

MORONGO VALLEY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE:

**PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAY “THE GIN GAME” OPENS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE IN MORONGO VALLEY
WILL PLAY WEEKENDS FROM OCTOBER 1 – 23**

The Pulitzer Prize winning tragi-comedy “*The Gin Game*,” is opening at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley on Saturday, October 1, and will play Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through October 23rd.

Written by D. L. Coburn, “*The Gin Game*” was first produced in 1976 in a 56-seat theater at the corner of Hollywood Blvd. and Argyle Ave. in Los Angeles. A favorable review in *Variety* brought it to the attention of The Actors Theatre of Louisville, who produced it as a part of their now famous festival of new plays. There the play came to the attention of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, who sent it to famed director Mike Nichols. Within 24 hours, Nichols signed on to direct, and the play was headed for Broadway, where it opened to rave reviews starring Cronyn and Tandy on October 6, 1977. The play completed a run of 516 Broadway performances before going on triumphant tours of England and the Soviet Union. It was nominated for Tony Awards for Best Play, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director, and won the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

“*The Gin Game*” was revived on Broadway in 1997, starring Charles Durning and Julie Harris, and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Production of a Revival. In May of 2003, PBS premiered a film version featuring Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore, which is currently available on video.

The play, using a game as a metaphor for life, introduces us to Weller Martin, playing solitaire on the porch of a seedy nursing home. He meets Fonsia Dorsey, a prim and self-righteous lady, whom he finds shares his dislike for the home and his enjoyment gin rummy. They begin to play and to reveal the intimate details of their lives. Fonsia wins consistently, and their secrets become weapons used against one another, as Walter longs for a victory to counter his lifetime of defeats in “*The Gin Game*,” which the Boston Globe called, "Perfect...A vibrant study on loneliness, disillusion, old age and death, yet fiercely funny," and the New York Times, “The closest thing the theatre offers to a duel at 10 paces.”

Talented local actress/director **Vicki Montgomery** directs “*The Gin Game*” which will feature **John Corley** and **Joy Groves** as Weller and Fonsia—all are multiple Desert Theatre League award winners.

Groves Cabin Theatre has won multiple Desert Theatre League awards for its high-quality productions. The 24-seat theater offers one of the most intimate theatrical experiences in the world—that experience having been described as being “like a fly on the wall, witnessing real life happening before my eyes.” **The limited seating means early reservations are a must.**

“*The Gin Game*” will play Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, from October 1 – 23. **Groves Cabin Theatre** is located at 8768 Desert Willow Trail in Morongo Valley north of Highway 62 (look for the large red, white, and blue stone on the north side of the highway). Tickets for all seats are \$10. For additional information and reservations call! (760) 365-4523.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joy Groves (760) 365-4523

Sam Sloneker (760) 369-9972; samslo@msn.com