The Real Thing by Tom Stoppard directed by Don Toner









September 18 - October 11, 2015



AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

DON TONER PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
LARA TONER HADDOCK ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

presents

The Real Thing by Tom Stoppard

DIRECTED BY DON TONER

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER BARRY MILLER*

COSTUME DESIGNER BUFFY MANNERS

LIGHTING DESIGNER DON DAY

SET DESIGNER MIKE TONER

SOUND DESIGNER JOEL MERCADO-SEE

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Austin Playhouse ◆ P.O. Box 50533 Austin, TX 78763

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THE CAST

Samuel Knowlton**	MAX
EBernadette Nason*•	CHARLOTTE
David Stahl*•	HENRY
Andrea Osborn*•	
	BILLY
	DEBBIE
Stephen Mercantel+	BRODIE

^{*}Member Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

Setting: London and surrounding areas 1980's *There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

This performance is a one-time-only experience for those present.

Photography, recording devices, and cell phone use

(including texting, tweeting, and talking)

are strictly prohibited during the performance.

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Photography.	



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^{**}AEA Membership candidate

Austin Playhouse Acting Company

PRODUCTION BIOS

Don Toner (Producing Artistic Director) founded Austin Playhouse in 2000. Before that he was Producing Artistic Director of the State Theatre Company/Live Oak Theatre for thirteen years. Prior to coming to Austin he was Associate Producer for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Associate Producer/Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for three seasons, and he founded Theatre Center of Mississippi; the state's first Equity theatre. He has also produced and directed at New Stage Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Theatre Midland, and Theatre Four in New York City. For Austin Playhouse he has produced and directed I'm Not Rappaport, She Stoops to Conquer, The Mountaintop, Time Stands Still, The Foreigner, The Liar, Man of La Mancha, Noises Off, Other Desert Cities, The Game's Afoot, Born Yesterday, Boeing-Boeing, The Lion in Winter, Stop the World, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Trip to Bountiful, The 39 Steps, Jacques Brel, Misalliance, The Mousetrap, Frost/Nixon, The Fantasticks, A Flea in Her Ear, Dancing at Lughnasa, Amadeus, A Funny Thing...Forum, Blithe Spirit, Stones in His Pockets, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Don't Dress for Dinner, Inherit the Wind, The Threepenny Opera, Steel Magnolias, An Ideal Husband, The Night Hank Williams Died, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Odd Couple, House, A Man for All Seasons, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Rumors, Enchanted April, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Underpants, Kiss Me Kate, Private Lives, Travesties, The Dead Presidents' Club, Damn Yankees, A Christmas Carol, Copenhagen, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Blues in the Night, The Seagull, Arcadia, Mahalia, and Light Up the Sky. He has appeared in And Then There Were None, Heroes, Afterplay, and The Threepenny Opera.

Lara Toner Haddock (Artistic Director) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting

Company. For Austin Playhouse she has directed She Stoops to Conquer, Roaring, Venus in Fur, And Then There Were None, Lady Windermere's Fan, A Room With A View (which she also adapted for the stage), A Christmas Carol, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Turn of the Screw, Age of Arousal, Heroes, It's a Wonderful Life, Dug Up, Women Who Steal, Moonlight and Magnolias. Garden, A Texas Romance, and co-directed Proof, Speed the Plow, and Les Liaisons Dangereuses. She also directed Age of Arousal at Southwestern University. Favorite roles for Austin Playhouse include Catherine in The Foreigner, Brooke in Other Desert Cities, Daria in The Game's Afoot, all the women in The 39 Steps, Hypatia in Misalliance, Lottie in Enchanted April, and Thomasina in Arcadia. She has appeared in productions for Hyde Park Theatre and State Theatre Company, among others.

Tom Stoppard (playwright) is a Czechborn British playwright whose work is marked by verbal brilliance, ingenious action, and structural dexterity. Stoppard's first play, A Walk on the Water (1960), was televised in 1963. His play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (1964-65) was performed at the Edinburgh Festival in 1966 and rapidly became internationally renowned. The irony and brilliance of this work derive from Stoppard's placing two minor characters of Shakespeare's Hamlet into the centre of the dramatic action. A number of successes followed. Among the most-notable stage plays were The Real Inspector Hound (1968), Jumpers (1972), Travesties (1974), and On the Razzle (1981, adapted from a play by Johann Nestroy). The Real Thing (1982), Stoppard's first romantic comedy, deals with art and reality and features a playwright as a protagonist. Arcadia, which juxtaposes 19th-century Romanticism and 20th-century chaos theory, premiered in 1993, and The Invention of Love was first staged in 1997. The trilogy

The Coast of Utopia (Voyage, Shipwreck, and Salvage), first performed in 2002, explores the lives and debates of a circle of 19th-century Russian émigré intellectuals. Rock 'n' Roll (2006) jumps between England and Czechoslovakia during the period 1968-90. Stoppard wrote a number of radio plays, and a number of notable television plays and screenplays including a film version of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead that he also directed. In 1999 the screenplay for Shakespeare in Love (1998), cowritten by Stoppard and Marc Norman, won an Academy Award. Stoppard's numerous other honours include the Japan Art Association's Praemium Imperiale prize for theatre/film (2009). He was knighted in 1997.

