

THE WEST COAST PREMIERE

PARLOUR SONG

BY

JEZ BUTTERWORTH

THE CAST

Joy - Jessica John

Ned - Mike Sears*

Dale - Francis Gercke*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

SETTING

England in the late summer/early autumn. In and around the small, suburban new-built home of Ned and Joy.

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT BACKYARD RENAISSANCE

Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company is a non-profit 501(c)(3) with an "art to the gut" sensibility. Founded in 2015 in San Diego, CA, Backyard Renaissance believes that exceptional storytelling is rooted in a sense of joyful play, human connection and gutsy intensity.

For more information go to:
www.backyardrenaissance.com



BACKYARD
RENAISSANCE
THEATRE COMPANY

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Lisa Berger (Director) is an award-winning director and teacher. San Diego credits: Skelton Crew (Old Globe, reading); Paper Cities, The Car Plays (La Jolla Playhouse); The Whale (La Jolla Playhouse, reading); Anatomy of Gray, Eurydice, A Streetcar Named Desire (USD); The Collector (Animal Cracker Conspiracy); Righteous Exploits (So Say We All); A Behanding in Spokane (Cygnet Theatre); Buried Child, Simpatico, Things We Want (New Village Arts); Killer Joe (Compass Theatre); Miss Julie (Stone Soup); Crimes of the Heart, Anonymous (Canyon Crest Academy); Buried Child (UCSD); The Long Christmas Ride Home, Looking for Normal (Diversionary Theatre); Handbag (AASD); Islands of Repair (NYC Fringe). She received her MFA from the University of Montana and is a graduate of The William Esper Studio in New York. She teaches at Mira Costa College, City College and USD and is co-artistic director of the MeisnerChekhov Integrated Training Studio.

Peet Cocks (Lighting Designer) is an educator, theater artist, and nationally exhibited visual artist. He recently wrote and directed *Already Done to You*, an exploration of child abuse, loss, and forgiveness. Directing credits: *Oracle of the Western Shore* based upon the novel *Voices* by Ursula Le Guin; *Heaven on Earth*, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, and *The Three Musketeers*. Lighting, Projection, and Scene Design credits: *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Fete de la Nuit*, and *Big Love*. Acting credits: *Cabaret*, *Fete de la Nuit*, and *Even at a Funeral*.

Michael McKeon (Set & Props Designer) In San Diego, he has worked with *Compass*, *Diversionary*, *StageHouse*, *Intrepid*, and *Lamb's Players*. He is a recipient of the SD Critics Circle Award, and his designs have been nominated multiple times by the SD Critics Circle. Thanks to all! Check out my work at MichaelMcKeon.com

Jessica John Gercke (Costume Designer) Other costume designs include *Cygnet Theatre*: *True West*, *Fool for Love*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Man from Nebraska*, *Mauritius*, *Love Song*; *ion theatre*: *Shining City*, *Angels in America* (Millennium Approaches and *Perestroika*); *Scripps Ranch Theatre*: *Almost Maine*, *How the Other Half Lives*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Deathtrap*; *New Village Arts Theatre*: *Humble Boy*, *True West*, *Sailor's Song* (SDCritics Circle Award – Best Costume Design), *Three Sisters*, *Crimes of the Heart*; *Backyard Productions*: *Hysterical Blindness*, *Closer*, *Wake of Jamey Foster*, *Boys Life*.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Matt Lescault-Wood (Sound Designer) has designed sound in San Diego for the past decade and has been nominated multiple times for the SD Critics Circle Award. Credits include: Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Little Shop of Horrors, A Behanding In Spokane, Man of La Mancha, Assassins, Company, Spring Awakening, Pageant, Sons of the Prophet, My Fair Lady (Cygnet); Eurydice [SD Critics Circle Nominee], Dead Man's Cell Phone, ENRON, Eternally Bad (Moxie); Hamlet (Intrepid), The Break-Up/Break-Down, Deconstruction of A Drag Queen, Red Planet Respite (Circle Circle dot dot); Seascape, Stage Kiss, Lord of The Flies (New Village Arts); Henry V [SD Critics Circle Nominee] (New Fortune); MixTape 2015 (Lambs). Matt has a Degree in Theatrical Design and Technology from SDSU.

Sammy Bauman-Martin (SM) is very happy to be joining this company for their debut. Sammy recently graduated from University of San Diego's Theatre Arts and Performance Studies program. Stage Management credits: An American Christmas, 100 Hours of Stories: Breaking the Guinness World Record (Lamb's Players Theatre); A Streetcar Named Desire (USD); The Two Gentlemen of Verona (The Old Globe); Clybourne Park (USD/Old Globe MFA Program). Regional credits: Saloon, The Game's Afoot, Once a Ponzi Time, Sunday in the Park with George (Peninsula Players Theatre).

Taylor Todd (ASM) is so happy to be a part of the Parlour Song team. Anton's Shorts: Three Brief Comedies by Chekhov, Anatomy of Gray (USD), Oliver! (ASM, Cabrillo Stage); Production Manager: Gruesome Playground Injuries, DOG SEES GOD: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead (USD). She recently graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in Theatre Arts and Performance Studies.

