

sex, lies and harold pinter



A VISITING PRODUCTION AT THE ODYSSEY THEATRE

Sex, Lies and Harold Pinter

Two One-Act Plays

by

Harold Pinter

Party Time & The Lover

directed by

Jack Heller

with

Ron Bottitta John Coady Larry Eisenberg

Michelle Ghatan Brenda James Isaac W. Jay

Paul Marius Michelle McGregor Christopher Louis Parker

Susan Priver Mouchette Van Helsdingen

TIME/PLACE

Both plays take place in the present in suburban London.

There will be one 10 minute intermission.

Party Time Cast

Jimmy.....	JOHN COADY
Gavin.....	LARRY EISENBERG
Dusty.....	MICHELLE GHATAN
Charlotte.....	BRENDA JAMES
Fred.....	ISAAC W. JAY
Terry.....	PAUL MARIUS
Liz.....	MICHELLE MCGREGOR
Douglas.....	CHRISTOPHER LOUIS PARKER
Melissa.....	MOUCHETTE VAN HELSDINGEN

The Lover Cast

Sarah.....	SUSAN PRIVER
Richard.....	RON BOTTITTA

Production

Director.....	Jack Heller
Set Design.....	Joel Daavid
Lighting Design.....	Gavan Wyrick
Costume Design.....	Shon Leblanc
Sound Design.....	Chris Moscatiello
Publicity.....	Lucy Pollak
Charge Scenic Artist.....	Marine Walton
Production Stage Manager.....	Valeria Ruvalcaba
Prop Master.....	Alejandra Sofia Gonzales
Lead Carpenter.....	Claire German
Producers.....	Christina Hart & Brian Foyster

Who's Who

THE LOVER CAST



SUSAN PRIVER (Sarah) With our esteemed director, Jack Heller: Tennessee Williams: *In a Bar Of a Tokyo Hotel*, *Blanche Du Bois in A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Harold Pinter's *A Slight Ache*, at the Odyssey. At Theater 40, Terrance Rattigan's *Separate Tables*, *Engaging Shaw* and *A*

Clean Brush (2022 Scenic, best ensemble), *The Man who came to Dinner* and *London Suite* (Best Supporting actress 2021 Scenic award for both.) In 2016, William's, down on her luck showgirl, Myrtle, in *Kingdom of Earth*, at the Odyssey directed by Michael Arabian, Ferenc Molnar's *The Guardsman*, directed by Lillian Groag of South Coast Rep., *Diary of Anne Frank*, both at NoHo Arts Theater; At the Lillian Theatre: *The Great Sebastians*, directed by Anthony Caldarella, George Bernard Shaw's *Cesar and Cleopatra*, *Idiot's Delight*, and *Twentieth Century*, John Patrick Shanely's *Four Dogs and a Bone*, & *Savage In Limbo*, Edward Albee's *American Dream*, David Mamet's two-hander, *Reunion* (Drama Logue award, performance), Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*, William Inge's *People in the Wind*, & *Incident at the Standish Arms*, Sidney Kingsley's *Detective Story* (Drama Logue Award, Best Revival, Best Ensemble), *God of Vengeance*, and Bertolt Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Harold and Maude*, directed by Larry Eisenberg. Just out on all platforms: Starring in: *Sunset Strip Killers*, *Dorothea*, *Ed Kemper*, *Unspeakable*, *Beyond the Wall of Sleep* opposite Edward Furlong, the indie hit thriller *Night Caller* (Best actress Anatomy Crime Festival) and it's follow-up, *Scalper* (Best actress Black Cat film Festival) both co-starring Steve Railsback and Robert Miano; all directed by acclaimed horror director Chad Ferrin. Other features include, *Dog Fugitive*, *Bad Detectives*, the psychological thriller, *Serving Up Richard AKA/The Guest Room*, directed by Henry Olek, and LGBT festival favorite, *What's Up, Scarlet?* with Sally Kirkland and Jere Burns, *My Brother Jack*, *Mafioso*, and the shorts, *Good*, *Miss Dixie High*, *Lois by the Sea*, and *The Game of Life*.



