**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 REPERTORY THEATRE TOASTS NEW**

**SEASON 42 WITH AN ENTERTAINING WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY,**

***THE ANGEL NEXT DOOR***

**By Paul Slade Smith**

**Adapted from *Play at the Castle* by Ferenc Molnár**

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023**

**EXTENDED THROUGH SUNDAY, OCT. 8, 2023**

**Directed by David Ellenstein**

Capturing the sheer joy, sophistication, and wit of 1940s screwball comedies, playwright Paul Slade Smith (*The Outsider; Unnecessary Farce*) has brilliantly adapted Ferenc Molnár’s classic farce, *Play at the Castle*. Join an unforgettable cast of characters as they navigate romance, misunderstandings, and comical situations, setting the stage for a riotous disaster. Brace yourself for a perfect storm of comedic chaos, swept away by irresistible charm and rapid-fire banter. This delightful evening promises a non-stop rollercoaster of mirth, leaving you breathless with laughter.

***THE ANGEL NEXT DOOR*** is making its world premiere debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre, and will transfer to Laguna Playhouse. Don't miss your chance to experience this theatrical gem that captures the essence of a bygone era while delivering a fresh and exhilarating entertainment. Book your tickets now and embark on a wildly funny journey with *The Angel Next Door–* a show that will transport you back in time while keeping you on the edge of your seat with laughter.

David Ellenstein directs Thomas Edward Daugherty,\* Erin Noel Grennan,\* Elinor Gunn,\* Taubert Nadalini,\* James Newcomb,\* and Barbara E. Robertson,\* in the ***ANGEL NEXT DOOR.*** The design team includes Marty Burnett (Resident Scenic Designer), Matthew Novotny (Light Design), Elisa Benzoni (Costume Design), Ian Scott (Sound Design), Cindy Rumley (Props), and Peter Herman (Hair & Wigs), and Annabelle Oellette (Production Assistant). Vernon Willet\* is the Production Stage Manager.

\*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).

***THE ANGEL NEXT DOOR*** previews begin Wednesday, Sept. 6. Opening Night on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 8pm. It will play Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2pm, with Sundays at 7pm through Oct. 1. There will be a talkback with the artistic director and caston **Friday,** **Sept**. **15.** A performance has just been added on **Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 2 pm.** (See Schedule below). North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Tickets: Previews - $49 **(including Friday preview at 2pm)**, Week Nights - $62, Wed. & Sat. Matinees/Sat. Eve. - $74; Sun. Night - $60. Seniors, Students, Military & Educators - $5 off admission. Call 858-481-1055, or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.



**WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents**

 ***THE ANGEL NEXT DOOR***

**Written by Paul Slade Smith, adapted from *Play at the Castle by Ferenc Molnár***

 **Directed by David Ellenstein**

**CAST:** Thomas Edward Daugherty,\* Erin Noel Grennan,\* Elinor Gunn,\* Taubert Nadalini,\* James Newcomb,\* and Barbara E. Robertson\*

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive

 Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE:** **Previews start Sept. 6, 2023**

 **Opens: Sept. 9, 2023**

 **Closes: Oct. 1, 2023**

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

 **Fri (Sept. 8) @ 2 pm**

 **Wed (Sept. 27) @ 2pm**

**PRICES:** Previews $49.00

 Week Nights $62.00

 Sat. Nights & Matinees $74.00

 Sunday Nights $60.00

**DISCOUNTS:** Seniors, Students, Military & Educators $5.00 off admission. Rush tickets available for $20. Sold 15 minutes prior to showtime.

**BIOS:**

**PAUL SLADE SMITH** (Playwright) is a writer and actor based in Brooklyn, New York. As an actor, his credits include the original Broadway casts *of Finding Neverland, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory,* and the Lincoln Center revival of *My Fair Lady.* Following its Broadway run, Paul starred as Willy Wonka in the Australian premiere of *Charlie...* His next onstage role: Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Paul was thrilled to be commissioned by David Ellenstein and North Coast Repertory to create *The Angel Next Door,* and is equally thrilled to witness its world premiere here. Paul’s play *Unnecessary Farce*, produced at North Coast Rep in 2015, has had over 325 productions throughout the United States, and in Great Britain, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Austria (in German), Switzerland (in Swiss German), Iceland (in Icelandic), and Canada (in both English and French). *The Outsider*, seen on this stage in 2020, will have its 90th production later this year. Paul would like to thank Ferenc Molnár for the plot at the center of this play, and theatre artists and audiences - like yourselves - in whose loving honor this adaptation was written. And lastly, as always, he thanks Erin, who is his Margot and also, naturally, his Olga.

**DAVID ELLENSTEIN** (Director) Born into a theatrical family, David is an actor, director, producer, and playwright. Before joining North Coast Rep in 2003 as Artistic Director, he served in that position for the Los Angeles Repertory Company and the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company (AJTC). He is a veteran of over 300 theatrical productions at theatres from San Diego to Maine, and from Alaska to Miami and most places in between. David has won numerous theatre awards, including the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award for “2018 Director of the Year.” David has also appeared in dozens of film and television roles, as well as having been guest faculty for numerous universities including California State University Northridge, Cal Arts, and Shakespeare workshops privately. He is now the Artistic Director of Laguna Playhouse as well as continuing to be the Artistic Director of North Coast Rep.

