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"Pomerance's tale showcases the triumph of a very human spirit, personified by the sensitive, almost saintly Merrick." – *Associated Press*

**HILLBARN THEATRE TO PRESENT  
BERNARD POMERANCE'S AWARD-WINNING DRAMA,  
*THE ELEPHANT MAN***

▪ MARCH 8 – 25, 2018 ▪

FOSTER CITY, CA (January 26, 2018) – **Hillbarn Theatre**, the Peninsula's premier theatre company, continues its 2017–18 season with Bernard Pomerance's award-winning drama, **THE ELEPHANT MAN (March 8–25, 2018)**. *THE ELEPHANT MAN* is based on the life of John Merrick, who lived in London during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A horribly deformed young man— the victim of rare skin and bone diseases—he becomes the star freak attraction in traveling sideshows. Found abandoned and helpless, he is admitted to London's prestigious Whitechapel Hospital. Under the care of celebrated young physician Frederick Treves, Merrick is introduced to London society and slowly evolves from an object of pity to an urbane and witty favorite of the aristocracy and literati, only to be denied his ultimate dream—to become a man like any other.

*THE ELEPHANT MAN* made its Broadway debut in 1979 and went on to win the Tony Award for "Best Play," the New York Drama Critics' Award, an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award, and the Outer Critics' Circle Award. The play has been revived numerous times since, including the recent 2014 Broadway production featuring Bradley Cooper that won the 2015 Drama Desk

Award for “Best Revival of a Play.”

THE ELEPHANT MAN will perform at Hillbarn Theatre (1285 East Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City). Performances are **Thursdays—Saturdays at 8 p.m.** and **Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.** Press night for THE ELEPHANT MAN will be Friday, March 9, 2018. Single tickets range in price from \$27–\$52 and are available now by calling 650.349.6411 ext. 2 or visiting [www.hillbarntheatre.org](http://www.hillbarntheatre.org).

Led by **Joshua Marx\*** as John Merrick, THE ELEPHANT MAN features (in alphabetical order) **Michael Barrett Austin\***, **Thomas Cokenias**, **Stephanie Maysonave**, **Lizzie Moss**, **John Musgrave**, **Rich Matli**, **Josselyn O’Neill** and **Samantha Ricci**.

*\*Member of Actors’ Equity Association*

Directed by **Jasen Jeffery**, the creative team for THE ELEPHANT MAN includes **Sara Ramos** (Stage Manager), **Kimberly Hill** (Dialect Coach), **Abra Berman** (Costume, Hair & Make-Up Designer), **Pam Gray** (Lighting Designer), **Phyllis Garland** (Properties Designer), **Jon Covey** (Sound Designer and Mixer) and **Ting Na Wang** (Scenic Designer).

Next up, Hillbarn Theatre is proud to present the national premiere of the one-man show, ***When That I Was...*** (March 29–31, 2018). Finally, Hillbarn Theatre closes out it’s 2017–18 season with the raucous and acclaimed musical, ***The Full Monty*** (May 3–20, 2018), based on the cult film of the same name.

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#### ABOUT HILLBARN THEATRE

Since 1941, the historic **Hillbarn Theatre** has served the San Francisco Bay Area by embracing this founding ideal - to create theatre with the community, for the community, striving always for excellence in production and education. Hillbarn has won a Theater Critics Circle Award, was accepted at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, was honored with several mayoral proclamations for excellence in theatrical production and education, and received three Dean Goodman Awards for Artistic Excellence.