



For Immediate Release, January 28, 2010

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Playwrights Robert Wray and Russell Lees, and Directors Peter Coy and Marcello Rollando are available for interview.

High resolution images (or by request):

[http://www.hamnertheater.com/All\\_Is\\_Always\\_Now\\_Nixon\\_Press](http://www.hamnertheater.com/All_Is_Always_Now_Nixon_Press)

Website: [www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/All\\_Is\\_Always\\_Now\\_and\\_Nixons\\_Nixon\\_In\\_Rep](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/All_Is_Always_Now_and_Nixons_Nixon_In_Rep)

**The Hamner Theater presents two plays, in repertory, Feb. 25 - March 20, 2010.**

**Nellysford, VA January 28, 2010** - The Hamner Theater announces the opening of two plays full of laughter, love & politics: ***Nixon's Nixon***, by Russell Lees and ***All Is Always Now***, by Robert Wray, in repertory, from Feb. 25 through March 20th.

***Nixon's Nixon*** by Russell Lees opens Thursday, Feb. 25th. The night before becoming the first and only American president to resign, on August 7, 1974, Richard Nixon met with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the White House. There are no tapes of *this* meeting. In Russell Lees' political satire, Nixon has not yet decided to resign, and both men are determined to secure their place in history. They drink, they talk... Directed by Marcello Rollando, with Chris Patrick as Richard Nixon, and Chris Baumer as Henry Kissinger. Marcello Rollando directed the first incarnation of Russell Lees' ***Nixon's Nixon*** (at that time titled ***Nixon & Kissinger***) for Circle Repertory Company, the acclaimed, innovative off-Broadway repertory theater company. Says Rollando, "Lanford Wilson (playwright, and founding member of Circle Rep) handed me a stack of 6 plays, suggesting that I choose one to direct. Initially, I was not eager to be associated with either Nixon or Kissinger, but quickly found that I couldn't put the play down. Reps from the Schubert Organization attended, and my production led to the publication of the play under the new title of ***Nixon's Nixon***." Awarded the Edinburgh Fringe First in 1999, *Nixon's Nixon* has played New York City, London and across the U.S., the U.K. and Australia.

'Mr Lees' play flashes with humor...as hilarious as it is hair-raising' (Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times)

**About Russell Lees:** *Playwright Russell Lees has also written a play about another American President, Monticel', about Thomas Jefferson and the machinations at Monticello. He is the creator of The Dark Eye, a videogame based on the life of Edgar Allan Poe, voiced by William S. Burroughs. He worked on the game Full Spectrum Warrior, sponsored by the U.S. Army, intended to assist veterans from Iraq overcome post traumatic stress disorder. In 2004, he provided the commentary for a DVD release of Richard III.*

Also onstage at the Hamner Theater, from March 4 through March 20, will be ***All Is Always Now***, written by Charlottesville playwright Robert Wray. Robert Wray's new comedy about actors and acting, loss and moving on was developed, in part, at the Hamner's Virginia Playwrights Initiative, a workshop for new plays. Elements of Shakespeare, Melville and Chekhov combine to create a story about a group of theater friends who gather together for one last night in New York. Directed by Hamner Theater Co-Artistic Director, Peter Coy, with Kevin O'Donnell, Chris Patrick, Anya Scott and Ryan Wender.

**About Robert Wray:** *Charlottesville playwright Robert Wray is a graduate of the Iowa Playwrights Workshop and has had plays produced all over the country. He has won the Marc A. Klein Playwriting Award, and was a Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival and a Heideman Award finalist.*

***Nixon's Nixon*** will preview Feb. 24 and open Feb. 25, closing Sat., March 13; ***All Is Always Now*** will preview March 2 & 3 and open March 4, closing Sat., March 20. Opening Night performances Thursday, Feb. 25 and Thursday, March 4 will be followed by a free champagne reception with cast and crew. Talkbacks will follow the performances Friday, March 5 (***Nixon's Nixon***) and Friday, March 12 (***All Is Always Now***). Performances will take place Wednesdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Admission \$10. Reservations are suggested, call (434)361-1999. Visit [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com) for more information.

**About the Hamner Theater:** *The Hamner Theater, now presenting its fifth season, is a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Nelson County, and receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County.*

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**Summary:**

**What:** ***All Is Always Now***, by Robert Wray and ***Nixon's Nixon***, by Russell Lees

**Where:** Hamner Theater, 190 Rockfish School Lane, between Afton and Nellysford, VA

**Dates:** February 25 through March 20

**Opening Night:** ***Nixon's Nixon***, Feb. 25; ***All Is Always Now***, March 4

**Show Times:** Wednesday – Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

**Admission:** \$10

**Reservations/Information:** 434.361.1999 / [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com)

**Special Events:** Talkback, Fri., Mar. 5, ***Nixon's Nixon*** & Fri., Mar. 12, ***All Is Always Now***

**Champagne Reception,** Feb. 25, ***Nixon's Nixon*** & Mar. 4, ***All Is Always Now***

***Nixon's Nixon*** will preview Feb. 24 and open Feb. 25, closing March 13. Performances held Feb. 25, 26, 27, Mar. 5, 11 & 13 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 28 & Mar. 7 at 2:00 p.m.

***All Is Always Now*** will preview March 2 & 3 and open March 4, closing March 20. Performances held Mar. 4, 6, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Mar. 14 at 2:00 p.m.