



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director



By Russell Lees

Directed by Michael Butler

Andrew Hurteau*

Steve Irish*

Mike Taylor

**Scenic Designer
Scott Weldin**

**Original Lighting Designer
Kurt Landisman**

**Costume Designer
B. Modern**

**Sound Designer
Jeff Mockus**

**Associate Lighting Designer
Stephanie Buchner**

**Production Stage Manager
Jeff Collister***

**Dialect Coach
Lynne Soffer**

**Props Designers/Artisans
Lori Scheper & Chris Kesel**

**Casting Director
Annie Stuart**

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NIXON'S NIXON was produced Off Broadway by The Shubert Organization, Capital Cities/ABC, Jujamcyn Theaters, and Robert LuPone and Bernard Telsey.

Originally produced by MCC Theater, Executive Directors: Robert LuPone and Bernard Telsey, Associate Director: W. D. Cantler, Administrative Director: Lynne McCreary

NIXON'S NIXON by Russell Lees is presented by arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc., in New York.

January 31 - March 1, 2008

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The Director in this production is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers



Cast of Characters

Andrew Hurteau* **Richard Nixon**
Steve Irish* **Henry Kissinger**
Mike Taylor **The Marine**

Time
August 7, 1974, 10:00 pm
Place

The Lincoln Sitting Room, White House

Cast Biographies

Andrew Hurteau* (Richard Nixon) was seen this summer at the California Shakespeare Theater, where he played the Duke of Albany in *King Lear* and Lord Stanley in *Richard III*. He last appeared at Center REP as Count Almaviva in Michael Butler's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Also at Center REP, he appeared as Max Prince in Barbara Damashek's production of *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, for which he won a Shellie Award. At the American Conservatory Theater, he understudied and appeared as Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, directed by Richard E.T. White. He appeared as Mike Hogan in *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and as Dudard in *Rhinoceros* at Berkeley Repertory Theater, and at the Magic Theater he's appeared in *Bronte*, *Summertime*, *Shrodinger's Girlfriend*, *The Rules of Charity*, and *Nero: Another Golden Rome*. He's appeared with Aurora Theater Company, Word for Word, Marin Theater Company, and at theaters throughout the Bay Area. He will next appear in *The Government Inspector* at the American Conservatory Theater. Andrew is proud of his ongoing relationship with Center REP.



Steve Irish* (Henry Kissinger) just co-starred in Mae West's *Sex* at the Aurora Theatre and played Orson Welles in Marin Theatre Company's *Orson's Shadow* last year. He was recently seen in *Love Song*, also at MTC. Last summer, Bay Area audiences may recall him from the critically acclaimed *Man and Superman* at California Shakespeare Theater. Other professional credits include: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Gamester*, *Lilies* all at American Conservatory Theater; *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *Bot* at The Magic Theater; *Henry IV parts 1 & 2* at Washington DC's The Shakespeare Theatre; *The Show-Off* and *Twelfth Night* at Baltimore's CenterStage; *Fool for Love* at Portland Stage Company; *Oleanna* at Capital Repertory; *A Man's a Man* at La Jolla Playhouse; *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, Off-Broadway at CSC Repertory. Steve toured with the New York City Ballet as the Major



Domo in Jerome Robbins' *Fanfare*. In *Richard III*, Steve appeared opposite Alfred Molina at the Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles. Mr. Irish recently co-starred in Sam Burbank's new feature film *The Crate* and was featured opposite Mark Ruffalo in Dreamworks' *Just Like Heaven* and appeared opposite Joseph Fiennes and Winona Ryder in Finn Taylor's *The Darwin Awards*. Steve received his acting training at The Juilliard School.

Mike Taylor (The Marine) is a freshman at San Francisco State. He graduated from the Mount Pleasant High School JROTC program at the top of his class as a Cadet Colonel, leading the armed exhibition drill team for three years in a row. Taylor performed in *Nixon's Nixon* at the San Jose Repertory Theatre in March of 2007.



Creative Team

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 (Artistic Director/Director) is in his second season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where he directed *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, and most recently played Paravicini in REP's production of *The Mousetrap*. His directing work has also been seen at Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Rep, San Jose Rep, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and The Juilliard School, of which he is a graduate. As an actor, Michael appeared on Broadway in *Two Shakespearean Actors* and *Macbeth*, off-Broadway at the Public Theatre, the Roundabout, as well as many regional theatres - the Guthrie, Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, the Alley and Long Wharf, to name a few. He is a published songwriter and the co-writer and composer of numerous music-theatre pieces, which he has directed and performed in NY, LA, and at festivals in India and Morocco. 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 has written songs and underscoring for productions at the Guthrie Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, as well as the Merchant Ivory film, *Slaves of New York*. He recently co-wrote two songs with noted recording artist Holly Near, which can be heard on her latest CD, *Show Up*. In his career as a performer he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, portrayed the villainous Pierre LeChance on *The Guiding Light*, and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC.

Scott Weldin (Scenic Designer) 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, George Street Playhouse and San Jose Rep. 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 pleased to return to Center REP for *Nixon's Nixon*. She designed the 2006 production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Artistic Director Michael Butler. She is an Associate Artistic Director and resident designer at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and an Associate Artist at Geva Theatre, Rochester, New York. Other regional theater credits include numerous productions for San Jose Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Globe Theatres (San Diego), The Magic Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, The Great Lakes Theatre Festival, 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 in Santa Cruz with two cantankerous cats.

