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**MEDIA PAGE:** [**www.northcoastrep.org/press**](http://www.northcoastrep.org/press)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REP HERALDS NEW YEAR**

**WITH CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED HIT,**

***‘MARJORIE PRIME’ by* JORDAN HARRISON**

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

**Running Through Sunday, February 5, 2017**

**Directed by Matthew Wiener**

Solana Beach, Calif. North Coast Repertory Theatre continues its highly successful Season 35 with the San Diego premiere of ***MARJORIE PRIME***, hailed as “an elegant, thoughtful, quietly unsettling drama” by The New York Times. Written by Jordan Harrison, the play enjoyed triumphant runs in Los Angeles and New York and was a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for drama and won the 2016 Horton Foote Prize, which honors excellence in American theatre. Jordan Harrison is a playwright’s playwright. His work has premiered at some of the most prestigious regional theatres - and though he’s not yet 40, he has already amassed an impressive number of awards and fellowships. But Harrison has also found success in Hollywood, his play Marjorie Prime has been adapted into a film debuting at the Sundance Festival next year starring Jon Hamm, Tim Robbins, Geena Davis and Lois Smith.

***MARJORIE PRIME***tells the tale of a near future in which artificial intelligence is used to treat dementia and depression in the form of “primes”- humanoid lifelike robots that speak with patients in the form of lost loved ones and provide companionship for the lonely.

Matthew Wiener directs Dee Maaske\*, Steve Froelich, Elaine Rivkin\*, and Gregory North\*. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting), Melanie Chen (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), Andrea Gutierrez (Props) and Peter Herman (Wig & Hair). Aaron Rumley\* is the Stage Manager.

\*The actor or stage manager appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

For background information and photos, go to [www.northcoastrep.org/press](http://www.northcoastrep.org/press).

***Busy director Matthew Wiener and his talented cast are available for interviews by phone, in person, and in- studio. For more information and to arrange interviews or press tickets, please contact Nancy Richards at nancy@northcoastrep.org, or 917-873-6389 cell.***

***MARJORIE PRIME*** previews begin Wednesday, January 11. Opening Night on Saturday, January 14, at 8pm, includes a post-show reception. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, January 20,** with the cast and artistic director. It will play Wednesdays at 7pm, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2pm with Sundays at 7pm, through February 5, 2017 (See Schedule below). North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, CA 92075. Tickets: Previews- $39; Week Nights - $46; Sat. Eve. & Sun. Mat.- $50; Sat. Mat. & Sun. Night - $43. Seniors, Students, Military - $3 off admission. Call 858-481-1055 or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents**

 ***MARJORIE PRIME***

**By Jordan Harrison**

 **Directed by** **Matthew Wiener**

**CAST: Dee Maaske\*, Steve Froelich, Elaine Rivkin\*, Gregory North\***

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste. D

 Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE** **Previews:** January 11, 2017

 **Opens: January 14, at 8 pm**

 **Closes: February 5, 2017**

 **Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm**

 **Talkback with cast & director: Friday, January 20, 2017**

**PRICES:** Previews $39.00

 Week Nights $46.00

 Sat. Matinees & Sunday Nights $43.00

 Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees $50.00

**DISCOUNTS:**  Seniors, Students, Military $3.00 off admission

**BOX OFFICE** (858) 481-1055 or [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org)

| **JANUARY** |
| --- |
| **SUN** | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|  |  |  | 11Preview8pm | 12Preview8pm | 13Preview8pm | 14OPENING8pm |
|  152pm & 7pm | 16 | 17 | 187pm | 198pm | 208pmTalkback | 212pm & 8pm |
| 222pm & 7pm | 23 | 24 | 257pm | 268pm | 278pm | 282pm & 8pm |
| 292pm & 7pm | 30 | 31 | **FEB. 1**7pm | 28pm | 38pm | 42pm & 8pm |
| 52pm  |  |

**BACKGROUND:**

Season 35 continues with a wildly inventive tour-de-force, ***The Illusion,*** by the legendary Tony Kushner (Feb. 22-March 19, 2017). Next, audiences are invited to take an entertaining, offbeat journey with ***Travels With My Aunt,*** a New York Times Critic’s Pick in 2015 (April 12-May 7, 2017). ***The Spitfire Grill,*** an emotional, all-American musical, is certain to win hearts with its compelling story and engaging melodies (May 31-June 25,2017). Season 35 concludes with a second San Diego premiere, a gut-busting, uproarious backstage farce*,* ***At This Evening’s Performance*** (July 12-Aug. 6, 2017).

