**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:**

**SADDLE UP! NORTH COAST REP TAKES AUDIENCES**

**ON A MERRY RIDE WITH ZANY MUSICAL,**

***DESPERATE MEASURES***

**Music By David Friedman**

**Books & Lyrics By Peter Kellogg**

**Orchestrations by David Hancock Turner & Vocal Arrangements by David Friedman**

**A West Coast Premiere Directed By Christopher Williams**

**Performances Begin January 12**

**Running Through February 6, 2022**

Solana Beach, Calif. – North Coast Repertory Theatre gallops into the New Year with a witty, wild musical comedy that takes Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* and shakes it up. Set in the Wild West, this is a rollicking romantic musical that manages to address law and order, justice and hypocrisy. Loaded with laughs and toe-tapping music, ***DESPERATE MEASURES*** inspired The New York Times to brand it “…wonderful, delightful…such a hoot!” Buy tickets now for this Grade A musical before it pulls up stakes and leaves town. Music By David Friedman and Books & Lyrics By Peter Kellogg

Orchestrations by David Hancock Turner & Vocal Arrangements by David Friedman.

A West Coast Premiere.

Christopher Williams directs Michael Louis Cusimano,\* Rusty Ferracane,\* Samantha Duval, Rudy Martinez Jo Garcia-Reger, and Elijah Rock,\* on North Coast Rep’s mainstage. Craig Bohmler is the Musical Director and keyboardist. Audiences will see a full theatrical production with sets by Scenic Designer Marty Burnett, Light Design by Matt Novotny, Sound & Projection Design Aaron Rumley, Sound Mixer by Joseph Butler, Costumes by Elisa Benzoni, Prop Design by Philip Korth and Peter Herman Hair & Wig Design. Jill Gorrie Rovatsos is the choreographer. Musicians: Nikko Nobleza(Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin), Jennifer Williams (Violin) & Scott Harvester (Bass) Cindy Rumley\* is the Stage Manager. You won’t want to miss the West Coast premiere of the musical brimming with “delicious buffoonery” and “infectious glee!” (Theatremainia.com)

\*The actor or stage manager appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association. For photos, go to [www.northcoastrep.org/press](http://www.northcoastrep.org/press).

***DESPERATE MEASURES*** previews begin Wednesday, January 12. Opening Night on Saturday, January 15, at 8pm. It will play Wednesdays at 7pm; Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm; Friday (Jan. 14), Wednesday (Feb. 2), Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2pm; Sundays at 7pm through November 14. North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Tickets: Previews - $57, Week Nights/Wed. & Sat. Matinees - $63; Sat. Eve. & Sun. Mat. $68; Sun Night - $60. There will be a talkback with actors and director on Jan. 21 after the performance. Seniors, Students, Military & Educators - $3 off admission. Call 858-481-1055, or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

***DESPERATE MEASURES*** *performs live on stage* from January 12 through February 6, 2022. Tickets are $57-$68 and can be purchased at [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) or calling the Box Office (858) 481-1055.

Table, calendar

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**FACT SHEET:**

**WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents**

***DESPERATE MEASURES***

**Music by David Friedman**

**Books & Lyrics by Peter Kellogg**

**Orchestrations by David Hancock Turner & Vocal Arrangements by David Friedman**

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

**CAST:** Michael Louis Cusimano,\* Rusty Ferracane,\* Elijah Rock,\* Samantha Duval, Jo Garcia-Reger, Rudy Martinez

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive

Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE:** **Previews:** **January 12, 2022**

