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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:

NOEL COWARD'S *BLITHE SPIRIT*
CASTS A COMEDIC SPELL
AT NORTH COAST REP'S SEASON 37 OPENER
Performances Beginning Wednesday, September 5, 2018
Running Through Sunday, September 30, 2018
Directed by Rosina Reynolds

Solana Beach, CA – North Coast Repertory Theatre is launching Season 37 with Noel Coward's ***BLITHE SPIRIT***. The beloved smash hit of the London and Broadway stages conjures an evening of spirited and hilarious action. A socialite novelist, an eccentric medium, an unforgiving ex-wife, and a shrewish spouse create non-stop supernatural hijinks in this world-class comedy. Audiences can expect an otherworldly evening of wit, sophistication and effervescent fun.

Rosina Reynolds directs J. Todd Adams,* Gil Berry,* Ava Burton,* Susan Denaker,* Teagan Rose,* Joanna Strapp,* and Michelle Marie Trester. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting Design), Aaron Runley (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), Peter Herman (Hair & Wigs) and Holly Gillard (Prop Design). Aaron Rumley* is the Stage Manager and Sound Designer.

*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.

BLITHE SPIRIT previews begin Wednesday, September 5. Opening Night on Saturday, September 8, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, September 14**, 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 September 30, 2018 (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 September 26th 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**
BLITHE SPIRIT
By Noel Coward
Directed by Rosina Reynolds

CAST: J. Todd Adams,* Gil Berry,* Ava Burton,* Susan Denaker,* Teagan Rose,*
Joanna Strapp,* and Michelle Marie Trester.

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

SCHEDULE: **Previews: September 5, 2018**
Closes: August 12, 2018
Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm
Talkback with cast & director: Friday, July 20, 2018

PRICES:	Previews	\$42.00
	Week Nights	\$49.00
	Sat. Matinees & Sunday Nights	\$46.00
	Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees	\$53.00
	Wed. Matinee (ADDED) September 26th	\$49.00

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

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

BLITHE SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	2	3	4	5 8 PM Blithe Spirit PREVIEW	6 8 PM Blithe Spirit PREVIEW	7 8 PM Blithe Spirit PREVIEW	8 8 PM Blithe Spirit
	9 2 PM Blithe Spirit 7 PM Blithe Spirit	10	11	12 7 PM Blithe Spirit	13 8 PM Blithe Spirit	14 8 PM Blithe Spirit	15 2 PM Blithe Spirit 8 PM Blithe Spirit
	16 2 PM Blithe Spirit 7 PM Blithe Spirit	17	18	19 7 PM Blithe Spirit	20 8 PM Blithe Spirit	21 8 PM Blithe Spirit	22 2 PM Blithe Spirit 8 PM Blithe Spirit
	23 2 PM Blithe Spirit 7 PM Blithe Spirit	24	25	26 2 PM Blithe Spirit 7 PM Blithe Spirit	27 8 PM Blithe Spirit	28 8 PM Blithe Spirit	29 2 PM Blithe Spirit 8 PM Blithe Spirit
	30 2 PM Blithe Spirit	31	Blithe Spirit at North Coast Repertory Theatre				

BIOS:

NOËL COWARD (Playwright), an English playwright, composer, director, actor, and singer, was the epitome and virtual-inventor of 20th century “Englishness” as we know it. He was as much a personality — charming audiences with his wit and style — as he was an artist. Renowned for his extensive index of films, songs, and plays, Coward’s *Blithe Spirit* was first seen in the West End in 1941, creating a new long-run record for non-musical British plays of 1,997 performances. It also did well on Broadway later that year. Other works include plays such as *Fallen Angels*, *Private Lives*, and *Hay Fever*, and films such as *Brief Encounter*, *In Which We Serve*, and *The Italian Job*.

ROSINA REYNOLDS (Director) North Coast Repertory Theatre: *The Cocktail Hour*; *Fallen Angels*; *Broken Glass*; *Glorious*; *Don’t Dress For Dinner*; *Relatively Speaking*; *Importance of Being Earnest*; *Travesties*; *An American Daughter*; *The Sum of Us*; *Blithe Spirit*; *Corpse*; *Rough Crossing*; *Chekov in Yalta* Backyard Renaissance Theatre: *Zoo Story*. New Village Arts: *The Secret Garden*. San Diego Repertory Theatre: *Bad Dates*. Cygnet Theatre: *Atwater*, *Fixin’ to Die*. Renaissance Theatre: *Caretaker* (San Diego)

Critics Circle Award). Diversionary Theatre: *2.5 Minute Ride*; *Marriage Bed*; *Happy Endings are Extra*; *Twilight of the Golds*; *Beautiful Thing*; *Wrinkles*; *Another American*; *Asking and Telling*; *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*; *Breaking The Code*; *Lot's Daughters...* Compass Theatre: *Three Days of Rain*. Fritz Theatre: *Vigil*. Gaslamp Quarter Theatre: *Marvin's Room*. Founding Artistic Director of Chequamegon Children's Theatre in Wisconsin, now in our 31st season with our production of *Music Man*. Other productions have included *Mary Poppins*; *Pirates of Penzance*; *Into the Woods*; *Fiddler On The Roof*; *Wizard Of Oz*; *Oklahoma* and *Oliver*.