RON BOTTITTA's (Richard) recent credits include the Fountain Theatre's award-winning production of *Fatherland*, both here in L.A. and off-Broadway in NYC. Other Fountain Theatre credits include *The Lifespan of a Fact* and *The Children*. Productions at Rogue Machine

Theatre, where he is a company member, include *Corktown '39*, *Oppenheimer*, *Honky* (Ovation Nominee, Best Play), *The Sunset Limited* (LA Weekly Nomination, Best Play), *Monkey Adored* and *Razorback*. Since 2010 he's been the monthly host of RMT's spoken word *Rant* and *Rave*. At Los Angeles Theatre Works: *The Sisters Matsumoto*, *I Love Lucy...*, and two tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Other LA credits include John Pollono's

Rules of Seconds at The LATC, *Superior Donuts* and *Yes*, *Prime Minister* at The Geffen. At The Odyssey: *Loot*, *Faith Healer* (Ovation Nominee, Best Actor), *Hir*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Rank*, and *Theatre in the Dark* (Ovation Nominee, Best Ensemble) among others. Recent TV: *The Mandalorian*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Get Shorty*, *Elementary*, *Supergirl* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Recent Film: *Lift*, *Fishmonger*, *The Marvels*, *Avengers: Endgame*, *Black Panther*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *The Mountain Between Us*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, the not-so-ecent *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, and a boat load of commercials. Training: B.A., U.C. Berkeley, M.F.A., N.Y.U. Life: Dad to Dan, Sasha and Mika, married to actress Kathryn Kelley, Iron Butt BMW Motorcyclist, Aviator. Ron is currently developing a one-man show entitled *Hero*, about the notorious Cold War British double agent George Blake.

PARTY TIME CAST



JOHN COADY (Jimmy) is thrilled to be playing Jimmy in *Party Time* by Harold Pinter. From Halifax, MA, he has trained at Brown University and the Lee Strasberg Institute of Theatre & Film in West Hollywood. He most recently appeared on stage as Joe in William Saroyan's *Time of*

Your Life at the Marilyn Monroe Theater. As always, he would love to thank his mother!



LARRY EISENBERG (Gavin) is an actor, writer and director. He received his MFA in Directing for Theatre, Video and Cinema from the California Institute of Arts. Some of his favorite stage roles have included Kit Carson in *The Time of Your Life*, opposite Lonny Chapman; Edgar in *King Lear*,

opposite Academy Award Winning actor George Coulouris; Sir Wilfred Roberts in Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, opposite Salome Jens; the Spencer Tracy role in Theatre 40's award-winning production of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and the title role in a streaming version of *Tuesdays With Morrie*.



MICHELLE GHATAN (Dusty) is a British-Iranian actress whose work spans theatre, film, television, and radio. Stage roles include Marina in *Pericles*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Nora Helmer in *A Doll's House*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Polly Garter in *Under Milk Wood* and Fay Black in *Iron*,

for which she won Best Actress in a Lead Role for Nottingham New Theatre. She originated leading roles in *Bongani*, *Gather Ye Rosebuds* and *A Big Day for the Goldbergs*. On screen, Michelle appeared in Channel 4's

Who's Who

Fresh Meat, and films *Time Run* and *Fish, Chips and Mushy Peas*. She trained at Academy of Live and Recorded Arts, London after being awarded a scholarship and in Meisner Technique at The Actors Gateway.



BRENDA JAMES (Charlotte) is a veteran actor, entrepreneur, and educator whose career bridges the arts and business. With over 40 years in film, television, and theater, she is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio and is best known for her roles as The Brenda Monster in James Gunn's

Slither and Dr. Katie Brown in *Stargate Atlantis*, along with numerous other television and film appearances. As a guest instructor at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, she integrates her training with her extensive professional experience to inspire the next generation of performers.