**Closes: February 6, 2022**

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

**Preview Matinee @ 2pm, Friday, January 14, 2022**

**Wednesday Matinee @ 2pm, February 2, 2022**

**Talkback with cast & director: Friday, January 21, 2022**

**PRICES:** Previews (including Fri Mat) $57.00

Sat. Evening & Sunday Matinee $68.00

Wed. – Fri. Evening $63.00

Wed. & Sat. Matinee $63.00

Sunday Evening $60.00

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

**BIOS**

**DAVID FRIEDMAN** (Composer) in addition to *Desperate Measures* (2018 Drama Desk Best Music Award), David Friedman has written four other musicals with Peter Kellogg: *Nicolette & Aucassin*, *Nellie Bly*, *Money Talks*, and *Lincoln in Love*; *King Island Christmas* (with Deborah Brevoort - 50+ productions worldwide); *Koga* (with Philip Kholos) a web series for children about using martial arts and kindness to solve everyday problems, and is currently collaborating with Elizabeth Dewberry on a musical about Temple Grandin. David has written songs for everyone from Disney to Diana Ross, produced all the late/great Nancy LaMott’s CDs and wrote many of her best-known songs, conducted and vocal arranged six musicals on Broadway and numerous Disney Animated Films (*Beauty & The Beast, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), wrote songs for “The Lizzie McGuire Movie,” “Aladdin and the King ofThieves,” “Bambi II,” and “Trick,” scored three television series, performed his revue, *Listen To My Heart – The Songs of David Friedman* Off-Broadway, all over America, and abroad, and co-wrote 100 songs (with Kathie Lee Gifford) for the Today Show’s “Everyone Has a Story” segment. David is a best-selling metaphysics author with five books including “The Thought Exchange,” and “We Can Be Kind - Healing Our WorldOne Kindness at a Time,” based on his song of the same name. For more information, go to [www.MIDDERMusic.com](http://www.middermusic.com/).

**PETER KELLOGG** (Book & Lyrics) has two Tony nominations for book and lyrics to a musical for *Anna Karenina* (composer Dan Levine), which toured in Japan and was broadcast on Japanese Public TV in 2006. With David Friedman, he created *Desperate Measures*, which won 2018 Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics, as well as The Outer Critics Circle and Off-Broadway Alliance Awards for Best Musical. CD available on Amazon. Also with David: *Chasing Nicolette* (based on the French romance, *Aucassin and Nicolette*), produced at Westport Playhouse, the Prince in Philadelphia, and Village Theatre in Seattle; and *Stunt Girl*, based on the life of Nellie Bly, New York City’s first female reporter, which premiered at Village Theatre. With composer Steve Weiner, he has written a 10-person musical based on the Sheridan play *The Rivals*, which premiered at Bristol Riverside Theatre last fall.

**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS** (Director) is the Associate Artistic Director and Casting Director at NCRT. Directing credits include: *Visiting Mr. Green, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Gabriel* (NCRT); *Beau Jest, Leading Ladies* (Moonlight Stages); *Halpern and Johnson* (AZ Jewish Theatre); *Julius Caesar* (New Village Arts); *Romeo & Juliet* (Southwest Shakespeare Co); Jacob Marley’s *A Christmas Carol, The Elephant Man, Biloxi Blues, Light Falling Down, Proof* (Oceanside Theatre); *I Hate Hamlet* (Intrepid Theatre). Christopher produced the WWII feature film “Walking With the Enemy,” starring Ben Kingsley and Jonas Armstrong.

**MICHAEL LOUIS CUSIMANO\*** (Johnny Blood) is thrilled to make his North Coast Rep debut! Select SoCal credits: T*he Last Five Years*, T*he Rocky Horror Show*, *On The 20th Century* at Cygnet Theatre; *Once*, *Big Fish*, *American Rhythm*, *A Christmas Carol* at Lamb’s Players; Th*e Tale of Despereaux* at the Old Globe; *Girlfriend*, *Homos or Everyone in America*, *This Beautiful City* at Diversionary, *The 39 Steps* at Glendale Centre Theatre, *Grease* at Cabrillo Musical Theatre, *Metamorphoses* at Santa Barbara Ensemble. TV credits: “Devil in the Details” and “A Moment in Crime” on ID. Michael is a three-time SD Critics’ Circle Award Nominee and won the SD Critics’ Circle Craig Noel Award for “Actor of the Year” for his body of work in 2019. BFA graduate of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.

**RUDY MARTINEZ** (Father Morse) is making his North Coast Rep debut. He is a little bit of this and a whole lot of that...he mostly bakes and he sometimes acts. Previous roles include Quixote in *Man of La Mancha,*Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd,* Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof,* Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol,*Che, Magaldi and Peron in *Evita,*Baker in *Into The Woods,*El Gallo in *The Fantasticks,*Gomez in *The Addams Family,*Kevin in *In The Heights*and Valentin in *Kiss of the Spider Woman.*He is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music Professional Musical Theatre Program and spent two seasons performing at The Hollywood Bowl with The Mitch Hanlon Singers. Rudy is the creative behind Man Bakes Cake, has appeared on "Cake Wars," and was the winner of Food Network's "Halloween Baking Championship." IG:@manbakescake.