MICHELLE MARIE TRESTER (Edith) is thrilled to be making her North Coast Repertory Theatre debut! San Diego credits include: *Romeo, Romeo & Juliet* (The Roustabouts Theatre Co.), *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (Cygnet Theatre), *4000 Miles* (ion theatre), *Hand to God* (u/s) (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Hackathon* (Playwrights Project), *Same Time, Next Year* (Oceanside Theatre Company), *Noises Off* (Premiere Productions at Welk Resort), and *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (Scripps Ranch Theatre). *Elsewhere: Fight Dreams* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The XYZ Files* (Off-Broadway), *Little Piece of You* (NYC International Fringe Festival), and the title role in *Henry VI* (The New School for Drama). She has also toured with her solo theatrical clowning show *TO DO*: to various festivals including the NYC International Fringe Festival. Film/Television credits include: "Deadly Devotion" (Discovery ID), "Mary Pillard 2016" (Safe Circle Productions). MFA, The New School for Drama. www.MichelleMarieTrestler.com

JOANNA STRAPP* (Ruth) is thrilled to return to North Coast Rep after previously appearing as Julia in *Fallen Angels*. She's an ensemble member at The Antaeus Company in LA, where shows include: *Cloud 9* (LADCC Award), *The Seagull* (LA Weekly Award nom.), *Peace In Our Time* (LA Weekly Award), *The Curse of Oedipus*, *The Liar*, *Macbeth* and *The Malcontent*. Regional: The Laguna Playhouse (*Steel Magnolias*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Love Loss and What I Wore*, *Billy and Ray*), The Rubicon (*Noises Off!* - Broadway World Award nom.), The Colony (*I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, *Mary's Wedding*), Kinetic Theatre in Pittsburgh (*Sherlock's Last Case*), Indian Wells Theatre (*Trying*), Williamstown Theatre Festival and The Edinburgh Fringe among others. Television: "SMILF," "The Mayor," "Henry Danger," "Ray Donovan," "Modern Family," "Agent Carter," "House," "The United States of Tara," "Medium," "Studio 60 on The Sunset Strip" and the upcoming "Velvet Buzzsaw" on Netflix. Graduate of Carnegie Mellon University.

J. TODD ADAMS* (Charles) is pleased to be making his North Coast Rep debut. He has performed at the Utah Shakespeare Festival (four seasons), Great Lakes Theatre (five seasons), Idaho Shakespeare Festival (four seasons), Shakespeare Santa Cruz (four seasons), Perseverance Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, DCPA Theatre Company, PCPA, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, San Diego Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theater, Grove Theater

Center, A Noise Within, and Theatre @ Boston Court. His film and television credits include “The West Wing,” “Gilmore Girls,” “The Flyboys,” and “Warriors of Virtue.” He received his MFA in acting from the American Conservatory Theater (ACT).

GIL BERRY* (Dr. Bradman) from my earliest memories I have always been an entertainer. When asked what I wanted to be when I grew up I answered, a Movie Star. At the time, I thought all actors were Movie Stars. My dream, goal and passion has always been to be a working actor. I love to reach out and touch people through my work. If one person walks away from what I have done with a new perspective, or if I have impacted them in some positive way, I have lived well. I have appeared on stage in *Crazy for You*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *The Dresser*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *42nd Street*, and many others. My first film was “Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure”; later, I appeared on television in “Bucket and Skinner’s Epic Adventures.” I like to think that my career has been excellent and adventurous, if not epic.

AVA BURTON* (Mrs. Bradman) Classically trained at East 15 Acting School, London, Ava toured extensively with the Shakespearean Young Peoples Theatre Co. performing in theatres and festivals throughout the UK. Elsewhere in Europe Ava joined the English Theatre of Hamburg, Germany as Grace in *Gameplan* and Doris in *My Mother Said I Never Should* at Theatre Antibes, France. Mostly cast in character driven comedy roles, Ava received critical acclaim in London for Kate in *Bedroom Farce*, Wynne in *Dinner & Janet* in *Stand*. Upon arriving in the US Ava joined William Morris VO agency and can be heard voicing trailers, Marvel Universe video game characters and the odd Dr. Who monster. Well known in her adopted city of Laguna Beach for many appearances in the show *Shakespeare’s Fool*, she also performed at Laguna Playhouse in *Love Loss and What I Wore* and can be seen performing monthly in the Bare Bones play reading series.