**About the North Coast Repertory Theatre**

North Coast Repertory Theatre is a professional Equity theatre founded in 1982, currently celebrating its 35th season, North Coast Rep has received critical acclaim from media and audiences alike, and has evolved into one of the area’s leading performing arts organizations. North Coast Rep prides itself on employing the majority of its actors from Actors’ Equity Association for its high quality, award-winning productions, and staging works by established and emerging playwrights. Throughout its history, North Coast Rep has created a platform where artist and audience thrive through the intimacy of live theatre, recognizing the power of theatre to challenge complacency, revitalize the imagination, nurture the unexpected and embrace the variety and diversity in our lives.

**BIOS**

**JORDAN HARRISON** (Playwright) *Marjorie Prime* (2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist) had its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum and New York premiere at Playwrights Horizons. His play *Maple and Vine* premiered in the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville and went on to productions at American Conservatory Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, and City Theatre, among others. Harrison’s other Humana Festival premieres include last season’s *The Grown‐Up, Act A Lady, Kid‐Simple,* and *Fit For Feet.* His other plays include *Doris To Darlene* (Playwrights Horizons), *Amazons And Their Men* (Clubbed Thumb), *Finn In The Underworld* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Futura* (Portland Center Stage), and *The Museum Play.* His children’s musical, *The Flea And The Professor,* commissioned and produced by the Arden Theatre, won the Barrymore Award for Best Production. Harrison is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Hodder Fellowship, the Kesselring Prize, the Roe Green Award from Cleveland Play House, the Heideman Award, the Loewe Award for Musical Theater, Jerome and McKnight Fellowships, a NYSCA grant, NEA/TCG residency, and the 2016 Horton Foote Prize which honors excellence in American theatre every two years. A graduate of the Brown University M.F.A. program, Harrison is an alumnus of New Dramatists. Harrison currently writes for the Netflix original series, “Orange is the New Black.”

**MATTHEW WIENER** (Director) is thrilled to return to North Coast Rep where he previously directed *The Fox on the Fairway, Unnecessary Farce, Perfect Wedding, Shipwrecked,* and *Lend Me a Tenor.* For almost 20 years he was the Producing Artistic Director at Actors Theatre  of Phoenix where he produced over 100 shows and directed almost 50. He has also directed at Phoenix Theatre, Childsplay, The Fulton Theatre, The Children’s Theatre Company, and others. He has served on panels for Theatre Communications Group, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Tucson/Pima Arts Council and the Nevada Arts Council. Matthew holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, and is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

**DEE MAASKE\*** (Marjorie) professional career spans theatres in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Her credits include more than 50 roles in 21 seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as stages in Seattle, Denver, Tucson, Atlanta and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In 2004, she was asked by Horton Foote to play Carrie Watts for his 50th anniversary production of *The Trip to Bountiful* at Hartford Stage Company and the Alley Theatre in Houston. She helped to create roles in world premieres by Lillian Garrett-Groag, Octavio Solis and Frank Galati, among others. In her career, Maaske has honored established playwrights spanning multiple generations, as well as helping contemporary writers to create new roles that excite audiences of all ages.

