**CONTACT: Nancy Richards – 917-873-6389 (cell)/nancy@northcoastrep.org**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REP EXPLORES THE ACCIDENTAL NATURE OF LIFE**

**IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *THIS RANDOM WORLD***

**By Steven Dietz**

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**Running Through Sunday, March 18, 2018**

**Directed by David Ellenstein**

Solana Beach, CA Through a swirl of nearly missed connections, ***THIS RANDOM WORLD*** follows a series of intersecting lives: A mother determined to maintain her independence, a daughter longing for adventure, two sisters seeking common ground, and an internet prank gone awry. Warmly humorous and lyrically bittersweet, this play by Steven Dietz investigates what it is to love, to lose, and be touched by the serendipity of life. It’s an evening of theatre that is certain to provoke sweet memories and perhaps some unrecognized yearnings.

David Ellenstein directs Anne Gee Byrd,\* Kevin Hafso Koppman,\* Lisel Gorell-Getz,\* Yolanda Franklin,\* Ava Hill, Diana Irvine, Patrick Zeller,\* and Joe Paulson. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting Design), Melanie Chen Cole (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), Aaron Rumley (Screen Projections) and Holly Gillard (Prop Design). Christopher Williams\* 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).

***THIS RANDOM WORLD*** previews begin Wednesday, February 21. Opening Night on Saturday, February 24, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, March 2,** 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 March 18, 2018 (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 for tickets 15 minutes 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**

 ***THIS RANDOM WORLD***

**Directed by** **David Ellenstein**

**CAST: Anne Gee Byrd,\* Kevin Hafso Koppman,\* Lisel Gorell-Getz,\* Yolanda Franklin,\* Ava Hill, Diana Irvine, Patrick Zeller,\* and Joe Paulson**

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste. D

 Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE:** **Previews:** **February 21, 2018**

 **Opens: February 24, 2018**

 **Closes: March 18, 2018**

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

 **Talkback with cast & director: Friday, March 2, 2018**

**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. Rush ticket available for $20.

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

| **FEBRUARY** |
| --- |
| **SUN** | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|  |  |  | 21Preview8pm | 22Preview8pm | 23Preview8pm | 24OPENING8pm |
|  252pm & 7pm | 26 | 27 | 287pm | **MARCH 1**8pm | 28pmTalkback | 32pm & 8pm |
| 42pm & 7pm | 5 | 6 | 77pm | 88pm | 98pm | 102pm & 8pm |
| 112pm & 7pm | 12 | 13 | 147pm | 158pm | 168pm | 172pm & 8pm |
| 182pm  |  |

**BIOS:**

**STEVEN DIETZ** (Playwright) His thirty-plus plays have been produced at regional theaters across the United States, as well as Off-Broadway. International productions of his work have been seen in England, Japan, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden, Russia, Slovenia, Argentina, Peru, Greece, Singapore, and South Africa. Recent plays include: the widely-produced thriller, *Yankee Tavern;* the Steinberg Award finalist, *Becky's New Car;* the Pulitzer-nominated *Last of the Boys* (produced by Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago); and the Edgar Award-winning *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* (from William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle). Other plays include *Fiction* (produced Off-Broadway by the Roundabout Theatre Company), *Shooting Star, Inventing van Gogh, The Nina Variations, Private Eyes, Halcyon Days, God's Country,* and *Lonely Planet* (PEN-USA Award for Drama). Mr. Dietz's work as a director has been seen at many of America's leading regional theaters. He divides his time between Seattle and Austin, where he is a professor at the University of Texas.

