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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**NORTH COAST REPERTORY REPRISES MUSIC-LADEN FAVORITE,**

***2 PIANOS* *4 HANDS* FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**Starring Jefferson McDonald & Matthew McGloin**

**By Ted Dykstra & Richard Greenblatt**

**Performances Beginning Friday, December 15, 2023**

**Running Through Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**Directed by Tom Frey**

Solana Beach, Calif. – By popular demand, North Coast Repertory Theatre is bringing back the joyful family pleasing ***2 PIANOS 4 HANDS*** to brighten the holiday season. Get ready for an interlude of riotous laughter as Jefferson McDonald and Matthew McGloin take us on a musical comedic journey about their would-be careers as concert pianists. The talented duo trade stories about piano lessons, pushy parents and eccentric teachers while playing everything from Bach to Billy Joel. This entertaining, crowd-pleasing show not only hits all the right notes, it tickles the ivories and your funny bone. Tickets will be flying out the door, so reserve yours early to avoid disappointment.

Tom Frey directs Jefferson McDonald\* and Matthew McGloin.\* The design team includes Marty Burnett (Resident Scenic Designer) and Matthew Novotny (Light Design), and Ian Scot (Projection Design). 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.

***2 PIANOS 4 HANDS*** performances begin Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 pm. Final performance is Sunday, December 31, 2023, at 2 pm. The show runs Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2pm. Added Wednesday matinees on December 20 and December 23. There is no evening performance, Sunday Dec. 24, 2023. Tickets are $64. Seniors, students and military are entitled to a $3 discount per ticket. Call 858-481-1055, or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

**FACT SHEET:**

 **WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents**

 ***2 PIANOS 4 HANDS***

**Directed by Tom Frey**

**CAST:** Jefferson McDonald,\* Matthew McGloin\*

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive

 Solana Beach, CA 92075

**SCHEDULE:** **Opens: December 15, 2023**

 **Closes: December 31, 2023**

 **Matinees at 2 pm; Evenings at 7:30 pm**

**PRICES:** $64 each

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

**BIOS:**

**TED DYKSTRA** (Co-Creator / Original Co-Director) started playing piano at age six, and peaked at age twelve, when he had a particularly memorable string of firsts competing in the Edmonton Kiwanis Music Festival. His acting career began at a young age in St Albert, Alberta, playing the 2nd Bird in *Once Upon a Clothesline*, but his breakout role was Bilbo Baggins in his school’s grade 8 production of *The Hobbit*. Since then, he has gone on to play leading roles on every major stage in Canada, often combining his musical skills in such roles as: Mozart in *Amadeus*; Cale Blackwell, a character based on Jerry Lee Lewis, in *Fire* (seven Canadian theatres); Shostakovitch in *Master Class* (Manitoba Theatre Centre); Glenn Gould in *An Evening with Glenn Gould* (National Arts Centre); Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Crow’s Theatre); and Cousin Kevin in *The Who’s Tommy* (Mirvish Productions); and school children around the world know him as Bach in the film *Bach’s Fight for Freedom*. He also wrote and composed the acclaimed musical *Evangeline,* which was produced at The Charlottetown Festival and The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. Other favorite acting roles include the title role in *Hamlet* (Theatre Calgary); For Soulpepper Theatre: Teach in *American Buffalo*, Daffyd Llewelyn in *A Chorus of Disapproval* and Yuri in his own adaptation of Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*; for Stratford: title role in *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream,* and Ariel in *The Tempest*; as well as three seasons of leading roles for The Shaw Festival. Most recently Ted portrayed Scrooge in The Citadel Theatre's landmark new production of *A Christmas Carol*, a role he originated and has played for three seasons in a row.In 2000, he turned his attention to directing, and since has directed many award-winning shows in Toronto and across the country. He has also directed *2P4H* across America and in Australia and Hong Kong. In 2014, Ted and his wife Diana Bentley founded The Coal Mine Theatre in Toronto's East End, and it has become the most successful indie theatre in the country, garnering its artists a staggering 29 Dora nominations in 6 seasons. He regularly directs and acts there. He has appeared in dozens of films and TV shows and most recently was a regular on Season 6 of “The Expanse*.”* He is also the voice of Dad Tiger on “Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*.”*He is also a Founding Member of Soulpepper Theatre and in the award department he has received 6 Doras (acting, musical direction, producing), a Gemini (acting), a Sterling (musical direction), a Merritt (directing) and a Chalmers (writing).He is the proud father of Theo, Rosie and Henry. He loves playing and watching tennis. Oh, and Go Oilers!

