Wild West," with Jack Lemmon and Helen Hunt. Diane also enjoys writing and was a quarterfinalist in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting. She has signed with literary agent, Jane Putch.

Matthew Arkin (Mr. Robinson/ Man 1) Broadway credits include *Losing Louie*, *The Sunshine Boys*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Off-Broadway includes *Dinner with Friends* (Drama Desk nomination), *Rounding Third*, *Indian Blood*, *War in Paramus*, *You Should be so Lucky*, and *Moonlight and Magnolias*. Regional theater credits include *Surf Report* at La Jolla Playhouse, *The Scene* at Hartford Stage, *Sight Unseen* at George Street Playhouse, *Little Footsteps* and *Lost in Yonkers* at Pennsylvania Stage Company, *Around the World in 80 Days* at the Cape Playhouse, *A Thousand Clowns* at American Stage Company, *Two Rooms* and *True West* at TheatreWorks, *Alley's Folly* at Bay Street Theatre, and *The Whale*, *The Prince of Atlantis*, and *Our Mother's Brief Affair* at South Coast Repertory. Mr. Arkin was in L.A. Theatre Works' *Dinner with Friends* and *Photograph 51*. Film credits include *Margot at the Wedding*, *Second Best*, *Raising Flagg*, *Death to Smoochy*, *Bittersweet Place*, *An Unmarried Woman*, and *The Curse*. Television includes "Switched at Birth," "Harry's Law," "Medium," "Rescue Me" (recurring), all incarnations of "Law and Order," "Ed," "Third Watch," "100 Centre Street" (recurring), "All My Children" (recurring) and "Simple Justice." Arkin also teaches acting at South Coast Repertory and in Los Angeles. His first novel, *In the Country of the Blind*, will

be published this March. For more information, visit matthewarkinstudio.com.

Heidi Dippold (Mrs. Robinson) was last seen as 'Violet' in the World Premiere of *Smokefall* by Noah Haidle at South Coast Repertory. She also starred in the World Premiere of Noah Haidle's *Mr. Marmalade* (South Coast Repertory), *Twelfth Night* (New Orleans Shakespeare Festival) for which she won a Big Easy Award for Best Actress in a Comedy, *DUMB SHOW* (South Coast Repertory, American Premiere), *Homebody/Kabul* (Berkeley Repertory, West Coast Premiere), *Ghosts* (Off-Broadway), *I Hate Hamlet* (Cleveland Playhouse), *Naked TV* (Edgemar Center) and many others at theaters across the country. Film credits include *Stardom* and *House* (20th Century Fox). Television credits include recurring roles on "The Sopranos" and "All My Children," and Guest Star roles on "20 Good Years," "N.C.I.S.," "NYPD Blue," "Alias," and "Angel." Ms. Dippold holds an MFA in Acting from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, and a BFA from the University of Wisconsin.

Jill Renner (Elaine Robinson) Jill is thrilled to be back on the road with L.A. Theatre Works, having toured most recently in their production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Other credits include UCLA Live's *Medea* starring Annette Bening, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Harold Clurman Rep, *Island of Brilliance* at the Pacific Resident Theater, as well as a staged reading of *OPC*, written and directed by Eve Ensler. A recent graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television, Jill is also a proud member of the Pacific Resident Theatre. A special thanks to her family, teachers, and this lovely cast! www.jillrenner.com

Darren Richardson (Hotel Clerk/Priest/ Psychiatrist/Man 2) Originally from London, Darren's most recent L.A. Theatre Works productions include *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers* which toured China and was the first American