**DAVID ELLENSTEIN**(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 250 theatrical productions including over 100 productions at North Coast Rep. Directorial favorites include: *Travels with my Aunt, The Illusion,* *Hedda Gabler (World Premiere Translation),Way Downriver: William Faulkner’s ‘Old Man’ (West Coast Premiere), Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush (*World Premiere*), Freud’s Last Session, Side by Side By Sondheim, Words By Ira Gershwin, Faded Glory* (World Premiere)*, Mandate Memories*(World Premiere), *Becoming Cuba* (World Premiere), *Time Stands Still*, *Words by: Ira Gershwin and the Great American Songbook* (World Premiere). Other theatres: Coconut Grove Playhouse, Papermill Playhouse, Portland Stage. Renaissance Theatre, Actor’s Theatre of Phoenix, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Laguna Playhouse, Southwest Shakespeare Company, AJTC, Meadow Brook Theatre, Portland Rep and Gaslamp Quarter Theatre **.**

**ANNE GEE BYRD\*** (Scottie Ward) has appeared at the Mark Taper Forum, The Geffen, the Pasadena Playhouse and the Colony Theater. Across the country she has appeared at the Old Globe in San Diego, ACT in San Francisco, the American Shakespeare Festival in Connecticut, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Rep, the La Jolla Playhouse, the McCarter Theater, Seattle Rep, and South Coast Rep. She is a proud member of the Antaeous Theater Company. She has received four Drama Critics Awards and numerous Ovation nominations, most recently for *Les Blanc* at the Rogue Machine Theater. Her numerous television appearances include: “How To Get Away With Murder,” “Shameless,” “Murder in the First” and “Rake.”

**KEVIN HAFSO KOPPMAN\*** (Tim Ward) Previously at North Coast Rep: *Henry IV Part I*, *King O’ the Moon*, *The Drawer Boy,*and *Becky’s New Car.* RECENT CREDITS: *Hamlet*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Love’s Labor’s Lost*, *Macbeth,*and *Bright Star (*The Old Globe), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, As You Like It, The Seagull,*and *Acquainted with the Night*(Globe/MFA), *Ether Dome, His Girl Friday,*and *Accomplice: San Diego* (La Jolla Playhouse), *West Side Story*, *The Foreigner,*and *The Winslow Boy*(Lamb’s Players Theatre), *Zoot Suit*(San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Birds of a Feather*and *Speech and Debate*(Diversionary Theatre), *The History Boys*(Cygnet Theatre Company), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*(Intrepid Theatre Company). He received his MFA from USD/ Old Globe Shiley Graduate Theatre Program and trained at the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University.

