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TOWN HALL THEATRE ANNOUNCES SEASON 2019/20 HOLIDAY SHOW:

CINDERELLA: A Fairytale

NOVEMBER 2, 2019 – Town Hall Theatre celebrates the holidays with a delightfully original take on the classic Brothers Grimm story, ***CINDERELLA: A Fairytale***, by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck, as part of our 75TH “TRANSFORMATIONS” Season.

CINDERELLA: A Fairytale will have 12 performances, including two previews, December 5 through December 21, 2019, at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette, CA. Tickets are \$18 - \$30, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

THT will host three Special Events for ***CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE***: an *Opening Night* gala on Saturday, December 7, 2019; *LIT UP at Town Hall*, a literary salon on the theme “Outcast/Cast Out” on Monday, December 9, 2019; and Theatre Club, our post-show talk-back with complimentary wine, on Friday, December 13, 2019. We welcome audiences to enjoy THT’s full bar and entertainment in our lobby one hour before performances. Town Hall is thrilled to welcome the John Muir Land Trust as a new community partner with this production. JMLT manages a stunning landscape of 16 properties, including Carr Ranch, a pristine 604-acres adjacent to Lamorinda exemplifying the cultural legacy of California cattle ranches.

“ ... beautifully formed, this is not just a great Christmas show, but a great night for all times and all ages.” – *The Guardian*

Featuring original music, filled with humor, dance and a genuine love story, ***CINDERELLA: A Fairytale*** will appeal to audiences young and old. As we meet little Ella, her father is teaching his daughter the names and calls of all the forest birds. They enjoy a happy life together ... until he remarries and her life is upended. Surrounded by cruel relations, Ella's only allies are a flock of very clever and magical birds. This imaginative new version of the classic folktale includes many fanciful twists: the actor playing the Father transforms into the scheming Stepmother (in a nod to British panto tradition), the Prince is a geeky, asthmatic bird-watcher, and the slipper is a Doc Marten-type boot that shimmers!

Playwright/Director Sally Cookson says she chose the fairytale of *Cinderella* because it's such an old story, around long before the Grimm Brothers and before Perrault (whose version is used by Walt Disney in his 1950s film). Grimm's adaptation appealed to her because it is less "syrupy", embracing the darker elements but also packed with humor. Why is *Cinderella* so enduring? " ... I think it's partly to do with the fact that it's a story about family and growing up, and these are things we all share," Cookson declares. " ... what appears to be a very simple tale actually addresses fundamental questions about what it is to be human." Of course, it never hurts to throw in a bit of MAGIC!

"It's not often that I want to see a show a third time, but then it's not often that a show is as properly enchanting as *Cinderella: A Fairytale*." – *The Times*

THT's production of ***CINDERELLA: A Fairytale*** is directed by Clive Worsley, Town Hall's former Artistic Director, and features a slew of Bay Area performers of all ages: Lindsay Kathryn Ford as Ella, Dennis Markam as Father/Stepmother, Henry Halkyard as Prince, Sara-Jean Bartky as Stepsister, Marshall Scott as Stepbrother,

and Mikah Kavita as the Queen. Five younger performers round out the Ensemble playing the magical forest birds and palace courtiers at the Ball: Oli Axelrod, Jason Gray, Lourdes Verde Lombardo (who also portrays Young Ella), Olivia Penney and Tatiana Torres. THT's production also features a dynamic creative team with impressive credits in the Bay Area and beyond: Anna Smith (Assistant Director/Choreographer); Martin Flynn (scenic design); Allen Willner (lighting design); Lana Palmer (composer and sound design); Denise Altaffer (costume design); and Sofia Alvarez (properties design).

Performance History

CINDERELLA: A Fairytale premiered in December 2011 at Tobacco Factory Theatre, devised by the Company and produced by Tobacco Factory Theatres and Travelling Light Theatre Company. The show was the third Christmas collaboration between Travelling Light, Tobacco Factory and Sally Cookson. After receiving amazing reviews and great audience reception, the show was produced in London at the St. James' Theatre where it was nominated for an Olivier Award, and then at the Unicorn Theatre, where it won an Off-West End Award. This is the first time ***CINDERELLA: A Fairytale*** has been seen by audiences in the Bay Area.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Sally Cookson is a freelance director based in Bristol. She is an associate artist of Bristol Old Vic where productions have included *Peter Pan*, *Treasure Island*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Pains of Youth*, *Pericles* and *The Visit*. Ms. Cookson has directed over 10 productions in collaboration with Travelling Light, including *Boing*, *Cloudland*, *Bob The Man on The Moon*, *How Cold My Toes*, *Shadow Play*, *Clown*, *Lenny*, *Home* and *Papa Please Get The Moon For Me*. Other productions include: *The Ugly Duckling*, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* (Tobacco Factory); *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* (Kenny Wax Productions); *Lost*

