

MORONGO VALLEY, JANUARY 21, 2005

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE:

THE WAVERLY GALLERY
AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE IN MORONGO VALLEY
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS FROM FEBRUARY 5 – 27

Kenneth Lonergan's insightful drama *The Waverly Gallery* opens at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley on Saturday, February 5, and will be presented for eight performances only, on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through February 27.

The Waverly Gallery is about the final years of a generous, chatty, and feisty grandmother's battle against the specter of old age. Gladys has been a socially and politically active woman and the longtime owner of a small art gallery in Greenwich Village. She is losing the gallery to developers—and her confidence to the challenges of aging. The play explores her fight to retain her independence, and also the effects of her decline on her family, especially her grandson. It captures well the humor and strength of a family in the face of crisis.

The original New York production starred Eileen Heckart in the role of Gladys and was lauded in *The New York Times* as, "A stirring and soulful, comic drama...classically so, à la *Glass Menagerie*... *Waverly* is often deeply funny. It is both painful and hilarious," while Charles Isherwood of *Variety* declared, "You will be awed by Lonergan's writing."

Playwright Kenneth Lonergan is known for his trademark humor and his genius for capturing the real heart and soul of human interactions. In addition to several successful plays, including the landmark *This Is Our Youth*, he is the author of the popular movie *Analyze This*, starring Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro and also wrote and directed the highly critically acclaimed *You Can Count on Me*, winner of the 2000 Sundance Festival's Grand Jury Prize and nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

Well-known Coachella Valley director Justin Blake directs *The Waverly Gallery*. The production features Dr. Rainbow Casey in the role of Gladys, Kenneth White as her grandson Daniel, Jenise Fryatt and Howard Glenn-Rawley as her daughter Ellen and son-in-law Howard, and Nolan Reynolds as Don, the artist who is Gladys' last "project." Scenic design is by Kathleen Marion.

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 Waverly Gallery plays Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, from February 5 – 27. **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.

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