**RICHARD GREENBLATT (**Co-Creator /Original Co-Director) is an actor, director, writer, and musician who has been a professional theatre artist for the last 49 years. He was born in Montréal and studied piano for 10 years with the late Professor Dorothy Morton of the McGill Conservatory of Music. He studied theatre at Dawson College before pursuing his acting training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England. Upon graduating, he worked at Leeds Playhouse for a season, returning to Canada in 1975. Since then, he has performed in theatres in Toronto, across Canada, and abroad, playing such diverse roles as Henry David Thoreau, Spinoza, and Sam Goldwyn, as well as in feature films, television and radio.  Other favorite roles include: The Fool in *King Lear*, Creon in *Antigone*, The Concierge in *The Gladstone Variatio*ns, Galbraith in *Essay*, Cadman in *I Call Myself Princess*, and touring to Galway, Ireland, as The Father in *Enda**Walsh’s Bedbound.*He has directed well over 130 productions for theatres across the country - the vast majority being original and/or Canadian works – including: plays by George F. Walker, Judith Thompson, Jason Sherman, Adam Pettle, Diane Flacks, Shirley Cheechoo, Michael Healey, Julie Tepperman, and Rob Fothergill, amongst numerous others. Classical works he has directed include plays by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Shaw, Brecht and Shepard, amongst many others. As a writer, he wrote or co-wrote: *Soft Pedaling, 2 Pianos 4 Hands, Sibs, The Theory of Relatives, i.d., Letters from Lehrer, Care,* and *Athabasca*. 2 Pianos 4 Hands has played on five continents and in over 150 cities since it opened at the Tarragon Theatre in April 1996. Greenblatt himself has performed the play with co-creator Ted Dykstra over 1,000 times across Canada, and in New York City, Washington D.C., London, U.K., and Tokyo.  A mentor and teacher to young talent, he has taught acting, directing and play creation at most of the theatre training institutions in Canada, including Toronto Metropolitan University, University of Alberta, George Brown College, Humber College, and the National Theatre School of Canada. He has also directed the premieres of numerous groundbreaking and award-winning plays for young audiences, including *Seesaw; Mirror Game; Misha; Danny, King of the Basement; Wrecked; The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh* and*Kindness.*Since the Covid Pandemic, he has “pivoted” to being an author. In 2021, his book Text and Context, The Operative Word was published by J.G. Shillingford Press, and his memoir, “Two of the Best in the Neighborhood, An Anecdotal History of *2 Pianos 4 Hands*,” has just been released, and is on sale at J Gordon Shillingford Publishing! His third writing/performing collaboration with Diane Flacks, “Pals,” will be presented at the WinnipegJewish Theatre in the fall of 2023. Oh, and he’s writing his first novel.He has received numerous nominations for his work and has won seven Doras and two Chalmers Awards. He lives in Toronto with partner Tanya Greve and their daughter, Amelia, and is the proud father of Natasha, Will, and the dearly missed Luke Greenblatt.