**THOMAS EDWARD DAUGHERTY**\* (Victor Pratt) is thrilled to make his North Coast Repertory Theatre debut. San Diego Theatre: Quinn Carney in *The Ferryman* at New Village Arts Theatre. Other theatre: National Tours (*Ragtime, Showboat*); Kennedy Center (*Bounce*); Goodman Theatre (*All’s Well That Ends Well, Bounce*); Chicago Shakespeare (*As You Like It, Winter’s Tale, Troilus & Cressida*); Drury Lane Oakbrook (*1776, The Foreigner, A Chorus Line, Big*); Marriott Lincolnshire (*Houdini, the Musical*); Apple Tree Theatre (*Old Wicked Songs, The Dying Gaul*); New American Theatre (*Picasso at Lapin Agile*); Montana’s Shakespeare in the Parks (*Macbeth, The Country Wife*). Training: BFA Musical Theatre, University of Michigan--Go Blue! Tom’s day job: Employment law attorney at Klinedinst PC. Much love and many thanks to Jacquelyn Ritz (a North Coast Rep regular), Nick, Zach, and Caroline for making this possible.

**ERIN NOEL GRENNAN\*** (Olga Molnar) is grateful to make her North Coast Rep debut. Regional credits include: *Reckless and Incident* at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Cincinnati Playhouse; *The Outsider* (world premiere) at Paper Mill Playhouse; *Unnecessary Farce* (world premiere), and *Wit* at Boarshead Theatre; *Timon of Athens* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *A Moon for the Misbegotten, Blithe Spirit, The Taming of the Shrew* at First Folio; *A Christmas Carol* at Geva; *A Flea in Her Ear, The Foreigner, The Man Who Came to Dinner* at Drury Lane; *Noises Off* at Totem Pole Playhouse; seven seasons with Peninsula Players Theatre, including *Angel Street, Sunday in the Park with George, The Game’s Afoot,* the world premieres of *Making God Laugh* and *The Tin Woman*; and four productions with The Gaiety Theatre in Ireland. TV credits include “The Other Two,” “Dr. Death,,” “Bull,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “Blue Bloods,” “FBI: Most Wanted,” “Chicago Med,” “Chicago Fire,” and roughly umpteen commercials. erinnoelgrennan.com.

**ELINOR GUNN\*** (Margot Bell) is honored to make her North Coast Repertory debut. Notably, she has worked with Sir Alan Ayckbourn in the American premiere of *Sugar Daddies* at ACT Theatre in Seattle, and Paula Vogel in the inaugural Hearst Theater Lab Initiative Distinguished Visiting Playwright-in-Residence at UCLA. She just recently closed a sold-out run of *The Tempest* as Ariel at Antaeus Theatre in LA. Favorite roles include Kyra in *Skylight* at ACT, Michelle in *For the Love Of* at the Kirk Douglas, and Raina in *Arms and the Man* at The Jewel Theatre. Her most recent television credits include guest starring on “9-1-1” (Fox) and “Legacies” (CW), co-starring on “The Dropout” and “Bust Down,” and appearing in several national commercials.

**TAUBERT NADALINI\*** (Oliver Adams) is a Los Angeles and New York- based actor, director, and composer. TV: “This is Us” (NBC), “Sterling” (HBO), “Deviants” (Showtime). Stage: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Pacific Resident Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (McCoy-Rigby), *The Lion in Winter* (Laguna Playhouse), *Bright Star* (Musical Theatre West), *Frozen* (Disneyland), *Evita* (Palos Verdes Performing Arts), *Shooting Star!* (Hudson Theatre), *Bronco Billy* (Skylight Theatre). He recently received a Robby Award for Best Actor in a Comedy for his performance in *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at International City Theatre, and he directed *Cock* as the opening play of The Los Angeles LGBT Center’s inaugural theatre season. Taubert trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and USC. He’s represented by Dennis Sevier at The House of Reps and Heidi Rotbart Management. He also has a Boston terrier and three younger brothers, who collectively serve as his comedic inspiration.

**JAMES NEWCOMB\*** (Arthur Sanders) North Coast Rep: *The Homecoming, Christmas Carol* (as told by one man who cares — Streamed), *How the Other Half Loves.* The Old Globe: Da Vinci in *The Note Books of Leonardo Da Vinci, Twelfth Night, Coriolanus*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. San Diego Rep: *Honky, Zoot Suit, Brooklyn Boy,* and *The Illusion.* Cygnet Theatre: Henry in *Present Laughter,* Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* (Craig Noel award). Other Theatre: Oregon Shakespeare Festival (14 Seasons), Denver Center Theatre (9 Seasons), The Public Theatre, B.A.M. Utah Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare & Company (founding member), The Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep, Portland Center Stage, Missouri Rep, Arizona Theatre Co., and Geva Theatre. Representative Roles: Oxford Society Award for *Richard III* (O.S.F.), Drama Log Award for *Touchstone*, (S.S.C.), Coriolanus, Iago, Bottom, Feste, and The Duke in *Measure for Measure*. T.V.: “The Hand That Rocks the Cradle,” “Honky” (P.B.S.), and “I Want to Keep My Baby” (CBS). Film: “Lone Wolf.” Directing: *Much Ado, Midsummer* (USD Graduate Program), *Lone Star, True West,* and *Found a Peanut* (National Theatre Conservatory). Continuing Lecturer: U.C.S.D. Graduate Theatre Program.

