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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REP OPENS SEASON 36**

**WITH NEIL SIMON’S HILARIOUS CLASSIC,**

***LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS***

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

**Running Through Sunday, October 1, 2017**

**Directed by Christopher Williams**

Solana Beach, Calif. Nobody does Neil Simon like North Coast Rep, so there’s no better way to begin Season 36 than with one of his enduring comedic masterpieces, ***LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS.*** Barney Cashman, middle-aged, overworked, and with no experience in covert maneuvers, is bored with his bland, “nice” life. He is anxiously trying to join the sexual revolution before it’s too late. His bungled attempts at seduction will leave audiences howling with laughter. Last season’s *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* by Simon was a smash sellout, so playgoers are advised to order tickets early.

Christopher Williams directs Phil Johnson\*, Katie Karel,\* Noelle Marion.\* and Sandy Campbell,\* The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotony (Lighting Design), Aaron Rumley (Sound Design), Elisa Benzoni (Costume Design), and Andrea Gutierrez (Props). Cindy 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)

***LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS*** previews begin Wednesday, September 6. Opening Night on Saturday, September 9, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, September 15,** 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 October 1 (See Schedule below). North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Tickets: Previews- $42, Week Nights - $49; Sat. Eve. & Sun. Mat. $53; Sat. Mat. & Sun. Night - $46. Seniors, Students, Military & Educators - $3 off admission. There is also a $20 rush tickets half hour before performance if available. Call 858-481-1055 or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents**

***LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS***

**By Neil Simon**

**Directed by** **Christopher Williams**

**CAST: Phil Johnson\*, Katie Karel,\*, Noelle Marion\* & Sandy Campbell\***

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste. D

Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE** **Previews:** **September 6, 2017**

**Opens: September 9, 2017**

**Closes: October 1, 2017**

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

**Talkback with cast & director: Friday, September 15, 2017**

**PRICES:** Previews $42.00

Week Nights $49.00

Sat. Matinees & Sunday Nights $46.00

Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees $53.00

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

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

| **SEPTEMBER** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUN** | | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|  | |  |  | 6  Preview  8pm | 7  Preview  8pm | 8  Preview  8pm | 9  OPENING  8pm |
| 10  2pm & 7pm | 11 | 12 | 13  7pm | 14  8pm | 15  8pm  Talkback | 16  2pm & 8pm |
| 17  2pm & 7pm | 18 | 19 | 20  7pm | 21  8pm | 22  8pm | 23  2pm & 8pm |
| 24  2pm & 7pm | 25 | 26 | 27  7pm | 28  8pm | 29  8pm | 30  2pm & 8pm |
| **Oct. 1**  2pm |  |

**BIOS:**

**NEIL SIMON** (Playwright) began his writing career in television and established himself as our leading writer of comedy by creating a succession of Broadway hits, beginning with *Come Blown Your Horn.* During the 1966-67 season, *Barefoot in the Park, The Odd Couple, Sweet Charity,* and *The Star Spangled Girl* were all running simultaneously; in the 1970-71 season, Broadway theatergoers had their choice of *Plaza Suite, Last of the Red Hot Lovers,* and *Promises, Promises.* Next came *Little Me, The Gingerbread Lady, The Prisoner of Second Avenue, The Sunshine Boys, The Good Doctor, & God’s Favorite, They’re Playing Our Song, I Ought to be in Pictures, Fools,* a revival of *Little Me, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Biloxi Blues* (Tony Award), a new version of *The Odd Couple* staring Sally Struthers and Rita Moreno as the title duo, *Broadway Bound, Rumors. Lost in Yonkers* (Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize), *Jake’s Women,* and *London Suite.* Mr. Simon has also written for the screen: the adaptations of *Barefoot in the Park, The Odd Couple, Plaza Suite, The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Prisoner of Second Avenue, The Sunshine Boys, California Suite, I Ought to be in Pictures, Chapter Two, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Biloxi Blues* the TV motion pictures of *Broadway Bound* and *Lost in Yonkers.* Other screenplays he has written include *After the Fox, The Out-of-Towners, The Heartbreak Kid, Murder by Death, The Goodbye Girl, The Cheap Detective, Seems Like Old Times, Only When I Laugh, Max Dugan Returns,* and *The Marrying Man.*

