



NEW FORTUNE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS:

THE
BIRTHDAY
PARTY **BY**
HAROLD
PINTER

A Note from the Director

On Monday May 19th 1958, Harold Pinter's *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY* opened at the Lyric Hammersmith. Pinter, then 27, wrote the play in his dressing room at Leicester while still a jobbing actor. Its opening was ravaged by the press, nearly ending his playwrighting career. The Manchester Guardian wrote of the characters speaking in "non sequiturs, half-gibberish and lunatic ravings." The Financial Times stated that the play belonged to the "School of random dottiness, deriving from Beckett and Ionesco". And the Daily Telegraph sympathized with Petey, "oh well, I can give him one word of cheer, he might have been a dramatic critic condemned to sit through plays like this."

To my mind, what blazes through these critical opinions is a frustration towards Pinter for not explaining himself. Luckily, Harold Hobson came to Pinter's rescue writing, "The fact that no one can say precisely what it is about, or give the address from which the intruding Goldberg and McCann come, or say precisely why it is that Stanley is so frightened of them is, of course, one of its greatest merits. It is exactly in this vagueness that its spine chilling quality lies... Mr. Pinter and *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY* despite their experiences next week, will be heard of again. Make note of their names."

I first read Harold Pinter's *One for the Road* as a 16 year old in high school. An overtly political play, yet as dangerous and confusing as his other great works. But what it was about to me, seemed irrelevant. Pinter's world is like ours; where the meaning of things is at best opaque, and the most normal condition of life is uncertainty. Pinter does not wrap his plays in the "easily accessible" (a phrase I detest), but begs *us* to observe and question the oddities of our lives. As hard as we may try to predict the outcome of our days, years, and lives, we, like the characters in Pinter's plays, never know what's coming round the corner. Or on the other side of a silence.

Pinter spoke of the play as being "... the destruction of an individual, the independent voice of an individual." Pinter, who spent his life speaking out against tyranny, admitted to being very fond of the oppressed turn oppressors, (Jewish and Irish) Goldberg and McCann. And yet, Goldberg and McCann also seem to be aware that one day Monty's car may come for them.

I love this playwright, his characters, and this cast. I'm lucky as hell to have them. In the main, this has been a joyous birthday party.

Richard Baird

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

CAST

Richard Baird*	MCCANN
Matthew Henerson*	GOLDBERG
Dana Hooley	MEG
Max Macke	STANLEY
Marcus Overton	PETEY
Amanda Schaar	LULU

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright	Harold Pinter
Director	Richard Baird
Stage Manager	Jon Huckaby
Set Design	Marty Burnett
Light Design	Matthew Novotny
Costume Design	Amanda Schaar, Richard Baird
Prop Design	Richard Baird, Amanda Schaar
Sound Design	Richard Baird, Justin Lang
Production Manager	Justin Lang
Dialect Advisor	Jillian Frost
Assistant Stage Manager	Dylan Grant
Assistant Stage Manager	Miriam Henerson
Graphic Design	Gedimin Bulat

Play runs approximately two and a quarter hours.

There will be *two* 10 minute intermissions.

CAST



Richard Baird* (McCann/Director): New Fortune: *Henry V*. Richard is an award-winning actor, director and producer. Prior to co-founding New Fortune, Richard served as Associate Artistic Director of Southwest Shakespeare Company 2008-9, and as Founding Artistic Director of Poor Players Theatre Company which produced over 20 productions of Shakespeare and his contemporaries' work. Richard has been seen throughout the United States in regional theatres. Select Acting credits include: Arizona Theatre Company (*Romeo and Juliet*), The Old Globe (*The Doll's House*), Portland Center Stage (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*Cyrano de Bergerac* and *The Madness of King George*), Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*Winter's Tale*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*), Kingsmen Shakespeare Company (*Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Tartuffe*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*), North Coast Repertory Theatre (*Betrayal*, *School for Lies*, *Fallen Angels*, *Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lover/Dumb Waiter*, *Arcadia*, *Rashomon*, *Moon for the Misbegotten*, *THIS*, *Becoming Cuba*); Shakespeare Santa Cruz (*Macbeth*). Richard played several roles for Poor Players including the title roles of *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus*, Iago in *Othello* and many more. San Diego Critics Circle award for the title role and co-direction of New Fortunes *HENRY V*, Angelo in *Measure for Measure* for Poor Players. Two AriZoni Theatre Best Actor awards for his performance as *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Petruchio* in *Taming of the Shrew*. KPBS and San Diego Playbill awards for his performance as *Shylock* in *Merchant of Venice* and the title role of *Macbeth*.

