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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE STAGES**

**TIMELY, GRIPPING DRAMA, *AN ILIAD***

**A Filmed Production Based on Homer’s ‘The Iliad’**

**By Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare**

 **Translated by Robert Fagles**

**Directed By David Ellenstein**

**Featuring Richard Baird**

**Streaming December 9 , 2020– January 3, 2021**

Solana Beach, Calif. - ***AN ILIAD***is a dynamic tour-de-force adaptation of Homer’s classic poem about the Trojan War. A war-weary poet recalls the nobility, savagery and valor of the battles and warriors, while deftly exploring the human costs of war through the centuries. Award-winning actor Richard Baird vividly brings to life the power and humor of this brilliant adaptation by Lisa Peterson and Denis O’Hare. With an evocative accompaniment by Amanda Schaar, this is an enthralling, theatrical experience that is not to be missed.

David Ellenstein directed the award-winning Richard Baird on North Coast Rep’s mainstage, adhering to all mandated safety and testing procedures under the SAG New Media Agreement. Audiences will see a full theatrical production with sets by Scenic Designer Marty Burnett and props by Phillip Korth. Cinematographer/editor Aaron Rumley filmed and edited the show.

***AN ILIAD* will stream on demand on showtix4U** **December 9, 2020 through January 3, 2021.** **Tickets are $35 and can be purchased at** [**www.northcoastrep.org**](http://www.northcoastrep.org)**.**

Viewers may also enjoy the Rep’s tandem holiday production of ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL***  written by Zander Michaelson and is based on the classic tale by Charles Dickens. Directed by David Ellenstein and featuring James Newcomb, **it** **will stream on demand on showtix4U** **December 9 through December 31**. **Tickets are $35 and can be purchased at** [**www.northcoastrep.org**](http://www.northcoastrep.org)**.**

**BIOS:**

**DENIS O’HARE** (Co-Adaptor) is an actor and writer who lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Mr. O’Hare attended Northwestern University where he studied poetry for two years under Alan Shapiro, Mary Kinzie, and Reginald Gibbons. He ultimately received a B.S. in the theatre department and pursued an acting career in Chicago while maintaining a literary salon called the “Ansuz.” In 1992, Mr. O’Hare moved to New York to continue his acting career where he appeared in numerous productions on Broadway and Off-Broadway all the while exploring creative writing in the form of plays and screenplays. He has written three screenplays, numerous poems, and one other play. Mr. O’Hare and Ms. Petersen began collaborating on *An Iliad* in 2006 and honed the project through multiple workshops with New York Theatre Workshop at Vassar and Dartmouth and with the Sundance Lab Institute. Denis is married to Hugo Redwood, an interior designer, with whom he has a son.

**LISA PETERSON** (Co-Adaptor) is a theatre director who wrote and adapted *An Iliad* with actor Denis O’Hare, for which they won 2012 Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards. Her other adaptations include *The Waves*, adapted from the novel by Virginia Woolf, with composer David Bucknam (Drama Desk nominations), the upcoming *The Good Book* with Denis O’Hare, and *Insurance Men* with composer Todd Almond. She was Resident Director at the Mark Taper Forum for ten years, and Associate Director at La Jolla Playhouse for three years before that. Her directing credits include the world premieres of Tony Kushner’s *Slavs!*, Donald Margulies’ *Collected Stories* and *The Model Apartment*, Naomi Wallace’ *Trestle At Pope Lick Creek*, Janusz Glowacki’s *The Fourth Sister*, John Belluso’s *The Poor Itch*, Beth Henley’s *Ridiculous Fraud,* Jose Rivera’s *Sueno*, Marlane Meyer’s *The Chemistry Of Change*, and many others. She has worked at theatres around the country including New York Theater Workshop, The Public, Playwrights Horizons, The Vineyard, Primary Stages, Manhattan Theater Club, MCC, Guthrie Theater, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Rep, Actors Theater of Louisville, Arena Stage, Yale Rep, and the McCarter Theater. Lisa won an Obie in 1991 for Caryl Churchill’s *Light Shining In Buckinghamshire* at NYTW, and Dramalogue, Drama Desk, and Calloway Award nominations for many other productions. She was the recipient of a TCG/NEA Career Development grant, and regularly develops new plays with the Sundance Theater Lab, New Dramatists, The Playwrights’ Center, and the O’Neill Theater Center. She is a graduate of Yale College, and a member of Ensemble Studio Theater, and the executive board of SDC.

