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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:

**NORTH COAST REP PRESENTS WEST COAST PREMIERE
OF INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING SENSATION**

THE FATHER By Florian Zeller

Translated By Christopher Hampton

Performances Beginning Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Running Through Sunday, June 24, 2018

Directed by David Ellenstein

Solana Beach, CA, San Diego audiences will be treated to a play that the London Telegraph called “an unqualified triumph” as North Coast Rep stages the West Coast premiere of **THE FATHER**. A sensation in Paris, London and New York, and honored with a war chest of awards including a Tony nomination for Best Play, **THE FATHER** promises to be a profoundly moving, memorable evening of theatre. Andre was once a tap dancer who lives with his daughter Anne and her husband Antoine. Or was he an engineer whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pajamas, and he can’t find his watch. He is starting to wonder if he’s losing control. This is must-see theatre for the discerning theatre-goer.

David Ellenstein directs James Sutorius,* Robyn Cohen,* Matthew Salazar-Thompson, Jacque Wilke,* Richard Baird,* and Shana Wride.* The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting Design), Melanie Chen Cole (Sound), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), and Holly Gillard (Prop Design). Aaron Rumley* is the Stage Manager.

*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.

THE FATHER previews begin Wednesday, May 30. Opening Night on Saturday, June 2, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, June 8**, 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 June 24, 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. 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
THE FATHER
Directed by David Ellenstein**

BIOS:

FLORIAN ZELLER (Playwright) is a French novelist and playwright. His work has been translated into many languages. He won the prestigious Prix Interallié in 2004 for his novel "La Fascination du Pire" and several Molière Awards for his plays

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON (Translator) became involved in the theatre while studying French and German at Oxford University, and wrote a play in his first year. He was the youngest writer ever to have a play performed in the West End – a record that still stands. His plays, musicals and translation have so far garnered four Tony Awards, three Olivier Awards, and many others. His works for the stage include original plays: *Appomattox*, *The Talking Cure*, *White Chameleon*, *Tales From Hollywood*, *Treats*, *Savages*, *The Philanthropist*, *Total Eclipse* and *When Did You Last See My Mother?* Plays adapted from novels include: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Musicals: *Sunset Boulevard*, *Dracula: The Musical* and *Stephen Ward*.

DAVID ELLENSTEIN (Director) Born into a theatrical family, David has worked in theatres across the country. Before joining North Coast Rep in 2003, he served as Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Repertory Company and the Arizona Jewish Theatre Company (AJTC). A veteran of over 250 theatrical productions including over 100 productions at North Coast Rep. Directorial favorites include: *This Random World*, *Travels with my Aunt*, *The Illusion*, *Hedda Gabler* (World Premiere Translation), *Way Downriver: William Faulkner's 'Old Man'* (West Coast Premiere), *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush* (World Premiere), *Freud's Last Session*, *Side by Side By Sondheim*, *Words By Ira Gershwin*, *Faded Glory* (World Premiere), *Mandate Memories* (World Premiere), *Becoming Cuba* (World Premiere), *Time Stands Still*, *Words by: Ira Gershwin and the Great American Songbook* (World Premiere). Other theatres: Coconut Grove Playhouse, Papermill Playhouse, Portland Stage. Renaissance Theatre, Actor's Theatre of Phoenix, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Laguna Playhouse, Southwest Shakespeare Company, AJTC, Meadow Brook Theatre, Portland Rep and Gaslamp Quarter Theatre .

JAMES SUTORIUS* (André) is making his debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre. 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: Jaques in 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: refer to IMDb for more details

ROBYN COHEN* (Anne) is delighted to make her NCR debut! Select L.A. credits: *The Exonerated* opposite Jeff Goldblum, the West Coast Premiere of Neil Labute's *The Shape of Things*/The Laguna Playhouse, *No Way Around but Through*/The Falcon Theatre (starring Melanie Griffith), *Proof*/The Long Beach Playhouse, *Rigoletto*/The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, *The Grand Tour*/The Colony Theatre (under Jerry Herman). NY/Regional performances with: The Actors Theatre of Louisville (*Tom Jones*), Lincoln Center (NY), The Ford's Theater (D.C.), Goodspeed Opera House, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland's Classic Theater Co., Paper Mill Playhouse, Sacramento Light Opera, Bucks County Playhouse, and The National Tour of *Cabaret*. She starred in the T.V. series "Gravity" for starz network and has made additional appearances on: "Law and Order True Crime," "Cristela," "N.C.I.S.," "The Defenders," "Invasion," "The Closer," "Angel," "The Strand," "N.C.I.S. L.A.," "Starved," "LAX," etc.! Select Film credits: Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic" opposite Bill Murray, "The Celestine Prophecy," "Zzyzx," "Beau Jest" (w/ Lainie Kazan), "Road Hard" (w/Adam Carolla), and James Franco's films "Good Time Max," "Fools Gold," and "Bukowski." She's appeared in over 75 national commercials. BFA: The Juilliard School. Tremendous Love & Thanks to her Family, Friends & YOU! Enjoy-@TheRobynCohen

MATTHEW SALAZAR-THOMPSON (Pierre): Select San Diego acting credits: *The Car Plays*, *The Grift* (La Jolla Playhouse) *Sping Awakening* (Cygnet Theatre); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (MOXIE Theatre); *Now or Later* (Diversionsary Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Intrepid Theatre); *Henry V* (New Fortune Theatre); *Beachtown* (San Diego Rep [understudy]) *The Spifire Grill*, *The Odd Couple*, *THIS*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Over the Tavern*, *Dracula*, *Leading Ladies*, *A Thousand Clowns*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Comedy of Errors* (North Coast Rep), *Terra Nova* (Compass Theatre); *Cold Comfort Farm*, *West Side Story* (Lamb's Players). TV credits: *C.S.I.*, *Veronica Mars*, *Fashion House*, *Cover Me*, *Dharma and Greg*, *Watch Over Me*, *18 Wheels of Justice*, *Fraiser*, *The Invisible Man*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Baywatch*.

