

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Marin Theatre Company presents  
**WHAT THE BUTLER SAW**  
by **Joe Orton**  
Directed by Amy Glazer

**June 4 – 28, 2009 | Opening Night June 9, 8:00 PM**

MILL VALLEY, CA—Marin Theatre Company presents the final show of its highly successful 2008–09 season with a seminal work of modern comedy, Joe Orton’s uproarious farce *What the Butler Saw* in MTC’s Boyer Theatre beginning June 4.

The all-star cast includes **Charles Shaw Robinson** (seen recently in Gore Vidal’s *The Best Man* at Aurora Theatre) and **Stacy Ross** (who just appeared in Sarah Ruhl’s *In the Next Room* at Berkeley Rep) as Dr. and Mrs. Prentice. **Andy Murray**, last seen at MTC as Sharky in the acclaimed production of *The Seafarer*, appears as Dr. Rance. The cast also includes Bay Area favorites **Rowan Brooks** as Nicholas Beckett, **Kevin Rolston** as Sargeant Match, and **Cat Walleck** as Geraldine.

When psychiatrist Dr. Prentice tries to seduce an aspiring secretary, his botched efforts lead to comic bedlam involving his insatiable wife, a randy bellhop, a befuddled police officer, and ultimately, the formidable manhood of Sir Winston Churchill. Wild, risqué, and ferociously playful, *What the Butler Saw* has been delighting audiences since it was first produced on the London stage in 1969.

“I love Joe Orton and am thrilled to be reviving one of his great comedies this season. We welcome back Amy Glazer, who has directed many hit productions at MTC over the years, to work with some of the Bay Area’s best comedic actors. I promise that this hilarious play will put you in stitches!” says MTC Artistic Director Jasson Minadakis.

British playwright **Joe Orton** had a short but prolific career, ending early when he died at the age of 34 in 1967. He shocked, outraged, and amused audiences with his scandalous black comedies including *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (1964 London Critics

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‘Variety’ Award as Best Play), *Loot* (1966 Evening Standard Drama Award for Best Play), and *Crimes of Passion*. Orton’s final play, *What the Butler Saw*, was staged in 1969 at the Queen’s Theatre, and went to off-Broadway in New York where it won an OBIE Award.

Well-known director **Amy Glazer** has worked at almost every theater in the Bay Area. Her recent productions include directing Donald Margulies’ *The Model Apartment* at Traveling Jewish Theatre and the 2008 production of Conor McPherson’s *Shining City* at SF Playhouse. At MTC, she last directed Bryony Lavery’s *Frozen* in 2007.

## THE FACTS

For more information visit [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call 415.388.5208.

Marin Theatre Company is located at 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley CA 94941.

**Previews**—Thursday, June 4 through Sunday, June 7, 2009

**Opening Night Gala**—Tuesday, June 9 at 8:00 pm

### Performance Schedule

Tues, Thu, Fri and Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu 1:00 pm | Sat and Sun 2:00 pm

Please check [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

### Ticket Prices \$20–51

Previews: Thu through Sun: \$31

Tues: \$31 in advance or Pay-What-You-Can (excludes Opening)

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$34 & \$41

Fri: \$39 & \$46

Sat Evenings: \$44 & \$51

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$34 & \$41

Opening Night (Tues) with Cast Reception: \$44 & \$55

Student tickets: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts available

Rush tickets \$10, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

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## **MTC ENGAGED!**

Programs for *What the Butler Saw* include:

**Post-Show Q&As**—After most performances (except Saturday performances and Opening Night), MTC hosts a Q&A with a member of MTC’s Artistic staff and members of the cast.

**After Words**—Sunday, June 7

After our Sunday Preview matinee in the Boyer Theatre, Margot Melcon, MTC’s Literary Manager/Dramaturg, will interview a personality onstage (TBA).

**Opening Night**—Tuesday, June 9

The theater’s most festive evening! Meet the cast and director at an informal post-show reception and enjoy a complimentary glass of Korbel champagne and treats provided by Whole Foods.

