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

**PHOTOS BY: Aaron Rumley**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:**

**JAMES LEAMING STARS IN DAZZLING ONE-MAN TOUR-DE-FORCE,**

***THIS WONDERFUL LIFE,* A SAN DIEGO PREMIERE AT NORTH COAST REP**

**BY STEVE MURRAY**

**A Stage Adaptation of *IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE***

**Performances Beginning Wednesday, December 10**

**Running Through Sunday, December 28**

**Directed by CARMEN ROMAN**

Solana Beach, More than 32 colorful folks from Bedford Falls will be on stage at North Coast Repertory Theatre this holiday season - from dissatisfied George Bailey to bumbling Angel Clarence, from patient Mary to greedy Henry Potter – and they’ll all be played by one brilliant actor, James Leaming\*. The intimate Solana Beach theatre is presenting the San Diego premiere of ***THIS WONDERFUL LIFE,*** a captivating one-man stage adaptation by Steve Murray of the beloved holiday classic, *It’s a Wonderful Life.* Leaming, who starred in North Coast Rep’s *Who Am I This Time,* leaves audiences cheering with his amazing display of physical and verbal virtuosity. Carmen Roman directs her husband in this impressive one-man tour-de-force, and Marty Burnett works his usual magic as scenic 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.

***THIS WONDERFUL LIFE*** performances begin Wednesday, December 10th. It will play Wednesday through Sunday at 7pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2pm, through December 28, 2014. (See Schedule below.) North Coast Repertory Theatre is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste D, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Ticket prices for all performances are $40 adult and $37 for seniors, students and military & $35 Season Subscribers. Call 858-481-1055 or visit [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) to purchase tickets.

For background information and photos, go to [www.northcoastrep.org/press](http://www.northcoastrep.org/press).

Please follow North Coast Repertory Theatre on social media as well on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Coast-Rep/128553240497901>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthCoastRep>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NCRTheatre?ob=0>

***Busy director Carmen Roman and actor James Leaming are available for interviews by phone, in person, and in- studio. For more information and to arrange interviews or press tickets, please contact Nancy Richards at nancy@northcoastrep.org, or 917-873-6389 cell.***

**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT: NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE presents *THIS WONDEFUL LIFE***

Written by **STEVE MURRAY**

Directed by **Carmen Roman**

**CAST**: James Leaming\*

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Ste. D

Solana Beach, CA 92075

**PRICES:** Adults: $40

Season Subscribers $35

**DISCOUNTS:**  Seniors, Students, Military $37

**BOX OFFICE** (858) 481-1055 or [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org)

| **DECEMBER** | | | | | | |
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|  | | | | | | |
| **SUN** | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10  7pm | 11  7pm | 12  7pm | 13  2pm & 7pm |
| 14  2pm & 7pm | 15 | 16 | 17  7pm | 18  7pm | 19  7pm | 20  2pm & 7pm |
| 21  2pm & 7pm | 22 | 23  7pm | 24  2pm | 25 | 26  7pm | 27  2pm & 7pm  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  28  2pm |

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**BACKGROUND:**

**North Coast Repertory Theatre’s 2014-2015 -Season 33.**  **2015** kicks off with a San Diego musical premiere, ***Gunmetal Blues (January 14- February 8),*** awildly entertaining musical spoof of 1940s film noir laced with mystery, music and demolished dreams. In the best Raymond Chandler tradition, the scene is set in the seedy, smoky Red Eye Lounge, where we meet a tough, trench-coated private eye, blondes and more blondes, henchmen and a jaded piano player who sends up complicated plot concoctions. Fresh, funny and thoroughly inventive, ***Gunmetal Blues*** is not to be missed. Neil Simon’s ***Chapter Two (February 25 - March 22),*** back by popular demand is the first play ever produced by North Coast Rep, is next on the docket. Based on events in Simon’s life, this charming comedy revolves around the recently widowed George and his neighbor, the recently divorced Jennie. Neither of these bruised souls is eager to reconnect with the opposite sex. Their journey of meeting, dating and forming a relationship is laced with Neil Simon’s golden touch. Romantic, rueful, touching and funny, this play is certain to delight and entertain. The fourth San Diego premiere of the season, ***Unnecessary Farce (April 15 – May 10),*** presentsthe perfect setup for a laugh-filled evening at the theatre. There’s an embezzling mayor, his female accountant who can’t stay dressed, two undercover cops, nefarious hit men, and of course, videotape. This fast-paced farce promises to leave audiences howling with laughter. June brings master playwright Harold Pinter’s ***Betrayal (June 3 – 28),*** a play that explores the shifting balance of power within a love triangle. Filled with taut drama and deception, the story unfolds in reverse chronology as the audience takes this treacherous journey with characters who are compelling and brimming with human frailty. Passionate, explosive and surprisingly funny, ***Betrayal*** is considered one of Pinter’s most innovative and influential works, one that is certain to provoke lively discussion long after the curtain falls. Season 33 concludes with ***Side By Side With Sondheim (July 15 – August 9).*** Revel in the sophistication, wit, insight, heart and genius of Broadway’s most innovative and influential artist, composer-lyricist **Stephen Sondheim**.  Audiences will hear familiar favorites from such shows as ***Company****,****Follies****,****A Little Night Music****,* ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum, Westside Story, Gypsy***and so many more. An unmatched evening of enchantment for musical theatre fans.