JACQUE WILKE* (Laura) is thrilled to be back on stage at North Coast Rep! Recent credits: North Coast Repertory Theatre: *Unnecessary Farce*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Mistletoe*, *Music*, and *Mayhem*, and *Don't Dress for Dinner*; Diversionsary Theater: *The Happiest Place on Earth*, *Ballast*, *The Divine Sister*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *Scrooge in Rouge*, *Next Fall*, *Fair Use*, *The New Century*, *Anita Bryant Died For Your Sins*; MOXIE: *Ironbound*, *Or*, *Backyard Renaissance Theatre: Abundance*; Cygnet Theatre: *Stupid F*cking Bird*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, and *Mistakes Were Made*; San Diego Repertory Theater: *Honky* (Craig Noel Award); La Jolla Playhouse: *Yoke*, *The Car Plays*; Intrepid Theater: *The Winter's Tale*, *All My Sons*; Moonlight at the Avo: *Blithe Spirit*; New Village Arts: *The Seven Year Itch*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*; Circle Circle Dot Dot: *Red Planet Respite*, *The Break-up Breakdown*; Bang Productions: *Side Man*; Jacque is a proud member of Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

RICHARD BAIRD* (Man) is an award-winning actor, director and producer. Twenty productions at North Coast Rep including: *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Travels with My Aunt*; *Way Downriver*; *William Faulkner's 'Old Man'*, *Betrayal*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Ghosts* and many more. Richard is the Founding Artistic Director of New Fortune Theatre Company where he has directed and appeared in *Henry the Fifth* (Craig Noel San Diego Critics Circle awards for Outstanding Direction and Lead Performance), *The Birthday Party* (McCann) and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (co director/Valmont). Richard has appeared in regional theatres across the country including The Old Globe, San Diego Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Portland Centre Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Arizona Theatre Company, Southwest Shakespeare Company (AriZoni Best Actor for *Cyrano*), Kingsmen Shakespeare and has directed for Intrepid Theatre and Diversionsary Theatre. He is a proud member of Actors Equity.

SHANA WRIDE* (Woman) recently won the 2017 San Diego Theatre Critics Circle award for her solo performance in *2.5 Minute Ride* at Diversionsary Theatre. She has appeared at North Coast Rep in *The Cocktail Hour*, *Faded Glory*, *Broken Glass* and *The Hasty Heart*. Other credits include work as an actor and director both locally and regionally at Diversionsary Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, Intrepid Theatre, Moxie Theatre, Compass Theatre, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, The Colony Theatre, Open Fist Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Gaslamp Quarter Theatre, and Sledgehammer Theatre. While living in Los Angeles, she co-hosted the nationally syndicated radio show, "*Women Aloud*" with actor/comedienne Mo Gaffney.

AARON RUMLEY* (Stage Manager) has stage-managed over 50 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 26th 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 40 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.

MELANIE CHEN COLE (Sound Design) is delighted to be working with North Coast Rep again! She is a San Diego-based freelance sound designer who has designed over 100 productions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Her recent regional credits include: *This Random World*, *Travels with My Aunt*, *An Illusion*, and *Marjorie Prime* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *Vietgone* (San Diego Rep); *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (A Noise Within); *At the Old Place* and *#SuperShinySara* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Imaginary Invalid* (The Old Globe), *Having Our Say*, *Awake and Sing!*, *An Iliad* (New Village Arts), *Well* and *2.5 Minute Ride* (Diversionary Theatre). Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. www.melaniesound.com

ELISA BENZONI (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working on her third season with North Coast Repertory where she has designed: *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*, *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.

BACKGROUND:

Closing out Season 36 is a little musical comedy by Stephen Sondheim. The time seems ripe for a smart, hysterically comical revival of a hit Broadway laugh-a-minute show called ***A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum***. This timeless musical will bring sheer joy and, infectious high spirits with classic songs like "Comedy Tonight," "Lovely" and "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid." **Forum** runs July 11- August 12, 2018.

North Coast Repertory Theatre launches Season 37 with an intriguing array of riotous comedy, a powerful family drama, a suspense-filled Sherlock Holmes mystery, an eye-opening personal conversation between a U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators, and a colorful musical from the

creators of the legendary Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*. The compelling lineup includes two West Coast premieres and one World premiere.

Artistic Director David Ellenstein selected plays that are intimate, heartfelt, honest, invigorating and entertaining. "We have chosen to present stories that will appeal not only to our loyal subscribers, but to a broad spectrum of theatre-goers throughout the county." Our audiences will be treated to a fascinating blend of old and new productions.

Opening the new season is Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. A socialite novelist, an eccentric medium, an unforgiving ex-wife and a shrewish spouse create supernatural hijinks in this world-class comedy. You are summoned for an otherworldly evening of theatre overflowing with wit, sophistication and effervescent fun. Runs Sept. 5-30, 2018. 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, 2018. Celebrating December 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." Treat yourself to the play that will leave you humming these memorable songs. Runs Dec 12 -30, 2018. 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 Jul. 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 36th 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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