**Director’s Night**— Wednesdays, June 10 & 24

Lively post-show conversations with the director and/or cast members on two Wednesday evenings.

**Wine Tasting Series**—Saturday, June 13

Complimentary pre-show tasting (one hour prior to show) beginning at 7pm. Wine provided by Taft Street Winery Barefoot Wines and Bubbly.

**Perspectives**—Thu Matinee, June 18

Topical lecture one hour prior to the Thursday matinee, speaker TBA.

**Happy Hour**—Wednesday, June 17

All drinks half-off one hour before a Wednesday evening performances.

## **ABOUT MTC**

In its 42nd year, Marin Theatre Company is one of only five LORT theaters in the Bay Area, and is the largest professional regional theater company located in San Francisco’s North Bay. It produces an annual season of more than 200 performances on its two stages. MTC provides a forum for contemporary, classic and emerging playwrights and, through the new Expanded Programs forum, an environment that introduces people of all ages to the transformative power of theater. Through its public performances, school tours, and various educational programs, MTC serves more than 40,000 people annually.

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**Marin Theatre Company Presents**  
***WHAT THE BUTLER SAW* by Joe Orton**

**CAST BIOS**

**Joe Orton** (Playwright) was born in Leicester in 1933 and died in August 1967. He left school at 16 and two years later went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. His first staged play was *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* in 1964, winning the London Critics ‘Variety’ Award as Best Play. In 1966, *Loot* won the Evening Standard Drama Award for the Best Play. *The Ruffian on the Stair* and the *Erpingham Camp* were performed as a double bill at the Royal Court in 1967, under the title of *Crimes of Passion*. Orton’s last play, *What the Butler Saw*, was staged in 1969 at the Queen’s Theatre, and went to off-Broadway in New York where it won an OBIE Award. Film versions have been made of both *Entertaining Mr Sloane* and *Loot*. *The Good and Faithful Servant* was presented as a television play 1967, and the television play *Funeral Games* in 1968. *Up Against It*, Orton’s only screenplay was commissioned by The Beatles in 1967 as a film to follow *Help*. The Beatles never made the film but the screenplay stands as a testament to Orton’s extraordinary talent for social satire and farce. Recent revivals of Orton plays include *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* in 2001 at Arts Theatre, *What the Butler Saw* in 2005 at the Criterion Theatre, London, and *Loot* at the Tricycle Theatre in 2008.

**Amy Glazer** (Director) has directed many productions at MTC including *Frozen*, *Displaced*, *Life x 3*, *My Old Lady*, *The Music Lesson*, *Misalliance*, *Candida*, and *Indiscretions*. She has directed numerous world, American, and West Coast premieres including recent productions of *The Model Apartment* at Traveling Jewish Theatre, and *Shining City* and *The Scene* at SF Playhouse. Amy was an associate artist at Magic Theatre for many years where her productions included Sam Shepard’s *The God of Hell*, Rebecca Gilman’s *The Crowd You’re in With*, *The Sweetest Swing in Baseball*, *Blue Surge*, and *The American in Me*; Steven Belber’s *Drifting Elegant* and *Tape*; and Barry Gifford’s *Wyoming*. For Eureka Theatre, she directed *Stonewall Jackson’s House and Trust*, and for TheatreWorks she directed *Spinning into Butter*, *Pride’s Crossing*, *An American Daughter*, *Conversations with My Father*, *Marvin’s Room* and *Mrs. Klein*. Amy’s short film, *Ball Lightning*, premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival, and her feature film, *Drifting Elegant*, premiered at the Mill Valley Film Festival. She is currently in post-production for her latest feature film, *The Scene*, by Theresa Rebeck. She is a theater and film professor at San Jose State University.

