

Academy Award Winner Anthony Minghella has two plays making a West Coast Premiere at Pacific Resident Theatre



“Cigarettes & Chocolate/Hang Up”

Written by Anthony Minghella and Directed by Michael Peretzian
8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays through October 15, 2017
at 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. in Venice, CA 90291

Venice, CA (September 8, 2017) - Pacific Resident Theatre presents **five-time Oscar nominee** Anthony Minghella’s original radio plays as a main stage production. First broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in November 1988, the setting is London, 1987 for *Cigarettes & Chocolate* (**Giles Cooper Award**) directed by Michel Peretzian. It stars Marwa Bernstein, Matt Letscher, Ursula Brooks, Jaxon Duff Gwillim, Molly Schaffer, Tania Getty, Michael Balsley, and Molly Schaffer. This fully designed/staged production will be presented with actors reading from music stands. In *Cigarettes and Chocolate*, Anthony Minghella takes a humorous and human look at life that tests the social responsibilities of urbanites who, as the playwright said by quoting Oscar Wilde, “know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”

The Second Piece *Hang Up* was first broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 1987. The characters, in order of speaking, are He, played by Michael Balsley and She, played by Molly Schaffer. The setting is the bedroom of his house.

Well before embarking on his career as a film and television writer/director in the US, **Anthony Minghella** wrote *Hang Up*. Originally written as a narrative for a dance piece, it was subsequently broadcast as a play for the BBC, as was *Cigarettes and Chocolate*.

Among the films Anthony Minghella wrote and directed are: “The English Patient” for which he won the **Academy Award as Best Director**, “Truly, Madly, Deeply” (**three BAFTA nominations**), “Mr. Wonderful,” “Cold Mountain” (**two BAFTA Awards**), and “The Talented Mr. Ripley” (**five Academy Award nomination, and seven BAFTA nominations**). His play *Whale Music* (1981) brought critical acclaim to Minghella’s work and he received subsequent Critics Awards for *A Little Like Drowning* (**Most Promising Playwright - 1984**), and *Made In Bangkok* (**Best New Play - 1986**).

Michael Peretzian (Director) helmed Rogue Machine’s production of *Still Life* by Alexander Dinelaris and Christopher Shinn’s *Dying City*, which **won the Ovation Award for Best Production (five Ovation Award nominations)**. He has directed numerous projects locally, including the **Mark Taper Forum’s West Coast premiere of Jane Martin’s *Talking With* and Truman Capote’s *One Christmas and A Christmas Memory*, broadcast for many years on KCRW** and subsequently re-staged at Pacific Resident Theatre. For his work with Theatre 40 Hugh Leonard’s *A Life*, Michael received a **Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Direction**. He directed the world premiere of Alex Dinelaris’ *Red Dog Howls* starring Kathleen Chalfant, his production of Harold Pinter’s *No Man’s Land* at the Odyssey Ensemble was nominated as one of the **Best Productions of 2009** by the **Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle**.

The characters live in the time of Margaret Thatcher's government and serve as a mirror to the society in which they lived, imperfect human beings who nevertheless have a capacity for good. Though written in the 1980's, these two one act plays seem timelier now.

Pacific Resident Theatre is nationally recognized as one of the top regional theaters on the West Coast. The company presents works of the highest quality, in order to entertain, inform and educate its multicultural community. In addition to the company’s commitment to rediscover the rarely performed classics, PRT is focused on fostering and developing new works through the collaboration of an artistic ensemble influenced by societal relevance, past, present and future. Pacific Resident Theatre promotes the theatre arts by providing opportunities for artists and craftsmen to develop and enrich their skills.

Cigarettes & Chocolate/Hang Up runs at 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays through October 15, 2017. Pacific Resident Theatre is located at 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. in Venice, CA 90291. Tickets are \$25 - \$34 and can be purchased online at <http://www.pacificresidenttheatre.com> or by calling (310) 822-8392.

Cigarettes & Chocolate Cast: Michael Balsley, Marwa Bernstein, Ursula Brooks, Tania Getty, Jaxon Duff Gwillim, Matt Letscher, and Molly Schaffer

Hang Up Cast: Michael Balsley and Molly Schaffer

Our Production Team: Produced by Marilyn Fox and Susan Lang for Pacific Resident Theatre, Mallory Gabbard (Set Design), Andrei Borges (Lighting Designer), Rebecca Kessin (Sound Design), and Audrey Eisner (Costume Consultant)

Calendar Listing Information:

What: “Cigarettes & Chocolate/Hang Up”

Playwright: Anthony Minghella

Directed by: Michael Peretzian

Produced by: Marilyn Fox and Susan Lang

Where:

Pacific Resident Theatre

703 Venice Blvd.

Venice, CA 90291

(Parking is free in the lot behind the theater and on the street)

When:

Opened: at 8pm on Saturday, July 15, 2017

Schedule: 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays through October 15, 2017

Closing: October 15, 2017

How:

For reservations call (310) 822-8392 or online at <http://www.pacificresidenttheatre.com>

How Much: \$25 - \$34

Seniors & Students \$3 off on Fri; Student rush \$12

Description: Two West Coast premieres from Academy Award Winner Anthony Minghella. The characters live in the time of Margaret Thatcher's government and serve as a mirror to the society in which they lived, imperfect human beings who nevertheless have a capacity for good. In *Cigarettes and Chocolate*, Anthony Minghella takes a humorous and human look at life that tests the social responsibilities of urbanites who, as the playwright said by quoting Oscar Wilde, “know the price of everything and the value of nothing.” Though written in the 1980's, these two one act plays seem timelier now.

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