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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REP SERVES UP BANQUET OF FUN**

**IN HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES**

**By Sir Alan Ayckbourn**

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

**Running Through Sunday, May 6, 2018**

**Directed by Geoffrey Sherman**

Solana Beach, CA Britain's comic genius, Sir Alan Ayckbourn, has penned a fast-paced and hilariously funny theatrical feast that stands as a classic modern comedy. With the precision of a master chef, Sir Ayckbourn mixes three very different marriages into a pot, simmering with sex, jealousy, and liberally spiced with ingenious stagecraft. Full of clever, razor-sharp dialogue and impeccable split-second timing, ***HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES*** is a treat you won't want to miss. Find out why The London Daily Mail called this "a delicious, jolly good show."

Geoffrey Sherman directs Jacqueline Ritz,\* James Newcomb,\* Sharon Rietkerk,\* Christopher M. Williams,\* Noelle Marion,\* and Benjamin Cole. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting Design), Aaron Rumley (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), and Holly Gillard (Prop Design). 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).

***HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES*** previews begin Wednesday, April 11. Opening Night on Saturday, April 14, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, April 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 May 6, 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**  
***HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES***  
**Directed by Geoffrey Sherman**

**CAST:** Jacquelyn Ritz,\* James Newcomb,\* Sharon Rietkerk,\* Christopher M. Williams,\* Noelle Marion,\* and Benjamin Cole.

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre  
 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste. D  
 Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE:** **Previews: April 11, 2018**  
**Opens: April 14, 2018**  
**Closes: May 6, 2018**  
**Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm**  
**Talkback with cast & director: Friday, April 20, 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)

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			11 Preview 8pm	12 Preview 8pm	13 Preview 8pm	14 OPENING 8pm
15 2pm & 7pm	16	17	18 7pm	19 8pm	20 8pm Talkback	21 2pm & 8pm

22 2pm & 7pm	23	24	25 7pm	26 8pm	27 8pm	28 2pm & 8pm
29 2pm & 7pm	30	<b>MAY 1</b>	2 7pm	3 8pm	4 8pm	5 2pm & 8pm
6 2pm						

**BIOS:**

**Creative Team:**

**SIR ALAN AYCKBOURN** (Playwright) 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of Alan Ayckbourn joining the Library Theatre Company in Scarborough, of which he was the Artistic Director for 37 years. He has spent his life in theatre, rarely if ever tempted by television or film, which perhaps explains why he continues to be so prolific. To date he has written 82 plays - the 81st premiering this summer. His work has been translated into over 35 languages, is performed on stage and television throughout the world and has won countless awards. Major successes include: *Relatively Speaking*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Bedroom Farce*, *A Chorus of Disapproval* and *The Norman Conquests*. In recent years, there have been revivals of *Season's Greetings* and *A Small Family Business* at the National Theatre and in the West End productions of *Absent Friends*, *Relatively Speaking* and *How The Other Half Loves*. He has been inducted into American Theatre's Hall of Fame, received the 2010 Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts and became the first British playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Special Lifetime Achievement Awards. He was knighted in 1997 for 'services to theatre.'

**GEOFFREY SHERMAN** (Director) has been responsible for the world and national premieres of scores of plays — from David Hare's *Knuckle* to Alice Childress' *Moms*, as Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's Hudson Guild Theatre, Oregon's Portland Repertory Theatre, Michigan's Meadow Brook and BoarsHead theatres and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. In New York City, his work as producer and director garnered two Obies, as well as Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Audelco nominations. He has

received Best Production and Best Director Awards for plays ranging from *Angels in America* and *Arcadia* to *The Old Settler* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. His work as a guest director has been seen at more than forty theatres on both sides of the Atlantic, including New York's Roundabout and American Jewish Theatres; England's Redgrave and Crucible Theatres; and US regionals including Seattle Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Center Stage Baltimore, Cincinnati Playhouse and Utah's Pioneer Theatre. His work for television includes *Another World* for NBC and *Woman's Day USA* for the USA cable network.

**JACQUELYN RITZ\*** (Fiona Foster) is delighted to be back at North Coast Rep, where she appeared in *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush*, *Fox on the Fairway*, *Chapter Two*, *Fallen Angels*, *Man... of Mischief*, and was Assistant Director for *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Regionally, she has performed at Goodman Theatre, Northlight, Royal George, Apollo, Drury Lane, Marriott Lincolnshire, Peninsula Players, Milwaukee Repertory, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Asolo Center, and the Kennedy Center in Sondheim's *Bounce* (dir. Harold Prince). Local roles include: Titania in Intrepid's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and four years with San Diego Rep's *Women of Valour* for the Jewish Festival. She spent the holidays performing *O Wondrous Night* for thousands of live nativity lovers. She is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. Check out her website for on camera and directorial credits. [www.JacquelynRitz.com](http://www.JacquelynRitz.com)

