



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Cast and crew are available for interview.

Media Contact: **Michelle Hou**
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San Jose Rep Reprises the Hilarious and Intelligent Play *Nixon's Nixon!*

A wickedly funny satirical romp about Nixon's last night in office

SAN JOSE, CA. (March 8, 2007)—Get ready to eavesdrop on one of the most famous meetings in recent history. Russell Lees' uproarious story *Nixon's Nixon* is about the imagined conversation of the secret meeting between President Richard M. Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger on the night before Nixon resigns his presidency. The Rep is thrilled to present, this award-winning play, on the 10th anniversary of its first appearance at the Rep in 1997. Directed by **Michael Butler**, the Artistic Director of Center Rep in Walnut Creek, *Nixon's Nixon* runs from **March 24** through **April 22, 2007**. San Jose Repertory Theatre is located in downtown San Jose at 101 Paseo de San Antonio. Preview performances are March 24, 25, 28, and 29. **Press Opening is Friday, March 30 at 8:00p.m.**

Tickets are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at www.SJRep.com or by calling (408) 367-7255.

On August 7, 1974, the night before Nixon resigned, Nixon and Kissinger spend the night sequestered in the Lincoln Sitting Room. No one really knows what happened during the course of that evening, but Russell Lees brilliantly riffs on what might have happened. This riveting play portrays the personal power play between these two titans as they revisit past glories in hilariously re-enacted scenes of their political triumphs, wrestle with their desire to stay in power and ultimately, devise a dizzying and doomed plot to keep Nixon in office. *Nixon's Nixon* was a run away hit for San Jose Repertory Theatre a decade ago, and earned a spot on the **The San Francisco Chronicle's "Top 10 Productions of 1997."** This revival reunites original stars **David Pichette** (as Nixon) and **Peter Van Norden** (as Kissinger) and their director, **Michael Butler**.

"***Nixon's Nixon*** is a play I would be happy revisiting every ten years," said Butler. "Somehow, it always manages to be timely. It's outrageously funny, strangely moving, and like all good comedies about world leaders, preposterous and yet, plausible."

Michael Butler, currently the Artistic Director of Center Rep in Walnut Creek, returns to direct this hilarious romp that the San Francisco Chronicle referred to as "...a tour de force ...that puts (*Nixon's run*) on glittering comic display." At Center Rep, Butler recently directed *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. He was previously the Resident Artist at San Jose Rep where

he directed *The Haunting of Winchester*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Side Man*, *Desire Under the Elms* and *Twelfth Night*. Butler is an accomplished director, actor and music composer whose work has been seen and heard around the country at regional theatres and both off and on-Broadway.

The Rep welcomes **Peter Van Norden** (Henry Kissinger) who has appeared on the Rep's stage eight times. Audiences will remember his performances in such roles as Andrew Undershaft in *Major Barbara*, Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple*, and Marc in 'ART'. A stage veteran with credits both off and on-Broadway, Van Norden has worked with Al Pacino, Kevin Kline and Jodie Foster. His film and screen credits include *The Accused*, *Police Academy 2*, the Stephen King mini-series *The Stand* and dozens of TV shows including recurring roles on *Murder, She Wrote* and *L.A. Law*.

David Pichette (Richard Nixon), who received a Dramalogue Award for his riotously funny and insightful portrayal of Richard Nixon, was last seen as Mr. Bennet in the Rep's *Pride and Prejudice*. He appeared as Yvan in 'ART', Felix in *The Odd Couple* and as Nicola in *Arms and the Man*. The veteran actor is a mainstay of the Seattle theatre community appearing in ACT, Intiman Theatre and Seattle Rep productions and other major regional theatres around the country.

Michael Taylor (The Marine) makes his Rep début. He is a senior at Mount Pleasant High School. As a Cadet Major in the Marine Corps JROTC program, he is Executive Officer and a Platoon Commander. He was a part of the Exhibition Drill Team. From 2005 to present he has led the Drill Team as Exhibition Drill. Taylor competitively performs slam poetry, competing in San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles.