Kurt Landisman (Original Lighting Designer) Local audiences will be familiar with his work through past productions designed for Center REP including *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Fugitive*

1913 Nixon is born on a lemon ranch in Yorba Linda, California.

1946 Nixon is elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

1950 Nixon is elected to the U. S. Senate. Alger Hiss is convicted.

1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President, with Nixon as Vice President.

1955 The U. S. begins sending aid to Vietnam.

1956 Eisenhower and Nixon are re-elected.

1958 Vice President Nixon's limousine is battered by rocks thrown by anti-war demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

1960 Nixon loses the presidential race to John F. Kennedy.

1962 Nixon loses race for governor of California.

1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964 Lyndon B. Johnson is elected President. The Vietnam War escalates.

1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. is shot in Memphis, TN. Senator Robert Kennedy is shot in Los Angeles, CA. The Tet Offensive is launched in Vietnam. Student uprisings erupt in protest of the war in Vietnam. Richard Milhous Nixon is elected the 37th President of the United States of America.

Kind. His designs have been seen throughout the Bay Area at many theaters including San Francisco Opera, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Theatreworks, California Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Locally his work has garnered 15 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards and 5 LA Dramalogue Awards. Nationally, his work has been seen at many regional opera & 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 world premieres of plays by Sam Shepard in Japan, and Singapore, as well as the San Francisco Opera in Shanghai, China, and the Moscow Circus in Tokyo, Japan.

Jeff Mockus (Sound Designer) For Center REP: *Hank Williams: Lost Highway, A Christmas Carol* (2006-7), *Around The World In 80 Days*, and *The Marriage Of Figaro*. For CCMT: *Beauty & The Beast, Urinetown, Guys And Dolls*, and *Fiddler On The Roof*. In residence at San Jose Rep (1994 - 2007): 64 production credits, including: *This Wonderful Life, Mary's Wedding, ART*, and *Old Wicked Songs*. A Lecturer for UCSC's Theater Arts Department, his recent work includes: *The Rainmaker* for American Conservatory Theater, *Tracy's Tiger* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical* for The Utah Shakespearean Festival.

Stephanie Buchner (Associate Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be working with Center REP. Her recent designs include: *Postcards from Mexico* and *GREEN/ A Force of Nature* for Dance Monks, Women's Will's *Antigone, Fe and the Desert* for Campo Santo and Intersection for the Arts, Mike Daisey's *Great Men of Genius* at Berkeley Rep, *Playboy of the Western World, Dear Liar* and *Fools in the Forest* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, *Sleepy, Impact's Briefs: Sinfully Delicious* and *Cartoon!* at Impact Theatre, *Steal Away, Self-Torture and Strenuous Exercise*, and *Collected Stories* at UC Santa Cruz and *Obsession: Sex, Sweat and Slips* at Lancaster University in the U.K.


Lynne Soffer (Dialect Coach) has been the dialect/text coach on over 160 productions for theatres including A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, San Jose Rep, Cal Shakes, The Old Globe (San Diego), Dallas Theatre Center, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre, Word for Word, PCPA Theaterfest, and the World Premiere of Moisés Kaufman's *The Laramie Project* at the Denver Center, New York and Berkeley, and for several films. As an instructor of acting, text and speech, she has taught for many schools and theatre companies

throughout the country in addition to working as an actor in theaters from Maine to Alaska. For Center REP she has appeared as Mrs. Higgins in *Pygmalion* and has been dialect coach for several productions. She has enjoyed a long and creative working relationship with Artistic Director Michael Butler on various productions over the years including prior productions of *Nixon's Nixon*.

Jeff Collister* (Production Stage Manager) has been Production Manager for Center REP since 1995. He has stage-managed more than 40 productions since starting with the company in 1989. Favorites include *Almost Heaven – John Denver's America, Becoming Memories, Suds: The Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera, Godspell, The Mystery Of Edwin Drood* and numerous productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Jeff has directed *Urinetown, The Musical*, and *Grease* for Contra Costa Musical Theatre. He worked as Production Stage Manager for *Dame Edna – The Royal Tour* in San Francisco. Jeff is a Shellie Award winning actor and a member of Actors Equity Association.

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1969 Nixon appoints Kissinger his National Security Advisor.

1972 Burglars break into the Democratic party headquarters at the Watergate Hotel. Nixon is re-elected President and reinstates diplomatic relations with China and becomes the first president to visit China and Moscow.

1973 Kissinger becomes Secretary of State. The Watergate break-in comes to light. Nixon aides

Ehrlichman and Haldeman resign. The House Judiciary Committee begins impeachment hearings against Nixon. VP Spiro Agnew is implicated in an income tax scandal and resigns after pleading no contest. Gerald Ford becomes Vice President.

1974 Nixon resigns the presidency of the United States on August 8. Ford pardons Nixon one month later.

1975 The Vietnam War ends with South Vietnam's surrender to North Vietnam.

1977 Nixon appears in a nationally televised interview with British commentator David Frost and makes his first public comments on Watergate since his resignation.

1982 Nixon visits China to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the re-opening of U. S.-China relations.

1994 Richard Milhous Nixon passes away April 22 in New York City. He was 81.



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