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**A NOISE WITHIN REPRISES FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR
WAITING FOR GODOT,
SAMUEL BECKETT'S WITTY TREATISE
ON THE NATURE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE**

Saturday, January 16 – Sunday, January 24, 2010

A Noise Within (ANW), the acclaimed repertory theatre company, reprises for the third consecutive year its critically applauded production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot*, offering 10 performances from Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, January 24, 2010. The play, described by the *Los Angeles Times* as a "top-notch production," is directed by Andrew Traister and features Mark Bramhall (Lucky), Robertson Dean (Vladimir), Mitch Edmonds (Pozzo) and Joel Swetow (Estragon). Beckett's wickedly witty treatise on the nature of human existence is considered one of the greatest plays of the 20th century.

Traister describes the production as "a funny, passionate, heartfelt, straightforward reading of the play. It is simply about two men waiting, but there was a definite desire to make these real men, with real problems, in a real relationship." He also notes that the special challenge of directing an absurdist play is "making it make sense, understanding what the absurdity is and clearly defining it for the audience so they know what they are laughing at. There are no added extraneous bits that confuse the meaning of the play." About the restaging he says, "We were amazed at its popularity last year and are very excited that it has been brought back."

Waiting for Godot was an instant success when it debuted at the Théâtre de Babylone in Paris in January 1953. It ran for 400 performances and received critical praise from such writers as Tennessee Williams, Jean Anouilh, Thornton Wilder and William Saroyan. *Waiting for Godot* is among the most famous examples of Theatre of the Absurd, a form of drama in which traditional plot, characters and action are discarded, creating a surreal theatrical experience. Beckett won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1969.

A Noise Within (ANW) is the only classical repertory company in Southern California and one of only a handful in the entire country dedicated solely to producing classical dramatic literature year-round and working in the repertory tradition of rotating productions using a resident company of professional artists. ANW is led by Founders/Artistic Directors Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott.

(MORE ON REVERSE)

A Noise Within (ANW) was founded in 1992 and quickly established itself as one of the nation's leading theatre companies. It continues to maintain its celebrated status as the only classical repertory company in Southern California, attracting fiercely loyal audiences and high praise from the media for its productions of great works of world drama and also as a leading regional force in arts education. Since its inception, the company has presented more than 120 plays from the classics of world literature, each season producing a minimum of six plays from authors ranging from Shakespeare and Molière, to Ibsen, O'Neill and Shaw, to Miller and Williams. The theatre's consistent dedication to quality has been rewarded with 26 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards as well as numerous LA Weekly and Back Stage Garland awards. Among its highlights over the years was a collaboration in 2004 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen in a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Hollywood Bowl. ANW's next chapter provides the long-awaited opportunity to sink deep and lasting roots when it moves in Fall 2010 from its long-time leased base in Glendale to a spectacular, permanent 35,000 square-foot home in Pasadena. The mixed-use development is located in the historic Stuart Pharmaceutical building, at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Sierra Madre Villa Avenue. The facility is designed to expand A Noise Within's artistic possibilities, offer a greater scope of educational opportunities, meet ticket demand and allow the company to expand its role as a leader in the presentation and preservation of classical theatre.

Single Tickets are \$44 (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees); and **\$40** (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday matinees). Groups (10 or more) are **\$25**, or **\$30** on Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees; School Groups (10 or more) are **\$16**, or **\$20** on Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees.

A NOISE WITHIN is located at 234 South Brand Boulevard, Glendale, CA 91204. To purchase tickets or for a full season brochure, call 818-240-0910 x1 or visit www.ANoiseWithin.org.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ANDREW TRAISTER (director) made his directorial debut with ANW in 2007 with the production of *Waiting for Godot* that is being reprised this season. During the 2008-09 Season he also directed the company's production of *The Rainmaker*. Among his other credits, he directed *Lolita* and *Road To Nirvana* at The Actor's Playpen in Los Angeles and has also has directed at The Old Globe, Alaska Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Geva Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Diego Repertory Theatre and many other theatres across the country. He has taught at Cornish College of the Arts, California Institute of the Arts, SUNY Binghamton and SUNY Brockport. From 1987-89 Traister served as Artistic Director of Alaska Repertory Theatre. In 1980 he received an NEA Directing Fellowship. For the big screen, Traister directed the independent film *Nicky's Birthday Camera*, starring Robert Hays, Jamie McShane and John Walcutt, which was released in 2007.

