



**MARIN THEATRE CONTINUES 2024/25 SEASON  
WITH RARELY SEEN CENTURY-OLD PLAY  
“WASTE”**

**BY HARLEY GRANVILLE-BARKER  
DIRECTED BY CAREY PERLOFF**

**FEBRUARY 6 – MARCH 2, 2025**

MILL VALLEY, CA (3 January 2025) — **Marin Theatre** kicks off 2025 with *Waste*, a provocative Edwardian drama focused on devious behind-the-scenes political machinations, in a new production adapted and directed by **Carey Perloff**, artistic director emerita of American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. This fresh take on a century-old play that also shone a remarkable spotlight on reproductive rights, follows an ambitious politician on the cusp of bringing his life’s work to fruition. The flawed Henry Trebell is played by **Marin Theatre** Artistic Director **Lance Gardner**, who returns to the stage for the first time in over five years. In *Waste*, Trebell’s promising career is curtailed by the threat of scandal over an illicit affair which has led to dire consequences for his married partner. Rather than showing sympathy or outrage for the woman, the play cynically focuses on the insiders who scheme to use the scandal to manipulate a political outcome. Although *Waste* was written in 1906 by the accredited English actor, director, and playwright **Harley Granville-Barker**, a contemporary and colleague of G.B. Shaw, its public debut was delayed more than 20 years due to outrage over its content. *Waste* will be performed **February 6 – March 2, 2025** (*press opening: February 11*) at Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. Tickets (\$30-\$85) are available at **MarinTheatre.org** or by calling **415-388-5208**.

“I am very excited that our audiences will get to experience this remarkable play in my first season as artistic director at Marin Theatre,” said Marin Theatre Artistic Director **Lance Gardner**. “I look forward to returning to the stage, and collaborating with Carey Perloff who returns to direct in the Bay Area for the first time since her tenure at A.C.T.”

*Waste* first premiered in 1906 in London but was swiftly censored due to its controversial subject matter and gutsy critique of societal norms. Finally presented publicly in 1936, *Waste* earned critical acclaim for its sharp-witted commentary and compelling drama, hailed by *The Times* as “Provocative. Intellectually stimulating and emotionally gripping. A masterpiece of its time.” Nearly a century after it was written, *Waste* was revived Off-Broadway in 2000, where it was hailed as “A remarkable play, full of thought and life,” by *The New York Post*, receiving Obie Awards for playwrighting and for its star Bryon Jennings. In November 2015, a National Theatre revival was lauded by *British Theatre* for its “crackling dialogue” calling it “Extraordinary. By some distance the best production to grace a National Theatre stage since Rufus Norris took the reins.”

For this production of *Waste*, Marin Theatre has assembled an exceptional cast including **Lance Gardner** as Henry Trebell, **Liz Sklar** as Amy O’Connell, **Leontyne Mbele-Mbong** as Frances Trebell, **Joseph O’Malley** as Walter Kent / Justice O’Connell, **Anna Takayo** as Lucy Davenport, **Jomar Tagatac** as Dr. Wedgecroft, **Anthony Fusco** as Charles Cantelupe, **Daniel Cantor** as Lord Horsham, and **Mike Ryan** as Blackborough.

Director, playwright, producer, author and educator **Carey Perloff** will direct Marin Theatre’s production of *Waste*. No stranger to the work of Harley Granville-Barker, Perloff’s acclaimed production of his also prescient play *The Voysey Inheritance*, adapted by David Mamet, received the *San Francisco Chronicle*’s highest rating, which declared the production “as penetratingly comic and unsettling about business ethics as if it were written today,” and went on to laud “Carey Perloff’s delightfully spirited staging” of “vital, intelligent theater – wittily written, perceptively staged and magnetically performed.” The design team bringing this production of *Waste* to life on stage will include **Arnel Sancianco** (scenic design), **Kate Boyd** (lighting design), **Jake Rodriguez** (sound design), and **Maggie Whitaker** (costume design).

### **ARTIST BIOS**

**Lance Gardner** (*Henry Trebell*) is an award-winning actor, who was last seen on stage in 2019 in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s production of *The 39 Steps* as well as the co-production of *Skeleton Crew* at Marin Theatre and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. He has previously performed with Marin Theatre in *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Equivocation*, and more. Gardner has been seen on many Bay Area stages including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Company, San Francisco Playhouse, Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre

Company, and City Lights Theatre Company, among others. Gardner was appointed artistic director of Marin Theatre in fall of 2023.

**Liz Sklar** (*Amy O'Connell*) returns for her tenth production at Marin Theatre where she was last seen in *Mother of the Mind* and the world premiere of *Wink*. A seasoned Bay Area actor, she has performed with A.C.T., California Shakespeare Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Shakespeare, Shotgun Players, and others.

**Leontyne Mbele-Mbong** (*Frances Trebell*) will make her Marin Theatre debut in *Waste*. She has performed with Marin Shakespeare, Aurora Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Company, A.C.T., TheatreSquared, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, and others.

**Joseph O'Malley** (*Walter Kent / Justice O'Connell*) returns to Marin Theatre where he was last seen in *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberly*. He has performed with Berkeley Rep, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Company, California Shakespeare Theatre, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and La Jolla Playhouse.

**Anna Takayo** (*Lucy Davenport*) will make her Marin Theatre debut in *Waste*. She has performed with Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Spooky Action Theater, Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company, Olney Theatre Center, Adventure Theatre, Capital Fringe, Kennedy Center, People's Light Theatre, Hawaii Public Theatre, and Southwark Playhouse in London, and more.