**About the North Coast Repertory Theatre**

North Coast Repertory Theatre is a professional Equity theatre founded in 1982 by Olive and Tom Blakistone. Currently celebrating its 33rd 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.

**BIOS:**

Profiles

**STEVE MURRAY** (**Playwright**) is a playwright and arts journalist based in the Southeast. He graduated with honors from OxfordCollege of Emory University (Oxford, Georgia) and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. For more than 20 years he was an award-winning film, theater and book critic and reporter for Atlanta newspapers, and continues to contribute to the arts blog, www.artscriticatl.com. His plays include “Hungry to Bed,” “Rescue & Recovery,” “Mileage,” “This Passion Thing” and many more, which have been produced nationally. His work has been commissioned by Theater Emory and Actor’s Express in Atlanta, and Portland Center Stage (Oregon). His plays touch on the elusive nature of “truth,” the potential of everyday people for great kindness and unthinking cruelty, and the crazy things people sometimes do for love. But always with humor, even in the darkest moments. Because that’s what keeps us human.

**CARMEN ROMAN (Director)** is an actress and director. She has directed with The Court Theater and Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago, Madison Rep in Madison, Wisconsin and American Blues Theater, among others. Acting credits include: National Tour: *Angels in America* Off-Broadway: *The Iphigenia Cycle* (Theater for a New Audience from The Court Theatre, Chicago), *The Mysteries* (Classic Stage Company), *Paradise* (Gary Allen productions), Regional: *Lost in Yonkers* (Coconut Grove, Walnut Street Theater) *Sonia Flew* (The Huntington Theatre), *According to Goldman* (Philadelphia Theater Company) *Electra* (Hartford Stage Company), *Big Love* (The Wilma), *Side Man* (Steppenwolf, The Galway Festival, Galway, Ireland and The Melbourne Arts Festival, Australia) *Wit, Black Snow, Brutality of Fact* (The Goodman Theatre), *Master Class* (Northlight Theater), Film/Television: *Savages, The Falcon,* (a co-production shot in Soviet Georgia), Constance Mrozek in “Betrayal,”Gabriella Reyes on “Boss,” “All My Children”, “Early Edition,” “Law and Order” ( JudgeEinhorn, recurring), “Law and Order SVU” and “Criminal Intent.” Company Member:American Blues Theater, Chicago and The Actors’ Center, New York. Awards andHonors: 2002 Fox Fellow, Sarah Siddons Award, Florence Herscher Award, JosephJefferson Awards for Master Class and Wit. She is thrilled to be working on this wonderful play with the very talented James Leaming, who was born to play this role.

**JAMES LEAMING (All 32 Characters)**(is happy to return to North Coast Rep after last season’s *Who Am I This Time* and honored to share this amazing story with you. *This Wonderful Life* has played Laguna Playhouse, CA — 2011, Cleveland Playhouse, OH — 2010, Syracuse Stage, NY — 2009 and Asolo Repertory, FL — 2008. Jim is a founding member (1985) of American Blues Theater: *Tobacco Road, It’s A Wonderful Life; Live Radio, The Hairy Ape, Two Rooms, Bad Moon, A Lie Of The Mind, Catch 22, American Dead, On The Waterfront.* Lastup in Chicago: *Native Son,* co-production of American Blues and Court Theatre, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* at American Blues, *The Great God Pan* at Next Theatre.Regional Theater: Alliance Theatre, GA, in the world premiere of *Broke;* 9 seasons at Peninsula Players in Door County, WI: *A Few Good Men, Cherry Orchard, Foreigner, A Man For All Seasons;* Asolo Repertory, FL: *Devil’s Disciple, Winter’s Tale* and I*nventing Van Gogh.* In Chicago he has worked for Steppenwolf, Northlight, Victory Gardens,Goodman, Drury Lane, Body Politic, Fox Theatricals and with Canamac Productions in

*Botanic Garden* with his wife Carmen Roman — directed by Olympia Dukakis. Training: American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco), Second City (Chicago). Awards: After Dark Award — Best Actor for *The Man Who Fell In Love With The Moon;* Sarasota Magazine Award — Best Actor and Best Show for *This Wonderful Life* and a Joseph Jefferson Award for the set design of *Tobacco Road* (American Blues). Film/TV: *Mind Games, Prison Break, Early Edition, Running Scared, Code Of Silence* and numerouscommercials and voice-overs.

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