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MEDIA PAGE: www.northcoastrep.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:

DANGER, INTRIGUE LURK AS *GABRIEL* WASHES ASHORE
IN WEST COAST PREMIERE AT NORTH COAST REP
An Award-Winning Drama By Moira Buffini
Performances Beginning Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Running Through Sunday, March 17, 2019
Directed by Christopher Williams

Solana Beach, CA – It is 1943 in the wind-swept Nazi-occupied Isle of Guernsey. A mysterious, handsome man washes ashore and four British women decide to protect him through cunning deceptions and bravery. His presence creates an electrical charge in the household that is already burdened by wartime loss and ever-present danger. A New York Times Critic's Pick, this powerful tale brims with suspense and intrigue that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Christopher Williams directs Jessica John, Catalina Zelles, Lilli Passero*, Anabella Price*, Richard Baird,* and Alan Littlehales,* in ***GABRIEL***. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting), Ryan Ford (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), and Phillip Korth (Props). Andrea Gutierrez* 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.

GABRIEL previews begin Wednesday, February 20. Opening Night on Saturday, February 23, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, March 1**, 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 17, 2019 (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. By popular demand, a Wednesday Matinee has been added on March 13th at 2pm - \$49. 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 to purchase tickets.

FACT SHEET:

WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents
GABRIEL
By Moira Buffini
Directed by Christopher Williams

CAST: Jessica John, Catalina Zelles, Lilli Passero, Anabella Price,* Richard Baird,* Alan Littlehales,* Hourie Klijian

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

SCHEDULE: **Previews: February 20, 2019**
Closes: March 17, 2019
Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm
Talkback with cast & director: Friday, March 1, 2019

PRICES: Previews \$42.00
Week Nights \$49.00
Sat. Matinees & Sunday Nights \$46.00
Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees \$53.00
Wed. Matinee (ADDED) March 13 \$49.00

DISCOUNTS: Seniors, Students, Military & Educators \$3.00 off admission. Rush tickets available for \$20.

BOX OFFICE: (858) 481-1055 or www.northcoastrep.org

GABRIEL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24 2:00 Preview 7:00 Preview	25	26	27 2:00 Preview 7:00 Preview	28 2:00 Preview 7:00 Preview		

GABRIEL						
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31						

BIOS:

MOIRA BUFFINI (Playwright) was born in England in 1965, and studied English and Drama at Goldsmiths College, London University from 1983-1986. She subsequently trained as an actor at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. *Jordan*, co-written with Anna Reynolds in 1992, won a Writers' Guild Award for Best Fringe play. Her 1997 play *Gabriel* was performed at Soho theatre, winning the LWT Plays on Stage award. 1999's *Silence* earned Buffini the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for best English-language play by a woman. *Loveplay* followed at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2001. *Dinner* (2003) premiered at

the National Theatre, and transferred to the West End, receiving a nomination for an Olivier Award for Best Comedy. Buffini is a founder member of the Monsterists, a group of playwrights who promote new writing of large-scale work in the British theatre. Her other works include *Dying For It*, a free adaptation of Nikolai Erdman's classic, *The Suicide*, *Marianne Dreams*, a dance play with choreographer Will Tuckett, and a screen adaptation of "Jane Eyre" for BBC Films.

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); *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Holmes and Watson*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Visiting Mr. Green*, *The Tempest*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Don't Dress for Dinner* (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 was a producer of the WWII film, "Walking with the Enemy," starring Ben Kingsley and Jonas Armstrong.

JESSICA JOHN (Jeanne Becquet) is delighted to return to North Coast Rep where she was also seen in *Unnecessary Farce*, *School for Lies*, and *A Shana Maidel*. Other select work includes Backyard Renaissance: *Smokefall*, *Abundance*, *The Elephant Man*, *Parlour Song*; Lambs Players Theatre: *Noises Off!*, *The Explorer's Club*; Cygnet Theatre: *Private Lives*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Mauritius*, *Communicating Doors*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (SD Playbill - Best Actress), *Burn This* (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress); ion theatre: *Shining City*, *Angels in America*; Moonlight at the AVO: *Born Yesterday*; New Fortune: *Dangerous Liaisons*, New Village Arts: *The Playboy of the Western World* (Patte - Best Actress); and Renaissance Theatre: *A View from the Bridge* (SD Critic's Circle - Best Actress). She was named one of the "Top 50 People to Watch" by San Diego Magazine and is the co-founder and executive director of Backyard Renaissance. Love to fellow-performer Jillian Jeter.

