Pacific Resident Theatre

Business Manager
Jennifer Lonsway

Artistic Director
Marilyn Fox

Managing Director
Bruce Whitney

presents

Cigarettes and Chocolate
and
Hang Up

by Anthony Minghella

Executive Producer
MARILYN FOX

Producer
SUSAN LANG

Set Design
MALLORY GABBARD

Lighting Design
ANDREI BORGES

Sound Design
REBECCA KESSION

Costume Consultant
AUDREY EISNER

Stage Managers
MORGAN WILDAY
LAUREL BARHAM

Dramaturge
BETSY ZAJKO

Directed by
MICHAEL PERETZIAN
CAST

Cigarettes and Chocolate

Gemma .................. Marwa Bernstein*
Rob ..................... Matt Letscher*
Rob ..................... Jason Downs* (Alternating)
Lorna ................... Ursula Brooks
Alistair ................. Jaxon Duff Gwillim*
Mother .................. Molly Schaffer
Gail ..................... Tania Getty*
Sample .................. Michael Balsley*
Sample .................. Jason Downs* (Alternating)
Conception ............. Molly Schaffer
Conception ............. Jeanette Driver (Alternating)

Hang Up

He ....................... Michael Balsley*
He ....................... Jason Downs* (Alternating)
She ....................... Molly Schaffer
She ....................... Jeanette Driver (Alternating)

Cigarettes and Chocolate was first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1988

Hang Up was first broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 1987

London, 1987-1988, during the time of Margaret Thatcher’s Conservative government

HANG UP is followed immediately by CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE and are performed without an intermission
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANTHONY MINGHELLA often fondly recalled in interviews that he was born on the Isle of Wight, off the south coast of England, where his family ran a popular cafe and sold Italian-style ice cream to tourists since 1950. One of five children, Minghella loved music and played keyboards with local bands. He attended and taught drama at the University of Hull in Yorkshire, and left his PhD studies to become a writer of children’s television for BBCTV where he went on to write and direct adult drama. Eventually, he transitioned into filmmaking where he won the Academy Award for Best Director for *The English Patient* (1996), and Academy Award nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay for *The English Patient* (1996) and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999). Minghella died of a hemorrhage in 2008 at age 54, one week after an operation to remove cancer of the tonsils and neck.

Awards

1984 Plays and Players: Critics Award – Most Promising Playwright for *A Little Like Drowning*
1986 Plays and Players: Critics Award – Best New Play for *Made in Bangkok*
1988 Giles Cooper Award for the radio play *Cigarettes and Chocolate*
1992 BAFTA Film Award – Best original screenplay for *Truly, Madly, Deeply* (1990)
1997 BAFTA Film Award – Best Film for *The English Patient* (1996) (shared with Saul Zaentz)

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

I had the good fortune of being Anthony Minghella’s American agent. Whatever I have learned as a director about trying to create a truly collaborative “community” during a production, I learned from him. He always sought and valued the creative contributions of the cast, the crew, his producer, and even his agent. We started working together professionally when he wrote the BBC television film, *Truly, Madly, Deeply*, but before I knew him, he wrote these radio plays- *Hang Up*, written originally as narrative for a dance piece for his dear friend and choreographer, Jonathan Lunn, subsequently produced for BBC Radio 3 in 1987 and followed by *Cigarettes And Chocolate* for BBC Radio in 1988. The political backdrop for these plays was Margaret Thatcher’s government and her alignment with the politics and the “free market” philosophy of President Ronald Reagan. The characters you will meet today are all in a way a product of those times, and as many great writers are so adept at doing, he was able to draw highly personal situations and characters who mirror the society of which they are a part, ones he describes in his author’s notes in the Methuen anthology of his plays as “... often unfaithful or unhappy or lost, and united in their search to give meaning to their lives through careers, through acquisitions, through art, through philanthropy, through therapy, through affairs, through silence.” When I read these plays, I was struck by how, despite having been written thirty years ago, they were amazingly and even disturbingly familiar. Possibly, hopefully, you might do the same.