ISAAC W. JAY (Fred) is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Party Time!* Other recent theatre credits include *Brownstone* (Open Fist Theatre Company), *An Inspector Calls* (Theatre 40), *These Shining Lives* (Actor's Co-op), *Downtown Reps' Mask!*, *Fangs!*, and *Witch!*, *Twelfth Night* (Actor's Co-op),

Back Porch (Bluesteam Productions), *Copenhagen* (INTERACT), *Death of a Salesman* (INTERACT), and *The Bacchae* (World Premiere London). His latest film/TV credits include *Lessons in Chemistry* (Apple TV+), *The Last Thing He Told Me* (Apple TV+), *Fishtank* (Winner SXSW Sydney), *Glue Trap* (Hellzapoppin Pictures), *American Crime Story: Impeachment* (FX), and *Headcount* (Defiant Studios). Isaac is a member of SAG-AFTRA. Instagram: @isaacwja



PAUL MARIUS (Terry) This production marks the return to the stage for Paul Marius, after a lengthy hiatus. He is most grateful that it so happens to be in service to one of the all-time greats of the theater, the inimitable Harold Pinter.



MICHELLE MCGREGOR (Liz) is thrilled to be appearing in her first show at The Odyssey. She is a graduate from the Yale School of Drama with recent theatre credits in LA as Diana in the staged production of Paddy Chayefsky's *Network* at The Group Rep, and Casey in the world premiere of *Still Life in Central Park* at The Main in

Santa Clarita. Currently she is also producing and performing in *Tom Waits War Songs*- a must see for any Waits fan. www.kmichellemcgregor.com

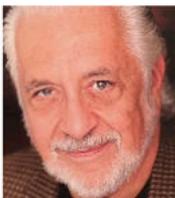


CHRISTOPHER LOUIS PARKER (Douglas) is a member of The Actors Studio and has appeared in numerous movies and plays, including as "Mitch" in *A Streetcar Named Desire* here at the Odyssey Theatre, which was directed by Jack Heller. I hope you enjoy today's show.



MOUCHETTE VAN HELSDINGEN (Melissa) is beyond grateful to be sharing the stage with these wonderfully talented actors. Previous performances include the role of Inspector Goole in *An Inspector Calls*, Peg in *A Jukebox For The Algonquin*, Alice in *Listing*, and Julia Budder in *It's*

Only A Play, all at Theatre 40. She received a best actress award for her portrayal of Mother Miriam Ruth in *Agnes Of God* at the Morgan Wixson Theatre. She is also a member of the Ruskin Group Theatre, where she performed the role of Hilary St George in *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, and Helga, a German nun, in *Bad Habits*. She appears regularly in their monthly *Cafe Plays*. By the way, stage actors will never be replaced by AI!



JACK HELLER (Director) Jack Heller most recently directed *In A Bar At A Tokyo Hotel* by Tennessee Williams at the Hudson Theatre. Other critically acclaimed directing credits include Harold Pinter's *A Slight Ache* and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, both at the Odyssey. He was artistic

director of the Laurelgrove Theatre Company, which received four Ovation nominations in its first three seasons. He has directed over 60 productions in the U.S. and Canada. As an actor, he appeared on Broadway in *One by One* and *LUV*, as well as in the national company of *LUV*. He appeared in Henry Jaglom's *Queen of the Lot* and also in Jaglom's long-running play, *Just 45 Minutes from Broadway*, and starred in two long-running shows in Los Angeles: *Nuts* and *Tamara*, touring Italy with the latter. He has directed and acted in numerous "Critic's Choice" and "Critic's Pick" theater productions as well as in numerous television episodes. Jack studied at NYU and with Harold Clurman and Robert Lewis of the Group Theatre. He has taught at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio in the directing and acting units.

JOEL DAAVID (Production Design) Joel is an award-winning director/set designer since attending the American Film Institute. His career accomplishments also include directing/cinematography for film and video projects. Awards include Ovation, LA Weekly, NAACP and LADCC Theater Awards. He directed/designed the award winning production of "The Miracle Worker" at the Matrix and Edgemar Theatres and the new production of Tennessee Williams' "Baby Doll" at the Lillian Theatre, the multi-award winning "Frankenstein" for Theatre Tallahassee, the epic story of "Camille" (Claudel) at the Greenway Arts Alliance, the world premiere musical "Caligari's Cabinet of Curiosities" written by Vanessa Stewart and most recently "Sweeney Todd" for the Monticello Opera House. www.joeldaavid-director.com

