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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE:

**NORTH COAST REP REVEALS INTIMATE CONVERSATION
AS AMERICAN, SOVIET ARMS NEGOTIATORS TAKE
A WALK IN THE WOODS**

By Lee Blessing

Featuring David Ellenstein & J. Todd Adams

Performances Beginning Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Running Through Sunday, June 23, 2019

Directed by Richard Baird

Solana Beach, CA – What really goes on behind the scenes of tense arms negotiations between powerful nations? Set in the midst of the Cold War, Lee Blessing’s gripping play, ***A WALK IN THE WOODS***, is especially relevant today. With talks seemingly at an impasse, the American and Soviet negotiators agree to meet informally while strolling through the peaceful forest. Their revealing and absorbing conversations, laced with warmth and humor, evolve through debate and discord, exploring unexpected and uncharted territory. Nominated for a Pulitzer and a Tony Award, Blessing’s dramatic comedy was inspired by historic conversations between negotiators Paul H. Nitze and Yuli A Kvitinsky who left the official 1982 Geneva sessions for an unofficial “walk in the woods.” For those yearning for a more enlightened world, this play is shrewdly observant and resonates with the ring of political truth.

Richard Baird directs David Ellenstein* and J. Todd Adams* in ***A WALK IN THE WOODS***. The design team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Design), Matthew Novotny (Lighting), Elisa Benzoni (Costumes), and Phillip Korth (Props). 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.

ALL IN THE TIMING previews begin Wednesday, May 29. Opening Night on Saturday, June 1, at 8pm. There will be a **special talkback on Friday, June 7**, 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 23, 2019 (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 June 19 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
A WALK IN THE WOODS
By Lee Blessing
Directed by Richard Baird

CAST: David Ellenstein*, J. Todd Adams*

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

SCHEDULE: **Previews: May 29, 2019**
Closes: June 23, 2019
Wed. @ 7pm, Thurs-Sat @ 8PM; Sat & Sun @ 2PM, Sun @ 7pm
Talkback with cast & director: Friday, June 7, 2019

PRICES:	Previews	\$42.00
	Week Nights	\$49.00
	Sat. Matinees & Sunday Nights	\$46.00
	Sat. Nights & Sunday Matinees	\$53.00
	Wed. Matinee (ADDED) June 19	\$49.00

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

A WALK IN THE WOODS							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			29 8PM PREVIEW A WALK IN THE WOODS	30 8PM PREVIEW A WALK IN THE WOODS	31 8PM PREVIEW A WALK IN THE WOODS	1 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	
2 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	3	4	5 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	6 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	7 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS Talkback	8 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	
9 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	10	11	12 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	13 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	14 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	15 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	
16 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	17	18	19 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 7PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	20 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	21 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	22 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS 8PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	
23 2PM A WALK IN THE WOODS	24	25	26	27	28	29	
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A Walk in the Woods at North Coast Repertory Theatre

BIOS:

LEE BLESSING (playwright) his play *A Walk In The Woods* was produced on Broadway and London's West End. His Off-Broadway productions include *A Body Of Water*, Primary Stages; *Going To St. Ives*, Primary Stages (Outer Critic's Circle Award, Best Play, Obie for ensemble performance); *Thief River*, Signature Theatre (Drama Desk nomination, Best Play); *Cobb*, Lucille Lortel Theatre (Drama Desk award, best ensemble); *Chesapeake*, New York Stage and Film at Second Stage; *Eleemosynary*, Manhattan Theatre Company, and *Down The Road*, the Weissberger Group at the Atlantic Theatre. The Signature Theatre dedicated its 1992-93 season to his work, consisting of *Fortinbras*, *Lake Street Extension*, *Two Rooms*, and the world premiere of *Patient A*. Recent world and regional premieres of his work include an adaptation of Thornton Wilder's *Heaven's My Destination* which had its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House in Spring 2009, *Great Falls* in the 2008 Humana New Play Festival of the Actors Theatre of Louisville, *A Body Of Water* at the Guthrie Theater and the Old Globe Theatre, *Lonesome Hollow*, *Flag Day*, and *Whores* at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, *The Scottish Play* at La Jolla Playhouse, *Black Sheep* at Florida Stage, and *The Winning Streak* at George Street Playhouse. Other plays include *Independence*, *Riches*, *Oldtimers Game*, *Nice People*, *Dancing To Good Country Music*, and *Perilous Night*. Productions of Blessing's plays have earned awards such as The American Theater Critics Circle Award, the L.A. Drama Critics Award, The Great American Play Award, The Humanitas Award, and the George and Elisabeth Marton Award, among others. He has received nominations for Tony and Olivier awards, as well as the Pulitzer Prize. Blessing is married to playwright and TV writer Melanie Marnich and lives in New York. He heads the graduate playwriting program at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

RICHARD BAIRD (Director) is an award winning actor, director and producer. NCRT: Of Mice and Men. He is the founding Artistic Director of New Fortune Theatre Company: *The Birthday*

Party, co-director *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Henry V* (San Diego Critics Circle Award for Direction). He served as Associate Artistic Director of Southwest Shakespeare Company: *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale*. Intrepid Theatre: *Much Ado About Nothing*; Diversionary Theatre: *Edward II*; Oregon Shakespeare Festival Black Swan Series: *The Changeling*. As Poor Players Artistic Director he directed over 20 productions of Shakespeare's plays. *Walk in the Woods* marks Mr. Baird's twenty-third production at North Coast Rep. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity.

DAVID ELLENSTEIN* (Andrey Botvinnik) Born into a theatrical family, David has worked in theatres across the country. Before joining North Coast Rep in 2003, he worked as an actor at the Los Angeles Repertory Company (as Hamlet), Arizona Theatre Company, Portland Repertory Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Alaska Repertory Theatre and the Great Lakes and California Shakespeare Festivals (as Richard III). Favorite acting roles at North Coast Rep include "Max" in *Laughter On The 23rd Floor*, "George" in *Chapter Two*, "Man" in *My Name is Asher Lev*, "Matt" in *Talley's Folly* and "Jonathan" in *Sight Unseen*. Other San Diego credits include "Tevye" in *Fiddler On The Roof* at Moonlight and *Broadway Bound*, *A Life In The Theatre* and *The Heidi Chronicles* at the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre Company. David has appeared in more than three dozen film and television episodes.

J. TODD ADAMS* (John Honeyman) is pleased to be making his third appearance at North Coast Rep. He recently played Charles in *Blithe Spirit*. and Sherlock Holmes in *Holmes & Watson*. 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).

AARON RUMLEY* (Stage Manager & Sound) 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 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 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 *Gabriel*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Blithe Spirit*, *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; Brahama/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 currently is an adjunct professor.
www.elisabenzoni.com

PHILLIP KORTH (Props) is an actor, writer, and craftsman. He earned BAs in Acting and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University and his MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut. He served six years as a Combat Engineer in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, deploying twice to Iraq. For the past two years, he and his wife Erin, a professional wedding photographer, have traveled the country in their renovated 1976 Airstream Argosy travel trailer with their 110lb Labrador mutt, Scout. Phillip is also a published poet, produced playwright, and aspiring novelist. He currently is working as the Education Associate for the Theatre School @ North Coast Rep.

BACKGROUND:

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 July10-August 4, 2019. Just announced! Season 38 plays are **Amadeus, The Sunshine Boys, Bloomsday, The Outsider, The Homecoming, Human Error** and **Forbidden Broadway’s Greatest Hits**.

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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