– Michael Peretzian
ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Balsley (Sample, He) An MFA recipient from the prestigious New York University Graduate Acting program, Michael performed on New York City and regional stages for six years before moving to Los Angeles. He met his wife, Molly Schaffer, playing Shane Mungitt in Richard Greenburg’s Tony award-winning play Take Me Out. He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor by the Kevin Kline Awards of St. Louis in 2005. A company member since 2006, he has appeared in three Drama Critics Circle or L.A. Weekly award-nominated productions, including 2007 Best Revival Winner, The Hasty Heart. He is the director of the not-for-profit performing arts education company, The Young Artists Lab, in Santa Monica.

Marwa Bernstein (Gemma) is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful production, and proud to be a member of PRT. She has been a professional performer most of her life, first as a ballet dancer and second as an actor. She moved to LA from New York, has performed around the world as a dancer, and has many stage and screen credits which you can look up if you are interested at www.marwabernstein.com. Love and thanks to Marilyn Fox and Michael Peretzian for the honor of being part of this amazing cast, and much love to the cast and crew, and to her husband David and daughter Lucy.

Ursula Brooks (Lorna) is an actress who has trained and worked both in Australia and USA. Plays at PRT include Fata Morgana, Anatol, Everyday Life, Laundry and Bourbon, Closer and Angel City. She also worked with Michael Peretzian on Tales from Hollywood by Christopher Hampton at the Odyssey Theater. She has worked in numerous TV shows and films. She would like to thank Marilyn Fox for her encouragement and love.

Jason Downs (Alternating for Rob, Sample, He) graduated from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, and has performed on stage and screen for over 30 years. Some of his credits include John Waters’ Hairspray, Clara’s Heart with Neil Patrick Harris and Racing Daylight with Melissa Leo and David Strathairn. He toured with the National Players production of The Tempest as Caliban, has played Romeo in repertory and Lorenzo off Broadway. He was also signed as a recording artist with Jive Records, released two albums and 5 singles, one of which was a top 20 hit overseas (‘White Boy With A Feather’) resulting in a European Tour. He currently narrates rather saucy audiobooks under the alias Tristan Hunt, in addition voiceover work on The Goldberg’s. He’s grateful to Pacific Resident Theatre, Michael and this amazing cast for giving him the opportunity to join them in this very special project.

Jeanette Driver (Alternating for Conception, She) was last seen at PRT playing Nora Helmer in Bergman’s adaptation of Ibsen’s A Dolls House. Other roles include Kitty Duvall in The Time Of Your Life and Emilie in Anatol. Jeanette is from England. London credits include, On The Road To Jerusalem with Vanessa Redgrave’s Moving Theatre Company at The Riverside Studio’s. Shelby in Steel Magnolia’s at The Millfield Theatre. Juliet in Romeo And Juliet, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Salome in Oscar Wilde’s Salome. She played Mata Hari in Eyes Of The Morning which she wrote and toured Scotland with The Young Vic’s touring company. Jeanette worked extensively on British TV since she was a teenager.
Matt Letscher (Rob) is so grateful to be back at PRT, having appeared previously in Anatol (LADCC Award), On Approval, and Tonight At 8:30. Other theater credits include world premieres of Neil Simon’s Proposals (Broadway and Nat’t tour), Lanford Wilson’s Raindance (Purple Rose Theatre), Howard Korder’s In A Garden (South Coast Rep), Beth Henley’s Ridiculous Fraud (South Coast Rep), and Kate Robin’s What They Have (South Coast Rep). Recent films: 13 Hours, Her, Teacher Of The Year. Recent television: Eobard Thawne on The Flash and Legends Of Tomorrow, Tom Bradshaw on The Carrie Diaries, Joe Kennedy on Boardwalk Empire, and Billy Chambers on Scandal. Much love to Jenn and the boys and thank you Anthony Minghella for this very pertinent and arresting work.