**LISEL GORELL-GETZ\*** (Beth Ward)​ ​is​ ​thrilled​ ​to​ ​be​ ​returning​ ​to​ ​North​ ​Coast​ ​Repertory​ Theatre ​with​ ​this​ ​wonderful ensemble.​ ​Previously​ ​at​ ​North Coast Rep:​ ​​*Don’t​ ​Dress​ ​for​ ​Dinner*​,​ ​​*The​ ​Bungler*​. Recently​ ​on​ ​stage​ ​as​ ​Marie​ ​Antoinette​ ​in​ ​​*The​ ​Revolutionists*​ ​​at​ ​Moxie Theatre.​​ ​​Other​ ​San​ ​Diego​ ​credits​ ​include:​ ​​ ​​*Measure​ ​for​ ​Measure*​ ​​(Old Globe);​ ​​ *​​Current​ ​Nobody*,​ *​Counterweight*​ ​​(La​ ​Jolla​ ​Playhouse);​ ​​ ​​*Sex​ ​With Strangers*,​ ​*Detroit*,​ ​*Exit​ ​Interview*,​ ​*Tortilla​ ​Curtain*,​ ​*In​ ​the​ ​Next​ ​Room*, *Intimate​ ​Apparel*​ ​​(San​ ​Diego​ ​Repertory);​ *​​ ​​Enron,​ ​Skinless*,​ ​*Dead​ ​Man’s​ ​Cell Phone*,​ ​*The​ ​Crucible*​ ​​(Moxie);​ ​​ *​​Now​ ​or​ ​Later*,​ ​*Valhalla*,​ ​*Cloud​ ​9*,​ ​*Psycho Beach​ ​Party*​ ​​(Diversionary);​ ​​ *​​Macbeth*,​ ​*Valparaiso*​ ​​(Sledgehammer); *Twelfth​ ​Night*​ ​​(New​ ​Village​ ​Arts);​ ​​ *​​9​ ​Parts​ ​of​ ​Desire​* ​​(Mo’olelo).​ ​Lisel trained​ ​at​ ​Ithaca​ ​College​ ​and​ ​the​ ​British​ ​American​ ​Drama​ ​Academy.​ ​She​ ​is Master​ ​Teaching​ ​Artist​ ​with​ ​the​ ​Old​ ​Globe​ ​Theatre’s​ ​Department​ ​of​ ​Arts Engagement. [www.liselgorellgetz.com](http://www.liselgorellgetz.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**YOLANDA FRANKLIN\*** (Bernadette) is a Critics Circle Award Winner, excited to make her debut performance at North Coast Repertory Theatre and to work with such a fine cast and crew. Recent theatre credits include: *Seven Guitars, King Headley II, Our Town* (Cygnet Theatre); *Cabaret, Double Dare, The Ballad of Emmett Till, Sea Of Souls, ‘Night Mother, This Wide Night, Bug, Chicago, Little Flower of East Orange* (Ion Theatre); *Our Lady of Kibeho, A Raisin In The Sun, Dead Man’s Cell Phone, Gibson Girl* (Moxie Theatre); *The Miracle Worker, Brownie Points* (Lamb’s Players Theatre); *To Kill A Mockingbird, A Trip to Bountiful (*New Village Arts); *The Brothers Paranormal* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Divine Sister, The Further Adventures of Hedda* Gabler (Diversionary Theatre) TV/film credits: “The Tie That Binds”, “Proxy” (InVitro Films); “The Tiger Woods Movie” (20th Century Fox); “Levels of Anxiety” (Opening Door Productions); “Personals” (Hansen Production Company).

**AVA HILL** (Rhonda) is an Actress/Singer/Television Host from Charleston, South Carolina, and has performed in various theatres all over the country. With a bachelor’s degree in musical theatre from Coastal Carolina University, Ava has gone forth in furthering her education by graduating with a master’s degree in media studies from The New School in New York City in May of 2016. Some stage, and television hosting credits include: *Spring (Off Off Broadway*), *Dreamgirls*, *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Hairspray*, guest-host for E! News’ Maria Menouno’s: “Conversations with Maria Menounos” on SiriusXM Radio, and hosting for the political YouTube channel: “The Young Turks.”

**DIANA IRVINE** (Claire) LA-raised and NY-trained, Diana is a proud alumna of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and the prestigious Atlantic Theater Co. Some notable roles from this time include Helen of Troy (*Trojan Women*) and Dawn (*Heartsick Pioneer*). Diana will make her theatrical film debut in February with *The Boy Downstairs*, opposite Zosia Mamet, which premiered at TriBeCa Film Festival and was awarded ‘Best Ensemble Cast’ at Napa Valley Film Festival. Diana is elated to make her Southern California Theater debut at North Coast Rep. and intends to use her spare seaside time to finally learn how to surf.

**PATRICK ZELLER\* (**Gary)holds a BFA in Acting from Emerson College and an MFA from the University of San Diego/Old Globe Theatre. Feature films include: “No Reservations,” “Virgin Alexander,” “End of the Spear,” and most recently, “Say Yes”. Network television appearances include: “Law and Order,” “Medium,*” “*Kidnapped*”* and “The Young and the Restless*.”* You can hear him in audiobooks, “Runner” by Parker Williams, “Druid Vampire” by Kuro Koneko Kamen and in Benjamin Franklin’s “Autobiography.” Favorite stage credits include: Thomas in *Venus in Fur* with Coachella Valley Rep, Nick in *The American Plan* at the Old Globe Theatre, Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* with the Maine Shakespeare Festival, and Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors* with New York Classical Theatre.

