



NEWS RELEASE

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Comedy spy thriller 'Our Man in Santiago' by Emmy nominee Mark Wilding premieres at Theatre West

Theatre West Presents

**OUR MAN
IN SANTIAGO**

EST. 1962
**THEATRE
WEST**

Directed by
CHARLIE MOUNT

Produced by
BENJAMIN SCUGLIA

With **Presciliana Esparolini •
Nick McDow Musleh • Steve Nevil •
George Tovar • Michael Van Duzer**

Asst Director **Chloé Rosenthal** • Sets **Jeff G. Rack** •
Lights **Yancey Dunham** • Costumes **Mylette Nora** •
Publicity **Lucy Pollak**

March 13 -
April 5, 2020

(323) 851-7977
www.TheatreWest.org
3333 Cahuenga Blvd West, LA, CA

A New Comic Spy Thriller
by **MARK WILDING**

LOS ANGELES (Jan. 29, 2020) — Intrigue and laughter, bodies and mayhem. **Theatre West** presents the **world premiere** of a comic spy thriller inspired by the true story of a spectacularly botched U.S. attempt to overthrow Chile's democratically elected leader. ***Our Man in Santiago***, written by two-time Emmy nominee and WGA award-winner **Mark Wilding** (*Grey's Anatomy, Scandal, Good Girls, Charmed*) and directed by **Charlie Mount**, opens at Theatre West on **March 13**, with performances continuing through April 5. Two low-priced previews take place March 11 and March 12.

On Sept. 4, 1970, socialist politician and physician Salvador Allende was elected president of Chile. According to a 1974 article in Harper's Magazine penned by Gabriela García Marquez, a contingency plan had been hatched by the Nixon administration and the Chilean military in preparation for just such an event — but the coup they intended had to be aborted when “someone made a mistake in the Pentagon and requested 200 visas for a purported Navy chorus, which in reality was to be made up of specialists in government overthrow; however there were several admirals among them who couldn't sing a single note.”

Inspired by this ridiculous failure, Wilding has penned a farce in which the CIA enlists an inexperienced, unsuspecting agent to follow up with a poorly conceived and wildly dangerous effort to hasten what was to be, in the end, a successful coup d'état in Chile three years later, in 1973.

According to Mount, “It's about consequentialism. In politics, do the ends justify the means? Is it okay to break the law if it's for the good of the country? Does assuming the moral imperative make it okay to do something wrong? Sound familiar? It's set in 1973 Chile, but it could just as well be set in Vietnam or Cambodia, or today in Iran.”

“The idea for this play has been percolating in the back of my mind ever since I read Marquez's article,” says Wilding. “At the time, I was still in high school, but I made a copy and have held onto it ever since. It was such a loony, misguided venture. About a year-and-a-half ago, I workshopped the play at Theatre West, and the reaction was amazing — everybody thought it was so much fun.”

Our Man in Santiago features **Presciana Esparolini**, **Nick McDow** and **George Tovar**, with **Steve Nevil** playing Richard Nixon and **Michael Van Duzer** as Henry Kissinger.

The creative team includes set designer **Jeff G. Rack**, lighting designer **Yancey Dunham**, costume designer **Mylette Nora**, fight director **Joe Nassi** and gun captain **Bruce Dickinson**. **Emily Kluger** is the production stage manager, **Liv Denevi** is assistant stage manager, and **Chloe Rosenthal** assistant directs. **Benjamin Scuglia** produces for **Theatre West**.

Mark Wilding, a long-time member of Theatre West, has worked in television for over two decades, writing and producing both comedies and dramas. He is currently a writer