**Rowan Brooks** (Nicholas Beckett) has appeared in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at Berkeley Rep; *Octopus* at Magic Theatre; *A Skull in Connemara* and *What the Butler Saw* at B Street Theatre; *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; *Restoration Comedy*, *The Tempest*, and *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby Part 2* at Cal Shakes; *Serjeant Musgrave’s Dance* and *Loveplay* at TheatreFIRST; and *Cabaret* at Shotgun Players. Regional credits include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Measure for Measure* at Harlequin Productions; *The Shrew Tamer* at Northern Stage; *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Artemis; *The Wild Things* at Central Park, New York; and *Hay Fever*, *Henry VI Parts 1 & 2*, and *Taming of The Shrew* at Pacific Repertory Theatre. London credits include *Shadow of a Gunman*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *Blood Wedding*. Rowan received his 3-Year Acting Diploma from The Oxford School of Drama.

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**Andy Murray** (Dr. Rance) returns to MTC after his recent appearance as Sharky in the hit production of *The Seafarer*. He also appeared in the 2002 MTC production of *The Hairy Ape*. Andy appeared in 2008 Cal Shakes productions as Astrov in *Uncle Vanya* and Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*. Andy has also worked at Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., San Jose Rep, Center Stage, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Magic Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, McCarter Theatre, and Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, among others. He teaches at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre and Cal Shakes.

**Charles Shaw Robinson** (Dr. Prentice) recently appeared in Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* at the Aurora Theatre Company and in the world premiere of Rebecca Gilman's *The Crowd You're In With* at Magic Theatre. He appeared in the West Coast premiere of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* at Berkeley Rep; *Othello* at Cal Shakes; Henri in *Magic Fire* at Berkeley Rep and the Old Globe Theatre; and Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* at A.C.T. Charles played the role of the Father in Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*—the acclaimed production that began at the Berkeley Rep, was later mounted at Yale Repertory Theatre, and finally transferred for an extended run at the Second Stage Theatre in New York. New York credits include a starring role in the American premiere of Frank McGuinness' *Gates of Gold*; *The Common Pursuit*; John Houseman's production of *The Cradle Will Rock*; and *Battery*, directed by R. J. Cutler. Regional credits include the title roles in *Hamlet* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *Pericles* at Centerstage, and *Scaramouche* at The Empty Space Theatre. Film work includes *Carrier*, *No One Sleeps*, *Send Word*, *Bear Mother*, and *Presque Isle*. He trained at Juilliard.

**Kevin Rolston** (Sergeant Match) appeared as Father Flynn in *Doubt* at Center Repertory Theatre, three world premieres at the Magic Theatre (including Rebecca Gilman's *The Crowd You're in With*); two tours with the San Francisco Mime Troupe; and has worked with PCPA Theatrefest, foolsFury, the San Francisco Playhouse, Word for Word, the New Federal Theatre, and the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey (company member 2000-03). He recently understudied Lilian Groag's *War Music* at A.C.T. Kevin is a founding ensemble member of OutLook Theater Project.

**Stacy Ross** (Mrs. Prentice) has appeared at MTC in *Frozen*, *Killer Joe*, and *Splittin' the Raft*. She recently appeared as Annie in Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room* at Berkeley Rep, where she has also appeared in *Cloud 9* and *The Green Bird*. Additional credits include *The Gamester* and *The Rivals* at A.C.T., *An Ideal Husband* and *Triumph of Love* at Cal Shakes, *Major Barbara* and *Rabbit Hole* at San Jose Repertory Theatre, and *Misalliance* and *Three Sisters* at Baltimore Centerstage. Her TV credits include *America's Most Wanted* and *Nash Bridges*.

**Cat Walleck** (Geraldine) recently graduated from the A.C.T. MFA program where she was most recently seen in the world premiere of *Volleygirls* at the Zeum, and *A Christmas Carol* (Mary), *Good Breeding*, *Great Catherine*, *La Ronde*, *The Orphan Muses*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet). She received a BA in romance languages and literature from Harvard University where she appeared in *Equus*, *Twelfth Night*, *Rhinoceros*, *Lulu* (title role), and *The Playboy of the Western World*, among others. She participated in The Guthrie Experience program in 2008, where she collaborated with a group of M.F.A. students from around the country to conceive and perform a musical film-noir comedy, *Caviar on Credit*.

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