MARK BRAMHALL (Lucky) appeared for last seasons as Lucky in *Waiting for Godot* and also appeared in ANW's spring 2009 production of *Ghosts*. He began his professional acting career in 1966 as a member of the original company of The American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.) in San Francisco. In five seasons there, he played leading roles under the guidance of some of the country's foremost theatrical directors, including William Ball, Ellis Rabb, Alan Schneider and Nagle Jackson. In his New York debut, he starred as George in *Our Town* opposite Henry Fonda, Robert Ryan, Estelle Parsons and Jo Van Fleet. In Los Angeles, he appeared at the Mark Taper Forum in the "New Plays For Now" series, directed by Gordon Davidson. He abandoned his burgeoning acting career for 17 years to father four daughters and pursue political activism, and, in the throes of mid-life crisis, returned to his art—and his birthplace, Los Angeles—in 1990. Since then, he has appeared at the Pasadena Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Colony Theatre, Pacific Resident Theatre Ensemble,

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Skirball Cultural Center, Egyptian Arena, Theatre Forty, Tamarind Theatre, Taper Amphitheatre, Theatricum Botanicum, Arizona Theatre Company, and Portland Center Stage. He has been a Resident Artist for 16 years at A Noise Within, where he has played leading roles in thirty celebrated productions. Among his favorite roles are Alceste in *The Misanthrope*, Harpagon in *The Miser*, Dr. Prentice in *What The Butler Saw*, Howard in *Picnic* and Virgil in *Bus Stop*. His acting awards and nominations include LA Drama Critics Circle, Ovation, Dramalogue, LA Weekly and Robby honors, as well as industry awards for Books On Tape narration. Among his film and television roles are *All Through The Night*, *Vanilla Sky*, *Too Pure*, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, *Sliver*, *Fools*, *One Is A Lonely Number*, *NYPD Blue*, *Dark Skies*, *The Burning Zone*, *7th Heaven*, *X-Files*, and recurring roles on *Alias*, *That 70's Show*, *Days Of Our Lives*, *The Young and the Restless*, *Passions*, and *General Hospital*. Bramhall holds a B.A. from Harvard, and has studied at U.C. Berkeley, London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (Fulbright Scholar), American Conservatory Theatre, Classical Theatre Lab and Steve Eastin Studio.

ROBERTSON DEAN (Vladimir), who last season also played Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*, The Count in *The Rehearsal* and Ensemble in *Oliver Twist*, has appeared in numerous other ANW productions including as King Henry IV in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Theramenes in *Phaedra*, Jaques, Lord to Duke Senior in *As You Like It*, Prospero in *The Tempest*, Arnolphe in *The School For Wives*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, Walter Franz in *The Price*, Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Leonid Gayev in *The Cherry Orchard*, Don Adriano de Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Pericles in *Pericles*, Richard Greatham in *Hayfever*, Astolfo in *Life is a Dream*, Iachimo in *Cymbeline*, Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Horace in *The Little Foxes*, and Oedipus in *Oedipus the King*, among others. Dean is also noted for recording dozens of books on tape; *Audiofile* stated, "What distinguishes his work is a judicious use of understatement and careful pacing." Trained at Yale Drama School, Dean has appeared in Broadway productions of *Pygmalion* and *The Circle*. Off Broadway he performed in *The Common Pursuit*, *The Fairy Garden*, *Crossfire* and *Fanshen*. In addition, he has appeared with Yale Rep., American Repertory, Hartford Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Arizona Theatre Company, GeVA, Long Wharf, Baltimore Center Stage, Buffalo Studio Arena, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Pasadena Playhouse, International Theater Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and the Magic Theater in San Francisco. Dean has played a recurring role on the television series *24*, and has appeared on *Enterprise*, *Frasier*, *Sabrina*, *Cybill*, *Star Trek*, *Working*, *All American Girl*, *Dream On*, *Larroquette*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, *Ugly Betty* and enjoyed a seven-year run as Ned on *The Young and the Restless*. His film credits include *Parole*, *Here Come The Munsters*, Disney's *The Red Coat*, and the features *Money Talks*, *Bombshell*, *Vanilla Sky*, *Star Trek: Nemesis*, and *Forgiving the Franklins* (Sundance Film Festival). He also records many voiceovers, narrations, radio dramas, and CD Rom games.

