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**PERFORMANCES OF *EISENHOWER: THIS PIECE OF GROUND* STARRING
JOHN RUBINSTEIN EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 27 AT OLNEY
THEATRE CENTER**

**An additional week of performances added after the initial 4-week run almost
totally sold out prior to opening later this week**

(Olney, MD – September 23, 2024) – Due to overwhelming demand, **Tony Award-winner John Rubinstein** (*Pippin*, *Children of a Lesser God*) will play **an additional week of performances at Olney Theatre Center as President Dwight D. Eisenhower in *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground***, a new American play by **Richard Helleesen** and directed by **Peter Ellenstein**. The show, which **begins performances this coming Friday, September 27, will now run through Sunday, October 27**. Tickets for the new dates are on sale via Olney Theatre Center's Box Office (301-924-3400) and at olneytheatre.org/eisenhower

The performance schedule for October 23 - October 27 will be:

Wednesday, October 23 at 1:30 pm

Wednesday, October 23 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 24 at 7:30 pm

Friday, October 25 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 26 at 1:30 pm

Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 27 at 1:30 pm

Production photos are available [here](#) with the password 'press'

Adapted from a vast array of General Eisenhower's memoirs, speeches, and letters, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground* is a candid and fascinating fictional eavesdropping on President Dwight D. Eisenhower at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania farm. **It is 1962, and the *New York Times Magazine* has published its first list ranking the American Presidents in order of greatness. Pondering his poor placement on the list (22nd out of 31), Eisenhower looks back on his life** - his Kansas upbringing, his decorated Army career, his victories in World War II, and his two terms as President – and contemplates the qualities and adversities that make an American President great.

A special discussion with Ellenstein, Helleesen, and Loewith will take place prior to the opening night performance on Saturday, September 28 at 5:00 pm in the Multz-Gudelsky

Theatre Lab. The event is \$10/free for Olney Theatre Center members and will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Developed by New Los Angeles Repertory Company, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground* was first presented in fall 2022 in Los Angeles by Theatre West in association with New Los Angeles Repertory Company.

Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground features a scenic design by Michael Deegan; costume consultation by Sarah Conly; lighting design by Esquire Jauchem; and projection and sound design by Joe Huppert.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

The New Los Angeles Repertory Company production of
Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground
by Richard Helleesen
directed by Peter Ellenstein

DATES, LOCATION, TICKETS

September 27 - October 27, 2024

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Olney Theatre Center

2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

Olney, MD 20832

Tickets: \$45 - \$101 available at 301-924-3400 or olneytheatre.org/ike

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday - Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1:30 pm

ACCESSIBILITY

Audio Described performance on Wednesday, October 9 at 7:30 pm

ASL Interpreted performance on Thursday, October 10 at 7:30 pm

RELATED EVENTS:

BEHIND THE SCENES: Opening Night Conversation

Saturday, September 28, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

\$10/free for Olney Theatre Center Members

Livestreamed on Olney Theatre's Facebook and YouTube pages

Olney Theatre's Artistic Director is joined by *Eisenhower* playwright Richard Helleesen and director Peter Ellenstein to discuss the process of bringing a towering figure of the 20th Century to the stage.

BEYOND THE STAGE

The Ranking of American Presidents

Sunday, October 6th, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mulitz-Gudelsky Lab Theatre

\$10

Why is Abraham Lincoln often considered the “best” American president? Why is Herbert Hoover the worst? And where does Eisenhower fit in? Join us for an engaging discussion exploring lesser-known and widely-recognized facts about American presidents and their place in American history. Featuring insights from **James Mann**, author and journalist (and participant in the CSPAN Presidential Ratings); **David Karol**, Associate Professor of Government and Politics at UMD; and Tony Award winner **John Rubinstein**.

OLNEY THEATRE CENTER BOOK CLUB

Book Club

Title: “Ike’s Bluff: President Eisenhower’s Secret Battle to Save the World”

By Evan Thomas

Discussion Date: October 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Location: Olney Library 3500 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832

Free with RSVP to attend the discussion.

Evan Thomas's startling account of how the underrated Dwight Eisenhower saved the world from nuclear holocaust. Upon assuming the presidency in 1953, Dwight Eisenhower set about to make good on his campaign promise to end the Korean War. Yet while Eisenhower was quickly viewed by many as a doddering lightweight, behind the bland smile and simple speech was a master tactician. To end the hostilities, Eisenhower would take a colossal risk by bluffing that he might use nuclear weapons against the Communist Chinese, while at the same time restraining his generals and advisors who favored the strikes. Ike's gamble was of such magnitude that there could be but two outcomes: thousands of lives saved, or millions of lives lost.

Published 2012 by Little, Brown & Company. 484 pages

Where can I find the book?

You can purchase a copy through [Friends of the Library](#)'s store on bookshop.org. A substantial portion of each sale benefits Friends of the Library Montgomery County in support of Montgomery County Public Libraries. There are also three copies available in the [MCPL system](#), along with the e-book and Audio Book.

Promote the Vote

Sunday October 13th 2024 at 3:00pm

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Free, No RSVP Required

Community event organized by the Yellow Roses to promote voter registration and non-partisan information about the upcoming general election.

MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION CLASS WITH JOHN RUBINSTEIN

Monday, October 14, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

\$10

If you're a young theatre professional who is looking to build up your audition skills to get that call back, then join us at Olney Theatre Center on October 14 to watch a master at work. John Rubinstein is a multi-award winning actor and director, most notably originating the role of Pippin on Broadway. In this special one-time opportunity, you will observe John Rubinstein work with a pre-selected group of professionals on their musical theatre audition technique while also sharing his incredible advice, experience, and insight with the whole group. This masterclass is a fantastic opportunity for committed young adults ages 16 and up who are aiming to make performance their primary profession.

ABOUT THE NEW LOS ANGELES REPERTORY COMPANY

THE NEW LOS ANGELES REPERTORY COMPANY (Producer) is inspired by the vision of the original co-founder and Artistic Director, Robert Ellenstein, who received career achievement awards from the LA Weekly and the Company of Angels for his lifetime of contributions to the theatre. The original Los Angeles Repertory Company was founded in 1966. It strove to bring theatrical experience to its highest form. Until it paused operations in 2006, LA Rep maintained a credo that the quality of the work should take precedence over all other considerations. In concentrating on quality rather than quantity, the Rep built a steady following of avid theatre-lovers. Over 40 years, the original LA Rep produced a wide variety of plays, new and old, including the professional L.A. premiere of George Bernard Shaw's magnum opus *Back to Methuselah*, multiple productions of an award-winning six-actor *Hamlet*, the L.A. premiere of Stephen Sondheim & John Weidman's *Assassins*, the West Coast Premiere of Martin Sherman's *Messiah* and Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*, as well as Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Shaw's *Misalliance*, Odets' *Rocket to the Moon*, and Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, all of which garnered tremendous critical praise and numerous awards.

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than eight decades, Olney Theatre Center has

brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC, region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia de Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best-educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now, the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non-profit organizations, and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

Olney Theatre Center employs 40 full-time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org/history

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Threads, Instagram, TikTok @olneytheatre, and Facebook at facebook.com/olneytheatre.

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