**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS** (Director) is a director, actor, producer in theatre and film and the Associate Artistic Director at North Coast Rep. Select credits include: Off-Broadway: *Rothschild and Sons (*The York*).* Regional*: Moon for the Misbegotten, The Drawer Boy (*AZ Theatre Co*); Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Visiting Mr. Green, The Tempest, The Chosen, Lend Me a Tenor, Don't Dress for Dinner, Tuesdays with Morrie, Tally's Folly (*North Coast Rep*); Noises Off!, Comedy of Errors (*Phoenix Theatre*); Noises Off! (*Idaho Shakes*); Angels in America: Part 1 & 2, Lobby Hero (*Actors Theatre*); Halpern & Johnson, Beau Jest, Jest a Second (*AZ Jewish Theatre*); Hamlet, ...Forum, Oliver! Julius Caesar, Othello, Romeo & Juliet (SW Shakespeare).* He also produced the WWII film*, "Walking with the Enemy",*starring Ben Kingsley and Jonas Armstrong.

**PHIL JOHNSON\*** (Barney) comes off his summer comedy *Withering Heights,* (written & performed with Omri Schein, directed by David Ellenstein) for his new company, The Roustabouts Theatre Co. ([www.theroustabouts.org](http://www.theroustabouts.org)). Phil’s solo show, *A Jewish Joke* (also directed by David Ellenstein, co-written with Marni Freedman) won Best Drama at United SoloFest NYC 2017, and tours this year, playing here spring 2018 for The Roustabouts. At NY Fringe Festival 2016, he performed in his *She-Rantulas from Outer Space in 3D!* co-written with Ruff Yeager, since published by StageRightsLA. He is a two-time winner of the San Diego Critics Circle Craig Noel Award for acting, for *Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Intrepid Theatre Company, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner.*He played in *Les Miserables*on Broadway & on tour; the Canadian production of *Sunset Boulevard;*& the 1st National Company of Miss *Saigon.* So. California theatres include: North Coast Rep (*Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Spelling Bee, Don’t Dress for Dinner*), Old Globe (*How the Grinch…*), and Cygnet (*Mistakes Were Made, Pageant).* [www.philjohnson.net](http://www.philjohnson.net/)

**KATIE KAREL\*** (Elaine)is so happy to be back in San Diego and working with the lovely people at North Coast Rep. Katie was last seen at North Coast Rep in *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush*. Past performances include: *Lucky Duck* (New Victory Theatre, NYC); *Evita, Sunday In The Park With George, Sweeney Todd, 1776, Big River* (Musical Theater Heritage); *9 to 5* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre) *Heathers, Women Playing Hamlet, By The Way Meet Vera Stark, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, bare* (Unicorn Theatre) *You Can’t Take It With You, The Addams Family, Hairspray* (New Theatre); *Always...Patsy Cline* (Okoboji Summer Theatre); *Flat Stanley* (Starlight Theatre); *Seussical, Life On The Mississippi, U:Bug:Me* (Coterie Theatre); *Into The Woods* (KC Rep); *Rocky Horror, Valhalla, In Trousers, Evil Dead* (Egads Productions). Love to Chris, David, the cast & creative team. [Drop her a line at www.katiekarel.com](http://www.katiekarel.com/" \t "_blank)

**NOELLE MARION\*** (Bobbi)is indescribably grateful to be making her North Coast Rep debut and reuniting with Christopher Williams, after having appeared as Audrey in his production of *Leading Ladies* at the Moonlight. Favorite credits include: Eileen u/s- *Nice Work If You Can Get It*(Ogunquit Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse), Ella u/s- *Cinderella*(Gateway Playhouse),Penny- *Hairspray* (Tuacahn), Inga- *Young Frankenstein* (Moonlight), Patsy- *Girl Crazy* (Musical Theatre Guild), Lady Larken- *Once Upon a Mattress* (Cabrillo Music Theatre), Kitty- *The Drowsy Chaperone* (The Norris), Suzy- *Winter Wonderettes*(Dir. Bets Malone), Kim MacAfee- *Bye Bye Birdie* (Cabrillo Music Theatre).  Thank you to the wonderful production staff for this opportunity, to my family for their eternal love, and to you for supporting the arts. [www.NoelleMarion.com](http://www.noellemarion.com/)