**JOE PAULSON** (A Man) is celebrating his North Coast Rep debut! He was classically trained at Northwestern and Alabama Shakespeare, and has performed professionally in New York and Chicago.  Locally, he recently portrayed Rick in *Building the*Wall (Point Loma Playhouse), and received lovely reviews as Mr. Dussell in *Diary of Anne Frank*(Moxie), Myron in *Awake & Sing* (New Village Arts) and as Jonathan in *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Broadway Theatre at the Welk). He’s also been in over a dozen films and shorts over the past year or so including the lead in “Life-O-Matic” (Best Horror Short Award - Los Angeles & London Intl. Film Festivals.)  Love to Hope and Will – Thank you!

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

**CHRISTOPHER M. WILLIAMS\*** (Stage Manager) is an actor, director, producer and stage manager, and the current Associate Artistic Director of North Coast Rep. He most recently directed *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* this season which marked his 20th show with North Coast Rep. Christopher played Nathan Rothschild in the Off-Broadway musical, *Rothschild & Sons*, opposite Robert Cuccioli. Other theatres include: AZ Theatre Company, AZ Jewish Theatre, Actor's Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Southwest Shakespeare Company, New Village Arts, and Intrepid Theatre. Christopher was the founding Artistic Director of Oceanside Theatre Company. He produced, with Liberty Studios, the WWII feature film, "Walking with the Enemy," starring Jonas Armstrong and Ben Kingsley.

**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 three gorgeous children: Ragan, Harper and Heston.

**MELANIE CHEN COLE**(Sound Design) is delighted to be working with North Coast Rep again! She is aSan Diego-based freelance sound designer who has designed over 100 productions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Her recent regional credits include: *Travels with My Aunt*, *An Illusion,*and *Marjorie Prime* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *Vietgone* (San Diego Rep); *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* (A Noise Within); *At the Old Place*and*#SuperShinySara* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Imaginary Invalid* (The Old Globe), *Having Our Say, Awake and Sing!, An Iliad*(New Village Arts),*Well* and *2.5 Minute Ride* (Diversionary Theatre). Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. [www.melaniesound.com](http://www.melaniesound.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) Elisa is thrilled to be working on her third season with North Coast Repertory where she has designed *Of Mice and Men,* *The Spirtfire Grill,* *Travels with My Aunt, The Illusion, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Cocktail Hour, Fox on the Fairway* (Nominated for a Craig Noel Award), *Chapatti, Hedda Gabler, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush. Select Credits Include:* *Sex with Strangers*(Geffen Playhouse), *The Who and The What, Our Town*; *Tall Girls; Brahaman/I*; *Sam Bendrix at the Bon Soir* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Constellations* (Old Globe); *Romeo and Juliet,* *Two Gentlemen of Verona, Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, *Reckless,* *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Measure for Measure (USD/Old Globe); Ballast, Mystery of Love and Sex (Diversionary Theatre), Secret Garden, Awake and Sing, Sylvia*(New Village Arts);  Elisa holds a costume design MFA from UCSD where she is currently an adjunct professor. [www.elisabenzoni.com](http://www.elisabenzoni.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**AARON RUMLEY** (Screen Projections) has stage managed over 50 shows at North Coast Repertory Theatre. North Carolina Theatre: T*alley’s Folly, Picnic, The Miser* and *On Golden Pond.* He also designs sound and projections. 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.

**HOLLY GILLARD** (Prop Design) has been in San Diego for a total of nine years since the Marine Corps brought her from Texas. After serving as an Avionics Technician for five years, she pursued her degree in Liberal Studies. Along the way, she discovered a love for theatre and has been involved in some capacity ever since. In her free time she enjoys rock climbing and spending time with her 12-year-old son. She is thrilled to serve as House Manager Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator and to have the opportunity to design props. She also is grateful for her newfound family at North Coast Repertory Theatre and looks forward to a wonderful season.

**BACKGROUND:**

Next up in Season 36, 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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