**JAMES NEWCOMB\*** (Frank Foster) is thrilled to be performing at North Coast Repertory for the first time. He is husband to Ursula Meyer and a proud father to Daniel. In San Diego he has performed at San Diego Repertory Theatre and The Old Globe. He was a company member at Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 14 seasons. Other theaters include: South Coast Repertory Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, The Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and The Utah Shakespeare Festival as well as many others. He was a founding company member of Shakespeare & Company in Lenox Mass. He has had the honor to work with Annette Bening, Ian McDiarmid, Richard Dreyfus and Mercedes Ruehl. James teaches Stage Combat for the UCSD Graduate Theatre Department. He was the resident fight Director for OSF and has directed fights for SDR, The Globe, San Diego Opera and LJPH, Chicago Shakespeare and many other theaters. He directed *Twelfth Night* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for the USD Graduate Program at The Old Globe. He received the Oxford Society's Award for artistic excellence for his performance of *Richard III*, a Drama Log Award for *Touchstone* and a Denver Critics Award for *Orphans*.

**SHARON RIETKERK\*** (Teresa Phillips) was last seen in North Coast Rep's productions of *The Illusion* and *Gunmetal Blues*. Other regional credits include: creating the role of Elinor Dashwood in the new musical *Sense and Sensibility* (Old Globe Theatre, Noel Craig Award nomination, Chicago Shakespeare

Theatre); *Cyrano*, *Triangle* (Bay Area Critics Award), *Emma*, *Marry Me A Little* (Theater Bay Area Award), *Little Women*, *The Secret Garden* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley); *Candida* in *A Minister's Wife* (San Jose Repertory Theater); Billie Dawn in *Born Yesterday* (Theatre Bay Area Award), Clarice in *The Liar*, *Rumors*, *Xanadu*, and *She Loves Me* (CenterREPeratory Theatre); *Triangle* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma); Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* (San Francisco Opera Guild); Marian in *The Music Man* (South Coast Symphony); Ms. Rietkerk performed in concert with the San Francisco Symphony in its SoundBox series with her husband, Principle Trombone Timothy Higgins. She has also performed with the Grammy-nominated Bay Brass, South Coast, and Bear Valley Symphonies, and at Feinstein's San Francisco with her two-woman cabaret.

**CHRISTOPHER M. WILLIAMS\*** (Bob Phillips) 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* and stage managed *This Random World* this season which marked his 20th and 21st 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 was a producer of the WWII feature film, "Walking with the Enemy," starring Jonas Armstrong and Ben Kingsley.

**NOELLE MARION\*** (Mary Featherstone) is delighted to return to North Coast Rep., after having last appeared as Bobbi in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. 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), Audrey- *Leading Ladies* (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). Thank you to Geoffrey, David, and the entire production staff for this wonderful opportunity, to my family for their eternal love, and to you for supporting the arts. [www.NoelleMarion.com](http://www.NoelleMarion.com)

**BENJAMIN COLE** (William Featherstone) is proud to be the Director of Theatre School Education and Outreach for North Coast Repertory Theatre. Ben has previously been seen at North Coast Rep in: *Travels With My Aunt*; *Way Downriver*; *William Faulkner's 'Old Man'*, *Betrayal*, *Faded Glory*, *Who Am I This Time?*, plus several readings and Professional Theatre for Families productions. Other recent local theatre includes: *The Metromaniacs* (Old Globe); *Ether Dome*, (La Jolla Playhouse); *The Lion in Winter* (Moonlight Stage Productions); *The Foreigner* (Lamb's Players Theatre); *A*

*Midsummer Night's Dream* (Intrepid Shakespeare); *Punk Rock, The Mystery Plays* (ion theatre); *Coming Attractions* (Moxie Theatre); *Holiday Spirits, Almost, Maine* (Scripps Ranch Theatre). Other theatre nationally: Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, and Clinton Area Showboat Theatre. Education: MFA in Acting from WIU, BFA in Acting/Directing from CMU, Ireland study abroad from NYU.

**CINDY RUMLEY\*** (Stage Manager) Credits include: *Last of the Red Hot Lovers, 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 three gorgeous children: Ragan, Harper and Heston.

**AARON RUMLEY** (Sound Design) has stage managed over 50 shows at North Coast Rep, and designed lights, sound, and projections. Aaron received a BA in Theatre from University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and is the Production Manager at the North Coast Repertory Theatre. Aaron is a member of Actor's Equity Association.

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her third season with North Coast Repertory where she has designed *This Random World*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Spirtfire Grill*, *Travels with My Aunt*, *The Illusion*, *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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* (*Diversionsary 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)

**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:**

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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