**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, directorial favorites include: North Coast Rep – *A Christmas Carol, An Iliad, Same Time, Next Year, The Outsider, All in the Timing, Holmes & Watson, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Father, This Random World, 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), *Side By Side By Sondheim, Chapter Two, Freud’s Last Session* (San Diego Premiere), *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), *Two by Pinter: The Lover and The Dumb Waiter, HENRY IV Part 1, Heroes, My Name is Asher Lev, The Drawer Boy, Becky’s New Car, Ghosts, The Tempest, Talley’s Folly, Over the Tavern, Old Wicked Songs, The Dresser, Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, Madagascar, A Shayna Maidel, The Honky-Tonk Angels, Rashomon, A Moon for the Misbegotten; Tuesdays With Morrie; Collected Stories; Halpern and Johnson; Romeo and Juliet; Amy’s View; Einstein Comes Through* (also co-author); *The Chosen; A Life in the Theatre; Story Theatre* and *Charley’s Aunt.* Coconut Grove Playhouse - *Sonia Flew* starring Lucie Arnaz; *Halpern and Johnson* starring Hal Linden and Brian Murray. Papermill Playhouse - *The Chosen* starring Theodore Bikel and John Lloyd Young. 59E59 - *His Royal Hipness Lord Buckley.* Park Square & Colony Theatre – *Words By.* Portland Stage - *Halpern and Johnson.* Renaissance Theatre - *Long Day’s Journey Into Night.* Actor’s Theatre of Phoenix - *Rabbit Hole.* Alabama Shakespeare Festival - *The Glass Menagerie, Rocket City* (World Premiere) and *Honky-Tonk Angels.* Laguna Playhouse - *Chapatti, Alexandros* (World Premiere). Southwest Shakespeare Company - *Cyrano de Bergerac*. AJTC - *Awake and Sing.* Meadow Brook Theatre *- A Christmas Carol.* Portland Rep - *Conversations With My Father* and Gaslamp Quarter Theatre - *A Shayna Maidel.* Winner of numerous theatre awards, including the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award for “2018 Director of the Year.”

**RICHARD BAIRD** (The Poet) is an award-winning actor, director and producer. Twenty five productions at North Coast Repertory Theatre.  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, Santa Barbara Theatre Ensemble, 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* and Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*), Kingsmen Shakespeare and has directed for North Coast Rep, Backyard Renaissance, Southwest Shakespeare, Intrepid Theatre and Diversionary Theatre. He has appeared in fifty productions of Shakespeare plays.

**AMANDA SCHAAR** (The Muse) An acclaimed writer, musician and actress, Amanda has appeared in experimental and classical venues around the country. Credits include, North Coast Repertory Theatre; *Perfect Wedding, Odd Couple*; New Fortune: *Henry V*, *Birthday Party, Les Liaisons Dangereuses;* Poor Players: *Measure for Measure*and*Richard II*; Sledgehammer: *Heaven on Earth*; Timeline Theatre Company (Chicago): *Pitmen Painters*(US Premiere) (Chicago Jeff Award, Best Ensemble),*The Front Page*(Jeff Nomination, Best Show); Northwestern University; Teatro Caliente Festival; Teatro Bravo; TIMB; Stray Cat; and a National Tour of New Voices. Amanda is proud to have written extensively for theatrical performance (notable: *The Black Chicken, Naked with a Banjo,* and *Pancake of Truth*), as well as full-length plays: *Rummy Starker Love Fest*(Best Avant Garde - EV Trib.), *Kill Socrates, A Comedy, Twelfth Night of the Living Dead,*and a new translation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters.* Amanda holds a B.A. in Theatre from the Herberger College of Fine Arts, highest honors. Her first novella, *Nothing to Wear*, is slated for publication Spring '21. This one's for all us poor sinners...

**DESIGN TEAM**

**AARON RUMLEY** (Cinematographer/Editor) has worked on over 120 shows at North Coast Rep, over 50 as a stage manager, over 20 as a designer.

**MARTY BURNETT** (Set Design) Resident Designer at North Coast Rep since 1992, designing more than 200 productions for the theater. Other design venues include Sahara and Hacienda hotels in Las Vegas, Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City and Drury Lane Chicago.

**PHILLIP KORTH** (Props) is an actor, writer, craftsman, and educator. He earned BAs in Acting and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University and his MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut. He is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Iraq. In addition to designing and managing props for NCRT, Phillip is also the Education Associate at The Theatre School @ North Coast Rep.

**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 39th 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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