

MORONGO VALLEY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

GROVES CABIN THEATRE PRESS RELEASE:

**DAVID MAMET'S CONTROVERSIAL AND PROVOCATIVE DRAMA, *OLEANNA*
OPENS AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE IN MORONGO VALLEY SATURDAY NOV. 6
PLAYS SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS THROUGH DEC. 12**

Who's the "good guy," and who's the "bad guy" here? He said it was a lesson. She said it was sexual harassment. What side will you choose; whose side will you be on? These are the questions raised in Pulitzer Prize winning (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) playwright, David Mamet's controversial and provocative drama, *Oleanna*, which opens a six-weekend run at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley on Saturday, November 6, at 8:00 PM.

Oleanna centers on the relationship between a student and a university professor. She goes to him for extra help in his class—but she may be just trying to set him up for a sexual harassment lawsuit. He tries to help her with her studies—but he may be trying to dominate and have inappropriate relations with her. As the relationship turns into a struggle, playgoers will find themselves switching sides early and often. The tension building on stage becomes the viewer's tension—tension and suspense that will escalate to a fever pitch in the play's shattering finale.

The drama's appropriate tagline is, "Whatever side you take, you're wrong." *Oleanna*, also made into a motion picture, is a seething investigation of "political correctness" and "civil rights," and has been accused of being anti-feminist, lauded for being pro-feminist, hated for being anti-establishment, pro-establishment, sexist, etc. In reality, it is all and none of these things; *Oleanna* serves as a mirror that forces us to examine and discuss our own convictions. In its 1992 review, the NY Times declared, "*Oleanna* is likely to provoke more arguments than any play this year." What side will you choose?

Wendy Cohen, who directed last season's successful *If We Are Women* at Groves, directs the compelling drama, which features Desert Theatre League award winning actor **Bob Harrison** as John, the professor, and **Keri Rivers** in the part of Carol, the student. "This is very personal, very nuanced theater," states director Cohen, "Mamet's play is very ambiguous, and asks one to deeply examine who is the 'good guy' and who is the 'bad guy.' The audience will leave the theater with lots of fuel for discussion."

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.**

Oleanna plays Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, from November 6, through December 12. **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 are \$10 (\$8 for seniors 60+ and students). For additional information and reservations call! (760) 365-4523.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joy Groves (760) 365-4523

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