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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:

**LAUGHTER AND TEARS FILL THE BILL AS NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE  
SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON *THE SUNSHINE BOYS***

**A Neil Simon Classic**

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**Running Through Sunday, November 17, 2019**

**EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> due to popular demand**

**Directed by Jeffrey B. Moss**

Solana Beach, CA – ***THE SUNSHINE BOYS*** deftly showcases the late Neil Simon's brilliant ear for sidesplitting dialogue and his sharp eye for physical comedy. Yet beneath the raucous laughter are two vulnerable people struggling to make sense of their lives. North Coast Repertory Theatre has earned numerous accolades by critics and audiences alike for capturing the nuances of Simon's memorable characters who wrestle with love, loss, work, family and aging. Simon's plays historically sell out rapidly, so early ticket buying is highly recommended.

Jeffrey B. Moss directs Bryan Banville\*, Portia Gregory, Phillip Korth, Samantha Roper, James Sutorius\*, John Tessmer, and Lenny Wolpe\*, in ***THE SUNSHINE BOYS***. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Resident Scenic Designer), Matthew Novotny (Lighting), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), Aaron Rumley (Sound), Philip Korth (Props) and Peter Herman (Wigs). Danielle Stephens\* is the 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 SUNSHINE BOYS*** previews begin Wednesday, October 23. Opening Night on Saturday, October 26, at 8pm. A new **Preview Matinee has been added on Friday, October 25, at 2pm**. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, November 1**, 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 November 17, 2019 (See Schedule below). North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Tickets: Previews - \$46, Week Nights/Wed. & Sat. Matinees - \$52; Sat. Eve. & Sun. Mat. \$57; Sun Night - \$49 . By popular demand, a **Wednesday Matinee has been added on November 13, at 2pm** - \$52. Seniors, Students, Military & Educators - \$3 off admission. Call 858-481-1055, or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

THE SUNSHINE BOYS						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			23 PREVIEW 8 PM	24 PREVIEW 8 PM	25 PREVIEW 2 PM EVENING 8 PM	26 OPENING NIGHT 8 PM
27 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	28	29	30 7:00 PM	31 8:00 PM	1 8:00 PM	2 2:00 PM 8:00 PM
3 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	4	5	6 7:00 PM	7 8:00 PM	8 8:00 PM	9 2:00 PM 8:00 PM
10 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	11	12	13 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	14 8:00 PM	15 8:00 PM	16 2:00 PM 8:00 PM
17 2:00 PM						
THE SUNSHINE BOYS at North Coast Repertory Theatre						

### FACT SHEET:

**WHAT:** NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents

***THE SUNSHINE BOYS***

**By Neil Simon**

**Directed by Jeffrey Moss**

**CAST:** Bryan Banville,\* Portia Gregory, Phillip Korth, Samantha Roper, James Sutorius,\* John Tessmer, and Lenny Wolpe\*

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

**SCHEDULE:** **Previews: October 23, 2019**  
**Closes: November 17, 2019**  
**Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm**  
**Talkback with cast & director: Friday, November 1, 2019**  
**Friday, October 25, @ 2pm and Wednesday, November 13, @ 2pm**

**PRICES:**

Previews	\$46.00
Week Nights & Sat. Matinees	\$52.00
Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees	\$57.00
Wed. Matinee (ADDED) Nov. 13	\$52.00
Friday Matinee (ADDED) Oct. 25	\$46.00

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

### BIOS:

**NEIL SIMON** (Playwright) began his writing career in television and established himself as our leading writer of comedy by creating a succession of Broadway hits, beginning with *Come*

*Charity*, and *The Star Spangled Girl* were all running simultaneously; in the 1970-71 season, Broadway theatergoers had their choice of *Plaza Suite*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and *Promises, Promises*. Next came *Little Me*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, & *God's Favorite*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, a revival of *Little Me*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* (Tony Award), a new version of *The Odd Couple* starring Sally Struthers and Rita Moreno as the title duo, *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Lost in Yonkers* (Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize), *Jake's Women*, and *London Suite*. Mr. Simon has also written for the screen: the adaptations of *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Plaza Suite*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *California Suite*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Chapter Two*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* the TV motion pictures of *Broadway Bound* and *Lost in Yonkers*. Other screenplays he has written include *After the Fox*, *The Out-of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Murder by Death*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *The Cheap Detective*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Max Dugan Returns*, and *The Marrying Man*.