CATALINA ZELLES (Estelle) is thrilled to make her North Coast Repertory Theatre debut in *Gabriel!* Past productions include Patio Playhouse *Wait Until Dark* (Gloria); Moonlight Amphitheater's *Newsies* (Ensemble); Theatre School@North Coast Rep's *Secret Garden* (Colin Craven, NYA award); Oceanside Theatre Company's *Miracle on 34th street* (Susan Walker); San Diego Musical Theatre's *Billy Elliot* (Ballet Girl); Welk Resort Theatre's *The Music Man* (Amaryllis), *Fiddler On The Roof* (Bielke); Oceanside Theatre Company *Eurydice*(Little Stone); Cygnet Theatre's *Gypsy* (Baby June); Saville Theatre's *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Scout); The Old Globe's *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (Little Who Ensemble). Best actress 2014-2016, 2018; Best choral 2017 San Diego Shakespeare Festival. Competitive gymnast. Catalina thanks Mr. Williams, Mr. Ellenstein, cast and production team of North Coast Repertory Theatre for this incredible opportunity to be part of this beautiful story.

LILLI PASSERO* (Lily) is so excited to be making her North Coast Rep debut in this production of *Gabriel*. Also a singer/songwriter, Lilli was a Top 10 Finalist on Season 12 of NBC's "The Voice." She has since started a band called "Lilli & The Honey" and released her first single, "Did Ya Know?" She received her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University. Biggest

thanks and much love to Dannielle Thomas and CGF, Jill Andre, and of course her rock star sisters and relentlessly supportive Mom and Pop.

ANNABELLA PRICE* (Lake) was last seen at North Coast Rep in Christian O'Reilly's *Chapatti*. Stage, selected list : Steven Berkoff's *Metamorphosis* at Mark Taper Forum; Jane Martin's *Talking With* and Len Jenkins' *The Five of Us* at Taper Too; Stephen Metcalfe's *Strange Snow*, Old Globe San Diego; *Beyond Therapy*, Empty Space Seattle and South Coast Repertory; Eric Overmeyer's *In Perpetuity Throughout the Universe*, South Coast Repertory; Maria Irene Fornes' *Fefu and Her Friends*, Padua Hills Playwright Festival; *Julie Johnson*, Sundance Playwright Conference; Brian Friel's *Translations*, Doris Baizley's *Mrs. California*, LA Stage Company; and Hugh Leonard's *A Life, Summer*, Theatre 40 . TV/Film, selected list : Series: "Christy" (director Michael Rhodes); "Gang of Four" (director Jan Egelson); Television Movies: "Good Night Sweet Wife" (director Jerrold Freedman); "Murder Ordained" (director Mike Robe); "Roe vs . Wade" (director Gregory Hoblit); "Baby M" (director Jim Sadwith), and "Practical Magic" (director Griffin Dunne).

RICHARD BAIRD* (Von Pfunz)) is an award-winning actor, director and producer. Twenty-three productions at North Coast Rep including: *Holmes & Watson*, *The Father*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Travels with My Aunt*; *Way Downriver*; *William Faulkner's 'Old Man,' Betrayal*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Ghosts*, and many more. Richard is the Founding Artistic Director of New Fortune Theatre Company where he has directed and appeared in *Henry the Fifth* (Craig Noel San Diego Critics Circle awards for Outstanding Direction and Lead Performance), *The Birthday Party* (McCann) and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (co-director/Valmont). Richard has appeared in regional theatres across the country, including The Old Globe, San Diego Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Portland Centre Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Arizona Theatre Company, Southwest Shakespeare Company (AriZoni Best Actor for *Cyrano*), Kingsmen Shakespeare and has directed for Intrepid Theatre and Diversionary Theatre. He is a proud member of Actors Equity.

ALAN LITTLEHALES* (Gabriel) recently relocated to Southern California after graduating from the Master of Fine Arts acting program at the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) in San Francisco. Recent Bay Area credits include Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show* (A.C.T. MFA), King Louis XIV in *Las Meninas* (A.C.T. MFA), Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (A.C.T. Mainstage), and Touchstone in *As You Like It* (Livermore Shakespeare Festival). He's also acted in readings with Magic Theatre and Theatre Rhinoceros. Since moving to SoCal, Alan has appeared as Danny in the San Francisco-based web series "jaded" available on Vimeo. He can also be seen performing in "*Hamlet*" and "*Macbeth*" on the educational Shakespeare website myShakespeare.com. He was born and raised in Salem, Oregon and also holds a BFA in acting from Santa Fe University of Art and Design.

