



Arbery Productions

thought-provoking theatre

FROM KINGS TO CALIFORNIA

PRESS RELEASE

Robin Holden appears in *Californian Lives*

“Robin Holden is completely convincing”
(*The Public Reviews*)

“[Holden’s] brash, animated delivery does well
to project [his character’s] frustration and cynicism”
(*playstosee.com*)

“Holden commands the stage”
(*The Gay UK*)

“Holden carries the piece with an undeniable, enjoyable energy”
(*Bargain Theatreland*)

“Robin Holden’s performance demands attention”
(*One Stop Arts*)



He has only been an actor for four years, but Robin Holden already has an impressive CV. His stage appearances include Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*, Iago in *Othello*, Razumikhin / Zvidrigailov in *Crime and Punishment* and Duke Ferdinand in *The Duchess of Malfi*. And these are only a few of his classical roles. He’s also played a variety of royals, including Hamlet, Macbeth, the King of Spain and, most recently, Oedipus.

Now he’s set to reprise a character that won him critical praise earlier this year at the King’s Head in Islington. He plays a salesman in a diner in *Los Feliz*, one of three one-actor plays in *Californian Lives*, at the OSO Arts Centre in Barnes, London.

“My character is a misogynist, at odds with the time and place he lives in. Unempathetic, lonely, competitive.”
Anything like Robin himself? “Hopefully not a great deal! Despite his faults, I like him and find myself feeling sorry for him. And I would call myself competitive.”

As his acting history shows, Robin is used to playing complex characters, perhaps none more so than Jekyll / Hyde in *The Scandalous Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, for which he was nominated for Best Actor in the 2011 Off West End Awards. He has appeared in theatres all over London and works with Paul Holden to produce innovative short films.

Press / PR Contact:

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It's thanks to Robin that *Californian Lives* was written in the first place. "Last year I was acting with Martin Foreman in *The Duchess of Malfi* and read his short story collection *First and Fiftieth*. There are some terrific stories there that make great monologues. I asked if I could do one and suggested he put on others as well. There was a short trial run at the Lord Stanley in Camden last year and that led to this full-scale production."

Robin's confidence was well-placed. *Californian Lives* received widespread praise, for the writing, acting and direction. Now that he is fully into his character he can see and bring out new nuances and insights in each performance.

But one obstacle remains – he has to get through a meal in the course of the short play. So far, nothing has gone wrong, but in a production of *Sleuth* he was in "one snazzy special effect involved a whisky tumbler being shot from my hand. Unfortunately it was placed wrongly and ended up being filled with drink. Being made of sugar glass it held out admirably for about two minutes before I made an exuberant gesture and the bottom dropped out, dispensing the contents into the lap of an unfortunate lady in the front row."

Each evening when the show is over, Robin is already almost home. He grew up in Barnes and his parents still live there, so there's always a bed to crawl into – and, he hopes, surrounded by old friends and neighbours, a ready-made audience to come and see him.

The three short plays that comprise *Californian Lives* address themes of intimacy and trust. By award-winning writer Martin Foreman, featuring Robin Holden in *Los Feliz*, John Vernon in *Ben and Joe's* and Carolyn Lyster in *Sunset*. Directed by Emma King-Farlow. Opens 17 September.

***Californian Lives* at the OSO Arts Centre, 49 Station Road, London SW13 0LF**

7.30pm, Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 September 2013

Press Night: Wednesday 18 September

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions)

online: www.osoarts.org.uk

box office: 020 8876 9885

californianlives.co.uk

pictures: californianlives.co.uk/press.htm

trailer: youtu.be/hGUDJBPwd9E

Profiles of the other actors (Carolyn Lyster and John Vernon), director (Emma King-Farlow) and writer (Martin Foreman) also available.

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