

Cash On Delivery!
British Humor At it's BEST!
A Comedy by Michael Cooney
Directed by Ray Cooney



EL PORTAL THEATRE MAINSTAGE
December 3 to 20, 2015

El Portal Theatre proudly presents ***Cash On Delivery*** directed by Ray Cooney, written by Michael Cooney, December 3 – December 20, 2015, at the historic El Portal Theatre Mainstage in the NOHO Arts District, North Hollywood, CA.

Cash On Delivery reunites the family talents of actor/director father Ray Cooney and his stage and screenwriter son Michael Cooney in this hilarious farcical romp!

The international cast includes Broadway, West End and Regional Theatre veterans: Katie Amess, Marie-France Arcilla, Debra Cardona, Michael Sweeney Hammond, Hap Lawrence, Jim Mahoney, Sam Meader, Henrietta Meire, Brian Wallace and featuring Ray Cooney as Uncle George.

Creative staff includes Bruce Goodrich as Set and Costume Designer, Jim Wilson as Lighting Designer and Marissa Bergman as Props Mistress.

Ray Cooney is today recognized theatrically and publicly as 'THE MASTER OF FARCE'. The Queen bestowed Ray the honor of OBE Commander of the British Empire, in 2004 for his contributions to the British Theatre.

A most prolific writer of stage farces/comedies of high standards which have not only graced the stages of English speaking countries for more than 40 years, but have been staged worldwide and translated into more than 40 foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese and Russian. Ray Cooney has earned an international reputation as the finest living writer/actor/director of this form of theatre. Charles Spencer – the doyen of theatre critics – wrote ‘Ray Cooney is a National Treasure’.

“People who go to the theatre and who work in this industry know what goes into a farce. As an actor you work very hard in farce. When you come off stage you really know you’ve been in one! For an audience, you see, they mustn't see all the hard work, just the comedic developments – so the more people laugh, the better I have done my job.”- Ray Cooney

Michael Cooney was born and raised in London, England, and now makes his home in Los Angeles.

He is the writer and Executive Producer of the 2015 ABC Drama Pilot **Runner**. Other television and film credits include: **Identity, Inside, Tracks of a Killer**, directing and writing the cult phenomenon **Jack Frost** and **Jack Frost 2**, and **Murder In Mind**, the film written by Cooney adapted from his stage play, was produced for HBO and star Nigel Hawthorne, Mary Louise Parker, Jimmy Smits and Jason Scott Lee.

In addition to Cooney's film work, he is also part of the British theater world. His stage writing credits include the comedy **Cash On Delivery** that had it's world premier at the prestigious Theatre Royal Windsor and has gone on to break box office records throughout Europe. **Cash on Delivery** ran for a year in London's West End before beginning a nationwide tour. His two stage thrillers, **The Dark Side** and **Point of Death** have both enjoyed successful British tours.

CALENDAR

El Portal Theatre presents

Cash On Delivery

Cast:

Katie Amess, Marie-France Arcilla, Debra Cardona, Michael Sweeney Hammond, Hap Lawrence, Jim Mahoney, Sam Meader, Henrietta Meire , Brian Wallace and Ray Cooney as Uncle George.

Directed by Ray Cooney

Written by Michael Cooney

Set and Costume Design by Bruce Goodrich

Lighting Design by Jim Smith

Sound Design by Julie Ferrin

DATES:

December 3 thru December 20, 2015

15 performances only!

Previews:

Thursday, December 3 at 8pm

Friday, December 4 at 8pm

Saturday, December 5 at 3pm & 8pm



Gala Press Opening:

Sunday, December 6 at 3pm

Followed by an authentic British Pub Party

Regular Schedule:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8pm
Saturday & Sunday at 3pm

TICKETS:
\$46 sides
\$56 center

For Tickets call:
818-508-4200
866-811-4111
Or order online:
www.elportaltheatre.com

For Press Seats contact:
Forrest & Associates
rnfrst@aol.com
Pegge Forrest - Jay Irwin
818-508-0281 Office 818-693-0964 Cell

CAST BIOS

Katie Amess (Brenda Dixon) is an accomplished British born actress who is a recipient of the Helen Mirren Award for Acting and trained at the renowned Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Since her move to Los Angeles Katie is delighted to have been named one of BAFTA LA's Best Newcomers for 2013 & 2014. Last month Katie appeared at The Geffen Playhouse as Ulcie in *These Paper Bullets*. She has also performed in the West End, Edinburgh Festival and Off Broadway as well as in several TV and film roles both here and in her native England. She is thrilled to be playing Brenda Dixon for you today.

Marie-France Arcilla (Sally Chessington) is a New York actor making her L.A. theater debut! Drama Desk Award: *Working* by Stephen Schwartz. New York credits include *Lizzie Borden, Shout!, The Ark, Sidd, Perfect Harmony, Oklahoma!*, and *Here Lies Love*. Regional: *Stuck Elevator* (A.C.T.

San Francisco), *The Orphan of Zhao* with BD Wong (La Jolla Playhouse), *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Great Lakes Theater), *Simeon's Gift* with Julie Andrews (Bay Street Theater) Film and TV: *Law & Order: SVU* (twice!), host of *Cinema AZN*, *Gossip Girl*, *Cashmere Mafia*, *Big Time Rush*, and the award-winning shorts *Johnny Loves Dolores* and *A Date with Jao Mapa*. @emeffny #askifitsequity.