Tania Getty (Gail) is a longtime member of Pacific Resident Theatre, last seen as Cassius/Mistress Ford/Hermia/Goneril in the PRT Shakespeare Project, Mrs. Hartford at the end of the run of Touch of a Poet, Varya in The Cherry Orchard, as well as in numerous other productions such as Skylight, Closer, Orpheus Descending, Fata Morgana, and Alice Sit-by-the-Fire. Tania also performs with guerilla troupe Salty Shakespeare, The New American Theatre (Loose Ends) and Santa Monica Rep (The Memorandum). Tania studied theatre at the University of Arizona and Goldsmiths College, London, and is also a member of the PRT Writers Group. She is very appreciative to have this chance to further explore Minghella’s beautiful work with such a talented group of company members.

Molly Schaffer (Mother, Conception, She) is back on stage after a very long break. Her current life includes mothering 4 children and a busy private psychotherapy practice. Having the opportunity to work on this beautiful play with her beautiful husband, and working with the other incredible artists involved was too hard to pass up. Molly’s previous work includes Prelude to a Kiss, Tonight at 8:30, Hedda Gabler, and Wild Boy (PRT) and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (St Louis Rep) and many others in AZ and FL. TV/Film includes The Black Donnelly’s, The West Wing, Crash, Man on the Moon, and Mumford among others. Love and thanks to my Will, Charlie, Ben, and Kate for their patience in letting Mom spread her wings a bit.

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PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Andrei Borges (Lighting Design) is a current Lighting Design student at The Theatre School in Chicago, IL. His current lighting design credits include, *An Iliad* (Dir. By Andrew Peters), *Tom Paine* (Dir. By Phyllis Griffin), and *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* (Dir. By April Cleveland). Andrei has also worked as a master electrician for numerous shows at The Theatre School. Andrei looks forward to expanding his career in both Chicago and Los Angeles.

Audrey Eisner (Costume Consultant) has been designing costumes for many years. She is currently employed at Western Costume as a floor costumer and she is also the resident costume designer for Pacific Resident Theatre where some of her favorites include: *A View From The Bridge, Cherry Orchard, The Browning Version, Wildboy, Hasty Heart, The Swan, LuLu, Happy End, Anatol, Master Builder and Rocket To The Moon.* At The Odyssey she designed *Oedipus Machina, Way To Heaven, A Song At Twilight and No Man’s Land.* She has been nominated for Ovation and LADCC awards and won two LA Weekly awards for best costume design. She thanks her family of boys for their love and support.

Mallory Gabbard (Set Design) is a current BFA in Theatrical Design and Production at The University of Southern California. Emphasizing in both Scenic and Costume Design, some of her favorite projects thus far have included designing for The School of Dramatic Art’s New Works Festival Plays, and Independent Student productions such as Little Women, Heather’s, and Company. This is her debut production with Pacific Resident Theatre.


Michael Peretzian (Director) Previous credits include the Mark Taper Forum’s West Coast premiere of Jane Martin’s *Talking With*, later broadcast for many years on KCRW and re-staged at Pacific Resident Theatre. Theatre 40 productions include Michael Cristofer’s *The Shadow Box, James Prideaux’s The Orphans, Garry Williams’ one act Rain, David Storey’s Home*, as well as productions of Hugh Leonard’s *Summer and A Life*, the latter of which earned him a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Director. In addition to directing the world premiere of Alex Dinelaris’ *Red Dog Howls* starring Kathleen Chalfant, his productions of Harold Pinter’s *No Man’s Land*, nominated as one of the best productions of 2009 by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and Christopher Hampton’s *Tales From Hollywood*, both at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, were *Los Angeles Times Critics Choices*. Most recently, he directed the Rogue Machine’s production of Christopher Shinn’s *Dying City*, cited by the Times Charles McNulty as one of the Ten Best Plays of 2013, and Alexander Dinelaris’ *Still Life. This one’s for JD.*