and executive producer on the NBC show *Good Girls*. Comedy credits include *Ellen*, *Dave's World*, *Jesse*, *Caroline In The City*, *The Naked Truth*, *The Tony Danza Show* and *Working*. Mark worked on *Ellen* in its first year, back in 1993, when the show was still called *These Friends Of Mine*. He returned two years later to help write and produce the fourth season of the show, which culminated in "The Puppy Episode" — when Ellen DeGeneres's character famously came out as gay. The episode won an Emmy for best comedy writing. Drama credits include *Jake 2.0*, *Charmed*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Private Practice*, *Scandal* and *Still Star-Crossed*. Mark served as co-executive producer and executive producer on *Grey's Anatomy* for seven years, during which he wrote a dozen episodes of the show and was part of a writing staff that was nominated twice for an Emmy for best dramatic writing. His episode "Where The Boys Are" won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Individual Episode. Another episode, "Life During Wartime", won the 2008 Genesis award for dramatic writing. In 2011, Mark moved to *Scandal*, serving as executive producer and head writer for five years. One of his episodes, "Nobody Likes Babies", was cited by *Time* magazine as one of the Top Ten TV episodes of 2013. *Scandal* was also honored by the AFI in 2013 for "its contribution to America's cultural legacy." In the fall of 2016, Mark moved to New York for six months, where he executive produced a summer series for ABC, entitled *Still Star-Crossed*.

Charlie Mount served as the artistic director for the critically acclaimed Chestnuts Theatre Program at Theatre West, where he produced the Los Angeles premiere of *Requiem for a Heavyweight* and *The Lion in Winter* with Jim Beaver; directed Betty Garrett in *Waiting in the Wings*; and earned an Ovation nomination for "Best Play" for his production of *Waiting For Lefty*. Also at Theatre West, Charlie directed Beau Bridges in the original production of *Acting – The First Six Lessons* and produced Ray Bradbury's *Falling Upward* with Pat Harrington. Other directing credits include *Seascape*, *Gaslight* and *The Fantasticks*. Plays written by Charlie include *Trumpets and Table-Tipping*, produced at Theatre 40, and *The Leather Apron Club* and *Against The Wall*, both staged at Theatre West. Charlie is also a magician member at Hollywood's famed Magic Castle.

Performances of ***Our Man in Santiago*** are scheduled on **Fridays** and **Saturdays** at **8 p.m.** and **Sundays** at **2 p.m.** from **March 13** through **April 5**. Two preview performances take place on Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12, both at 8 p.m. Tickets to all performances except previews are **\$25** with advance purchase and **\$30** at the door; tickets to previews are **\$15**. **Theatre West** is located at **3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West** in **Los Angeles, CA 90068**; metered street parking available, and there is a paid lot across the street from the theater. For reservations and information, call **(323) 851-7977** or go to TheatreWest.org

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

Details for Calendar Listings 'Our Man in Santiago'

WHAT:

World premiere of *Our Man in Santiago* — A comic spy thriller inspired by the true story of a spectacularly botched U.S. attempt to overthrow Chile's democratically elected leader. In this new political farce by two-time Emmy nominee and WGA award-winner Mark Wilding (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, *Good Girls*, *Charmed*), the CIA enlists an inexperienced, unsuspecting agent to follow up with a last-ditch, poorly conceived and wildly dangerous effort to hasten the 1973 Chilean coup d'état.

WHO:

- Written by **Mark Wilding**
- Directed by **Charlie Mount**
- Featuring **Presciliana Esparolini**, **Nick McDow** and **George Tovar**, with **Steve Nevil** as Richard Nixon and **Michael Van Duzer** as Henry Kissinger
- Produced by **Benjamin Scuglia**
- Presented by **Theatre West**

WHEN:

Previews: March 11 and March 12:

Performances: March 13 – April 5

- **Wednesday at 8 p.m.:** March 11 ONLY (preview)
- **Thursday at 8 p.m.:** March 12 ONLY (preview)
- **Fridays at 8 p.m.:** March 13 (opening night), March 20, March 27, April 3
- **Saturdays at 8 p.m.:** March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4
- **Sundays at 2 p.m.:** March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5

WHERE:

Theatre West
3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West
Los Angeles, CA 90068

HOW:

- Call (323) 851-7977 or go to TheatreWest.org
- Visit us on facebook: [facebook.com/OurManInSantiagoPlay](https://www.facebook.com/OurManInSantiagoPlay)

TICKET PRICES:

- All performances: **\$25** with advance purchase, **\$30** at the door
- Previews: **\$15**
- Senior/student/military discounts available: call theater for details.

PARKING:

- Metered street parking
- Paid lot available across the street from the theater

PHOTOS:

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

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