Debra Cardona (Ms. Cowper) New York credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Fezziwig) at Madison Square Garden and *Soul Doctor* (Mother) and *Bingo* (Standby) off-Broadway. She has toured nationally in *Mary Poppins* (Miss Lark), *Guys and Dolls* (General Cartwright), the Royal National Theatre's production of *My Fair Lady* (Queen of Transylvania) and *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Mrs. Claus). Regionally, Debra has appeared in *Mary Poppins* (Miss Andrew/Bird Woman) at Kansas City Starlight Theater, *The Light in the Piazza* (Signora Naccarelli) and *In the Heights* (Abuela Claudia) at Pioneer Theater Company, *Ragtime* (Emma Goldman) at Paper Mill Playhouse, *On the Twentieth Century* (Imelda) at Goodspeed Opera House and *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Pearce) at Musical Theatre West. Debra was nominated for a 2015 New York Innovative Theater Award. Television appearances include *Dancing with the Stars* and *Scandal*. She is married to voice actor Darin De Paul.

Michael Sweeney Hammond (Dr. Chapman) is excited to be back in LA and performing in *Cash on Delivery* at the El Portal. He recently returned from playing the role of Sam Wood in the national tour of L.A. Theatre Works' *In the Heat of the Night*. His regional credits include *His Girl Friday* and *Car Plays: San Diego*, La Jolla Playhouse; *Julius Caesar* and *All's Well That Ends Well*, Shakespeare Theatre DC; *The Torch-Bearers*, Williamstown Theatre Festival; *A Devil at Noon*, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center; and *Solid Gold Cadillac*, Studio Theatre DC. Michael is a graduate of the MFA acting program at UC San Diego, where his favorite credits include *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Grapes of Wrath*, and *Elizabeth I*. He's also done readings at the Kennedy Center and the Theatre Lab/Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Michael wants to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

Hap Lawrence (Mr. Forbright) has appeared recently at the Odyssey Theatre as Lewis Carroll in Gus Krieger's *Sherlock Through the Looking*

Glass, and as Mr. Wemmick in *Great Expectations, The Musical*; and down at The Raven he played Andrew Borden, Lizzy's father, in *Blood Relations*. Other L.A. credits include *The Fantasticks* for Reprise, *Only a Kingdom* at the Pasadena Playhouse, Fagin in *Oliver!* at Thousand Oaks Arts Plaza, and Horton Foote's *The Young Man from Atlanta* at the Lex. Hap's big screen credits include *Altered States*, *The Best of Times*, *Coast to Coast*, *Wholly Moses!*, and *Loving Couples*; small screen credits include *Carnivale*, Hallmark's *Aunt Mary*, HBO's *Inherit the Wind*, and Fox-TV's *Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer*. Having played in lots of Gilbert & Sullivan early on, Hap adores funny British plays, and is especially delighted to be a part of this amazing company in this unrelenting farce!

Jim Mahoney (Eric Swan) is originally from Edina, Minnesota. He attended the University of Colorado, Boulder where he started his career as a performer and storyteller. Since living in LA, Jim has performed as a stand-up comic (Comedy Store, Laugh Factory), long form improviser (iO West) as an actor in multiple national commercials, several independent films (*Oliver*, *Stoned*) and television (*Wilfred*). In 2012, Jim was selected as one of the 12 actors for the ABC New Talent Showcase. As a writer he has co-written multiple web videos (*It's Not Porn, It's HBO*; *The Etiquette Ninjas*) as well as for television (Comedy Central) and feature films (Fox Animation). Currently, Jim is also a member of the teaching faculty at Lesly Kahn and Co. school for actors.

Henrietta Meire (Linda Swan) From German-Normandy heritage, classically trained Henrietta Meire has performed across London's West End in leading stage roles from Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* to Isabella in *Measure for Measure*. Most recently Henrietta has been working as a guest-star on *NCIS* and as a supporting lead in the Emmy nominated *Hello Ladies: The Movie* alongside Stephen Merchant and Nicole Kidman. Other recent credits include the feature films *Playing it Cool*, *Low Down* and *Stevie D* beside movie greats such as John Hawkes, John Aprea and Chris Evans. After training in Stanislavsky and Brecht, as well as classical training at the Royal National Theatre, London, Henrietta found her home in the Meisner Technique and was fortunate enough to train for 3 years with the only British teacher Sanford Meisner ever trained – Tom Radcliffe.

Henrietta is an accomplished jazz singer and, in her late teens, traveled

Europe as a solo and leading concert clarinetist. She has a penchant for martial arts and practices her Ninja moves whilst making a killer chocolate sorbet.

Brian Wallace (Mr. Jenkins) is making his Los Angeles stage debut, after watching his hairline fade away when working out of New York. While back East, he established an off-Broadway career and appeared with several LORT companies around the country, such as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Capital Rep, Dallas Theater Center, Palm Beach Dramaworks, the Public/NYSF and Trinity Rep. Brian has originated roles for many noted playwrights, including William Gibson, Quiara Hudes, Tracey Scott Wilson and Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder. He updates the amusing podcast “A Tidy Splash of Wallace” at least once a month (subscribe on iTunes) and rabbits on more about himself at www.actorbrianwallace.com.