**ELIJAH ROCK\* (**Sheriff)is thrilled to be making his debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre. Triple-threat artist, Rock’s award-winning stage performances include Winner of the NAACP Theater Award for Best Male Equity performer for his role as Roland Hayes in *Breath and Imagination* and Ovation Award Nominee for his role as the Cotton Club star Cab Calloway in the musical *I Only Have Eyes For You*. Other notable roles include Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* with the Ensemble Theatre and The Crooner in *Words by Ira Gershwi*n with the Colony Theatre directed by David Ellenstein. Rock also had TV appearances in Showtime’s series “Masters of Sex.” Recently, Rock has released his sophomore American Songbook album, “Matters of The Heart” which is available now. Jazz critic, Scott Yanow said the following in his LA Jazz Scene review: “Rock’s swinging style and large voice recall Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole of the 1950’s without closely copying any of them.” Proud member of AEA. [www.elijahrock.com](http://www.elijahrock.com/)

**JO GARCIA-REGER** (Susanna) is so excited to be making her North Coast Rep debut! Jo was one of the 2019/20 acting interns at the Tony award-winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and graduated from Indiana State University with a degree in Acting, Music & Dance. She was last seen as Rosalind in the Texas Shakespeare Festival’s touring production of *As You Like it* and Maria in their touring production of *Twelfth Night*. Other regional musical credits include Marian in *The Bridges of Madison County* at the Texas Shakespeare Festival, Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein* at Crossroads Repertory Theatre, Abilene in the *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Jenny in *Company*, which toured various cities in Vietnam. She would like to thank her family, aka the Reger 4, for their endless love and support.

**RUSTY FERRACANE\*** (Governor) is a professional actor, singer and director, appearing in productions for regional theatres across the country including the American premier of Craig Bohmler’s musical *Enter the Guardsman,* Off-Broadway*.* Some of his favorite roles include Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha,* Georges in *La Cage Aux Folles,* Harold Hill in *The Music Man,* Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* and Bruce Bechdel in *Fun Home.* He was the founder and producing artistic director of the award-winning theatre company, The Actors Group. As a director, he has worked at many companies in Arizona, including Mesa Encore Theatre, Fountain Hills Theatre, Theater Works, Arizona Opera and ProMusica Arizona. He has taught musical theatre performance at Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix Theatre and The Taipei Performing Arts Center in Taiwan. Information on his two CDs and performance schedule are available on his website at [*www.RustyFerracane.com*](http://www.RustyFerracane.com)

**SAMANTHA DUVAL** (Bella Rose) is making her North Coast Rep debut in *Desperate Measures.* National Tours: *Cirque Musica, The Celtic Ladies*.  Off-Broadway*: Days of Rage* at Town Stages, *Intersecting Chords* at NYMF, *Diva: A Night of Celine Dion*, Green Room 42.  Regional Theatre: Pattie in *Smokey Joes Café* at the REV theatre, Bunny in *Accomplice* at La Jolla Playhouse, *Kinky Boots* at Gateway Playhouse, Irene in *Hello Dolly*, California Theatre, starred as Elsa in *Frozen* with Disney Cruise Line,  World Premiere of *Emergency the Musical*, World Premiere *Flesh and Spirit* at NYC Works Festival. Samantha recently has been seen performing her cabaret show on Cruise lines including Celebrity, Holland America and Silver Sea. Samantha is also a resident performer in Marty Thomas Presents *Diva in NYC*. Love and thanks to her amazing husband Justin, agents Danny and Meaghan and her family and friends. Happy to be back in her home state of California. @samduvalsings, [www.samanthaduval.com](http://www.samanthaduval.com)

**CRAIG BOHMLER** (Musical Director/Keyboard) is a composer and musical director whose works have been performed in Europe, North America and Japan. Primarily a composer for the “singing theater” and the solo voice, Craig has 3 operas and 14 musicals to his credit as well as 200 art songs, and numerous choral and orchestral works. His musicals *Gunmetal Blues* (O’Neill Center -1991) and *Enter The Guardsman* (Olivier Award Nominee for “best musical”) have played both in London and Off-Broadway as well as in many regional and international theatres. He was composer-in–residence for Arizona Opera from 2012-2017 where his western opera, *Riders of the Purple Sage,* premiered in February 2017 and was subsequently broadcast internationally. He is musical director and arranger for the “3 Redneck Tenors” which has toured world-wide for over 16 years and was featured on America’s Got Talent. His new musical, *A Beautiful Place,* will be featured in Phoenix Theatre’s new work’s program in May 2022. He is published by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Concord Theatricals, and Dramatic Publishing, as well as recorded by Columbus, Centaur, Original Cast, Naxos, and BMS records. More detailed information and recordings may be found at **Craigbohmler.com**

