



TRANSITION

2019-2020 SEASON

MICHAEL J. BOBBITT
artistic director

HARRIET SHEETS
managing director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
321 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-8487 BOX OFFICE
newrep.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
400 Talcott Ave
Building 131
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-7060 BUSINESS
617-923-7625 FACSIMILE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, July 30, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT – Jaclyn Dentino | 617-923-7060 xt. 8205 | jaclyndentino@newrep.org

NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

Nixon's Nixon

By Russell Lees

Directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue

September 14 – October 6, 2019

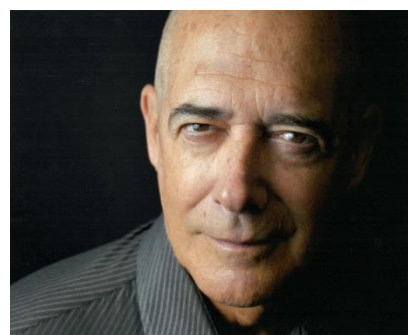
[WATERTOWN, MA] New Repertory Theatre presents *Nixon's Nixon*, a timely political comedy by Russell Lees about the meeting between President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on the night before Nixon's resignation in 1974. Starring Jeremiah Kissel and Joel Colodner, and directed by Elaine Vaan Hogue, the production runs September 14 through October 6, 2019 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets are \$25-\$67 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available, as well as free tickets for WIC/EBT cardholders.

The press performance is Monday, September 16 at 7:30pm.

"Russell Lees' *Nixon's Nixon* combines history and comedy to create a captivating piece which I am thrilled to bring to life," says director Elaine Vaan Hogue. "I am eager to explore the vulnerable, paranoid, and human sides of such powerful men and create a conversation about our past, present, and future."



Jeremiah Kissel*



Joel Colodner*



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"*Nixon's Nixon* is a still-potent political satire which we eagerly anticipate bringing to the MainStage," shares New Rep's new Artistic Director Michael J. Bobbitt. "This piece explores what the final conversation between a disgraced President Nixon and an anxious Secretary Kissinger might have looked like. Lees' writing will encourage audiences to revisit the complex feelings surrounding President Nixon in a comedic yet thought-provoking way."

About *Nixon's Nixon*

The night before Richard Nixon announced his resignation from the Presidency, he summoned Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to meet with him in the White House. What happened behind those closed doors will never be known, but playwright Russell Lees takes us on a journey through his own interpretation. Reflecting on political events that are strikingly similar to those faced today, *Nixon's Nixon* questions whether the American Presidency is truly an office for leadership, or simply an opportunity to hold power.

About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For over 30 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in the 340-seat MainStage Theater. New Rep is also dedicated to the development of new plays by producing regional and world premieres each season. Committed to education and engagement, New Rep produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page to Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series. Annually, New Rep serves over 30,000 patrons, including 1,500 season subscribers.

New Rep's Mission

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

What we do:

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays, and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

Artistic Bios

Russell Lees (Playwright) was a founding member of TheatreWorks/West (TWW) in Salt Lake City where he was involved in producing, directing, and performing for many seasons. His play *Monday Night Football* and co-written musical, *The Foggiest Notion* were produced by TWW. For several years, Russell served as the director of the French Language plays at the University of Utah, directing works by Molière, Ionesco, and Feydeau, among others. He studied under the aegis of Derek Walcott at Boston University/Boston Playwrights' Theatre (BPT) which produced *The Case of the Blue Narcissus* directed by Constantine Arvanitakis. His play *Nixon's Nixon* (initially workshopped at BPT) has enjoyed two off-



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Broadway productions and dozens of regional productions as well as a world-wide tour and a production at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London's West End. His play *Monticel'*, about the complicated relationships of Thomas Jefferson and the Hemings family, was produced at BPT directed by Wesley Savick. Russell works writing interactive narratives and was the creative director of *The Dark Eye*, an interactive adventure based on the tales of Edgar Allen Poe featuring the voice of William S. Burroughs. Russell currently lives in Montreal where he writes for the video game franchises *Assassins Creed*, *Far Cry*, and *Watchdogs*.

Elaine Vaan Hogue (Director) is a director, actor, and teacher. Previous productions at New Repertory Theatre include directing *Straight White Men*, *Oleanna*, *Baltimore*, *The Amish Project*, *Imagining Madoff* (Elliot Norton nominee for Outstanding Production), *The Kite Runner*, and co-curating the inaugural Next Rep Black Box Festival in 2014. Regional directing credits include *A Disappearing Number* (URT @ Central Square Theater); *Metamorphosis* (Boston Center for American Performance); *Walking the Volcano* (Boston Center for American Performance/Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *Crave* (Nora Theatre Company); *Thin Air: Tales from a Revolution* (Kansas City); *Infinity's House* (Majestic Theatre); *Fen* (New Theatre); *The Penelopiad*, *Execution of Justice*, *Lizzie Stranton*, *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, *The Other Shore*, *Angels in America*, *Three Sisters*, *Pains of Youth*, *Polaroid Stories*, *Marisol*, and many others (Boston University). As an actor she has performed in *The Road to Mecca* (Boston Center for American Performance); *Creation: Mythic Weavings* (Women on Top & Magdalena USA); *When Jennie Goes Marching* (Olney Theatre & Spontaneous Celebrations). She is a member of the Magdalena Project, an international network of women in contemporary theatre, and is a participant in an international cyber-performance group collaborating in *All the Better To See You With* (Odin Teatret), *MagFest KISS* (Amsterdam), *trans-hack-feminist UpStage Jam* (Eclectic Tech Carnival). Ms. Vaan Hogue serves as Program Head of Theatre Arts at Boston University. Originally from Los Angeles, she resides in Central Massachusetts.