Gavan Wyrick (Lighting Designer) (he/him) is a Los Angeles based lighting designer. Credits include: *A Going Away Party Play* (Boston Court); *Amerika, The Bauhaus Project, Blood at the Root, Starmites, Anatomy of Gray, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Open Fist Theatre Company); *Accommodation, Remembering the Future, God of Carnage* (The Odyssey); *Coney Island Land, To The Bone, Let Me In, Driver's Seat* (Theatre 68); *Hairspray, Oliver!, Oklahoma!, Damn Yankees, Fiddler on the Roof, Beauty and the Beast, South Pacific, A Funny Thing...Forum* (Desert Theatricals); *Shrek: The Musical, The Little Mermaid, The Addams Family: The Musical* (Lewis Family Playhouse); *Joseph...Dreamcoat, Cinderella, Mary Poppins* (Performance Riverside). Web: gavanwyrickdesign.com; Instagram: @gavanwyrickdesign

Shon LeBlanc (Costume Designer) IATSE 892. Shon celebrates 40yrs doing costumes. He has designed over 400 productions including Theatre, Film, TV. He is very happy to be back with Jack and Susan for another great production. He is the owner of Valentino's Costumes.

Christopher Moscattello (Sound Design) is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor and music director for theater, TV and film, and he is the Resident Sound Designer at Rogue Machine Theatre. TV highlights include *The Walking Dead, Eureka, Psych, Human Target,*

Caprica, The Cape and Trauma. He has scored series and specials for National Geographic and The Discovery Channel, as well as specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, ZDF Germany and The History Channel. Theater highlights include The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, A Noise Within, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, Antaeus Theatre, Skylight Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theater, The Road Theatre, Pacific Resident Theater, and he served as assistant conductor for the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. An East Coast native, Chris was Associate Artistic Director and Conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble and wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premier in Washington, DC.

Christina Hart (Producer) Christina is a lifetime Member of The Actors Studio. She is also a lifetime Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She is a recipient of the Women in Theatre Red Carpet Award for her play *WOMEN OVER THE INFLUENCE* and an Ovation Award Nominee, for her play *BIRDS OF A FEATHER*, Developed at The Actors Studio Playwright Unit. Christina's acting career spans five decades, in television, film and theatre. A theatre lover, Christina has worn all the hats, producing, writing, acting and directing. Highlights include Producing Director for Camelot Artists productions, Artistic Director and Theatre Manager of the Hollywood Court Theatre and a long, rewarding creative relationship with Jack Heller. Very special thanks to Susan, Jack and Brian.

Brian Foyster (Producer) Brian has produced numerous plays in Los Angeles and New York. He recently co-produced the 75th Anniversary of The Actors Studio at The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures as an 8-week "Oscar Sundays" series, part of their inaugural season. Brian is a member of The Actors Studio and serves on its Board of Directors. As an actor, he has won two LA Weekly Theater Awards. He recently wrote, directed, produced, and acted in the short film *The Last Take*, which has won 81 awards in festivals around the world.

