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**TOWN HALL UNVEILS AN UNFORGETTABLE 2023-2024 THEATRE SEASON OF
THRILLS, CHEERS, AND CONNECTION**

AUGUST 2nd, 2023 – Town Hall Theatre welcomes audiences back for a season that offers something for everyone; from spooky thrills to holiday cheer and a beautiful journey that fosters connection.

"It's been really heartening to hear the excitement building from folks who are just now realizing that Town Hall is back from the pandemic," says Managing Director **Dennis Markam**. "Like a lot of other companies, it's been slow going to get audiences in the door, which is a real shame because they've missed out on some really stellar pieces of theatre from some astoundingly talented artists." Like other companies, Town Hall has shortened its season to two Main Stage offerings and one New Voices production. "Comrades" by Edward Gunawan, which was previously announced as part of the 2023-2024 season, has been moved to start the 2024-2025 season. "And if that's not enough to make you curious about Town Hall, we've also got a brand new heating and cooling system!" added Markam.

THRILLS, CHILLS, AND CONNECTION 2023-2024 SEASON:

Kicking off just in time for Halloween, Town Hall presents a haunting and exciting adaptation of Henry James's "**The Turn of the Screw**", written by Jeffrey Hatcher and directed by Town Hall's own Dennis Markam. Prepare to be on the edge of your seat with this twist on the classic horror novella. Presented by two powerhouse actors, this spine-tingling play will take you on an unforgettable journey into the unknown. Follow the gripping story of a young governess hired to care for two orphaned children in a remote estate.

As the governess begins to unravel a family's dark secrets, she becomes convinced that malevolent spirits are haunting the children. But are these apparitions real, or is the governess losing her grasp on reality? With its haunting atmosphere, chilling suspense, and masterful storytelling, "The Turn of the Screw" is a must-see for fans of psychological thrillers.

Following "The Turn of the Screw," we dive headfirst into the holidays with the stage adaptation of "**A Christmas Story**", directed by Heather Cousins. Experience the magic of the holiday season and be transported back to your childhood with Philip Grecian's heartwarming stage adaptation of the classic movie, ready to be shared with a new generation.

Follow the adventures of young Ralphie Parker as he dreams of receiving the ultimate Christmas gift: a Red Ryder BB gun. Along the way, he encounters a cast of colorful characters, from his quirky family to schoolyard bullies. With its timeless themes of family, love, and the true spirit of the holidays, "A Christmas Story" is a must-see for audiences of all ages. This non-musical adaptation captures all the warmth and humor of the original film, featuring a talented and hilarious cast that will leave you feeling merry and bright.

Don't miss your chance to experience the joy and wonder of "A Christmas Story" on stage and make this heartwarming production a part of your holiday tradition!

Finally, in June 2024, local playwright J. Lynn Jackson's inventive and moving "**Lucía Fuentes**" comes to Town Hall as part of the New Voices Series. Hernán Espinoza embarks on a journey to Japan to walk the Shikoku pilgrimage path. His purpose is to complete the pilgrimage in 43 days, as a tribute to the lives of 43 boys who disappeared in his home country of Mexico. Along his path, Hernán encounters an abbess, a monk, and fellow Shikoku pilgrims, each with their own unique intentions for undertaking the pilgrimage. As Hernán walks, he finds solace and reflection, processing his past with the guidance and support of those he encounters. The abbess becomes his mentor, helping him shape his future as he continues on his transformative journey.

The **New Voices Series** is a first for Town Hall Theatre, featuring never produced-on-stage plays by local playwrights living in the nine Bay Area counties. The series was created to give a wider-array of playwrights a chance to expose new and in-process works to an audience that may not otherwise be exposed to their stories. These lightly produced productions will include a facilitated talkback at each performance allowing the playwrights the chance to receive feedback from audiences in a constructive manner, while also giving audiences an insight into the theatre maker's process.

Town Hall offers a myriad of opportunities to engage, bringing our artists, audiences and community together:

- **TALKBACKS:** Stay after the show for a free talkback with the cast and director, plus a complimentary glass of wine. See show calendars for dates.
- **TOWN HALL THEATRE LOBBY:** Come an hour before curtain, enjoy our full bar, live events and gather with friends. Enjoy our new Town Hall happy hour, where you can get a \$1 off drinks the first 30 minutes the lobby is open.
- **LOBBY ENTERTAINMENT:** For our Main Stage shows, we are fortunate to have Contra Costa Performing Arts Society members entertain us with pre-show music before each performance.

Town Hall Education is proud to announce the relaunching of our Adult Education classes alongside a new season of exceptional process-based classes for all ages. Education classes are built for new through seasoned actors interested in expanding their skills and social circle with focuses in playwriting, improvisation, and storytelling. Fall youth classes feature musical theatre productions about beloved video game characters, Cinderella retellings, and fresh takes on classic stories for pre-k through high school. Our Adult Storytelling and School Tour program takes us into local schools with performances and workshops, and don't forget about THEd's popular adult improv class Yes, And Wine! Introducing our Yes, And Wine Flex Pass. Passes get you preferred Flex enrollment to any class as well as a Town Hall wine tumbler to enjoy your beverages.

At Town Hall's **Special Events**, audiences will enjoy an array of performances including crowd-pleasing bands, hilarious stand-up comedy or Improv performances, and Cabarets in our intimate Town Hall venue. This Season includes Laurie Roldan and her popular Cabaret, *Laurie Sings a Song for You: A Cabaret Concert Inspired by the Music of Karen Carpenter*. As well as our *Cult Classic Movie Nights*, kicking off on September 8th with *Mama Mia*.

Don't forget about the new *Front Porch Presents* back on our stage in November, featuring local musical talent and the creators Andree and Austin Hurst.

Subscribers to Town Hall Theatre get substantial savings off our already affordable prices, and enjoy free ticket exchange privileges, by phone or text messaging, missed performance insurance, as well as priority seating and free admission to select Town Hall events. THT's 2-show Main Stage packages range from \$35 to \$85; 3-show Main Stage + New Voices packages range from \$55 to \$105; and single tickets range from \$20 to \$45. To ensure that money is never a hindrance from experiencing live theatre, we now have **Pay-What-You-Can tickets** for all our Main Stage and New Voices performances available at the door.

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 TOWN HALL THEATRE 2023-2024 SEASON

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

Adapted By Jeffrey Hatcher, story by Henry James

Directed by Dennis Markam

Previews: September 28th & 29th, 2023

Opening Night: September 30th, 2023

Through: October 21st, 2023

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Adapted by Philip Grecian, story by Jean Shepherd

Directed by Heather Cousins

Previews: November 30th and December 1st, 2023

Opening Night: December 2nd, 2023

Through: December 17th, 2023

LUCÍA FUENTES

By J. Lynn Jackson

Directed by Katja Rivera

Opening Night: June 14th, 2024

Performances: June 15th, 21st and 22nd

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

SINGLE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

<https://www.townhalltheatre.com/single-tickets>

BOX OFFICE: (925) 283-1557 or boxoffice@townhalltheatre.com

Thursday-Friday 4:00pm-6:00pm and Saturday 2:00pm-4:00pm

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