HOUIE KLIJIAN (Estelle U/S) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful production of *Gabriel*. Other credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (OnStage Playhouse), *An American Christmas*, *Les Miserables*, and *Christmas on my Mind* (Lamb's Players), *Gypsy* (Cygnet), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Old Globe), *Sound of Music* (SDMT), *Music Man*, *Shrek*, *Wizard of Oz* and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Moonlight), and

numerous vocal and tap performances. She gives her love to God and her family, and thanks North Coast Rep for this amazing opportunity!

ANDREA GUTIERREZ* (Stage Manager) is excited to return to North Coast Rep! Previously she worked as prop master, supervising house manager, and volunteer coordinator from 2015 - 2017. She has also had the opportunity to work at North Coast Rep as the main stage production assistant, Theatre School camp manager and Theatre School stage manager. She graduated from UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television before completing her MA at Johns Hopkins University. When Andrea isn't haunting the halls of North Coast, she can be found at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, where she works as Production Manager.

MARTY BURNETT (Resident Scenic Designer) Marty is in his 27th season as Resident Designer/Technical Director at North Coast Rep. He has designed the last 190 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 forty 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.

ELISA BENZONI (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her third season with North Coast Repertory where she has designed *Blithe Spirit*, *A Funny Thing...*, *The Father*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *This Random World*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Spitfire 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* (Diversionsary Theatre), *Secret Garden*, *Awake and Sing*, and *Sylvia* (New Village Arts). Elisa holds a costume design MFA from UCSD where she is currently an adjunct professor. www.elisabenzoni.com

RYAN FORD (Sound Design) is pleased to be on staff at North Coast Rep as the Associate Production Manager. Previous sound designs at North Coast Rep include: *Always*, *Patsy Cline*; *Tomfoolery*; *The Girl Singers of the Hit Parade*; and *The Girl Singers... Holiday Show*. With the Theatre School, he has designed lights and sound for several productions over the last six years. Favorite designs include: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Miracle Worker*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Little Prince*, *The Gorilla*, and *The Snow Queen*. His stage management credits at North Coast Rep include: *Fox on the Fairway*, *Chapter Two*, *The*

School For Lies, and *The Odd Couple*. Sound designs at other theatres include: *King John*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Intrepid Theatre Company), and *Barefoot in the Park* (Moonlight @ the Avo). Ryan holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from UCSD.

PHILLIP KORTH (Props) is an actor, writer, and craftsman. He earned BAs in Acting and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University and his MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut. He served six years as a Combat Engineer in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, deploying twice to Iraq. For the past two years, he and his wife Erin, a professional wedding photographer, have traveled the country in their renovated 1976 Airstream Argosy travel trailer with their 110lb Labrador mutt, Scout. Phillip is also a published poet, produced playwright, and aspiring novelist. He is currently working as the Education Associate for the Theatre School @ North Coast Rep.

BACKGROUND:

Season 37's lineup includes one World Premiere musical from the creators of the legendary Broadway musical *Guys & Dolls*, and two West Coast Premieres. The season continues with **All in the Timing**, a sextet of one-act comedies by David Ives that uses inspired language and wordplay to examine various attempts at relationships and communication with comical results. It will push your smart buttons and tease your brain. Runs April 10-May 5, 2019. Next up is **A Walk in the Woods**, a play that is especially relevant today with world tensions escalating. Set in the midst of the Cold War, a U.S. and Soviet arms negotiator agree to meet informally. Their revealing and absorbing conversations, laced with humor, explore unexpected and uncharted territory. Highly recommended for those yearning for a more enlightened world. Runs May 29-June 23, 2019. The final show of Season 37 is the World premiere of **Another Roll of the Dice**, reuniting songwriter Frank Loesser and author Damon Runyon, creators of the legendary Broadway musical, **Guys and Dolls**. This colorful new musical includes standards such as "Heart and Soul," "Baby It's Cold Outside," "Two Sleepy People," and "Let's Get Lost." Order early – this show is a sure-fire winner. Runs July 10-Aug. 4, 2019.

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 37th 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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