Betsy Zajko (Dramaturge) is an actress and former AP award winning anchor and commentary producer (CBS, NPR) who co-created a national program of non-fiction writers’ storytelling during her tenure at NPR. She employs a passion for research whether making plays or vetting articles on social media. A member of Rogue Machine Theatre since 2009, she has also acted at Steppenwolf, The Cleveland Playhouse, and in film/TV: *Curb Your Enthusiasm, Masters of Sex and Mike and Molly.*
Jennifer Lonsway (PRT Business Manager) helps the theatre to run smoothly, and appeared as the charwoman, Mrs. Haggerty, in The Old Lady Shows Her Medals. At PRT, she’s also appeared in Hogan’s Goat, Orpheus Descending, Anna Christie, Everyday Life, and several Co-op productions.

Bruce Whitney (Managing Director) has been directing and producing theatre in LA for 10 years. His directorial debut, Robby Sella’s A Shot in the Dark won 2 Drama-Logue Awards. He earned his MFA in directing from Cal Arts, & worked with About Productions in developing an educational program for Theresa Chavez’ The Correct Posture of a True Revolutionary & directed the premiere of Tryst. In PRT’s Co-op, he directed A Dozen Innocents and In The Boom Boom Room.

Chris McCabe (Resident Technical Director) director/actor/tech director/set & light designer, he worked on The Quick-Change Room and Ivanov at PRT, Skyscraper in PRT’s Co-op, and acted in A Christmas Carol, The Swan, In The Boom Boom Room, Betrayal, Pygmalion and Of Mice and Men.

David Dionisio (Company Manager) appeared in such PRT shows as The Tom McCleister Christmas Time Theatrical Extravaganza, Lulu, Ivanov & Ondine. He acted in The Memorandum at the Odyssey, produced There’s One in Every Marriage, Tonight @ 8:30 and Indiscretions. He also produced and acted in Los Angeles and Therese Raquin in PRT’s Co-op.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director: Julian Corbett
Production Consultant: Tom Buderwitz
Stage Managers: Morgan Wilday and Laurel Barham
Graphic Design, Photographer: Vitor Martins
Program: Valerie Havey
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Producer Chair: Choppy Guillotte
Administrative Assistant: Patty West
Box Office Staff: Julianne Figueroa, Sarah Wyckoff
House Manager Czar: Michael Rothhaar
Usher Czarina: Elizabeth Karr
Maintenance: Amy Huntington (Chair), Ann Bronston, Neil McGowan, Jason Huber, Andy Parks, Roses Prichard, Penny Safranek

THANK YOU

Tom Buderwitz  
Jeanette Driver  
Judy Daish  
Melissa Weber Bales

Meredith McCarthy  
Lia Kozatch  
Chris Brown

Sofie Hubbard Warshafsky  
Sara Newman-Martins  
Meredith McCarthy

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Fred Plotke, Ruth Galanter, Mario Juravich, former Councilman Bill Rosendahl  
Mark Antonio Grant (Assistant to Bill Rosendahl),  
Department of Building & Safety: B’Yanni Aquino, Kiran Patel,  
Jim Riley, Robert Bassman & Sid  
Dept of Transportation: Lillian Sedlack, Ellia Fernandez  
California State Coastal Comission: Pam Emerson

Pacific Resident Theatre  
honors  

Gar Campbell  
11/9/43 - 12/20/07

Theatre Artist, Actor, Director,  
Teacher, Playwright,  
Husband, Friend, Inspiration

Dedicated to the memories of: Gar Campbell, Pat DiStefano, Karen Landry Mulkey,  
Lori Martin, Judith Montgomery, Rob Morris, Sheree North, Gretchen Oehler,  
David Officer, David Parrish, Alex Peabody, Tom Poin Dexter, Wanda Romitti,  
Norman Scott, Norman Skaggs, Trish Soodik, and Laura Vickrey