



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Elizabeth Curtis

Media phone: 925.283.1557

Email: Press@TownHallTheatre.com

**TOWN HALL THEATRE ANNOUNCES FIRST MAIN STAGE SHOW FOR THE 2022-2023
SEASON: "CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE"**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 – Playwrights Sally Cookson and Adam Peck's piece, **"Cinderella: A Fairytale"** will be brought to the stage again, this time by Director Sequoia Schirmer. This stage version of Cinderella has captivated audiences with its dazzlingly original take on one of the oldest and best-loved fairytales of all times.

When Ella's mother dies, she is brought up by her devoted and loving father who teaches her the names and calls of the woodland birds that surround their home. But when her father marries again, Ella's peaceful life is turned upside down by a host of new and unpleasant relations. It appears her only allies are the feathered friends who roost in the trees, but they are no ordinary birds...With crystal-clear storytelling, this classic tale of fortunes reversed is brought startlingly and imaginatively to life.

"When curating this season we were all excited by the idea of revisiting this production and letting it serve as a bridge between pre-pandemic Town Hall, and the company we are now." shared **Daniel J. Eslick** (Curator of Artistic Programming). "We are excited to share our expressions and stories with you all this holiday season! I love how this adaptation of the Fairytale is approachable for the entire family and also lends itself so well to being a holiday spectacle that can create memories for years to come. Ella's journey, at its core, is one for dreamers of all ages. It's a story of growing up, moving on, belonging and finding one's place in the world, while also learning to appreciate the world around you, and finding the ways to make it your own."

"*Cinderella: A Fairytale* is a fresh retelling of a classic story. I love this script because it challenges our perceptions of these characters whose stories have been told so many times." remarked **Sequoia Schirmer** (Director). "Each character has an element layered onto them that I have never seen done before; which brings a unique depth and quirkiness to them.

In our production we are telling this story through a queer lens to bring representation to those of us who did not see ourselves in fairytales growing up. Queer culture has a long and powerful history of reclaiming famous characters and stories and people finding joy in their own personal expression of them. This show is bold and fun and campy while also still speaking to the tale of resilience and the magic of finding true love that makes Cinderella such a popular story. "

We are currently accepting submissions for our 2023-2024 Main Stage Season, submissions will be accepted through October 28th, 2022. For more information and to submit, visit our website at <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/submissions>.

COVID PRECAUTIONS

As the nation moves into the endemic phase of COVID we at Town Hall are adjusting our policy. While we are loosening some restrictions we are still keeping some in place. This is consistent with some theatre's of our size in the Bay Area. The restrictions we have kept in place were chosen in large part for two reasons. First, we are still in the process of upgrading our HVAC system which we currently have no air filtration system in place. Our goal is to have MERV 13 or higher air filtration when our HVAC upgrade is complete.

Second, we have an obligation to protect our visiting artists, teaching staff, and performers of all levels. Many of our visiting artists and teaching staff have multiple jobs and taking time off for COVID is not something they can afford to do. Also, we want to make sure performers -- including students -- don't miss their performances.

Our intention is to re-visit this policy when our HVAC upgrade is completed or when new guidance is issued. Town Hall Theatre reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave the premises immediately.

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MASKS STILL REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCES, CLASSES, AND REHEARSALS

Masks that cover the nose and mouth must be worn in Town Hall Theatre or during any in-door Town Hall produced events or classes regardless of vaccination status. This includes but is not limited to rehearsals, performances, classes, or meetings. This policy applies to audiences, staff, Teaching Artists, students, visitors, and volunteers.

- Performers -- including students -- are able to choose to be masked or unmasked during performances.
- We continue not to sell the first row of seating except for patrons who use wheelchairs and one of their companions. Town Hall will provide KN95 masks to anyone who needs them, subject to availability. No food or drink will be permitted upstairs in the theatre to encourage masks to stay on during performances. All food and beverage must be consumed in the lobby or clearly designated outdoor areas.
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PROOF OF VACCINATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED

To view our COVID 19 Policy in detail, please visit our website at

<https://www.townhalltheatre.com/covid19>.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Sequoia Schirmer (she/they) is a Bay Area based theater director whose passion is creating works that cultivate queer joy. She is a recent graduate of UC Santa Cruz's M.A in Theater Arts program where her thesis work was on directing an all femme identified production Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* and exploring how to stage classic works through a feminist lens. She also served as the Artistic Director of UCSC's Barnstorm Theater Company for its 2021-2022 season.

ABOUT TOWN HALL THEATRE

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs, Town Hall Theatre Company is the oldest continuously active theatre in Contra Costa County. Town Hall Theatre (THT) was awarded Best Theatre Troupe 2016 by Diablo Magazine, Best of The East Bay, and is the past recipient of numerous Shellie Awards, and 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 home is the historic Town Hall Theatre building located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette which is owned by the Lafayette Improvement Association (LIA).

CALENDAR Information for "Cinderella: A Fairytale"

WHO: Town Hall Theatre Company

WHAT: "Cinderella: A Fairytale"

Directed by Sequoia Schirmer

Written by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck

CAST: Evelyn McCollum, Alicia Rydman, Ash Brown, Vanessa Dalpiaz and Scout Del Real.

DATES: December 3rd-18th, 2022.

WHERE: Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street

TICKETS: \$25-\$40. December 17th is Pay-What-You- Can