play performed at the Beijing National Theatre, and the US national tour of *Pride and Prejudice*. Other LATW productions include *The Browning Version*, *Photograph 51*, *The Life of Galileo*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Arcadia*, *The Imaginary Cuckold*, *The Bungler*, *The Misanthrope*, *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*. His BBC radio work for Jarvis & Ayres productions includes two series of *Kicking the Habit*; Ayckbourn's *A Small Family Business*, *Henceforward*, *Shadowlands*, *The Horse*, *Keep Your Pantheon*, P.G. Wodehouse's *Uncle Fred in Springtime*, *England Their England*, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* and most recently *Air Force One*. Theatre in LA includes: *What the Butler Saw* at The Odyssey, *The Real Thing* for the ICT Long Beach, *A Chorus of Disapproval* at the Odyssey, *Alfie* at The Met and *Abigail's Party* at The Odyssey. TV and film includes "Lost," "Fastlane," Soccer Dog - European Cup and the award-winning shorts "Offside" and "Nebraska." He has been on the small screen many times in many commercials from England to Australia and all stops in between! His vocal talents have been lent to many of Hollywood's top grossing films. He is honored to be back onstage with his L.A. Theatre Works family!

Brian Tichnell (Benjamin Braddock) Recent theater credits: *Peace in Our Time*, and *Macbeth* with the Antaeus company, *Camino Real* with the Theatre @ Boston Court, and *Hamlet* in The Oxford Shakespeare Festival. TV Credits: "Happy Endings", "Body of Proof", "Maron", "The Client List", "Silicon Valley", "Newsroom". Brian is originally from south Mississippi, he attended the University of Mississippi and California Institute of the Arts. This is Brian's first tour with L.A. Theatre Works, and he is grateful for the opportunity.

Tom Virtue (Mr. Braddock) is a frequent TV guest star, having appeared in over two hundred and fifty episodes of television. He has been a series regular on "The Building," "The Bonnie Hunt Show," the popular

Disney Channel program, "Even Stevens" and most recently played Reverend Stone on ABC Family's "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." His recent film appearances include *Iron Man 3*, *Hitchcock*, *The Guilt Trip* and *Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon*. A graduate of Northwestern University's School of Speech, Tom has performed Off-Broadway for the Hudson Guild and in Chicago with The Practical Theatre, which led to his being hired by The Second City's Mainstage Company. He is the recipient of a Joseph Jefferson Award for his theater work in Chicago, and has received the LA Theatre Award for his stage work in Los Angeles. He has acted in over a dozen plays for L.A. Theatre Works including the original U.S. Tour of *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers* and its two recent tours to China.

(continued on page 10)

Volunteer

Get behind the scenes and help our shows and events come to life!



Be a part of the magic!

To volunteer please contact:

officemgr@powayarts.org

(858) 668-4798

(continued from page 9)

Program Note

What am I going to do with my life? What is my purpose? Where do I go from here? - Whether at our college graduation, after losing a job, before getting married, or while walking to the grocery store, we've all searched for the answers to life's hardest questions.

For Benjamin Braddock, the hero of "The Graduate", this struggle to find answers is no different. Benjamin has just graduated from college, but he doesn't know what comes next. He moves back home with his family in California, without goals or plans for the future. Along comes the confident, suave, and much older Mrs. Robinson... and the rest is written in (fictional) history.

In the early 1960s, when Charles Webb wrote a novel called "The Graduate", America was in an "age of youth." Young people were leading the way to social, political, and cultural transformation. Webb's novel, published in 1963, was groundbreaking in those changing times; reviewers unanimously praised his brilliant and innovative use of dialogue and comedic genius in dealing with controversial themes and the main character's lack of direction. Webb wrote the book when he was only 23 years old—almost the same age as its protagonist Benjamin Braddock—having himself recently graduated from Williams College.

In 1967, "The Graduate" film was released, featuring the memorable, boyish face of Dustin Hoffman as the lost but heroically determined Benjamin Braddock, and a 36 year old, stunning Anne Bancroft as Mrs. Robinson. The screenplay for the film was written by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry, who made an appearance in the film as a hotel clerk. It was directed by Mike Nichols. "The Graduate" quickly became a cult favorite and an artistic triumph, garnering multiple Academy Award nominations and it remains one of the top grossing films in history.