Barry Miller (Stage Manager) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company where he has appeared in I'm Not Rappaport, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Amadeus, Inherit the Wind, A Man for All Seasons, The Merry Wives of Windsor, A Christmas Carol and has stage managed many productions including Chicago, Sherlock Holmes, The Liar, Venus in Fur, Man of La Mancha, Noises Off, The Game's Afoot, Born Yesterday, A Room with a View, The Lion in Winter, The 39 Steps, Jacques Brel, Misalliance, Frost/ Nixon, The Fantasticks, Dancing at Lughnasa, A Funny...Forum, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Inherit the Wind, An Ideal Husband, The Night Hank Williams Died, House, Enchanted April, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Kiss Me Kate, Travesties, The Dead Presidents' Club, Copenhagen and Arcadia. He was a company member of State Theatre Company for 13 years where he performed in and stage managed 31 productions. He is also a member of the Hyde Park Theatre Company. A 34 year veteran of the Austin Public Library, he holds masters degrees from the University of Michigan and St. Edward's University.

Buffy Manners (Costume Designer) has designed close to one hundred productions for Austin Playhouse and Don Toner. Last season's, She Stoops To Conquer, joins some of her favorite period pieces. She has also designed Three Sisters, Eurydice, and Measure For Measure for Mary Moody Northen Theatre at St Edward's University; Cherry Orchard and Ghosts for Breaking String Theatre; and A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Henry V, Richard III, The Rivals, and Romeo and Juliet, for Austin Shakespeare Festival. She has been nominated for several B.Iden Payne and Austin Critics' Table Awards for her work. In October 2012 she was fortunate enough to be invited to design a production of Hamlet for Prague Shakespeare Festival at the National Theatre in Prague, Czech Republic, directed by Tina Packer.

Don Day (Lighting Designer) has been designing professionally for over 30 years, winning both B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics' Table awards for his work. Don has designed lights for over 40 Austin Playhouse productions, most recently She Stoops to Conquer, The Mountaintop, Time Stands Still, The Foreigner, Roaring, The Liar, Venus in Fur, And Then There Were None, Man of La Mancha, Noises Off, Lady Windermere's Fan, Other Desert Cities, The Game's Afoot, Born Yesterday, A Room with a View, Boeing-Boeing and The Lion in Winter. Don holds an MFA from the University of Texas.

Mike Toner (Set Designer) has designed sets for the Austin Playhouse productions of I'm Not Rappaport, The Mountaintop, Time Stands Still, The Foreigner, Roaring, Born Yesterday, Proof, and A Christmas Carol. Mike has also served as lead carpenter on over 20 Austin Playhouse productions.

Joel Mercado-See (Sound Designer) has designed sound for Austin Playhouse productions of She Stoops to Conquer, The Mountaintop, Time Stands Still, The Foreigner, Roaring, The Liar, Venus in Fur, And Then There Were None, Chess, and Man of

La Mancha. He has a background performing in live music, theatre and TV/Film. His album Hitchhiker's Paradise was named in the Houston Chronicle's Top 10 Albums of 2006. Joel's stage credits include The King and I, Hair, Rent, A Chorus Line, and Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson. In recent years, he has diversified into the technical world as an audio engineer with clients including ZACH Theatre, SummerStock Austin, Doctuh Mistuh Productions, Austin Theatre Project, GSD&M, Austin Shakespeare, and Tapestry Dance.

Marie Rose Fahlgren (Debby) holds a BFA in acting with a minor in psychology and dance from the University of Montana-Missoula. She toured with the Montana Repretory Theatre's productions of Lost in Yonkers (Arty Kunitz) and To Kill a Mockingbird (Scout), she has also appeared in Gypsy (Louise), The Wizard of Oz (Dorothy), One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Candy Starr), Dog Sees God (Trish), The 39 Steps (All Women), The Odd Couple: Female Version (Vera), The Little Shop of Horrors (Crystal), Gypsy (Dainty June), Grease (Jan), The Merry Wives of Windsor (Nim), and Hello, Dolly (Ermengarde). Since moving to Austin she has been involved with Out of Ink's production of Random Acts of Magic, Scriptworks' one minute play festival, Last Act Theatre's production of Mocha (Carol) and Exchange Artists' Circle the Wagon. She is a member of The BackPack (Frontera Fest) and founder of her own yoga business, Love, Yoga.