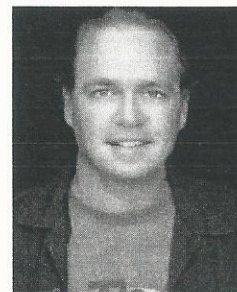


Matthew Henerson* (Goldberg): New Fortune: Fluellen/co-director: *Henry V*. San Diego Area: La Jolla Playhouse, North Coast Repertory, San Diego Repertory, Sledgehammer. Regional: American Conservatory Theatre, A Noise Within, Celebration Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare, CTG/Ahmanson, Deaf West, East West Players, Ensemble Theatre, Furious Theatre, Independent Shakespeare, Main Street Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare, Northern Stage, San Francisco Shakespeare, San Jose Repertory, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, South

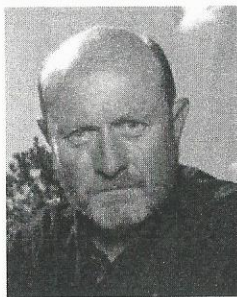
Coast Repertory, Utah Shakespeare, Women in Time, the world premiere of the musical *Serrano* at the Matrix, and the first national tour of *Flashdance: the Musical*. Roles include *Macbeth*, *Shylock*, *Leontes*, *Caliban*, *Lear's Fool*, *Touchstone*, *Sir Toby*, *Tevye*, *Nathan Detroit*, *Pseudolus*, and the title role in Brecht's *Life of Galileo*. Film and Television: "The Bernie Mac Show", "Hung", *Torn Apart* (Hallmark), *A Christmas Carol* (Disney), *Mars Needs Moms* (Disney), *Ticking Clock*, and Disney's upcoming *Jungle Book*.



Dana Hooley (Meg): With New Fortune- *Henry V*. Recent stage- Winnie in *Happy Days*; Sledgehammer Theatre, and *Arsinoe* in *School for Lives*; North Coast Repertory Theatre. Selected stage: *Frozen* (SD Critics Circle Lead Actress), *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Cripple of Innishmaan*: ion Theatre. *A Wake*, *The Saint Plays*, *The Chairs* (Playbill Outstanding Actress), *No Time Like The Present* (Whitney Museum NYC and San Diego), *Shadowy Waters*, *Quoth the Raven*; Sledgehammer. *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, *The New Century*, *The Marriage Bed*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *Facing East*; Diversionary Theatre. *Death of a Salesman*, *Hamlet*, *The Women*; San Diego Repertory Theatre. *A Macbeth*: Odyssey Theatre. *Androcles and the Lion*; Old Globe. *The Winslow Boy*; Lamb's Players. *The Mutilated*; Fritz Theatre. *Joe Egg*; North Coast Rep. Dana has performed as a guest artist for Ballet Pacifica in Francis Thumm's *Blessed Temper* and with San Diego Ballet as Grizzly Woman in *Eternally Bad*. Dana received the San Diego Critic's Circle Actor of the Year Award for 2014.



Max Macke (Stanley): New Fortune debut. Max is very excited to be working again with his good friend Richard, this marks their 14th collaboration including a dozen Shakespeare works with Poor Players. Max was last seen as Jeffrey Skilling in *Enron* here at MOXIE Theater, also with MOXIE, he appeared as the devil in *Eurydice*. Other favorite credits include; Bogart in *Play it again, Sam* (SRT), Edmund in *Edward II* (Diversionary) Bob Ewell in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Martini in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* both at New Village Arts in Carlsbad, where he will be appearing again as Brendan in *The Weir* coming October 2015. He would like to thank his wife and daughter for their continued love and support.



