



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## San Jose Repertory Theatre Partners with the Santa Clara County Library Systems and Barnes and Noble with Exciting “Page to Stage” Programs

*Timely and Fascinating Programs add to the Continuing Dialog on Nixon’s and Kissinger’s Political and Historical Relevancy*

SAN JOSE, CA. (March 15, 2007)—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’ uproarious story **Nixon’s Nixon** brilliantly riffs on what might have happened. **San Jose Repertory Theatre**, the **Santa Clara County Library System**, and **Barnes and Noble** take **Nixon’s Nixon** from “Page to Stage” with free educational programs at the **Campbell Library** on **Tuesday, April 03, 2007, 7:00-8:00pm**; **Los Altos Library** on **Wednesday, April 4, 2007, 6:00-7:00pm**; and **Barnes and Noble** at the **Prune Yard** on **Monday, April 2, at 7:00pm**.

Director **Michael Butler**, SJSU Professor **Larry Gerston**, nationally renowned actors, **Peter Van Norden** (Kissinger) and **David Pichette** (Nixon), lead lively discussions on politics and share the process behind creating two of America’s most well known political icons. **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.”** Show runs at **San Jose Repertory Theatre** from **March 24** through **April 22, 2007**.

### Campbell Library Program

The “Page to Stage” program will examine the Nixon Phenomenon as director **Michael Butler** (Artistic Director Center Rep) and Professor **Larry Gerston** (Political Analyst and Columnist) discuss Nixon as a political figure, and his struggle to retain and relinquish great power. Butler and Gerston will pontificate on Nixon’s presidency and how it changed politics and will ultimately ask, what will remain as Nixon’s legacy. More than a decade since his death and half a century after he first came onto the nation’s political radar, Nixon still fascinates both historians and artists. America’s most notorious president continues to inspire countless books, movies and plays, a testament to his still staggering hold on modern culture.

### Los Altos Library Program

Nationally recognized actors, **Peter Van Norden** (Kissinger), **David Pichette** (Nixon) and their director **Michael Butler** will share an exclusive “behind-the-scenes” peek at the creative process behind producing the award-winning **Nixon’s Nixon**. They offer an insider’s look into the challenges and excitement of character development and discuss their shared experience of taking the written word to a fully embodied production.

### Barnes and Noble

Director **Michael Butler**, currently the Artistic Director at Center Rep in Walnut Creek, will share the experience of directing this award-winning production. He will discuss the process and excitement of character development and the director's interpretation of the play.

For "**Page to Stage**" information visit the Rep website: <http://www.sjrep.com/education/community/> or visit the Santa Clara County Library Systems website: <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/services/lists/nixon/> or contact the Rep 408-367-7202. Tickets for *Nixon's Nixon* are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at [www.SJRep.com](http://www.SJRep.com) or by calling (408) 367-7255.

**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.

A professor of political science at San Jose State University, **Larry Gerston** has been the political analyst at NBC 11 (the Bay Area NBC station) since 1980 and on radio station KCBS since 2002. He writes "Up Front," a monthly column in *San Jose Magazine*, and has penned nearly 100 op-ed columns in newspapers including the *San Jose Mercury News*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Los Angeles Times*. He has also appeared on NBC Nightly News, BBC, NPR, and CNN's Inside Politics.

**Peter Van Norden** (Henry Kissinger) 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.

### **About the Rep**

San Jose Rep is the largest non-profit, professional theatre company in the South Bay, presenting six main stage productions each year. As a major contributor to South Bay's cultural community for 26 years, the Rep's mission is to stimulate, celebrate and enhance 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. For more information, visit us at [www.SJRep.com](http://www.SJRep.com)

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