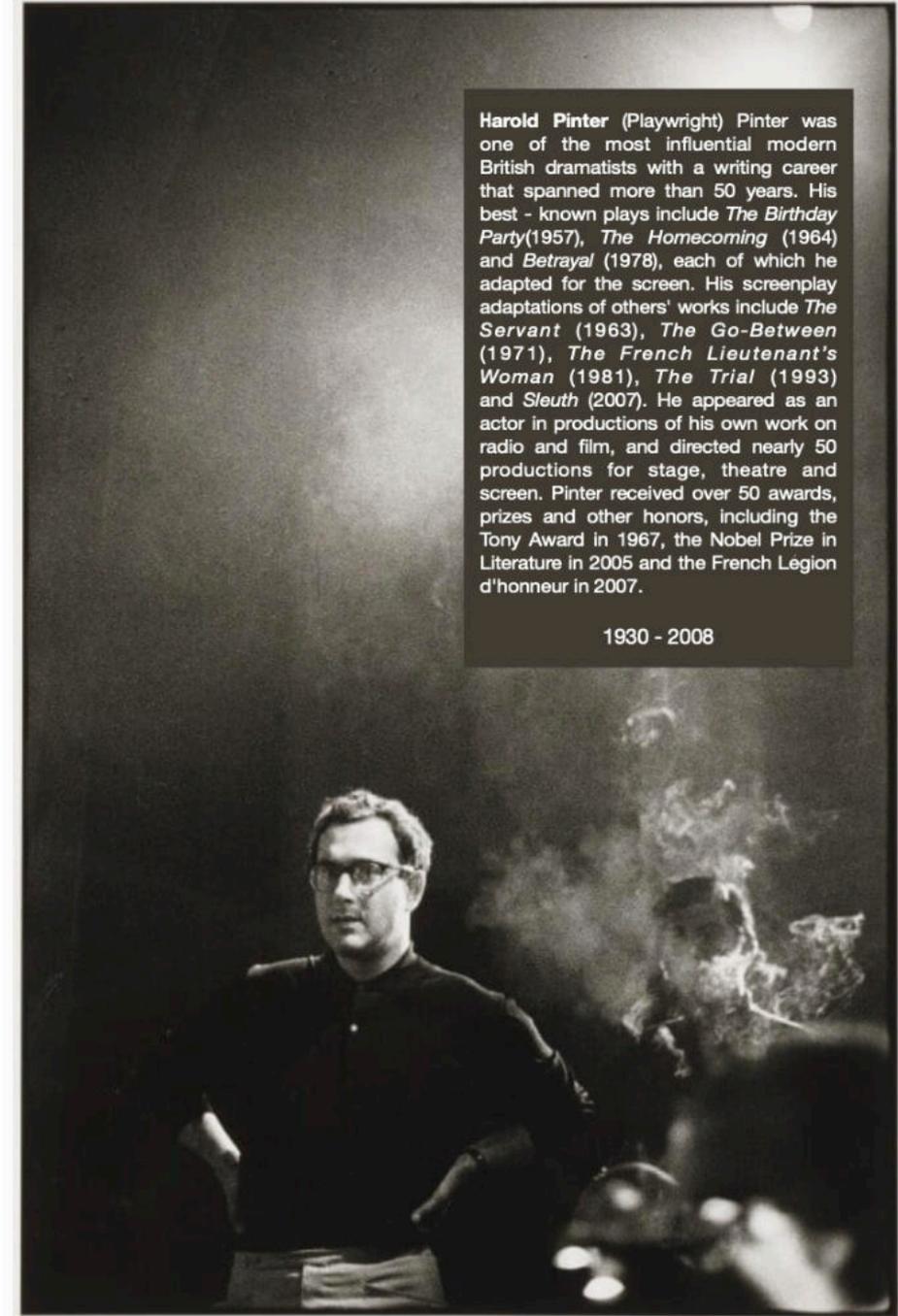
Special thanks to my love Henry Olek and
to Jack Heller for his remarkable patience in art.

- Susan Priver

Director's Note: When I first read Party Time I thought Pinter was writing this play as a protest against all the dictatorships and their connection with the wealthy elite who contribute to their fraudulent elections, if indeed there are elections.

I found The Lover to be about the games people play not unlike Virginia Woolf. In rehearsal we discovered that eventually we didn't know when the game ended and when it began again. That's what made it so fascinating to work on. These plays could have been written today or tomorrow. Taking this journey with Pinter was a joy. Thanks for supporting live Theatre. Enjoy the ride.

- Jack Heller



Harold Pinter (Playwright) Pinter was one of the most influential modern British dramatists with a writing career that spanned more than 50 years. His best - known plays include *The Birthday Party*(1957), *The Homecoming* (1964) and *Betrayal* (1978), each of which he adapted for the screen. His screenplay adaptations of others' works include *The Servant* (1963), *The Go-Between* (1971), *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981), *The Trial* (1993) and *Sleuth* (2007). He appeared as an actor in productions of his own work on radio and film, and directed nearly 50 productions for stage, theatre and screen. Pinter received over 50 awards, prizes and other honors, including the Tony Award in 1967, the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2005 and the French Legion d'honneur in 2007.

1930 - 2008