Jeremiah Kissel* (Richard Nixon) is a forty-year veteran of Boston's professional theaters and has played leading roles for The Huntington, American Repertory, Merrimack Rep, The Lyric Stage, *Shear Madness*, Commonwealth Shakespeare, and various out of town companies when they have passed through Boston. Recent roles include Bernie Madoff at 59E59 in NY, *Cyrano* at Gloucester Stage, and *Scrooge* in Central Square. His last outing at New Rep was *Two Jews Walk Into a War...*, and other appearances here including *Imagining Madoff*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *King of Second Avenue*. He is the winner of several IRNEs, as well as Elliot Norton Best Actor awards, most recently in 2014, and most notably, the very first Norton Best Boston Actor award in 1990. He is also the recipient of the 2003 North Prize for Sustained Excellence. Screen credits include "The Town", "The Fighter", "Joy", "Stronger", "Body of Proof", "The Wrong Car", and "Castle Rock".

Joel Colodner (Henry Kissinger) returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *Two Jews Walk Into a War...*, *Regular Singing*, *Freud's Last Session*, *Indulgences*, *Three Viewings*, *Imagining Madoff*, and *The Elephant Man*. Other area credits include *Sorry* and *That Hopey Changey Thing* (Stoneham Theatre); *Sweet and Sad* (Gloucester Stage); *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and *Mrs. Whitney* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *Our Town* (Huntington Theatre Company); *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev* (Lyric Stage Company); *The Light in the Piazza* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); and numerous roles with Actors' Shakespeare Project. Regional credits include *Streamers*, *Comedians*,



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and *Hamlet* (Arena Stage); *The Rainmaker* (Guthrie Theatre); *An American Clock, Measure for Measure*, and *Wild Oats* (Mark Taper Forum); *The Threepenny Opera* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); and *The Seagull* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre). Off-Broadway credits include *How I Learned to Drive* (Vineyard Theatre). Broadway credits include work with the Acting Company and Phoenix Theatre. Television credits include *Moonlighting*, *Remington Steele*, *Eight is Enough*, *Highway to Heaven*, *St. Elsewhere*, *21 Jump Street*, *Cagney and Lacey*, and *LA Law*. Mr. Colodner earned his BA from Cornell University and MFA from Southern Methodist University. Originally from New York, he resides in Portsmouth, NH.

All creative bios will soon be available at www.newrep.org.

Nixon's Nixon at a Glance

Company:	New Repertory Theatre	
Artistic Director:	Michael J. Bobbitt	
Managing Director:	Harriet Sheets	
Production:	<i>Nixon's Nixon</i>	
Venue:	MainStage Theater Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal Street Watertown, MA 02472	
Playwright:	Russell Lees	
Director:	Elaine Vaan Hogue	
Assistant Director:	Jules Tanner	
Stage Manager:	Heather Radovich	
Cast:	Jeremiah Kissel *	Richard Nixon
	Joel Colodner *	Henry Kissinger
Production Team:	Hannah Huling	Production Manager
	Afsoon Pajoufar	Scenic Designer
	Zöe Sundra	Costume Designer
	Aja Jackson	Lighting Designer
	Elizabeth Cahill	Sound Designer
	Sam Martin	Properties
	Katie Hoolsema Lamm	Master Electrician
	Lucas Dixon	Production Assistant
	Rose Mancuso	Production Assistant



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* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

◇ Denotes member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

° Denotes member of USA/IATSE

Performance Schedule:

Saturday, September 14, 8:00pm	Preview 1
Sunday, September 15, 4:00pm	Preview 2
Monday, September 16, 7:30PM	Press Opening
Thursday, September 19, 7:30PM	
Friday, September 20, 8:00PM	
Saturday, September 21, 3:00PM	Spotlight Symposium
Saturday, September 21, 8:00PM	Talk-About
Sunday, September 22, 2:00 PM	Talk-About
Thursday, September 26, 1:00PM	Talk-About
Thursday, September 26, 7:00PM	
Friday, September 27, 8:00PM	
Saturday, September 28, 3:00PM	Open Caption
Saturday, September 28, 8:00PM	
Sunday, September 29, 2:00PM	Talk-About
Wednesday, October 2, 7:30PM	
Thursday, October 3, 7:30PM	
Friday, October 4, 8:00PM	
Saturday, October 5, 3:00PM	Talk-About
Saturday, October 6, 8:00PM	
Sunday, October 6, 2:00PM	Talk-About

Tickets:

\$25-\$67. Student, senior, and group discounts available.
Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: newrep.org
In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays
Mosesian Center for the Arts
321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Parking:

Free, six-level parking garage next to the
Mosesian Center for the Arts

Public Transportation:

#70 or #70A bus to the School Street stop from
Central Square Station, Red Line

Accessibility:

Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop, Open Caption
performance
Large-Print and Braille Programs Available

Season Sponsors:

WGBH
Massachusetts Cultural Council



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Northlight IT
The Shubert Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Branch Line

For Media Inquiries:

Jaclyn Dentino | Communications Director, New Repertory
Theatre | jaclyndentino@newrep.org | 617-923-7060 xt. 8205

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