**Jomar Tagatac** (*Dr. Wedgecroft*) will make his Marin Theatre debut in *Waste*. A Bay Area favorite, he has been seen on many stages including The New Conservatory Theater, Magic Theatre, A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, California Shakespeare, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Shotgun Players, San Francisco Playhouse, Theater Mu, Oakland Theater Project, and others.

**Anthony Fusco** (*Charles Cantelupe*), who starred in Perloff's production of *The Voyage Inheritance* at A.C.T., returns to Marin Theatre where he was last seen in *Majorie Prime*. Fusco has performed on Broadway in *The Real Thing* and *The Real Inspector Hound* and on television in "The Sopranos" and "Law & Order." He has been featured in productions at many Bay Area theatres including TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Magic Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, California Shakespeare Company, Berkeley Rep, and A.C.T.

**Daniel Cantor** (*Lord Horsham*) will make his Marin Theatre debut in *Waste*. He has been seen on television as Lt. Pierson in "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago PD" and on Broadway as Kurt in *Leopoldstadt*. He has performed in many theatres throughout the nation including Minetta Lane Theater, Soho Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, A.C.T., Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Hartford TheaterWorks, Barrington Stage Company, among others.

**Mike Ryan** (*Blackborough*) will make his Marin Theatre debut in *Waste*. He was last seen on a Bay Area stage as Philip Hayes in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's production of *Queen*. He has collaborated with a variety of theatre companies including Jewel Theatre Company, A.C.T., Pasadena Playhouse, Denver Center, Aurora Theatre Company, Geva Theatre Center, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, and La Jolla Playhouse.

**Carey Perloff** (*Director*) is a director, playwright, producer, author, and educator who served as artistic director of Classic Stage Company in New York and the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Among her significant directorial accomplishments was *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, a world premiere adapted from the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini. More recently Perloff has directed *Ghosts* at Seattle Rep, *Home?* at Z Space, and *Private Lives* at the Stratford Festival, among others.

**Harley Granville-Barker** (*Playwright*) was an English dramatist, producer, and critic who profoundly influenced 20th-century theatre. Barker began his stage training at 13 years old, appearing on the London stage two years later, often in the early works of George Bernard Shaw. He later produced Shaw and introduced the public to the plays of Henrik Ibsen, Maurice Maeterlinck, and others. As a playwright, he authored many works including *The Voysey Inheritance*, considered a masterpiece of the Edwardian stage. Written in 1906, *Waste* was initially banned from production for its shocking content, finally produced 21 years later.

### **ABOUT MARIN THEATRE**

**Marin Theatre** was founded in 1966 as the Mill Valley Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA). It later changed its name to Marin Theatre Company (MTC) and by 1987 had become a professional theatre company, joining with other Bay Area theatres to negotiate the first regional Actors' Equity contract in the Bay Area. MTC joined the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and the National New Play Network (NNPN) in 2008. Now rechristened **Marin Theatre**, the company is the leading professional theatre in the North Bay and the premier mid-sized theatre in the Bay Area. In the fall of 2023, **Lance Gardner** was appointed artistic director. Well known for his many leading appearances on stage at major theatres around the Bay, he also served as president of the Board of Trustees at Aurora Theatre and was live event producer at *KQED* before assuming this role at Marin Theatre. Marin Theatre's 2024/25 season is the first programmed by Gardner, who has assembled a collection of acclaimed plays that offer Bay Area audiences their first looks at funny, engaging, entertaining, and compelling works that have been hits in Canada, the U.K., New Zealand, and in other parts of the U.S.

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** **Marin Theatre** kicks off 2025 with *Waste*, a provocative Edwardian drama focused on devious behind-the-scenes political machinations, in a new production adapted and directed by **Carey Perloff**, artistic director emerita of American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. This fresh take on a century-old play that also shone a remarkable spotlight on reproductive rights, follows an ambitious politician on the cusp of bringing his life's work to fruition. The flawed Henry Trebell is played by **Marin Theatre** Artistic Director **Lance Gardner**, who returns to the stage for the first time in over five years. In *Waste*, Trebell's promising career is curtailed by the threat of scandal over an illicit affair which has led to dire consequences for his married partner. Rather than showing sympathy or outrage for the woman, the play cynically focuses on the insiders who scheme to use the scandal to manipulate a political outcome. Although the play was written in 1906 by the accredited English actor, director, and playwright **Harley Granville-Barker**, a contemporary and colleague of G.B. Shaw, its public debut was delayed more than 20 years due to outrage over its content.

**WHEN:** **February 6 – March 2, 2025**  
Previews: February 6-8, 2025 (7:30pm Thursday - Saturday)  
*Press Opening: 7:30pm, Tuesday, February 11*  
Closes: March 2, 2025

**SHOWS:** Wednesdays-Fridays: 7:30pm  
Saturdays: 2:00pm & 7:30pm  
Sundays: 2:00pm

Wednesday, Feb. 19 – 7:30pm, mask required performance  
Tuesday, Feb. 27 – 1:00pm, open captioned performance

**WHERE:** **Marin Theatre, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941**

**TICKETS:** **\$30-\$85 plus a \$6 handling fee per total order**

**INFO:** Information and tickets are available at [MarinTheatre.org](http://MarinTheatre.org) or by calling 415-388-5208

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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here: <https://cbpr.co/press/waste>