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**TWO RIVER THEATER CONTINUES ITS 2014/15 SEASON WITH ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR, DIRECTED BY JESSICA STONE**

**BROOKS ASHMANSKAS, MARY BIRDSONG, MICHAEL CUMPSTY, SCOTT DRUMMOND,
MELISSA VAN DER SCHYFF, AND LIZ WISAN ARE FEATURED IN THE CAST**

Performances: Saturday, January 10 — Sunday, February 1, 2015
Opening: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 8pm

RED BANK, NJ — Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its 2014/15 Season with Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, directed by Jessica Stone. The production will run January 10–February 1, 2015, with the opening night on Friday, January 16 at 8pm. Tickets starting at \$20 and ticket packages for Two River's season are available from 732.345.1400 or www.tworivertheater.org. *Absurd Person Singular* is supported by co-sponsor The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center.

Absurd Person Singular—a laugh-out-loud look at how three English couples deal with their relationships, social standings, and pressures of three successive Christmas gatherings—will be performed by a cast of gifted comic actors including Brooks Ashmanskas (*Bullets Over Broadway*, *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*), Mary Birdsong (*The Knick*, *The Descendants*), Michael Cumpsty (*Present Laughter*, *End of the Rainbow*), Scott Drummond (*Machinal*, *Boardwalk Empire*), Melissa van der Schyff (*Bonnie & Clyde*, *Big River*), and Liz Wisan (*The Servant of Two Masters*, *Uprights Citizens Brigade*).

Alan Ayckbourn is an Olivier, Tony, and Molière Award-winning playwright who has written 78 full-length plays including *Relatively Speaking*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Bedroom Farce*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, and *The Norman Conquests*. *Absurd Person Singular* had its world premiere in 1972 and holds the record for the single longest run of an Alan Ayckbourn play in both the West End and on Broadway. His play *My Wonderful Day* was produced at Two River Theater in the 2011/12 Season.

Director **Jessica Stone** has worked as an actor on and Off-Broadway, in television and film, for the last 20 years. Her Broadway credits include *Anything Goes* with Sutton Foster, *Butley* with Nathan Lane, and *The Odd Couple* with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. Her recent directing credits include Christopher Durang's *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* for The Old Globe and *June Moon* for Williamstown Theatre Festival.

The creative team for *Absurd Person Singular* includes scenic designer **Charlie Corcoran**, costume designer **Gabriel Berry**, lighting designer **Rui Rita**, and sound designer **Drew Levy**. The dialect coach is **Ben Furey**, the casting is by **Adam Caldwell**, and the production stage manager is **Libby Unsworth**.

Ticket Information

Ticket prices range from \$37 to \$65, 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; \$20 tickets may be partial view. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$20 and include the best available seats at every performance. Tickets are available from tworivetheater.org or 732.345.1400.

Inside Two River

Inside Two River is a series of events specially curated for each Two River Theater production. For more information or to reserve seats, patrons should visit tworivetheater.org or call 732.345.1400.

Comedy 101 with Two River Artistic Director John Dias: Thursday, December 18 at 7:30pm in the Marion Huber Theater

There's an old show-biz adage that says: "Dying is easy. Comedy is hard." Audiences love the release of laughter, but great comic performances can require both amazing physical dexterity and a special facility with language. Artistic Director John Dias will discuss the unique—and uniquely rewarding—challenges of performing the works of Alan Ayckbourn with actor Mary Birdsong.

Paint and Play

Tuesday, January 13 from 6:30-8:30pm

Two River Theater and Wine and Design Milltown are partnering for Paint and Play, an interactive event in which participants will create their own painting and get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of Two River's Scenic Charge Artist, Lea Anello. Cost: \$35 per person (includes: painting, painting supplies, light fare, backstage tour and talk; this event is BYOB). Reservations and

payment required prior to event. Patrons can book a spot by calling Two River Theater's box office at 732.345.1400 or visiting www.tworivertheater.org. Availability & Spots will go fast!

Book Club: *The Gun Seller* by Hugh Laurie, Sunday, January 18 at 5:30pm in the Victoria Mastrobuono Library (following the 3pm performance)

Alan Ayckbourn's farce *Absurd Person Singular* is a masterpiece of comedy, and more specifically a masterpiece of British comedy. *The Gun Seller*, written by the actor Hugh Laurie (most famous as the star of the TV show *House*), is a farcical and hilarious spy novel with a distinctly UK tone. Literary Manager Anika Chapin will lead a discussion of what makes a particularly British sense of humor, and what kind of laughs translate across the pond.

Audience Extras

Before Play and Lobby Display

Audiences will learn more about this production in Two River's Before Play lecture series, which takes place 45 minutes prior to every performance, and Lobby Display.

Post-Play Conversations

Discussions with the cast and a member of Two River's Artistic staff will take place on Wednesday, January 21 at 7 pm; Sunday, January 25 at 3pm; and Wednesday, January 28 at 1pm.

Access and Virtual Tour

Working with Google, Two River has created and launched a virtual tour of its facility, which lives on Google Maps and tworivertheater.org. This virtual tour provides an additional level of support and benefit for patrons who use wheelchairs or require other assistance by allowing them to virtually come through the theater's front doors and view the space in detail in advance of their visit.

An audio-described performance is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 at 1pm and an **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for Saturday, January 31 at 3pm. Tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$25 for patrons using these services. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets to a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400 or e-mail boxoffice@trtc.org.

Calendar

Saturday, January 10 at 8pm
Sunday, January 11 at 3pm
Wednesday, January 14 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, January 15 at 8pm
Friday, January 16 at 8pm (**Opening Night**)
Saturday, January 17 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, January 18 at 3pm
Wednesday January 21 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, January 22 at 10am (student matinee) and 8pm

Friday, January 23 at 8pm
Saturday, January 24 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, January 25 at 3pm
Wednesday, January 28 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, January 29 at 8pm
Friday, January 30 at 8pm
Saturday, January 31 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 1 at 3pm

Sponsorship

Absurd Person Singular is supported by co-sponsor The Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center. *Inside Two River* is sponsored by The William T. Morris Foundation. The *Before Play* series is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

Two River Theater is 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 Columbus Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Monmouth Medical Center Foundation, Wells Fargo, Investors Bank, Brookdale Community College, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, William T. Morris Foundation, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, creates great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit tworivetheater.org or call 732.345.1400.