**ELAINE RIVKIN\*** (Tess) returns to North Coast Rep after appearing in *The Lover* and *Broken Glass.* Since then: *City of Conversation* at Northlight Theatre, *Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf* at Writers Theatre and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at Cardinal Stage. Chicago credits include: *Pyretown and Tree* (Victory Gardens); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Libra* and *The Crucible* (tya) (Steppenwolf); *You Never Can Tell* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *The Cider House Rules, The Homecoming, Conquest of the South Pole, Hushabye Mountain, Beautiful Thing, Speaking in Tongues, Remembrance, Mann Ist Mann,* and many others (Famous Door); *‘Night Mother* (Hancock Productions); *Execution of Justice* (About Face); *St. Colm’s Inch* (Chicago Dramatists) *La Bete* (Pegasus). Outside Chicago: *Hellcab* (Singapore Arts Fest); *The Early Girl* (Edinburgh Fringe Fest). Indie Film: “Imperfections”; “Holly Ridge”; “Exaltation”; “In the Name of God”; “Punched in the Gut”; and “684 Brewster.”

**GREGORY NORTH\*** (Jon) returns to North Coast Rep *(Who Am I This Time)* from the first American cast of *King Charles III* for Arizona Theatre Company. Broadway: *Into the Woods, Christmas Carol, Secret Garden, Grand Hotel* opposite Cyd Charisse. Tour: *Phantom, Show Boat, Les Miz;* World Premieres: *Kiss of the Spider Woman, Sting’s The Last Ship;* Favorites: *Barrymore, Hook, 12 Angry Men* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Amadeus* (Neil Patrick Harris — Hollywood Bowl), Kennedy Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Taper, Sacramento Music Circus, Starlight Bowl, Reprise, Laguna, 3-D Theatricals, La Mirada, South Coast Rep. TV/Film: “Law & Order,” “ER,” “How To Get Away With Murder,” “Beyond Borders,” “Zombie Prom,” “In Good Company,” “Elizabethtown,” Stephen King’s “11.22.63.” Greg is married to his favorite leading lady, Cynthia Marty, holds an MFA from the University of Washington, is an accomplished director and a persistent golfer. A proud Equity member for 31 years, he serves on its National Council. www.gregorynorthactor.com

**STEVE FROEHLICH** (Walter) Local Theatre: *The Taming of the Shrew* (Petruchio) and *Disappearing Act* (world premiere) by InnerMission Productions at Diversionary Theatre; *Disappearing Act* at San Diego International Fringe Festival; *Our Lady of Kibeho* and *Orange Julius* (world premiere) at Moxie Theatre; *The Nutcracker* (adaptation) at New Village Arts Theatre; *Reasons to Be Pretty* and *Bug* at Ion Theatre. Trainswith world-renowned acting coach Larry Moss in LA. Partial film credits: “Voices of Midway” (playing at USS Midway Museum) and “Revelation Road” on Netflix. He appeared in over 40 short films/industrials and many commercials, including nationally: Rosetta Stone, Life Lock and National University. Co-Executive Producer for the multiple award-winning Web series *Blood Brothers.* Thanks to Ben Cole, Matthew Wiener and David Ellenstein for this opportunity!

**AARON RUMLEY\*** (Stage Manager) North Coast Repertory Theatre: *The Cocktail Hour, Hedda Gabler, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush, The Fox on the Fairway, Betrayal, Unnecessary Farce, Gunmetal Blues, Fallen Angels, Who Am I This Time?, Broken Glass, Two by Pinter: The Lover and The Dumb Waiter, THIS, The Lion in Winter, Heroes, Lend Me a Tenor, My Name is Asher Lev, The Drawer Boy, Becky’s New Car, Voice of the Prairie, Ghosts, Glorious!, Talley’s Folly, Over the Tavern, Rabbit Hole, The Dresser, Don’t Dress for Dinner, Madagascar, Mornings at Seven, String of Pearls, Dracula, Rashomon, Wit, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Leading Ladies, Collected Stories, Halpern & Johnson, Romeo and Juliet, The Bungler, The Chosen, A Life in the Theatre and The Rainmaker.* North Carolina Theatre: *Talley’s Folly, Picnic, The Miser* and *On Golden Pond.* Aaron received a B.A. in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and is the production manager at the North Coast Repertory Theatre. Aaron is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