**TOM FREY** (Director) is the new artistic director of the Peterborough Players in Peterborough, New Hampshire, as well as the US resident director of *2 Pianos 4 Hands*. He has directed over 20 productions of *2P4H* at theatres around the country, including: Portland Stage, The Cape Playhouse, Stages Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Pittsburgh City Theatre, the Rubicon, and many others. In addition to directing the show, he has performed the show over 600 times in the United States and Canada. He has played both roles, but spent most of his time playing the role of Ted. During the pandemic, he helmed the critically successful 2021 outdoor summer season for the Peterborough Players, including an acclaimed production of *Our Town,* performed onsite in downtown Peterborough, widely believed to be a heavy inspiration for Thornton Wilder's "Grover's Corners." Also at the Players, he directed *Cabaret*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, the U.S. premiere of Kristen DaSilva's *Where You Are*, andothers, in addition to spending the better part of 12 years as a member of the Players' Acting Company. As an actor, he has performed in venues across the country, with some favorites including Daniel Beaty’s *Breath and Imagination* from early development workshops to Hartford Stage, Pittsburgh City Theatre, and Cleveland Playhouse; *Dirty Blonde* at the Cleveland Playhouse and Pittsburgh Public Theatre; *Souvenir* at Seven Angels Theatre; Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes*at Milwaukee Skylight Opera Theatre; Mack Sennet in *Mack and Mabel*and Wilson Mizner in the American Regional Premier of Sondheim’s*Road Show* at Stages Repertory Theatre, Houston. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a fairly recent resident of Peterborough, NH. Love to Bridget.

**JEFFERSON MCDONALD\*** (Ted) Dubbed “the Victor Borge of Rock and Roll” who was “born inside a piano,” the 3x BroadwayWorld Award Winner Jefferson McDonald has been featured in the New York Times and Boston Globe for his comedic and dramatic performances. The Times Union described his portrayal of Jerry Lee Lewis in the smash hit *Million Dollar Quartet* as “mesmerizing” and “hugely entertaining.” McDonald trained as an actor at the Moscow Art Theater, Ithaca College (BA) and the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (MFA), training under the leading specialist of the Demidov School of Acting, Andrei Malaev-Babel. As a musical artist, Jefferson McDonald tours internationally and with Princess and Celebrity cruise lines. You can find Jefferson’s music on all platforms under his name. McDonald has starred in over thirty plays and musicals and written seven plays of his own, including *Murder At Mom’s House, Mozart* and *Jerry Lee Lewis Vs Jerry Lee Lewis,* which was produced at Playhouse Stage Co in 2020. McDonald is currently creating a new adaptation of *The Seven Year Itch* for the stage and will have already dropped or be in the process of dropping his new album, MAN OF THE ROAD, at the time of your reading this. Jefferson will also have an 11 handicap at the time of your reading this. Go Bills. Visit [www.jeffersonmcdonaldactor.com](http://www.jeffersonmcdonaldactor.com) for show dates.

**MATTHEW MCGLOIN\*** (Richard) is an actor-musician based in New York and firmly believes in the power of live theatre to connect & heal.  This marks his sixth production of *2P4H* in collaboration with Jefferson McDonald & Tom Frey (previously at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Peterborough Players, the Mayfield Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, and last year’s run at North Coast Rep).  NY/OFF-BROADWAY: *The Hello Girls* (Prospect Theater Company/59E59), *BastardJones* (TheCell), *CasablancaBox* (HERE Arts), *Xanadu* (Piper Theatre), workshops with Tectonic Theater Project, Abingdon Theatre Company, Dixon Place, The Lark, Venuworks, BMI/SongSpace.  REGIONAL:  *Murder on the Orient Express* (Pioneer Theatre Company), *Cabaret* (Peterborough Players), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Repertory Theatre St. Louis), *Murder for Two* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre), *Beautiful Star* (Triad Stage), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Signature Theatre), *Misalliance, Cinderella* (Olney Theatre Center), *As You Like It* (Folger Theatre), *History on Foot* (Ford’s Theatre), & various shows at The Kennedy Center (*American Scrapbook, Teddy Roosevelt*, *Unleashed*, others) and the Virginia Shakespeare Festival (*The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew, The Complete Works of Shakespeare abridged, The Complete History of America abridged*).  TV/FILM:  History Channel, Investigation Discovery, NYU, Columbia U, commercials.  TRAINING:  BFA Acting, UMBC.  [www.matthewmcgloin.com](http://www.matthewmcgloin.com/) // @jackie\_of\_all\_traits.  \*For Helen, always…\*

**VERNON WILLET\*** (Production Stage Manager) is returning to NCRT after having helmed two world premieres: *The Angel Next Door* by Paul Slade Smith and 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.

**DESIGN TEAM**

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

**IAN SCOT** (Projection 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.

**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.

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