The original creative team returns with Costume Designer **B. Modern** and Sound Designer **Jeff Mockus**, both skilled and long-time artists of San Jose Rep. The **late Scott Weldin's** elegant set will be remounted for this production. The production stage manager is **Laxmi Kumaran**.

About the Rep

Under the direction of Artistic Director Timothy Near, San Jose Repertory Theatre stimulates, celebrates and enhances understanding of ourselves and others through the shared experience of live theater by producing new plays and classics marked by innovative interpretations and a reflection and inclusion of our community and the world in which we live. During the nine seasons since moving into the facility in 1997, the Rep continues to strive to be a major contributor to the national body of theatre literature and to produce theater with an optimistic, humanist and enlightened aesthetic. For more information, visit us at www.SJRep.com

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FACT SHEET (use for calendar listings)

WHAT: Get ready to eavesdrop on one of the most famous meetings in recent history. Russell Lees' uproarious story *Nixon's Nixon* is about the imagined conversation of the secret meeting between President Richard M. Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger on the night before Nixon resigns his presidency.

WHO: Written by **Russell Lees** / Directed by **Michael Bulter**
Scenic Design by **Scott Weldin**/ Costume Design by **B. Modern**
Lighting Design by **Kurt Landisman**/ Sound Design by **Jeff Mockus**
Stage Manager: **Laxmi Kumaran**

CAST: **David Pichette** (Richard Nixon)
Peter Van Norden (Henry Kissinger)
Mike Taylor (The Marine)

DATES, TIMES & PRICES: **Previews: March 24, 25, 28, and 29**
Opens: Friday, March 30, 2007
Closes: Sunday, April 22, 2007
Price range: \$14- \$56

See below chart for days, times, and prices.

Day & Time	Orchestra	Parterre	Balcony
Previews: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday Evenings & Matinees	\$42.00	\$35.00	\$28.00
Tuesday Evenings Wednesday Matinees			
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Evenings	\$49.00	\$42.00	\$35.00
Saturday Matinee & Sunday Evening			

Saturday Evenings & Sunday Matinees	\$56.00	\$49.00	\$42.00
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Students (full-time, with valid ID) - 1/2 off tickets for all performances, all seats.
Seniors (65 yrs +) and Teachers - \$6 off tickets all performances, all seats.
ADA or ASL discount - \$6 off your ticket and your companion's ticket.
Subscriber Single Ticket Discounts - \$4 (except seniors and students)
Rush Ticket Discounts - Balcony price for that night

Performances:

Named One of the Top 10 Productions of 1997 by the S.F. Chronicle!
NIXON'S NIXON
MARCH 24 – APRIL 22, 2007 BY RUSSELL LEES DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BUTLER

PERFORMANCES		MARCH		APRIL		24 8pm
S	M	T	W	T	F	
25 2pm D 7pm	26	27	28 11am D 8pm	29 8pm	30 8pm	31 3pm D P 8pm
1 2pm D 7pm	2	3 7:30pm	4 ★ 11am D 8pm	5 8pm	6 8pm	7 3pm D P 8pm
8 7pm	9	10 7:30pm	11 8pm	12 8pm	13 8pm	14 3pm D P 8pm
15 2pm D 7pm	16	17 7:30pm	18 8pm	19 8pm	20 8pm	21 3pm D P 8pm
22 2pm D 7pm	<small>D = Post-Show Discussion ★ = Not a subscribed performance P = Creative Playshop ♣ = American Sign Language Interpreted Performance Saturday, April 21 at 3pm.</small>					

HOW*:

By phone: 408.367.7255
Online: www.sjrep.com
By mail: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113
By fax: 408.367.7236
In person: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd Streets
***For group sales, call Christian Mauri at 408.367.7279.**

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in calendar listings)

WHAT: **Post Show Discussions:** Join the cast and artistic staff in presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind *Nixon's Nixon*.

WHEN: March 25, 28, 31 April 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, and 22, after matinee performances

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between S. 2nd & 3rd

PRICES: Included in price of ticket

HOW: Call the box office at 408.367.7255 or boxoffice@SJRep.com.