Marcus L. Overton (Petey): New Fortune: *Henry V*. Marcus made his professional debut in the title role of Shakespeare's *Richard III* in 1965, with Atlanta's Southeastern Shakespeare Festival. In the 50 years since, he has regularly crossed disciplinary lines to work as an actor, stage director, teacher/coach and arts manager in theatre, opera, dance and music. A graduate of Northwestern University's famed theatre department where he studied with Alvina Krause, he

has directed everything from Greek classics (Euripides' *Hippolytus* for Grass Root Greeks in San Diego) to such classic American musicals as *Kiss Me, Kate* for Chicago's North Shore Theatre Company, with assignments in Moliere, Chekhov, Ibsen and Shaw along the way, as well as major works in both the Italian and German opera repertory (Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and *La Boheme* (with Luciano Pavarotti), Verdi's *La Traviata*, Beethoven's *Fidelio* and Strauss' *Elektra*.) His administrative resume includes Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Ravinia Festival, Senior Program Manager for Performing Arts at the Smithsonian Institution and the General Manager's post at Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston.



Amanda Schaar (Lulu): New Fortune: Katherine/Boy: *Henry V*. San Diego credits include, Poor Players: *Measure for Measure* (Isabella); North Coast Rep: *Odd Couple*, *Perfect Wedding*; Intrepid: *Much Ado About Nothing*. Regional credits include, Timeline Theatre: *The Front Page* (Jefferson Nom. Best Ensemble), and the US Premiere of *The Pitman Painters* (Jefferson Award, Best Show); Childsplay: *Tale of Two Cities* (Lucy Mannette); Poor

Players/Shakespeare Sedona: *Richard II* (Isabelle), Southwest Shakespeare: *As You Like It* (Audrey), *Tartuffe* (Elmire), *The Winter's Tale* (Perdita), *Cyrano*, *Othello*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*; Sedona Shakespeare; Phoenix Theatre; Stray Cat; TIMB; The Farce Side; Teatro Caliente; Teatro Bravo; Remmy Bumpo; Northwestern University; and a National Tour with Child's Play. Amanda holds a BA in Theatre from the Herberger College of Fine Arts.

CREW

Marty Burnett (Set Design): This is Marty's first production with New Fortune Theater. He is resident designer at North Coast Repertory Theatre, where he has designed every show since 1992. Marty has designed for Harrah's, South Lake Tahoe, Drury Lane; Chicago, Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, Portland Stage Company, Union Plaza; Las Vegas to name a few. He is honored to be working with Richard and Amanda and the fabulous cast on this wonderful Pinter play. Special thanks to John Huckaby for his tireless work on the set for *Birthday Party*.

Dylan Grant (Assistant Stage Manager): Dylan is a fresh, but eager face in the theatre world. Hailing from San Diego, his first production was *Henry V* with New Fortune, followed by a select few productions after. Including: *Wuthering Heights*, Putnam County Spelling Bee, and *Renegades*, with various companies. Please enjoy the show!

Miriam Henerson (Assistant Stage Manager): Miriam is thrilled to be joining the crew of *The Birthday Party* for her first show at New Fortune Theatre Company. Past professional credits include: *Hamlet Max* for Sacred Fools at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Past credits under mentorship include: Los Angeles Ballet Academy Showcase, *Arabian Nights* at the Madrid Theatre, and misc. Dance Showcases. Past school credits include: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Cinderella*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*. School stage manager credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Special thanks to her parents for supporting her insanity, and all her love to her friends for rejoicing in it.

Jon Huckaby (Stage Manager): Jon is honored to be working with such a gloriously brilliant cast and crew. Since graduation at SDSU, he's continued his passion for Stage Management with local companies and performing the duties of stage management fellow at the San Diego Rep. He believes in the power of strong ground breaking theatre and his two amazing shows with New Fortune Theatre (including serving as the stage manger for *Henry V*) have truly been worthwhile and fun experiences. He'd like to thank Colleen for her love and support.

