



Press Contact:  
Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director  
scoen@trtc.org or 732.345.1400 ext. 1829  
Box Office: 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 16, 2013

**TWO RIVER THEATER PRESENTS NOËL COWARD'S *PRESENT LAUGHTER*, DIRECTED BY  
NINE-TIME EMMY AWARD WINNER DAVID LEE**

**Leighton Bryan, Mark Capri, Veanne Cox, Michael Cumpsty, Cole Escola, Richard Hollis, Kaitlin Hopkins, Robin Moseley, James Riordan, Camille Saviola, and Hayley Treider star**

**Performances: Saturday, June 1 - Sunday, June 23, 2013 in the Rechnitz Theater  
Press Opening: Friday, June 7, 2013 at 8pm**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, concludes its 2012-2013 Season with **Noël Coward's *Present Laughter***, directed by nine-time Emmy Award winner **David Lee**. Performances will begin in Two River's Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Saturday, June 1** and continue through **Sunday, June 23**. **The press opening is Friday, June 7 at 8pm**. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or TRTC.org. *Present Laughter* is sponsored by Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley.

One of Noel Coward's later plays, the semi-autobiographical comedy *Present Laughter* was written in 1939 and first performed in 1942, with Coward himself starring as the charming, witty, and blithely egocentric matinee idol Garry Essendine. Garry, played at Two River Theater by Tony nominee and Obie winner **Michael Cumpsty** (*The End of the Rainbow*), sees his life as an eternal performance—one in which the spotlight never goes out. Director David Lee's production draws audiences into the larger world of Garry's inner circle, revealing the unexpected love story at the heart of the play.

Resplendent with 1930s glamour, Two River's production features the work of scenic designer **Tony Straiges** (*Sunday in the Park with George*), costume designer **Tilly Grimes** (Two River's *Henry V*), lighting designer **Rui Rita** (August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*), sound designer **Leon Rothenberg** (*The Nance*), and dialect coach **Ben Furey** (*Matilda*). The music direction is by **John O'Neill** and the casting is by **Cindy Tolan & Adam Caldwell**. The production stage manager is **Amanda Michaels**.

*Present Laughter* features **Leighton Bryan** (Joanna Lyppiatt), **Mark Capri** (Hugo Lyppiatt), **Veanne Cox** (Monica Reed), **Michael Cumpsty** (Garry Essendine), **Cole Escola** (Roland Maule), **Richard Hollis** (Fred), **Kaitlin Hopkins** (Liz Essendine), **Robin Moseley** (Lady Saltburn), **James Riordan** (Morris Dixon), **Camille Saviola** (Miss Erikson) and **Hayley Treider** (Daphne Stillington).

**Noël Coward** (Playwright) was a renaissance man of theater and film—a writer, director, actor, producer, screenwriter, and cabaret artist. His plays include *Private Lives*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Hay Fever*, and *Design for Living*. His films include *In Which We Serve* and *Brief Encounter*, and he was the composer-lyricist of songs including “Mad About the Boy” and “Mad Dogs and Englishmen.” Coward was knighted in 1969 and died at his home in Jamaica in 1973.

**David Lee** (Director) is a nine-time Emmy Award winner. His work in the theater includes an acclaimed production of *South Pacific* at the Hollywood Bowl (starring Reba McEntire and Brian Stokes Mitchell), and many productions for Pasadena Playhouse including the classic Cole Porter musical *Can-Can*, for which he also wrote a new book, and for which he received an Ovation Award for Best Director. Lee is a co-creator of *Frasier* and *Wings*; his other television credits include *Cheers* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*. In addition to 19 Emmy nominations, he is the recipient of the Directors Guild Award, Golden Globe, Producers Guild Award, GLAAD Media Award, British Comedy Award, Television Critics Association Award (three times), the Humanitas Prize (twice), and the Peabody.

### **Special Event**

#### **Frasier: Unplugged**

Noël Coward’s plays evoke a time when dialogue was smart, banter was witty, and even everyday emotions were passionately felt. The modern equivalent of his style can be found in the classic television series *Frasier*. In a special evening, David Lee, the co-creator of *Frasier*, will be joined by **David Hyde Pierce** (Dr. Niles Crane) and **Peri Gilpin** (Roz Doyle) to talk about the making of the show and answer questions from the audience. Tickets for ***Frasier: Unplugged*** range from \$50 to \$250. Patrons who purchase \$250 tickets will enjoy an exclusive pre-show reception with the artists beginning at 6:30 pm and premium seating in the Rechnitz Theater. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or TRTC.org.

### **Ticket Information**

Ticket prices start at \$37, with discounts available for groups, seniors, and U.S. military personnel, their families, and veterans. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available for every performance. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$24 and include the best available seats at every performance. Student matinee tickets are \$15. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or TRTC.org.

### **Audience Extras**

#### **Before the Show**

Audiences are invited to learn more about Noël Coward and *Present Laughter* through Before Play, a free talk that takes place 45 minutes prior to every performance, and Two River’s Lobby Display.

#### **Post-Play Discussions**

Audiences are invited to share their questions and responses to the play after the following performances: Wednesday, June 12 at 7pm; Sunday, June 16 at 3pm; and Wednesday, June 19 at 1pm.

## Accessibility

Two River Theater is fully wheelchair accessible and offers assisted-listening devices and large-print programs at every performance. **Audio-described performances** are **Wednesday, June 19 at 1pm** and **Saturday, June 22 at 8pm**. Tickets are available at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing audio description. An **open-captioned performance** is **Saturday, June 22 at 3pm**. Tickets are available at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing open captions. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets for a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400.

## Calendar

Saturday, June 1 at 8pm  
Sunday, June 2 at 3pm  
Tuesday, June 4 at 8pm  
Wednesday, June 5 at 7pm  
Thursday, June 6 at 10am (student matinee) and 8pm  
Friday, June 7 at 8pm (**Press Opening**)  
Saturday, June 8 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, June 9 at 3pm  
Wednesday, June 12 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, June 13 at 10am (student matinee) and 8pm  
Friday, June 14 at 8pm  
Saturday, June 15 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, June 16 at 3pm  
Wednesday, June 19 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, June 20 at 10am (student matinee) and at 8pm  
Friday, June 21 at 8pm  
Saturday, June 22 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, June 23 at 3pm

*Present Laughter* is sponsored by Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley. Opening nights for the 2012-2013 Season are sponsored by et al fine foods & events, Flowers on Front and Spirits Unlimited.

Two River Theater Company is additionally supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Monmouth University, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, Investors Bank, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation, and many other generous foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals.

###

---

**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY**, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is dedicated to producing great classics from the American and world stage, creating new plays and musicals for the American theater, and serving its diverse and multigenerational community through unique partnerships and education programs. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, the theater supports the most exceptional and adventurous artists in the American theater and provides opportunities for its audiences to be part of the creative process. Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Visit TRTC.org.