**JEFFREY B. MOSS** (Director) is the award-winning director of the critically acclaimed recent New York and London productions of Bock and Harnick's new musical play, *Rothschild & Sons*. Other shows in New York include the hit musical *Mayor* by Charles Strouse and Warren Leight, and the Cy Coleman/Neil Simon musical *Little Me*. He was the director of the New York and Kennedy Center productions of *Some Enchanted Evening*, now part of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Library and has directed over 35 National tours of Broadway musicals and plays including *Guys and Dolls*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Norman Is That You?*, *Hello, Dolly!* and *Legally Blonde*. He directed the recent China premiere of *My Fair Lady* as well as productions seen on the stages of many regional theatres including *The Spitfire Grill* here at North Coast Rep. His new USA tour of *An American in Paris* opens in January 2020.

In order of Appearance

**LENNY WOLPE\*** (Willie Clark) Broadway: *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Wicked*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mayor*, *Into The Light*, *Copperfield*, *Onward Victoria*. Off-Broadway: *Heartbreak House*, *Midnight Street*, *Marry Harry*, *Old Jews Telling Jokes*, *Company*, *Radio City Spring Spectacular*. National Tours: *Wicked*, *Little Shop*, *Forum*, *Guys & Dolls*, *South Pacific*. Regional: Paper Mill (*Baker's Wife*, *Gypsy*), Goodspeed (*Show Boat*, *Christmas Carol*), Musical Theatre West, La Mirada, McCarter, Asolo Rep, St Louis Rep, Westport, Pasadena Playhouse, KC Rep, DTC, Sacramento, Pittsburgh CLO, Cape Playhouse, Bucks County, Denver Center, TUTS, Hollywood Bowl. TV: Guest star on nearly 100 shows from "ER," "Ally McBeal" and "L.A. Law" to "The Golden Girls," "Chappelle's Show," "The Good Fight" and currently on the Emmy winning Amazon series "After Forever."

**BRYAN BANVILLE\*** (Ben Silverman) is thrilled to make his debut at North Coast Rep! Bryan spent his summer rocking to 80s jams in *Rock of Ages* at Cygnet Theatre and *Mixtape* at Lambs Players! Earlier this year, Bryan joined the Flyboys for their 2nd American Tour performing with the Glenn Miller Orchestra! Select credits — Old Globe: *The Heart of Rock and Roll*, *Camp David*, & *Anna Christie*; Cygnet Theatre: (Resident Artist) *Spamalot* (Craig Noel Award Winner), *Animal Crackers*, *On the Twentieth Century*, and *Assassins*. Backyard Renaissance: *Tarrytown* (Craig Noel Award Nominee); Diversionary: *Significant Other*; SDMT: *The Producers* and *Ragtime*; Moonlight Stage Productions: *Titanic*, *The Music Man*, *Spamalot*, and *Catch Me If You Can*; Farmer's Alley Theatre: *Forever Plaid*; NVA: *Plaid Tidings*. Love to Katie, proud of you!

role performance in last season's North Coast Rep staging of *The Father*. Broadway: *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Conversations with My Father*, *The Changing Room*, *Hamlet*. Off Broadway: *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. Other Theatre includes: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Best Actor Award), *Lincolnesque* (Best Featured Actor Award), *The Price*, *The Savannah Disputation* (The Old Globe), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Nominated Best Featured Actor Award, La Jolla Playhouse), *Antaeus: As You Like it*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Henry IV, Part One*, *The Crucible*, *Macbeth*, *The Seagull*, *The Autumn Garden* and *Classics Fest Project*, *A Delicate Balance* and *Wrecks*. Regionally: *The Crucible*, *Other Desert Cities*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Price*, *A Perfect Wedding*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *A Christmas Carol*. Film/TV: go to IMDb for more details.

**JOHN TESSMER** (Patient) This is John's 16th North Coast Rep show, including Theatre School and Professional Theatre for Families productions: *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tin Soldier*, *A Christmas Carol* (2007-09), *Sherlock Holmes & the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush*, *The Tempest*, and *Henry IV, Part One*; *Twelfth Night*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *The Giver*. Locally: *Diversionsary*, *Intrepid*, *Lamb's*, *Mo'olelo*, *New Fortune*, *New Village Arts*, *Playwrights Project*, *San Diego Shakespeare Society*, *SD International Fringe Festival*, and more. Regionally: *Colorado Shakespeare Festival* (6 seasons), *Eugene O'Neill Foundation*, *Idaho Rep*, *Laguna Playhouse*, *Monomoy Theatre*, *Western Stage*. B.A., Yale; M.F.A., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. John has been the Producing Artistic Director of the La Jolla Theatre Ensemble since its founding in 2010.