Agron Johnson (Billy) As a student, Aaron worked several years at The New Harmony Project in Indiana, a project dedicated to serving the development and growth of new plays. Regional credits include *Troilus and Cressida* (Great River Shakespeare Festival) and *Red* (Light in a Jar Productions). Aaron earned a B.F.A from the University of Evansville studying acting and directing. University credits include *The Cripple of Inishmaan, Eurydice, Compleat Female*

Stage Beauty, A Streetcar Named Desire and Vinegar Tom. AaronRichardJohnson.com.

Samuel Knowlton (Max) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. He holds a BA in English from Cornell University. He appeared with Austin Playhouse as Oscar Wilde in Sherlock Holmes and as Alcippe in The Liar. Other credits include the national tour of Huck Finn (The Duke). New York credits include Measure for Measure (Vincentio), Oedipus (Manto), and Memorandum (Alex Savant). Ithaca, NY Center for the Performing Arts: Company (Harry), Much Ado About Nothing (Balthazar), One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Cheswick), and A Winter's Tale (Bear / Various). Gateway Theatre, Ithaca, NY: Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Valmont), Criminal Hearts (Robbie). Brand-X & Risley Theatre, Ithaca, NY: A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum (Pseudolos), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Schroeder), and Jared Emerson-Johnson's Godot! A Rock Opera (Godot / Pozzo).

Stephen Mercantel (Brodie) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company Member. He has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of I'm Not Rappaport, She Stoops to Conquer, Sherlock Holmes, The Foreigner, Roaring, The Liar, And Then There Were None, and Man of La Mancha. He graduated from St. Edward's University with a Bachelor's in Theatre, where he appeared in Carousel and Peer Gynt at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre. He has worked with the touring children's theatre, Brightstar, which toured the east coast from Florida to New Jersey. Other plays include Doctuh Mistuh's Reefer Madness, Simon in Capital T's Exit, Pursued by a Bear, Jared in Hyde Park Theatre's Body Awareness and Herr Schultz in Summer Stock Austin's Cabaret.

Bernadette Nason (Charlotte) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. She has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *Sherlock Holmes*, *And Then*

There Were None, Noises Off, Other Desert Cities, Boeing-Boeing, The Importance of Being Earnest, A Christmas Carol, Misalliance, Sylvia, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Blithe Spirit (B. Iden Payne award), The Threepenny Opera, Steel Magnolias, The Odd Couple, An Ideal Husband, The Underpants (B.I.P.), The Merry Wives of Windsor (Austin Critics' and B.I.P.), and The Man Who Came To Dinner. In Austin, she has worked with St. Edward's University Mary Moody Northen Theatre, Palindrome Theatre, Breaking String Theatre, Austin Shakespeare Festival, State Theatre Company, ONSTAGE Theatre Co., and many others. She has received multiple nominations and awards including the 2007 Critics' Table Special Citation, The John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility. She is also a professional touring storyteller (bernadettenason.com), writing and producing solo shows, and appearing in schools, libraries and festivals nationwide.

Andrea Osborn (Annie) has been working with Austin Playhouse since its inception and is an Acting Company Member. She was last seen as Lillie Langtry in Sherlock Holmes. Other Austin Playhouse highlights include Born Yesterday (Billie), Sylvia (Sylvia), House and Garden (Lucille), and Enchanted April (Lady Caroline) (Austin Critic's Table Award). Other Austin credits include Kate in Taming of the Shrew (State Theatre Company), Lady Macbeth in Macbeth (St. Edward's University), Celia in As You Like It (Austin Shakespeare),

Lydia Languish in *The Rivals* (Austin Shakespeare), and Valerie in *The Weir* (State Theatre Company). Andrea has a B.F.A. in Acting from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

David Stahl (Henry) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. He was last seen at Austin Playhouse in The Foreigner. Other Austin Playhouse productions include The Dead Presidents Club, for which he won both an Austin Critics Table Award and a B. Iden Payne Award for the role of Nixon, Noises Off, A Room With a View, The 39 Steps, Frost/Nixon, Inherit the Wind (B. Iden Payne Award), Travesties, (B. Iden Payne Award), Private Lives, and The Merry Wives of Windsor, to name but a few. David also works regularly as an Equity Guest Artist at St. Edward's University. Productions there include Misalliance, Hamlet, Tartuffe, Museum, Measure for Measure, Bus Stop, The Crucible, Eurydice, Galileo, and the 1992 Summer Stock production of The Foreigner, playing Charlie for the first time. David also toured the nation with the Greater Tuna Corporation's production of The Foreigner, playing the understudy for all 5 of the male roles. Other notable shows include, The Glass Menagerie, Nightswim, and A Christmas Carol, (all at The State Theatre), Richard III (B. Iden Payne Award), Ashes to Ashes (Public Domain), Raised in Captivity, (Hyde Park Theatre), Sylvia, (Austin Critics Table Award) at Zach Scott Theatre, to name a few. David is a Lecturer of Acting at Texas State University in San Marcos.

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