WHAT: **Creative Playshops**

DESCRIPTION: Creative Playshops are held during each Saturday matinee for **kids ages 6 to 12** in the Rep's upstairs studio theatre. Led by San Jose Rep professionals, these playshops explore the imagination through interactive theatre activities related to the themes of the play. Just drop the kids off before the show, enjoy the performance and pick them up afterwards.

WHEN: **Saturdays, March 31 – April 21, 2007, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd

PRICES: \$10 per child per show.

HOW: Call the Box Office 408.367.7255 or email boxoffice@sjrep.com for reservations.

WHAT: **ASL-Interpretation**

DESCRIPTION: Stage Hands of the Bay Area provides ASL interpretation for the show and post-show forum.

WHEN: **Saturday, April 21, 2007, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd

HOW: For tix or info, email ASL@sjrep.com. TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

WHAT: **“Page to Stage”** A collaboration with Santa Clara County Library System and Barnes and Noble.

DESCRIPTION: Join Director Michael Butler and SJSU Political Science Professor Larry Gerston for a lively discussion on Nixon and Kissinger’s struggle with retaining and relinquishing great power. How did Nixon’s presidency change politics and the course of history forever, and ... ultimately, what will Nixon’s legacy finally be?

San Jose Rep in partnership with Barnes & Noble, is proud to present special in-store events surrounding our mainstage productions. Join Michael Butler and nationally recognized actor, Peter Van Norden, at Barnes & Noble as they offer up an exclusive “behind-the-scenes” peek of the creative process of producing the award-winning Nixon’s Nixon.

WHEN: **Santa Clara County Library System**
Tuesday, April 03, 2007, 7-8 p.m., with Larry Gerston, (Campbell Branch)
Wednesday, April 04, 2007, 6 – 7p.m., (Los Altos Branch)

Barnes and Noble
Monday, April 2, 2007 7:00 p.m

WHERE: **Campbell Library: 77 Harrison Avenue • Campbell, California • 95008**
Los Altos Library: 13 S. San Antonio Road • Los Altos, California • 94022

Barnes & Noble: Pruneyard Shopping Center, 1875 S. Bascom Ave. Campbell.

HOW: For more information contact (408) 367-7202.

ARTISTIC PROFILES

David Pichette (*Richard Nixon*) is delighted to be returning to the Rep to recreate one of his favorite roles. He was last seen here as the unflappable Mr. Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*. In addition, Rep audiences may remember his portrayals of Ivan in 'ART', Felix in *The Odd Couple*, and for those with long memories, Nicola in *Arms and the Man*. Though appearing frequently in regional theatres across the country, David has spent the bulk of his career in the Seattle area, performing at ACT Theatre, Intiman, Empty Space (R.I.P.), and the Fifth Avenue Theatre, among others. In the last year, he has been Mr. Apopolous in *Wonderful Town*, Gribble in *Room Service*, Mazzini in *Heartbreak House*, and, for the eighth time, Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Later this spring, David will be in David Hare's *Stuff Happens*, a play about yet another reprehensible president.

Peter Van Norden (*Henry Kissinger*) is happy to make this ninth appearance with San Jose Rep, where audiences might remember him in *Moonlight and Magnolias* as Ben Hecht, and *Major Barbara* as Andrew Undershaft, for which he was recognized with a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Male Performance. Peter most recently played the title role in the world premiere of The Flying Karamazov Brothers' adaptation of *Don Quixote* at San Diego Rep. He was also seen in the role of The Judge in David Mamet's courtroom farce, *Romance*, also at San Diego Rep. In Los Angeles, he appeared in *The Wasps* inaugural production at the Getty Villa and *The Wild Party* at Blank Theatre Co. He has appeared at most regional theatres across the country, including The Guthrie, Berkeley Rep, The Globe Theatre in San Diego, Intiman Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, and Laguna Playhouse. Mr. Van Norden was nominated for an Ovation Award as Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his work in *Dinah Was* at International City Theatre, Long Beach, and won the very first Backstage West Garland Award for best performance in Joe Orton's *Loot*. In his native New York, he has appeared in *Hamlet* with Kevin Kline, *Jungle of Cities* with Al Pacino and on Broadway in *Saint Joan* with Lynn Redgrave and *Little Johnny Jones* with Donny Osmond. Film/T.V. includes leads opposite Oscar® winner Jodie Foster in *The Accused*, as Steve Guttenberg's partner in *Police Academy 2*, the Stephen King mini-series *The Stand* and dozens of T.V. shows, including recurring roles on *Murder, She Wrote* and *L.A. Law*.