MITCHELL EDMONDS (Pozzo), who is currently celebrating his 18th season as a resident member of A Noise Within, appeared in the company's productions of *Waiting for Godot* and *The Rehearsal* in spring 2009. The Tennessee native began performing as youngster in his church's drama club and with the University of Tennessee's Carousel Children's Theatre. At 15, he joined The Bishop's Company, a repertory touring company and continued touring through his teens with a children's theater company and a marionette company. He also participated in summer stock at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse in Indiana and the Wingspread summer Theatre in Michigan. Edmonds served in the U.S. Air Force in the early '60's and was stationed at a base near Tokyo. There he performed with a base theatre club as well as with the Tokyo Armature Dramatic Club. He also dubbed English into Japanese films. Edmonds subsequently acted at the Provincetown Playhouse in New York City as part of its repertory company. He also performed extensively at such regional theatres as Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, New Orleans Rep, South Coast Rep, A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, the Performing Arts Foundation on Long Island, San Diego Rep, The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Alaska Rep in Anchorage, the Old Globe theatre in San Diego, Cortland Rep in upper New York. In addition, Edmonds co-founded a marionette company based in Atlanta and was the founder and director – for three years – of the Studio Company in Atlanta. He has performed at Broadway's Court Theatre in *Red, White and Maddox* in 1969 and *Two Shakespearian Actors* in 1992. At A Noise Within, Edmonds has appeared in more than 40 plays, including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Heartbreak House*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Great Expectations*, *Henry IV, Part One* and *Tartuffe*. Among his television credits are *True Blood*, *The West Wing*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Frazier* and *Numb3rs*.

A Noise Within resident artist **JOEL SWETOW** (Estragon) also played Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* last season as well as Pastor Manders in *Ghosts*. Also with ANW, he portrayed Duke Vincentio in *Measure for Measure*, Philante in *The Misanthrope*, Jagers in *Great Expectations*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Vershinin in *The Three Sisters*, Arnolphe in *The School for Wives*, the title role in *Tartuffe*, Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as major roles in *Under Milk Wood*, *The Seagull*, *Major Barbara*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Blood Wedding*, *Man and Superman*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Way of the World*. For ANW he also co-directed *The Learned Ladies*. Among his numerous roles with New York City and regional theatre companies, Swetow played Marc Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra* at Theatricum Botanicum, appeared in *Mad Forest* at the

Matrix Theatre Company, and played lead roles in *The Normal Heart*, *Talley's Folly*, and *The Sound of Teeth*. He directed *The Cherry Orchard* at Interact Theatre Company, which earned the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, Best Production of 1999, *As You Like It* at Actor's Co-op, and the world premieres of *My Brain Tumor* and *Muckrakers*. Swetow directs *The Crucible* at Actors Co-op this spring. His film and television credits include *Burn Notice*, *Charmed*, *Alias*, *Judging Amy*, *Stargate*, *She Spies*, various *Star Treks*, *Days of our Lives*, *3 Ninjas*, *Live From Baghdad*, *The President's Man 2*, Clive Barker's *Lord of Illusions*, the award winning shorts *Chicxulub* and *Vartan LLP*, and many others.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: **CALENDAR LISTING**

WHO: A Noise Within – one of the nation's leading repertory theatres

WHERE: A Noise Within
234 South Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91204

WHAT: SAMUEL BECKETT'S *WAITING FOR GODOT*

Cast and Crew:

Mark Bramhall (Lucky)
Robertson Dean (Vladimir)
Mitchell Edmonds (Pozzo)
Joel Swetow (Estragon)
TBA (Boy)

Andrew Traister, Director
Michael C. Smith, Set Designer
Byron Batista, Original Wig & Make-Up Design
Rebecca Baillie, Production Manager
Adam Lillibridge, Technical Director
Rebecca Baille, Stage Manager
Angela Balogh Calin, Original Costume Design
Amanda Lee, Costume Design
James P. Taylor, Lighting Designer

WHEN:

Saturday, January 16, 2 pm
Saturday, January 16, 8 pm
Sunday, January 17, 2 pm
Sunday, January 17, 7 pm
Thursday, January 21, 8 pm
Friday, January 22, 8 pm
Saturday, January 23, 2 pm
Saturday, January 23, 8 pm
Sunday, January 24, 2 pm
Sunday, January 24, 7 pm

TICKET PRICES:

\$44 (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees);
\$40 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday matinees);
Group rates and special rates for school groups available

TICKETS & INFO:

818-240-0910 x1 www.ANoiseWithin.org

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