

From: Sandra Schwarzmann
Date: June 21, 2008
Subject: North Coast Repertory Theatre Presents:
The West Coast Premiere of J.T. Rogers' *MADAGASCAR*.

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NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS THE WEST
COAST PREMIERE OF
MADAGASCAR

San Diego, CA-North Coast Repertory Theatre is pleased to announce the West Coast Premiere of J.T. Rogers' *MADAGASCAR*, directed by David Ellenstein, to run July 2, 2008 – August 3, 2008. **Press Opening is Saturday July 5, 2008 at 8PM.***

*** J.T. Rogers will be signing hard covers during the post-show reception catered by the award winning Paradise Grille.**



J. T. Rogers's plays include *The Overwhelming* (National Theatre, London; UK tour with Out of Joint; BBC radio; Off Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre; National Theatre of Israel; upcoming throughout the US), *MADAGASCAR* (Off Broadway SPF Festival and throughout the US), and *White People* (throughout the US, and currently at the German Theater Abroad in Berlin). Recent awards include NEA/TCG and NYFA fellowships, the Pinter Review Prize for Drama, the American Theatre Critics Association's Osborne Award, and the William Inge Center for the Arts's New Voices Award. He is currently writing new plays for the National Theatre in London and Lincoln Center Theater. His works are published in the US and UK by Faber and Faber and in acting editions by Dramatists Play Service. Rogers is a resident playwright at New Dramatists and member of both PEN and the Dramatists Guild.

MADAGASCAR

"If you choose to vanish you probably won't be found" are the haunting early words in *MADAGASCAR*. In one hotel room overlooking the Spanish steps in Rome, three Americans find themselves alone in three different periods of time. What ensues is a taut and challenging drama about purity and ideals. The disappearance of a loved one connects this sorrowful trio as each individual story of how and why they are here comes to light. The characters' stories weave back and forth contradicting, clarifying, and deepening the resonance of each as they unfold. This powerful new voice in the American theatre promises to deliver maximum impact in our intimate theatre.

mesmerizing... adventurous... brilliantly theatrical... haunting... captivating... unerring... superb... radiant... striking... crisp... funny... heartbreaking... amusing... sardonic... wondrous... elegiac... unforgettable... One of New Theatre's finest productions..."

- Christine Dolen, *Miami Herald*

"Delicate... moving... splendidly acted... a directorial tour de force... an exhilarating theatrical triumph... brilliant... enfolds the audience from the beginning... ravishing... a superb evening of theater... Witty, serious, and touching..."

- Octavio Roca, *Miami New Times*

"...brilliantly elliptical... beautifully rendered... the acting is faultless... luminous... solid, sure and insightful..."

Bill Hirschman, *Sun Sentinel*

The cast of *MADAGASCAR* includes Rosina Reynolds as "Lilian," Christy Yael as "June" and Frank Corrado as "Nathan".

There are three different time periods: June, a few days ago; Lilian, five years ago; Nathan, the present.

The place is a hotel room in Rome above the Piazza di Spagna, looking down on the Spanish Steps.

The production team includes David Ellenstein, director; Marty Burnett, scenic design; M. Scott Grabau, lighting design; Peter Herman, costume design; Chris Luessmann, sound design and Bonnie Durben; props and set dressing.

The crew includes Aaron Rumley, stage manager; Aaron Rumley, production manager and Ryan Ford, production assistant.

Tickets for *MAAGASCAR* are \$26 - \$40. Show times are select Wednesday evenings at 7pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm, Sunday matinees at 2pm and select Saturday matinees also at 2pm. In addition to the talkback and hard cover signing with J.T. Rogers on July 5th, there is talkback with the cast, crew and director of *MADAGASCAR* after the first Friday performance on July 11, 2008. Press opening night is Saturday, July 5, 2008 at 8pm and includes a post-performance catered reception provided by Paradise Grille. Tickets can be purchased at www.northcoastrep.org or by calling the box office at (858) 481-1055 or by visiting North Coast Repertory Theatre box office at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach 92075. Box office hours are 12 pm - 4 pm daily and from 12 pm - 6 pm on performance days.

David Ellenstein, the director of *MADAGASCAR* is also North Coast Repertory Theatre's Producing Artistic Director.