**BARBARA E. ROBERTSON\*** (Charlotte Sanders) is very happy to be making her North Coast Rep debut, and working again with Paul Slade Smith *(Wicked)* and Erin Noel Grennan *(The Last Night of Ballyhoo)*. She can be seen in “Somebody Somewhere”; “Working Man”; “LOL,” “Freelancers Anonymous,” Robert Altman’s “The Company” and David Lynch’s “The Straight Story.” She’s received two dozen awards and nominations for her work in theatre productions as diverse as: *Queen of the Mist* (Firebrand); *A Doll’s House Part Two* (Steppenwolf); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Milwaukee Rep); *The Detective’s Wife* (Writers’); *Who‘s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Court); *life sucks*. (Lookingglass); *A Little Night Music; The Tempest; Hamlet* (Chicago Shakespeare); *The Goat, Or Who is Sylvia; Pal Joey, House, Garden* and *Hollywood Arms* (Goodman); *Kabuki Medea* (Kennedy Center); *Other Than Honorable* (Geva); and the first National Tour of *Angels in America I & II.* She’s a proud member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA and teacher at Columbia College.

**NOELLE CALIGURI** (Margot u/s / Assistant to Director) is beyond delighted to support the talented cast and crew of *The Angel Next Door*. She most recently won a 2023 ACT Award, appearing as Susan in *Company* at Coronado Playhouse. A few of her most cherished roles on stage include Emily Webb in *Our Town* and Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. When Noelle isn’t performing, she’s freelance writing, globetrotting, or indulging in a romance novel. Noelle would like to extend a special thanks to her husband, fur baby, acting coaches, mentors, and family for their endless support.

**VERNON WILLET\*** (Production Stage Manager) is returning to North Coast Rep after having helmed one of the most successful productions to date, *Murder on the Links*, written and directed by Steven Dietz. Vernon’s work encompasses many of the Southern California theatres: the Laguna Playhouse, McCoy/Rigby Entertainment, Musical Theatre West, 3D Theatricals, the Rubicon Theatre, San Diego Musical Theatre, Theatre Aspen, Maltz Jupiter Theatre and a myriad of others. He shares his life with director/choreographer/ champion ballroom dancer Cate Caplin. Actors’ Equity Association member since 1983.

**MARTY BURNETT** (Set Design) Resident Designer at North Coast Rep since 1992. Scenic designed over 250 productions at the theatre. Resident Designer at Coronado Playhouse 1981-84 and Fiesta Dinner Theater 1984-87. Co-owner Props and Drops 1987-91, Designing for Union Plaza, Hacienda and Sahara Hotels and Casinos, Las Vegas, NV. Harrahs, South Lake Tahoe and Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Drury Lane Theater, Chicago. At Laguna Playhouse designed *Chapatti, Alexandros*, and transfer designed *Murder on the Links* from North Coast Rep. More to come!

**MATTHEW NOVOTNY** (Lighting 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 five AMAZING children: Ragan, Harper, Heston, Maddex, and Harrison.

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her eighth 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.

**IAN SCOTT** (Sound Design) is a composer and sound designer specializing in the development of new works and installations. His music and designs have been heard at Playwrights Horizons, Roundabout Theatre, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Yale University Art Gallery, Actors Shakespeare Project, Dorset Theatre Festival, Ars Nova, and Yale Repertory Theatre. Ian has made an extensive career as an A1 for productions with Audible Theatre, The New Group, Signature Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, Tuacahn Amphitheater, Classic Stage Company, Theatre for the New City, Berkshire Theatre Festival, and others. Ian received his MFA in Sound Design from Yale School of Drama.

**CINDY RUMLEY** (Prop Design) recent credits as a Stage Manager at North Coast Rep include: *Into the Breeches, The Remarkable Mister Holmes, Forbidden Broadway’s Greatest Hits, Desperate Measures, Dancing Lessons, Another Roll of the Dice, All in the Timing, Holmes & Watson, A Funny Thing...* Cindy holds an M.F.A in stage management from UC Irvine.

**PETER HERMAN** (Hair & Wigs 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.

**ANNABELLE OUELLET** (Production Assistant) is excited to return to the North Coast Repertory Theatre for *Angel Next Door*. She is a Southern California resident with recent production credits including *Murder on the Links, Into the Breeches, Frankenstein,* and *Little Shop of Horrors.*

**About the North Coast Repertory Theatre** under the artistic leadership of David Ellenstein since 2003, is a professional Equity theatre, currently celebrating its 42nd 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.

*###*