and Found (Polka Theatre); *Stick Man*, *Aesop's Fables* and *Tiddler and Other Terrific Tales* (Scamp Theatre). Other theatre includes: *Sapling Song*, *As Far As I Can Sea* (National Trust), *The Mermaid and The Mirror* (Half Moon), *Jump* (Myrtle Theatre). Her acting credits include work at the Royal National Theatre, Almeida, Young Vic, Gielgud Theatre and repertory theatres around the UK.

Adam Peck is a writer, performer and dramaturg. Since 2006 he has worked with the Bristol Old Vic Young Company as a writer (*Joan of Arc*, 2007, and *Gilgamesh*, 2006), playwriting tutor and devised theatre sessional leader. Between 2007 and 2011 he worked with Fairground, the company he co-founded with Tid, to create three shows for the Tobacco Factory - *The Red Man* (2008), *Out of Touch - A Trilogy* (2009) and *Bonnie & Clyde* (2010). More recent writing work includes *Cinderella: A Fairytale* for Tobacco Factory and Travelling Light, *Bitter Tales* for Theatre Orchard Project and *Only* for Bristol Old Vic. Other writing credits include: *My Bristol Vista* for Paines Plough (*Come To Where I'm From*, 2010), *Life Savings* for Theatre Royal Bath (2011), *Chocolate Money* (Short Fuses, 2010) and *Kick Off* (Ferment 2010) for Bristol Old Vic.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Clive Worsley is the Director of Artistic Learning at the California Shakespeare Theater and the former Artistic Director of Town Hall Theatre (2008-13), and is thrilled to return to direct on the stage where he helmed such productions as *Distracted* (2012), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (2011) and *The Odd Couple - Female Version* (2009). Favorite roles on the Town Hall Stage include Cratchit in *Scrooge* (2009-11), Richard in *Proof* (2010), Freddy in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (2011) and Sly in *Sly Fox* (2012). Numerous other Bay Area stage appearances include: Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Central Works, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, SF Playhouse, Shotgun Players, TheatreFirst, TheatreWorks, Z Space and, of course, Town Hall Theatre.

ABOUT TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs, Town Hall Theatre celebrates 75 years this Season and our 300th production, making it the oldest continuously active theatre in Contra Costa County. Town Hall Theatre has recently been honored with a 2019 Arts and Culture Commission Special Arts Recognition Award, and is the past recipient of numerous Shellie Awards and regional Theatre Bay Area Awards. THT is also home to an extensive children's educational program, twice voted the "Best Children's Theatre Company" by *Bay Area Parent Magazine*. THT's 105-year old historical building is managed by the Lafayette Association (LIA). Town Hall Theatre Company is located at 3535 School Street, in Lafayette, CA 94549. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 4:00 to 6:00PM, and Saturday, 2:00-4:00 pm, and can be reached at 925.283.1557. Information is also available at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

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CALENDAR Information on *CINDERELLA: A Fairytale*

WHO: TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY presents

WHAT: *CINDERELLA: A Fairytale* by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck, directed by Clive Worsley, with Assistant Director/Choreographer Anna Smith

CAST: Oli Axelrod, Sara-Jean Bartky, Lindsay Kathryn Ford, Jason Gray, Henry Halkyard, Mikah Kavita, Lourdes Verde Lombardo, Dennis Markam, Olivia Penney, Marshall Scott, Tatiana Torres

DATES: Thursday, December 5, 2019, Preview @ 8:00 p.m.
Friday, December 6, 2019, Preview @ 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 2019: OPENING RECEPTION
THROUGH December 21, 2019

SHOWTIMES: Dec. 5 – Dec. 21, 2019

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays @ 8:00pm

Saturdays, Dec. 14 & 21 and Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 2:00 PM

CLOSES: December 21

WHERE: Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, Lafayette, CA 94549

SPECIAL EVENTS:

December 7, 2019: *Opening Night*

December 9, 2019: *LIT UP at Town Hall*, a Literary Salon, 7:30-9:00pm

Dec. 13, 2019: *Theatre Club* 8:00pm Post-Show Talk-Back

TICKETS: \$18 Previews

\$27-30 Thurs. eve., Fri. eve., Sat. eve

\$25-27 Sat. & Sun. matinees

Discounts available for Seniors and youth

BOX OFFICE: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com