**PHILLIP KORTH** (Eddie/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. Phillip works as the Education Associate at The Theatre School @ North Coast Rep and designs props for mainstage productions at North Coast Rep.

**SAMANTHA ROPER** (TV Nurse) is thrilled to be making her North Coast Repertory Theatre debut in *The Sunshine Boys!* She has resided in New York City this past year and recently completed the Professional Semester at Broadway Dance Center with performances at Ailey Citigroup Theater (NYC). Her San Diego regional credits include *The Producers* and *Victor/Victoria* (Moonlight Amphitheatre). Samantha could also be seen in the opening cast of Disneyland's 60th Anniversary Parade, *Paint the Night*, and *Mickey's Soundsational Parade*. She has her Bachelor's Degree from University and has studied with the Radio City Rockettes as well as under San Diego State some of New York's most prominent choreographers. Samantha wants to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support. Enjoy the show.

**PORTIA GREGORY** (Registered Nurse) is making her debut with North Coast Rep and is grateful for the opportunity. She recently performed a short read of *In Sickness and In Health* at the New Village Arts' Final Draft New Play Festival. Portia graced the stage at Lamplighters Community Theatre in *The Front Porch*. She debuted at Ion Theatre in *The Ballad of Emmett Till*. Portia contributed to the following films, "The Playground" a Motion Picture by SplitWorld Pictures, LLC; "Perspectives" by TME Productions and LV55 Media; "Thank God for Jelly" by Krown Family Films and the short film "Little Boxes." She is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Portia is thankful to her family and friends for being part of her amazing journey!

**DANIELLE STEPHENS\*** (Stage Manager) This is Danielle's first time stage managing for the North Coast Repertory Theatre. She holds a BFA in theatre arts from the University of the Pacific where she studied both stage management and acting. She spent the last twelve years alternating between being an actress and a stage manager in Northern California, New York,

you for always believing in my abilities and for supporting my passion for everything theatre. I love you fiercely. Actors... break legs and hearts!

## DESIGN TEAM

**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 191 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 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 (Did he mention the oldest is only 7!!)

**ELISA BENZONI** (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her third season at North Coast Rep including numerous Craig Noel Nominated productions. Elisa has also worked on over a hundred productions across Southern California with theaters 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](http://www.elisabenzoni.com)

**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.

Crew

Phillip Korth / John Tessmer

## BACKGROUND:

Season 38 presents an eclectic mix that includes two West Coast premieres and one San Diego premiere. Uncorking the New Year's celebration is the San Diego Premiere of Steven Dietz's **BLOOMSDAY**. If you've ever wished you could go back and have a second chance at a decision you made back in your 20s, this emotional story captures the intensity of experiences, as an older couple retraces their steps to discover their younger selves. A winsome tale that will win your heart. Runs January 8 – February 2. Following is the West Coast Premiere of **THE OUTSIDER**, a razor-sharp, hilarious satire of modern American politics and an inspirational tribute to democracy. Overflowing with clever plot twists portraying the contemporary political climate, this thoroughly non-partisan laugh-fest runs February 19 – March 15. Next on the schedule is a powerful Tony Award winning drama, **THE HOMECOMING**. Often regarded as Harold Pinter's most enduring play, this masterwork of family warfare is set in an all-male household that is disrupted when a long-absent son returns with his new wife. Her presence ignites an explosive situation, one that is vicious, funny and unsettling. A must-see Tony Award winner for discerning theatre lovers. Runs April 8 – May 3. Suitable for mature audiences only. Following is the West Coast Premiere of **HUMAN ERROR**. Full of warmth, heart and outrageous humor, two couples – one liberal, the other conservative – are forced to meet and establish a relationship with binding implications due to a medical mix-up. Engaging and surprising, it runs May 27 to June 21. Season 38 concludes with **FORBIDDEN BROADWAY'S**

greatest satirist in this hilarious, loving, and endlessly entertaining tribute to some of the theatre's most cherished stars and songwriters. A sure-fire sellout, so reserve your tickets early. Runs July 8 to August 9.

**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 38th 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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