Matthew Novotny (Light Design): Matthew is so happy to be making his design debut for New Fortune Theatre! Matthew has been designing lighting

in Theatre for over 20 years, having received a BA from San Diego State, and a Masters in Lighting Design from Boston University. Matthew has designed well over 200 shows, and is currently the Resident Lighting Designer for North Coast Rep, as well as a frequent designer for San Diego Musical Theatre and Palomar College. He also designs concerts and children's shows throughout San Diego. He has a loving wife, Amanda, and 3 kids (Ages 1, 2 and 3!!!) Ragan, Harper and Heston.

Harold Pinter (Playwright): Pinter wrote 29 plays, including *The Birthday Party*, *The Caretaker*, *The Homecoming*, and *Betrayal*. 21 screenplays, including *The Servant*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and *Sleuth*. And directed 27 theatre productions. He was also an accomplished actor in Shakespeare, his own plays, and beyond. And in 2005, three years before his death, he received the Nobel Prize for Literature.

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MISSION

New Fortune is proudly committed to presenting Original Classics.

Artists and Audiences deserve to experience the great plays, Rarely Done.

THANK YOU!

Cheers to the generous hearts that make this great work possible for artists and art lovers. Your generosity and *excellent* taste deserves to be recognized.

IMPERIAL DONORS

Billie & Gordon Baird, Gay Baird, Big Daddy Productions, Thomas Haine, Chuck & Teresa Lang, Marcus Overton

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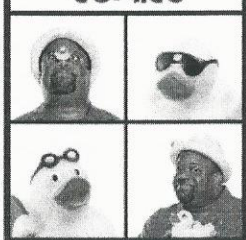
New Fortune would like to specially thank the wonderful staff of North Coast Repertory Theatre for their *incredible* help and talents, as well as Elaine Hiel, Julie Ustin, and the MOXIE girls. Thank you!!!



Variety Nights

@ NORTH COAST REP

TUESDAY NIGHT COMICS

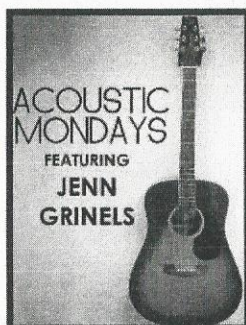


Tuesday Night Comics
SEPTEMBER 15 • 7:30PM

Rated R

\$3 Stone Brewing Beers & FREE Appetizers

Hosted by MARK CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE, Tuesday Night Comics is arguably the funniest night of comedy in San Diego. MCL taps into his extensive list of talented comedian friends and shares the North Coast Rep stage with them. The show is comprised of talent from all over the country with late night television credits as well as credits from Comedy Central, HBO, SHOWTIME, ETC.... A good time is had by all!



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North Coast Rep is getting unplugged! Enjoy an evening of rich color and sound as some of the region's finest musicians present an exclusive series of Acoustic Concerts. Each event is new and all are exciting!

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 • 7:30PM
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A View of the Party

The thought that Goldberg was
A man she might have known
Never crossed Meg's words
That morning in the room.
The thought that Goldberg was
A man another knew
Never crossed her eyes
When, glad, she welcomed him.
The thought that Goldberg was
A man to dread and know
Jarred Stanley in the blood
When, still, he heard his name.
While Petey knew, not then,
But later, when the light
Full up upon their scene,
He looked into the room
And by morning Petey saw
The light begin to dim
(The daylight full of sun)
Though nothing could be done
Nat Goldberg, who arrived
With a smile on every face
Accompanied by McCann,
Set a change upon the place
The thought that Goldberg was
Sat in the center of the room
A man of weight and time,
To supervise the game
The thought that was McCann
Walked in upon this feast,
A man of skin and bone,
With a green stain on his chest
Allied in their theme,
They imposed upon the room
A dislocation and doom,