SUSAN DENAKER* (Madame Arcati) is delighted to be back at North Coast Rep. London West End: *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*; *Budgie*; *Blockheads*; *Country Life*; Favorite U.S. & U.K.: *Ladybird Johnson*, *The Tragedy of JFK (as told by William Shakespeare)*; *Alice*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn and Abuela Claudia*, *In The Heights* both at San Diego Rep; *Mrs. Higgins*, *My Fair Lady*, *Rubicon*; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Tribes* and *November*, all at Mark Taper; *Glorious*, *Charley’s Aunt*, *Relatively Speaking* and *No Way To Treat A Lady* all at North Coast Rep; *Come Back*, *Little Sheba*; *Gigi*, *Reprise*; *A Winter’s Tale*; *Sweet Bird of Youth* and *Our Town*, both La Jolla Playhouse; *Uncanny Valley*, ICT; *A View From the Bridge*; *Company*, British National Tour; *A Little Night Music*; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*; *Breaking Legs*, directed by Alan Ayckbourn. Film and Television: “To The Beat,” “American Friends,” “Accidental Death of an Anarchist,” “As Time Goes By” with Judi Dench, “Just a Gigolo,” “Me and My Girl,” “Royce,” “The Woman He Loved,” “Passport to Murder.” Over 100 audio books.

TEAGAN ROSE* (Elvira) is thrilled to be making her North Coast Rep debut! Theater credits include: *Dry Land* (Echo Theatre Company), *The Great Gatsby* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), and *Thirty Thousand One* (Pursuit Chicago). TV credits include: “The Middle” and “Scandal” (ABC). Film credits include: “Safe Bet,” “Thru Traffic,” and “Try and Fail”; the latter, Teagan wrote, produced, and starred in. She will also be performing a self written solo piece at a female driven evening of performance in Santa Barbara later this year. Love and gratitude to her supportive parents, partner, and friends.

AARON RUMLEY* (Stage Manager & Sound Design) has stage-managed over fifty shows at North Coast Repertory Theatre. North Carolina Theatre: *Talley’s Folly*, *Picnic*, *The Miser* and *On Golden Pond*. He also designs sound and projections. Aaron received a B.A. in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and is the production manager at the North Coast Repertory Theatre. Aaron is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

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 175 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 *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*; *Brahman/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* (Diversionary 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

HOLLY GILLARD (Prop Design) has been in San Diego for a total of nine years since the Marine Corps brought her from Texas. After serving as an Avionics Technician for five years, she pursued her degree in Liberal Studies. Along the way, she discovered a love for theatre and has been involved in some capacity ever since. In her free time she enjoys rock climbing and spending time with her 12-year-old son. She is thrilled to serve as House Manager Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator and to have the opportunity to design props. She also is grateful for her newfound family at North Coast Repertory Theatre and looks forward to a wonderful season.

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.

JILLIAN FROST (Dialect Coach) previous North Coast Rep credits dialect/voice coach include: *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventures of the Great Nome Gold Rush*, *Fallen Angels*, *A Man with a Load of Mischief*, *Educating Rita*, *The Lover/The Dumb Waiter*, and *Relatively Speaking*. Other theatre credits include: Lamb's Players Theatre, Backyard Renaissance, New Fortune Theatre, Diversionary and Cygnet. She has also taught voice and dialects at local youth theatre programs. As a voice artist, she has worked in radio, TV and animated film. Jillian has an MFA in theatre from CalArts and studied theatre at Circle in the Square in New York.

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, one, a West Coast premiere of an intriguing Sherlock Holmes mystery, the other, a gripping wartime family drama. Next up is the West Coast premiere of **Holmes and Watson**, a fast-paced, suspenseful thriller that will challenge the most astute mystery buff. Runs Oct. 17-Nov. 11. The Holiday Season Show is **Always...Patsy Cline**. A great success all over the United States including a successful run Off Broadway, the show is based on a true story of Patsy's friendship with a fan, Louise Seger, who continued a correspondence with Cline to the end of her life. The musical play includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Sweet Dreams," and "Walking After Midnight." Run yourself to the play that will leave you humming these memorable songs. Plays Dec. 1-30. The New Year begins with **Moon Over Buffalo** by the comic genius Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*). This is a **laugh-a-minute** show within a show, with everyone in the wrong costumes and reading the wrong lines. Comic inventions, running gags and absolute mayhem combine for a wild and wacky comedy. Runs Jan. 9-Feb. 3, 2019. Following is the West Coast premiere of **Gabriel**. On the Nazi-occupied Isle of Guernsey in 1943, a mysterious handsome man washes up on shore and four British women decide to protect him through cunning deception and bravery. This is a powerful wartime drama brimming with suspense and intrigue that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Runs Feb. 20-March 17, 2019. **All in the Timing**, a sextet of one-act comedies by David

Ives, 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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