

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

Carey Perloff, *Artistic Director*

PRESENTS

# WORDS <sup>on</sup> PLAYS

INSIGHT INTO THE PLAY, THE PLAYWRIGHT, AND THE PRODUCTION

## *November*

BY DAVID MAMET

DIRECTED BY RON LAGOMARSINO

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 22, 2009

WORDS ON PLAYS PREPARED BY

**ELIZABETH BRODERSEN**

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

**MICHAEL PALLER**

RESIDENT DRAMATURG

**DAN RUBIN**

PUBLICATIONS & LITERARY ASSOCIATE

**KATIE MAY**

PUBLICATIONS INTERN

**ELLEN CASSIDY, MEGAN COHEN**

DRAMATURGY INTERNS

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## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. *November* contains several unrealistic elements. What are they, and how do they affect your theatrical experience?
2. Do you think President Smith is a conservative or a liberal? Why?
3. What kind of archetype/stereotype does each character represent?
4. What is the most powerful tool for each character in achieving his or her personal and political goals? Consider rhetoric, deception, charm, bribery, flattery, aggression, intimidation, humor, etc.
5. Why does President Smith decide to marry Bernstein to her partner? Does he actually support same-sex marriage?
6. Is a play about politics the same thing as a political play? If not, which is *November*?
7. What executive orders would you issue as president?
8. Whom would you pardon? Why?
9. How is *November* similar to other plays David Mamet has written? How is it dissimilar?
10. Which real-life political figures do you recognize in each of the characters?
11. Director Ron Lagomarsino says that David Mamet “is very wily and he’s out to incite us.” Whom do you think he incites with this play, and how? Why is Mamet “out to incite us”?
12. How many crimes does President Smith commit, promise to commit, or admit to having committed during *November*?
13. What would you name the National Turkey and Alternate National Turkey?
14. What do you think happens to each of the characters after the end of the play?