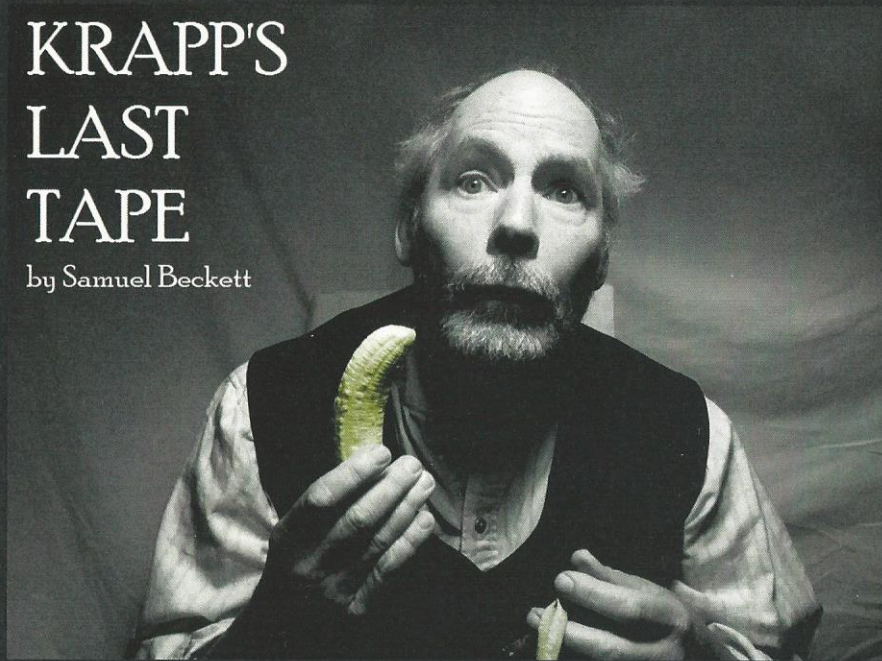
Though Meg saw nothing done.
The party they began,
To hale the birthday in,
Was generous and affable,
Though Stanley sat alone.
The toasts were said and sung
All spoke of other years
Lulu, on Goldberg's breast
Looked up into his eyes.
And Stanley sat- alone,
A man he might have known
Triumphant on his hearth,
Which never was his own.
For Stanley had no home.
Only where Goldberg was,
And his bloodhound McCann,
Did Stanley remember his name
They played at blind man's buff,
Blindfold the game was run,
McCann tracked Stanley down,
The darkness down and gone
Found the game lost and won,
Meg, all memory gone,
Lulu's love night spent,
Petey, impotent
A man they never knew
In the center of the room,
And Stanley's final eyes
Broken by McCann

-Harold Pinter
1958

Coming in 2016, New Fortune proudly presents...

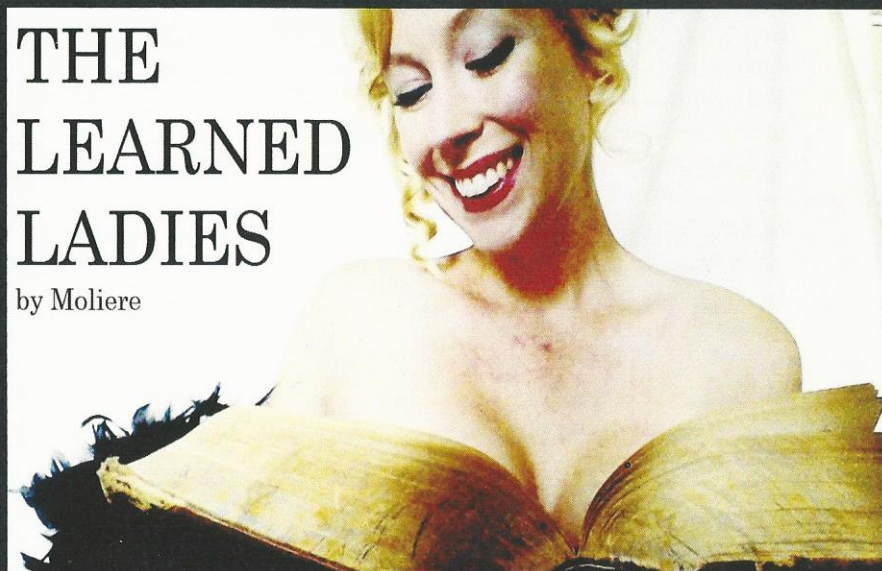
KRAPP'S LAST TAPE

by Samuel Beckett



THE LEARNED LADIES

by Moliere



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