**JILL GORRIE ROVATSOS** (Choreographer): *Hairspray* (Craig Noel Award), *Crazy For You, 42nd Street, Damn Yankees, A Christmas Story, Singin’ in the Rain* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *Romance Romance, Tomfoolery, Man With A Load of Mischief, Humbug Holiday Spectacular* (North Coast Rep), *Pal Joey, A Little Night Music* (SDSU), *Joseph…Dreamcoat* (CCAE Theatricals), *The 25th Annual…Spelling Bee* (Intrepid), *Grease* (European Tour), *Mambo Italiano*, *Oklahoma!, Hello Dolly* (Westchester Broadway Theatre, NY), *Gary Goldfarb: Master Escapist* (NYMF), *The People Vs. Mona* (Abington Theatre, NYC).B.F.A. NYU Tisch School of the Arts (Dance), M.F.A. SDSU (Musical Theatre) Educator: SDSU, NYU, City College, Mesa College, Grossmont College, AMDA, CAP21. Mom: Avery and Zachary

**CINDY RUMLEY\*** (Stage Manager) Credits include: *Dancing Lessons, Another Roll of the Dice, All in the Timing, Holmes & Watson, A Funny Thing..., How The Other Half Loves, 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. Cindy holds an M.F.A in stage management from UC Irvine.

**MUSICIANS**

**NIKKO NOBLEZA** (Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin) has been playing guitar for 18 years and plays a variety of styles. He has earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies from San Diego State University. Some of the theatres he has played for include North Coast Repertory Theatre *(Spitfire Grill),* The Old Globe, Cygnet Theatre, Moonlight Stage Productions, San Diego Musical Theatre, and San Diego Repertory Theatre. Nikko is also the in-house composer for two film production groups, Almost Good Films and Jabronie Pictures.

**SCOTT HARVESTER** (Bass) just finished playing the bass for *Always...Patsy Cline* at North Coast Repertory Theater. As an electric and upright bass player, he has experience playing a variety of musical styles but especially enjoys opportunities to play American roots music. When he is not sitting in on a production, he can be found playing bluegrass, country, and gospel music locally.

**JENNIFER WILLIAMS** (Violin) is a busy freelance musician in the San Diego area, playing a variety of styles from bluegrass to classical on both violin and viola. She is thrilled to be playing live theater again after a year of Zoom productions.

**CREATIVE STAFF**

**MARTY BURNETT** (Set Design) Resident Designer at North Coast Rep since 1992 and has designed 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.

**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 B.A. 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 5 AMAZING children: Ragan, Harper, Heston, Maddex and Harrison .

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her fourth season at  
North Coast Rep, including numerous Craig Noel nominated productions. Elisa has also worked on over a hundred productions across Southern California with theatres such as The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Diversionary Theatre and New Village Arts. Being Italian-born, Elisa has also had the opportunity to work and perfect her craft in Europe. Elisa holds a costume design M.F.A. from UCSD where she currently is an adjunct professor. www.elisabenzoni.com

**AARON RUMLEY** (Sound & Projection Design) has worked on over 120 shows at

North Coast Rep, over 50 as a stage manager, over 20 as a designer.

**JOSEPH BUTLER** (Sound Mixer) is an audio engineer and musician, born and raised in  
San Diego. Recent credits include: *I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change, Miss You Like Hell, Little Women, Wizard of Oz* (Patio Playhouse), and *Hunchback of Norte Dame* (Living Light Theater). BA of Science in Audio Engineering from Arts Institute of California, San Diego.

**PETER HERMAN** (Hair & Wig Design) has previously designed wigs for over 30 North Coast Rep productions. Peter teaches wig and makeup design at San Diego State University. He is glad to be part of the creative team on this show.

**PHILLIP KORTH** (COVID-19 Compliance Officer/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 40th 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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