Sophie Wood (Asst. Director) is so proud to have been a part of the Parlour Song process. Directing credits: DOG SEES GOD (USD), assistant director of Reckless (The Old Globe/USD MFA, dir. Richard Seer), The Vagina Monologues (USD). She graduated from the University of San Diego with a B.A. in Theatre Arts & Performance Studies.

About the Playwright

Jez Butterworth, who cites Harold Pinter as one of his major influences, is a master of exploring and exploding the unspoken in the everyday lives of the people around you. His other plays include the award-winning, Broadway-hit Jerusalem, as well as Mojo (winner of the Laurence Olivier, Evening Standard and the George Devine awards), The Night Heron, The Winterling and his most recent work, The River. Parlour Song opened to "rave reviews" at the Atlantic Theatre Company, in New York City in March 2008 and the Almeida Theatre presented its European première in London in March 2009, directed by Ian Rickson.

PRODUCERS NOTES

This play is about mid-life. That startling, earth-shattering moment when you realize that you're on the back-half. The perplexing second you discover you may have missed those crucial turns that were supposed to get you to all those perfect future scenarios you dreamt of when you were still young enough to dream about future scenarios. It hit all of us (Fran, Lisa, Mike and me) like a speed train and got us thinking about how to make the most of the time left. The creation of Backyard Renaissance is our attempt to do that. To make the most of this incredible, all-too-quick journey. Jez Butterworth writes, "And suddenly, there's another door. One you've never seen before. Do you walk through it?" We thank you for joining us as we open the door and take our first step.

- Jessica John Gercke (Executive Director)

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\$250+

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Veronica Murphy

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John & Carol Gercke
Ellen Cherin
Josh TerAvest

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Regina Barella
Barbara Helland
John Christopher Gercke
Arthur & Marilyn Neumann
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Albert Dayan
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Dan Feraldo
Paul Shaw
Jennifer Jeter
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Deborah Pettry
Joseph Rogers & Isabella Ferrera-Rogers
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Lynne Thrope
Justin Snavelly
Rachel Eubanks
Christy Yael
Kathy Brombacher
Jay & Julie Sarno

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Heil • Jason Heil • Lauren Wilson • Jessica John Gercke • Francis Gercke

ABOUT THE PLAYERS

Jessica John (Joy) - In 2001, Jessica co-founded Backyard Productions in San Diego and served as the executive artistic director until 2008. As an actor, she is an associate artist of Cygnet Theatre and has worked professionally in San Diego with such companies as the North Coast Repertory Theatre, ion theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, New Village Arts Theatre, New Fortune Theatre Company, Moxie Theatre, Oceanside Theatre Company, Diversionsary Theatre and Renaissance Theatre. Honors include: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (SD Playbill - Best Actress), Burn This (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress); New Village Arts: The Playboy of the Western World (Patte - Best Actress); and Renaissance Theatre: A View from the Bridge (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress). She was named one of the "Top 50 People to Watch" by San Diego Magazine.

Francis Gercke (Dale) - is co-founder of Backyard Renaissance. Credits: In the Next Room, Honky (SD Rep); Accomplice, Suzette Who Set to Sea (LJP WOW & POP Tour); Freud's Last Session (Lamb's Players); Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, True West, Fool for Love (Cygnet Theatre); Time Stands Still (NCRT); Shining City (ion theatre); The Pride (Diversionsary Theatre); Orphans (New Village Arts); Oleanna, Macbeth (Intrepid Theatre). He is a recipient of the SD Critics Circle Award. A graduate of the Actors Studio Drama School, he teaches at Palomar College and Actors Approach.

Mike Sears (Ned) Credits include: Othello (Old Globe); Sideways, His Girl Friday, Hands on a Hard Body, Bonnie and Clyde (La Jolla Playhouse). Off-Broadway: When Words Fail (Houseman Theatre), Leap (Abingdon Theatre), To Have and To Hold (Phil Bosakowski Theatre). Off-Off Broadway: American Globe Theatre, Boomerang Theatre Summer Shakespeare, New Dramatist, NY Fringe Festival, Present Company, NY Musical Theatre Works, Producer's Club and Duplex. Regional: A Behanding In Spokane, Man From Nebraska (Cygnet Theatre); Tortilla Curtain (SD Rep); Killer Joe (Compass Theatre); The Foreigner (Lamb's Players); Birds of a Feather (Diversionsary Theatre); Simpatico (New Village Arts); Good Boys (Mo'olelo); Tuesday's With Morrie (NCRT). Mike is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York City.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Executive Director
Jessica John Gercke

Artistic Director
Francis Gercke

Director
Lisa Berger

Lighting Designer
Peet Cocke

Set & Props Designer
Michael McKeon

Sound Designer
Matt Lescault-Wood

Costumer Designer
Jessica John Gercke

Stage Manager
Samantha Bauman-Martin

Asst. Stage Manager
Taylor Todd

Asst. Director
Sophie Wood

Dialect Coach
Jillian Frost

Production Committee President
Jason Heil