Michael Taylor (*The Marine*) is a senior at Mount Pleasant High School. As a Cadet Major in the Marine Corps JROTC program, he is Executive Officer and a Platoon Commander. Starting as a freshman in 2003, Taylor was a part of the Exhibition Drill Team. From 2005 to present he has led the Drill Team as Exhibition Drill Commander. Taylor is familiar with the stage and spot light. He competitively performs slam poetry, competing with MACLA in San Jose, and Youth Speaks in San Francisco and Oakland. In 2006 he was invited to perform in Los Angeles at the release of Kip Fulbeck's book, *Part Asian, 100% Happa*. Taylor was accepted to San Francisco State University, and plans to major in Journalism.

Russell Lees (*Playwright*) studied play writing under Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott. His play, *Nixon's Nixon*, was transferred Off-Broadway after its initial run at the MCC Theatre in NY. Mr. Lees has had several plays produced in his native Salt Lake City as well as in Los Angeles and Boston. These include *The Cast of the Blue Narcissus*, *The Shepards Play*, *The Foggiest Notion*, *Monday Night Football*, and *Lost Scene from Cyrano*. Mr. Lees also works in the CD-ROM multimedia industry and recently served as writer and Creative Director for *The Dark Eye*, an interactive game based on the tales of Edgar Allan Poe.

Michael Butler (*Director*) is delighted to return to San Jose Rep where he directed *The Haunting of Winchester*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Side Man*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Twelfth Night*, and the original production of *Nixon's Nixon*. He also appeared on stage in seven Rep productions, many under the direction of Artistic Director Timothy Near. Favorite roles include Francois, the philandering Frenchman in *Wintertime*, and Cliff, the ballroom-dancing nerd in

Wallflowering, his first job at San Jose Rep back in 1996. He co-composed music and lyrics with Bay Area blues artist Chris Cain for *Thunder Knocking on the Door*, which opened San Jose Rep's new theatre in 1997, and contributed music to several Rep productions as well as serving as the Rep's Literary Manager and publications writer from 2000 to 2004. His directing work has also been seen at Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Seattle Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, and The Juilliard School, of which he is a graduate. As an actor, Michael appeared on and off Broadway, in film and television, and theatres around the world. In his career as a performer, he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC. He recently co-wrote two songs with recording artist Holly Near, which can be heard on her latest CD, *Show Up*. Michael is currently in his first season as Artistic Director of Center REP in Walnut Creek, where he directed *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Scott Weldin (*Scenic Designer*) designs for San Jose Rep include *The Immigrant*; *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*; *Enchanted April*, *Rounding Third*; *A Flea in Her Ear*; *Communicating Doors*; *Cole!*; *Nixon's Nix*; *Anna Christie*; *Blithe Spirit* and *Lonely Planet*. He has designed over 230 productions for theatres around the country including Arizona Theatre Company, the Alley Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Alliance Theatre, the Goodman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center Theatre Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre, Empty Space Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, People's Light and Theatre Company, Tacoma Actor's Guild, Missouri Repertory Theatre and George Street Playhouse. His design for Geoff Hoyle's one-man show, *Feast of Fools*, was seen Off-Broadway at the Westside Arts Theatre in New York. Scott passed away in April, 2006.

B. Modern (*Costume Designer*) is delighted to return to the Rep. Previous productions include *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Immigrant*, *Hannah and Martin*, *Bad Dates*, *Rounding Third*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *'ART'*, *Las Meninas*, *Ctrl+Alt+Del*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award and Dean Goodman Choice Award), *Enter the Guardsman* (Dean Goodman Choice Award), *The Drawer Boy*, *Side Man*, *Having Our Say*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Over the Tavern*, *Legacy*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Mizlansky/ Zilinsky*, *Cole!*, *Old Wicked Songs*, *Nixon's Nixon*, *The Lady's Not for Burning*, *Wallflowering*, *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, *Sylvia*, *Mirandolina*, *Redwood Curtain* and *The Caretaker*. She is an Associate Artistic Director at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, where she has received four DramaLogue Awards, and is an Associate Artist at Geva Theatre in Rochester, N.Y. Other regional theatre credits include productions for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Globe Theatres, Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Center Repertory Company, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Sacramento Theatre Company, and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Opera credits include productions at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Opera San Jose. B. shares a home and studio in Santa Cruz with several cantankerous cats.