**DESIGN TEAM**

**MARTY BURNETT** (Resident Scenic Designer) Marty is in his 25th season as Resident Designer/Technical Director at North Coast Rep. He has designed the last 175 shows. Other venues include Laguna Playhouse, Portland Stage Company, Drury Lane (Chicago), Claridge Hotel (Atlantic City), Union Plaza, Sahara Hotel, Hacienda in Las Vegas, Coronado Playhouse, Scripps Ranch Theater, Harrah’s Lake Tahoe. Marty is a proud alumnus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

**MATTHEW NOVOTNY** (Light Design) is pleased to be designing another show for North Coast Rep, where he has designed close to 40 shows over the past seven years. Matthew is currently the Lighting Designer in Residence for San Diego Musical Theatre as well as North Coast Rep, and his work can be seen at a wide variety of Theatres across San Diego. Matthew holds a BA in Technical Theatre from San Diego State, and a Masters Degree in Lighting Design from Boston University. Matthew is married to his beautiful wife Amanda, with 3 gorgeous children: Ragan, Harper and Heston.

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working with North Coast Rep again. Previous work with North Coast Repertory Theatre includes: *Laughter on  the 23rd Floor, The Cocktail Hour, Hedda Gabler, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure  of the Great Nome Gold Rush, Chapatti, The Fox on the Fairway* for which she was nominated for a Craig Noel Award; Other select credits: *Sex with Strangers* (Geffen Playhouse), *Constellations* (Old Globe) *Pericles, Prince of Tyre, Reckless, Much Ado About Nothing, Measure for Measure* (Old Globe/USD); *The Who and The What, Our Town, Tall Girls, Brahaman/I, Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Emilie, Sylvia, Much Ado About Nothing* (New Village Arts), *Snakeskin, Lifeblood Harmony, Chagall, A Man Found Wanting* (Malashock Dance); *The Storm, The Threepenny Opera, A Man, His Wife, and His Hat* (UCSD). Assistant costume credits: *Dialogues des Carmelites* (Teatro Petruzzelli, Bari), *Paradise Found* (Menier Chocolate Factory, London), *Milk Like  Sugar* (La Jolla Playhouse), *As You Like It, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (The Old Globe). Elisa holds a costume design MFA from UCSD. www.elisabenzoni.com

**MELANIE CHEN** (Sound Design) is thrilled to be working with North Coast Rep again! She is a freelance sound designer who has designed over 50 productions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Past North Coast Rep credits include *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Cocktail Hour, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Hedda Gabler, Way Downriver; William Faulkner’s ‘Old Man’, Now You See It, Side by Side by Sondheim, Betrayal, Unnecessary Farce, Freud’s Last Session, Romance/ Romance, Faded Glory, Mandate Memories,* and *Becoming Cuba.* Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. For more info, visit her website at www.melaniesound.com

**ANDREA GUTIERREZ** (Prop Design) has been working at North Coast Rep since 2012, beginning as the Stage Manager and Prop Master for our theatre school. She worked as backstage crew for the 32nd and the beginning of the 33rd Season, before taking over as Supervising House Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Her previous prop credits include *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Cocktail Hour, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Hedda Gabler, Way Downriver; William Faulkner’s ‘Old Man’, Now You See It, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush, Chapatti,* and *The Fox on the Fairway,* as well as two Seasons as properties assistant at Starlight Theatre. She received her B.A. in Theatrical Design and Production from UCLA’s School of Theatre, Film & Television, and is currently pursuing her M.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

**PETER HERMAN** (Hair & Wig Design) has previously designed wigs for over 30 North Coast Rep productions including: *Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Cocktail Hour, Way Downriver; William Faulkner’s ‘Old Man’, Now You See It, Sherlock Holmes and  the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush, Fallen Angels, Romance Romance, Faded Glory, Mandate Memories, The School For Lies, Honky Tonk Angels, Travesties, I Love You Because, Little Women, My Name is Asher Lev* and *Five Course Love.* He has also designed costumes for past North Coast Rep productions of *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Big Bang, Madagascar,* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris.* Peter teaches wig and makeup design at San Diego State University and is glad to be part of the creative team on this show.