

David Aston-Reese as

Barrymore

by
Wm. Luce

Directed by Jerry James



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David Aston-Reese as

John Barrymore

It's 1942 and the famously eccentric stage and screen actor John Barrymore, now in his fifties, has rented a theatre on Broadway to get his Richard the Third "back on its feet" and revive his "puny career." With the help of an offstage prompter, Franklin, the evening unfolds as the devilishly rakish Barrymore struggles to remember Richard's lines, while at the same time regaling his audience with humorous tales of his legendary exploits. In sartorial splendor the witty Mr. Barrymore enchants his audience with memories of his stage and film triumphs, his wives and more than a few of his notorious peccadilloes along with other antics; until, finally he comes out dress to the teeth as the crowned humpback – will he pull it off? It is a glorious theatrical romp danced out and sung by a roguish actor from an American theatrical dynasty.

Barrymore!



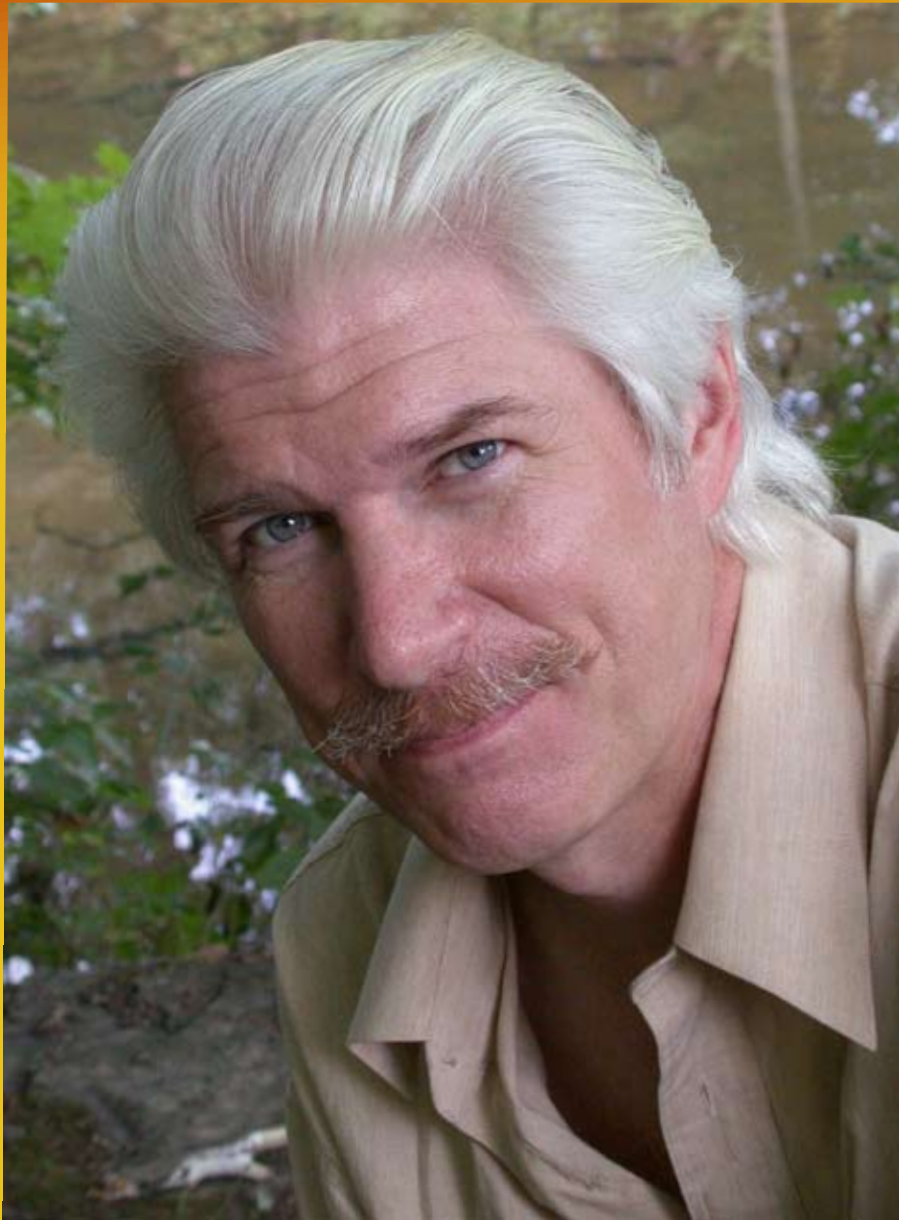
Here are some of the accolades *Barrymore's* David Aston-Reese has received in a few of his appearances in NYC:

as James Joyce in *Travesties* “outstanding contributions were made by David Aston-Reese as Joyce.” *Oobr.com*

as Vershinin in *Three Sisters* - “exceptional acting by David Aston-Reese.” *Nytheatre.com/*

as Detective Brody, in *Detective Story* - “Outstanding work by David Aston-Reese” *Nytheatre.com*

as Flan in *Six Degrees of Separation* - “fine work by David Aston-Reese as the impenetrable Flan.”
Oobr.com



David Aston-Reese has appeared in many Off-Broadway, Film, TV and regional productions. His NYC credits include: Peer in *Peer Gynt* and Edmond in *King Lear* directed by Christopher Martin at CSC REP., Dr. Dorn in *The Seagull* & Ceasar in *Julius Ceasar* at the American Globe Theatre, James Joyce in Perkasio Theatre Company's *Travesties*, Dion Anthony in *The Great God Brown* at Chain Lightning Theatre, Dr. Swither in *Christmas on Hell Island* at Sanford Meisner Theatre, Starkwedder in *The Unexpected Guest* at the New Vic, Moreno in *Design for Murder* at The Apple Corp and at Terry Schreiber Studio he has performed Det. Brody in *Detective Story*, Vershinin in *Three Sisters*, Astrov in *Uncle Vanya* and Flan in *Six Degrees of Separation*. Among his regional credits: Johnny Tarleton in *Misalliance* at The Loeb Repertory Theatre, Higgins in *My Fair Lady* at New London Barn Theatre, Norfolk in *A Man for All Seasons* at Bristol Riverside Theatre, The Creature in *Frankenstein* at the Byrdcliffe Theatre Project and Claudius in *Hamlet*, Petrucio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Jaques in *As You Like It*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Woodstock Shakespeare Festival. He has appeared on *Another World* and has been seen and heard in various commercial spots, including a delightful stint as the Topol Toothpaste spokesman. David is currently co-founder and Artistic Director along with his wife, actress Elli Michaels, of the Bird-On-A-Cliff Theatre Company in Woodstock, New York.

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Inebriating theater

David Aston-Reese takes on the role of the grand, tragic actor, John Barry-more, in Bird-On-A-Cliff's presentation of *Barrymore* at the new Woodstock Playhouse. William Luce's play, which opened on

Broadway at the Music Box in 1997, takes place one month before Barry-more's death in the spring of 1942, as the sixty-year-old alcoholic attempts to revive a brilliant career after 15 years of retirement. Reese becomes the besotted Barrymore, telling stories, forgetting lines, and running through the emotional spectrum of the great actor's desperate final scene. Your last chance to see this sad, funny show is this Saturday, September 1 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. Call 679-2764 for more information. This is the final show of the Woodstock Playhouse's preview season.



David Aston-Reese



**Friday,
March 4, 2005**



**8:00 P.M.
Harvard Hall**

The Program Committee

welcomes you to

Bird-On-A-Cliff Theatre Company's

presentation of

BARRYMORE!

A Play by

William Luce

Directed by Jerry James

Produced by Elli Michaels and David Aston-Reese

Starring:

David Aston-Reese

as

John Barrymore

Featuring:

Joseph Bonjiomo

as

Franklin, the prompter

**The play takes place one month before
John Barrymore's death**

Act I, Scene I: The spring of 1942

Act I, Scene II: Later the same evening

The performance will run without an intermission