Young viewers in the late 60s associated strongly with the films' story of frustration, rebellion, and complex human connection, wondering: is love forever? Could I, as a young person, go against the grain, or am I going to end up just like my parents?

In 2000, "The Graduate" stage play opened on London's West End, to great critical and commercial success. The Graduate ultimately transferred to Broadway starring Kathleen Turner as the martini saturated Mrs. Robinson. It was first presented on Broadway by John Reid and Sacha Brooks by special arrangement with StudioCanal, in association with Clear Channel Entertainment, at the Plymouth Theatre in New York City on April 4, 2002. The director was Terry Johnson, who also adapted the play script.

Those monumental questions first asked in the 1960s hold special significance in the tides of change in 2014...

MR ROBINSON: *I've just got one thing to say, Ben.*

BENJAMIN: *What's that, sir.*

MR ROBINSON: *One word, Ben.*

BENJAMIN: *One word?*

MR ROBINSON: *Plastics, Ben. Plastics. Will you think about that?*

What does your future hold?

-Anna Lyse Erikson,
Associate Producer for Artistic Direction,
L.A. Theatre Works

L.A. Theatre Works Mission and Background

Under the leadership of Producing Director, Susan Albert Loewenberg, L.A. Theatre Works (LATW) has been the foremost radio theater company in the United States for more than two decades. Broadcast in America on NPR stations, streamed online at www.latw.org and aired internationally on the BBC, CBC, and many other English language networks, LATW has single-

handedly brought the finest recorded dramatic literature into the homes of millions. The company records the majority of its productions annually in Los Angeles before an enthusiastic and loyal audience of season subscribers. Works by Arthur Miller, Tom Stoppard, Lillian Hellman Athol Fugard, Joyce Carol Oates, Wendy Wasserstein, Neil Simon, David Mamet, Lynn Nottage and others have been performed and recorded by LATW with casts of the most critically acclaimed film and stage actors. On the road, LATW has delighted audiences with its unique live radio theater style performances in over 200 small towns and major cities, including New York, Boston, San Francisco, Washington and Chicago. An L.A. Theatre Works performance is immediate, spontaneous, and features a first-rate cast, live sound effects, and a connection to the audience rarely felt in a traditional theater setting. This theater... is an event.

Today, LATW's Audio Theatre Collection includes more than 500 classic and contemporary titles—the largest library of its kind in the world. Much lauded, the L.A. Theatre Works Audio Theatre Collection is available in over 9,000 libraries and has received awards from the Audio Publishers Association, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Publisher's Weekly, Writer's Guild of America, American Library Association, Grammy Awards and many others. Additionally, over 3,000 high schools nationwide use the recordings and accompanying study guides to teach language arts, literature, history and civics through LATW's Alive & Aloud educational outreach program. LATW's newest initiative, The Play's the Thing for Higher Education, makes over 300 digitized works from our collection available to universities and colleges across the country for use in a variety of disciplines. LA. Theatre Works can be heard daily on Beijing Bilingual Radio/AM774.com. For more information on these programs, LATW's Audio Theatre Collection, national radio broadcast information and other exciting projects, visit www.latw.org.

For L.A. Theatre Works:

Producing Director:

Susan Albert Loewenberg

Director: **Brian Kite**

Adaptor: **Terry Johnson**

Managing Director: **Vicki Pearlson**

Business Manager: **Gary Starr**

Associate Producer:

Christina Montaña

Associate Producer:

Anna Lyse Erikson

Tour Manager/Actor: **Diane Adair**

Production Stage Manager:

Caitlin Barbieri

Set/Lighting Designer:

Daniel Ionazzi

Sound Designer: **Josh Bessom**

Costume Designer: **Rebecca Guzzi**

Graphic Design: **Dennis Ramirez**

Music Supervisor: **Scott Willis**

Senior Radio Producer:

Myke Weiskopf

Post-Production Coordinator:

Ronn Lipkin

Publicity & Public Relations:

Lucy Pollak

**To follow L.A. Theatre Works
on Facebook
scan this code:**

