

## Town Hall Theater Names New Artistic Director—Clive Worsley Season Kicks Off with *The Graduate*

By Andrea A. Firth



Emily Garcia, Clive Worsley (in back), and Joel Roster at Town Hall Theater  
Photo Andrea A. Firth

**T**own Hall Theater (THT) will launch its 2008-2009 season with a new Artistic Director at the helm—Clive Worsley, an award-winning Bay Area actor, director, and theater educator, will be steering the THT cast and crew. Worsley is a familiar face at Town Hall where he has acted and directed in the past. “This a good move for me,” states Worsley. “I am a firm believer that theater enhances education and builds community. And, I am really impressed by the com-

mitment to community that is exemplified by Town Hall Theater.”

Born in Glasgow, Scotland and raised in British Columbia, Worsley has spent the last thirty plus years in the Bay Area. Following stints with Armitage Shanks Theater and San Francisco’s Viaduct Theater, Worsley became a core company member of Berkeley’s acclaimed Shotgun Players. For the last six years he has turned much of his attention to theater education working as a Teaching

Artist in classrooms throughout Contra Costa County and as an Associate Artist with California Shakespeare Theater’s educational and outreach programs.

One of the things that Worsley has learned from his teaching experience is that he likes it on this side of the tunnel. “I give credit to the parents and theater professionals in Contra Costa County. They embrace their community, and they commit to strengthening it—all while making some really good art,” he states.

Worsley is already intimately familiar with the great main stage productions produced by Town Hall Theater, and he describes the educational program as the best in the East Bay. So what’s left for him to do? “I want to reach our farther,” sates Worsley. “I would like Town Hall Theater to be a household name in Lamorinda and beyond.” To achieve that goal, he plans to keep the selection of plays fresh and varied while still accessible to the average theater-goer.

“I’m looking forward to my first season with Town Hall Theater and getting to know the patrons,” states Worsley. “Town Hall is an ac-

tive member of the community, and I want to increase the dialogue.”

### **THT Season Kicks off with *The Graduate*.**

Town Hall Theater’s 2008-2009 season will kick off with *The Graduate* on September 11th. Based on the novel by Charles Webb, this new adaptation for the stage stays pretty true to the movie version from the sixties that many baby boomers will remember.

“While the show is set in the 1960’s, it is no way limited to that time,” states Joel Roster who will direct the Town Hall Theater (THT) play—an East Bay premier. “The themes of alcoholism, infidelity, and dysfunctional families persist and may be even more relevant today. It makes the comedic moments even funnier and the poignant moments hit harder,” he adds. Roster says play-goers should be prepared for an evening of laughter and tears. “It’s a startling moving show. It’s brilliant.”

*The Graduate* will play at Town Hall Theater from September 11th through October 11th. For tickets contact the box office at 925.283.1557.