**SANDY CAMPBELL\*** (Jeanette) is so thrilled to be back at North Coast Rep for the first time in over 15 years! Previous shows here include: *The Batting Cage*, *Marry Me a Little* and *Man of La Mancha*. Other credits include: *Awake and Sing* (New Village Arts); *Beau Jest*, *American Rhythm*, *The Music Man* (Lambs Players-Associate Artist); *Clybourne* *Park* and *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (San Diego REP); *A Little Night Music*, *Assassins*, *Parade* (Cygnet Theatre-Associate Artist). She has also appeared at The La Jolla Playhouse, ION Theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, Intrepid Theatre and Diversionary Theatre. Sandy has won several awards from the San Diego Critics Circle including for her portrayals of Lucille Frank in *Parade* and Ruella in *Communicating Doors* for Cygnet and Maria Callas in *Masterclass* for ION Theatre. Sandy is also a cabaret artist and her CD "Crazy World" can be found on CDbaby.com and ITunes. She is a Proud Actors' Equity member.

**CINDY RUMLEY\*** (Stage Manager) Credits include: *The Spitfire Grill, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Ain't Misbehavin', Way Downriver; William Faulkner's 'Old Man’, Chapatti, Side By Side By Sondheim, Freud's Last Session, Mandate Memories, Dames at Sea, Two By Pinter*, and *Visiting Mr. Green* with North Coast Rep. *Snapshots* with The Pico Playhouse, *Bye Bye Birdie* with San Diego Musical Theater, and *Conference of the Birds* with The Moscow Art Theater. Cindy holds an M.F.A in stage management from UC Irvine and is a member of Actor's Equity Association. In her free time, Cindy enjoys being married to the amazing Mr. Aaron Rumley.

**DESIGN TEAM:**

**MARTY BURNETT** (Resident Scenic Designer) Marty is in his 26th 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 master's 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: *At This Evening’s Performance*, *The Spitfire Grill, Travels with my Aunt, The Illusion, Marjorie Prime, 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/USO); *The Who and The What, Our Town, Tall Girls*, *Brahaman/1*, *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), *Baril, 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](http://www.elisabenzoni.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: *At This Evening’s Performance, The Spitfire Grill, Travels with my Aunt, The Illusion, Marjorie Prime, 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 a M.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

**BACKGROUND:**

Next up is John Steinbeck’s emotional masterpiece, ***Of Mice and Men*** (Oct. 18-Nov. 12). George and Lenny’s friendship is woven into the fabric of the country’s collective imagination. Still electrifying after 80 years, this is must-see theatre. ***Around the World in 80 Days*** launches the New Year (Jan. 10-Feb. 4, 2018). Audiences are taken on an amazing adventure with the fearless Phineas Fogg, who encounters danger, romance and comic surprises. The West Coast premiere of ***This Random World*** follows (Feb. 21-Mar.18). Through a swirl of nearly missed connections, the play follows a series of intersecting lives. Warmly humorous and lyrically bittersweet, this play investigates what it is to love, to lose, and be touched by the serendipity of life. Next, British comic genius, Sir Alan Ayckbourn, serves up a fast-paced, funny theatrical meal in ***How the Other Half Loves*** (Apr. 11-May 6). His razor-sharp portrayals of three very different marriages promise to leave audiences in stitches. The much-anticipated West Coast premiere of ***The Father*** follows (May 30-June 24). A sensation in Paris, London and New York, this award-winning play follows 80-year-old Andre, who has memories of being a tap dancer or an engineer, keeps misplacing his watch, lives in Paris or maybe London, and fears he’s losing control. It promises to be a profoundly moving, and memorable evening of theatre. Closing out Season 36 is a little musical comedy by Stephen Sondheim. The time seems ripe for a smart, hysterically comical revival of a hit Broadway laugh a minute show called ***A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*.** This timeless musical will bring sheer joy and, infectious high spirits with classic songs like “Comedy Tonight”, “Lovely” and “Everybody Ought to Have A Maid”. **Forum** runs July 11- August 12, 2018.

**About the North Coast Repertory Theatre**:

North Coast Repertory Theatre,under the artistic leadership of David Ellenstein since 2003,is a professional Equity theatre founded in 1982 by Olive and Tom Blakistone. Currently celebrating its 36th 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.

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