Born into a theatrical family, David has worked in theatres across the country. Before joining North Coast Rep in 2003 he served as Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Repertory Company and the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company (AJTC). A veteran of over 100 theatrical productions, directorial favorites include:

North Coast Rep – *Madagascar*, *A Shayna Maidel*, *The Honky Tonk Angels*, *Rashomon*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*; *Tuesdays With Morrie*; *Collected Stories*; *Halpern and Johnson*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *Amy's View*; *Einstein Comes Through* (also co-author); *The Chosen*; *A Life in the Theatre*; *Story Theatre* and *Charley's Aunt*. Coconut Grove Playhouse - *Sonia Flew* starring Lucy Arnaz; *Halpern and Johnson* starring Hal Linden and Brian Murray. Papermill Playhouse - *The Chosen* starring Theodore Bikel and John Lloyd Young. Renaissance Theatre - *Long Days Journey Into Night*. Alabama Shakespeare Festival - *Rocket City* (world premiere) and *Honky Tonk Angels*. Laguna Playhouse - *Alexandros* (world premiere). Southwest Shakespeare Company - *Cyrano de Bergerac*. AJTC - *Awake and Sing*. *Meadow Brook Theatre* - *A Christmas Carol*. Pirate Playhouse - *Old Wicked Songs* and *Talley's Folly*. Kingsmen Shakespeare - *Hamlet*. Portland Rep - *Conversations With My Father* and Gaslamp Quarter Theatre - *A Shayna Maidel*.

Favorite roles as an actor include title roles in *Hamlet* at Los Angeles Theatre Center and Los Angeles Repertory Company; Richard III at California Shakespeare Festival; Einstein in *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile at Laguna Playhouse; Calisto in *The Illusion* and Harker in *Dracula* at the Arizona Theatre Company; Jonathan in *Sight Unseen* at North Coast Rep and Portland Repertory Theatre; Stanley in *Broadway Bound* at Alaska Repertory Theatre and Scoop in the *Heidi Chronicles* and John in *A Life In The Theatre* at Gaslamp Quarter Theatre.

Film and television credits include over three dozen roles including Star Trek IV, The Practice, Foul Play, Christine Cromwell, Renegade, Eight is Enough, and General Hospital. David has also been guest faculty for numerous universities including California State Northridge, Cal Arts, and Shakespeare workshops privately. David lives with his beautiful wife Denise and their amazing sons Jamie and Will.

About the North Coast Repertory Theatre

From its modest beginning as a community theatre in a shopping center in 1982, the North Coast Repertory Theatre has evolved into one of the area's leading performing arts organizations, recognized for the quality of its work and its commitment to excellence. It is one of only four year-round Equity Theatres in San Diego County. Located in Solana Beach, in the heart of San Diego's Coastal North County, the theatre boasts an award-winning main stage season, with performances year-round presented to over 40,000 people in its intimate 194-seat setting. In addition, the theatre involves thousands of young people each year in the Theatre School @ North Coast Rep, and in North Coast Rep's education and outreach program.

FACT SHEET:

WHAT: North Coast Repertory Theatre's West Coast Premiere of
J.T. Rogers'
MADAGASCAR

WHEN: July 2, 2008 – August 3, 2008

TH/FR/SA evenings at 8PM, Sunday Matinees at 2pm, select Wednesday evenings 7pm and select Saturday matinees at 2pm.

WHERE: North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075

TICKETS: \$26 previews, \$40 opening nights, \$35 Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees.

Wednesday through Friday evenings and Saturday matinees are \$28.
Discounts apply for all students, military and seniors with valid ID.

Directed by: David Ellenstein
Scenic Design: Marty Burnett
Light Design: M. Scott Grabau
Costume Design: Peter Herman
Sound Design: Chris Luessmann
Props and Set Dressing: Bonnie Durben
Stage manager: Aaron Rumley*
Production Manager: Aaron Rumley
Production Assistant: Ryan Ford

CAST:

Lilia: Rosina Reynolds*
June: Christy Yael
Nathan: Frank Corrado

*Members of Actors Equity.

LISTING: "If you choose to vanish you probably won't be found" are the haunting early words in *Madagascar*. In one hotel room overlooking the Spanish steps in Rome, three Americans find themselves alone in three different periods of time. What ensues is a taut and challenging drama about purity and ideals. The disappearance of a loved one connects this sorrowful trio as each individual story of how and why they are here comes to light. The characters' stories weave back and forth contradicting, clarifying, and deepening the resonance of each as they unfold. This powerful new voice in the American theatre promises to deliver maximum impact in our intimate theatre.

MADAGASCAR previews July 2, 2008- July 4, 2008 with regular showings from July 5, 2008 – August 3, 2008 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite D, 92075. For ticket information or reservations call (858)-481-1055 or visit www.northcoastrep.org.

Images/Photographs for *MADAGASCAR* will be made available on-line Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at www.northcoastrep.org/press. If you would like a script to be sent to you electronically please contact Sandra@northcoastrep.org or directly at 858-481-2155 Ext. 20.

PHOTO CREDITS: Aaron Rumley