Kurt Landisman (*Lighting Designer*) is pleased to return to San Jose Rep to design *Nixon's Nixon* for Michael Butler. Kurt was the Rep's Resident Lighting Designer for the second and third season in the 80s. He then moved to San Francisco Opera to serve as the Assistant Lighting Designer for three years. Since then, he has gone on to design at practically all of the local theatre companies in the Bay Area, including ACT, Berkeley Rep, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Center Rep, Theatreworks, and California Shakespeare Festival, among others. Locally, his work has garnered 15 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards and five LA Drama- Logue Awards. His lighting designs for playwright Sam Shepard included the world premieres of *True West* and *Fool for Love*. Nationally, his work has been seen at many regional

opera and ballet companies, including the Los Angeles Opera, Minnesota Opera, Virginia Opera, Tulsa Opera, and Ballet Arizona. His designs have also been presented off-Broadway, represented at Circle Rep, and the Douglas Fairbanks Theatres. Other designs, internationally, include premieres of plays by Sam Shepard in Japan and Singapore; the San Francisco Opera in Shanghai, China; and the Moscow Circus in Tokyo, Japan.

Jeff Mockus (*Sound Designer*) is now in his 13th season as Resident Sound Designer for San Jose Repertory Theatre, with over 60 production credits. His work for both *Old Wicked Songs* and *Mary's Wedding* earned Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards. He was also awarded Dean Goodman Choice Awards for *By The Bog of Cats...*, 'ART', and *Major Barbara*. He served three years as Director of Sound for PCPA Theaterfest, while teaching for their technical conservatory and designing over 40 productions. He is also a lecturer for UC Santa Cruz's Theatre Arts Department. Jeff has designed for ACT, Berkeley Rep, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The Western Stage, Center Rep, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, The Huntington Theatre, Missouri Rep, San Diego Rep, Sledgehammer Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, and the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Jeff is currently working on a world premier musical, *Tracy's Tiger*, for Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Laxmi Kumaran (*Production Stage Manager*) is enjoying her second season at San Jose Rep. Before moving to San Jose, Laxmi spent nine years in Chicago stage managing for a variety of theatres including the Goodman Theatre and the Court Theatre. Some of the directors with whom she has had the pleasure of working are Timothy Near, John McCluggage, Jonathan Moscone, Michael Butler, Robert Falls, Mary Zimmerman, JoAnne Akalaitis, Robert Woodruff, Karin Coonrod, Gary Griffin, and David Cromer. Laxmi has taught stage management classes at Northern Illinois, DePaul, and Northwestern Universities and currently teaches at UC Santa Cruz and San Jose State University.

Bruce Elsparger (*Casting Director*) is in his 13th season as Casting Director at San Jose Rep. He has stage managed the Rep's productions of *Making Tracks*, *Mary's Wedding*, *The Wind Cries Mary*, *Aliens in America*, *Love in the Title*, *Communicating Doors*, *Old Wicked Songs* and *The Lady's Not For Burning*, among others. Mr. Elsparger stage managed for eight seasons with A.C.T. where his credits include *Home*, *Oleanna*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Nothing Sacred*, *Golden Boy*, *Right Mind*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Learned Ladies* and *Hecuba*. He was Production Stage Manager with Seattle's Intiman Theatre, the Bathhouse Theatre and a western U.S. tour of *The Big Broadcast*, as well as at PCPA TheaterFest. He has appeared onstage at the Rep in roles in *Anna Christie* and *Desire Under the Elms*. Mr. Elsparger's directing credits include *The Dying Gaul*, *A Breeze from the Gulf*, *Bag Lady*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Tribute to American Musical Theatre*. He is also Resident Casting Director at New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco, and has cast several independent productions in the Bay Area.

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