

Placer Repertory Theater

Professional Performing Arts, Cultural & Economic Enrichment for Placer County

Info@PlacerRep.org | www.PlacerRep.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 5, 2020

Placer Repertory Theater

A JANE AUSTEN HOLIDAY

Placer Repertory Theater: info@placerrep.org | www.PlacerRep.org

FOR TICKETS: <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/JaneAusten>

Celebrate the holidays with Placer Repertory Theater's one-night-only event: **A JANE AUSTEN HOLIDAY on Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.**, featuring a cast of 13 professional actors performing a stage-reading of a new romantic comedy by T.S. Forsyth, adapted from Jane Austen's novel, *Persuasion*, livestreamed to the comfort of your home. Tickets start at \$5 per device and donations are heartily encouraged and fully tax deductible.

A JANE AUSTEN HOLIDAY event stars local professional actors Rodger McDonald (AEA), Anne Merino (Placer Theatre Ballet), Elizabeth Anne Springett (Sacramento Theater Company), Kevin Foster (Placer Rep's Dr. Watson) and Ryan Gerberding (star of My Jekyll & Hyde), with a special appearance by Kathryn Carner (company member of Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang theater company). The cast is rounded out with the talent of Natalie Farrell, Rick Eldredge, Delton Engle-Sorrell, Jodi Serrano, Hana Holloway, Anthony Themoleus and Eric Piotrowski. "Part of developing a new work is exposing it to audiences for reaction. We see this holiday romantic comedy as a perfect way to end our 2020 digital season, and as a kind of holiday gift to everyone who has supported us this year, and a treat for those audience members who are

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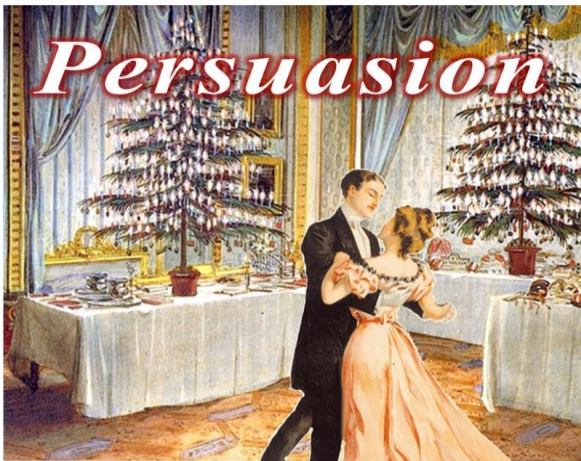
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watching us for the first time,” said Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater.

Placer Repertory Theater was all set in early 2020 to announce its inaugural season starting with the new work, *My Jekyll & Hyde*, when COVID-19 hit. “We’re so grateful our patrons have continued to support us and have grown in numbers as we deliver performing arts through digital livestreaming and digital recordings until we can return to live theater venues,” said Digital Media Director and Founding Company Member Ryan Gerberding.

Placer Repertory Theater (www.PlacerRep.org) is a new professional performing arts nonprofit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to the people of Placer County, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the area. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

Contact Teresa Stirling Forsyth, artisticdirector@PlacerRep.org, or Kevin Foster, Outreach Director at Outreach@PlacerRep.org



By T. S. Forsyth
Based on the novel by Jane Austen

THE PLAY

Experience the stage reading of our new work, *Persuasion*, slated for World Premiere in Dec 2021. Miss Anne Elliot spent the last 8 years dutiful and depressed amongst her comically dysfunctional family and social circle, since she was persuaded by her father and Lady Russel to break her engagement to Commander Wentworth. But now the love of her life returns from the war a wealthy Captain. At 27, will she succumb to the persuasions of her family and friends and not renew her relationship with Captain Wentworth to end her days a spinster, or will she successfully persuade her social circle to accept the Captain – assuming

she can help the Captain overcome his bitterness toward her and renew his tender feelings – or shall she marry a charming gentleman she meets in Bath, who makes his interest abundantly clear at a Holiday concert? Nonprofit 501(c)3: Ticket sales & donations are tax deductible.

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TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH - PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

A Rocklin resident with an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS in Business Management & Leadership, this critically acclaimed professional director/playwright also plays the role of Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater. Previously, the artistic director for two San Francisco theater companies, her performing arts background includes international tours as an actor/singer/dancer, and director/playwright for national and international touring productions with renown performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell'Arte International. As an educator, she has instructed and directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, Shawnee State University and other educational institutions.

Projects on which Forsyth worked have received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC and corporations. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and NNPN/New Play Exchange. In the Sacramento area, she directed the production and mentored the playwright for the world premiere of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* at Sacramento Theatre Company in 2019, and most recently directed and wrote episodes of Placer Rep's *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* series, as well as co-authored and directed *My Jekyll & Hyde* starring Ryan Gerberding.



RYAN GERBERDING - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / MR. WILLIAM ELLIOT

Ryan Gerberding is an actor from Rocklin, CA. He is very proud to be a founding company member and Digital Media Director for Placer Repertory Theatre. Ryan studied at University of California, Davis, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Theatre and Dance. There, he performed in numerous plays and musicals, including *Urinetown the Musical*, *Lungs*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, and *Gospel According to the First Squad*. He also directed multiple shows for Studio 301, a student-run theatre club at UC Davis, including *The Pillowman*, *Swimmers*, and *Dogfight*. After graduating from college, he has performed in numerous productions in the Sacramento

area, including *Amélie the Musical*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *The Rocky Horror Show with Green Valley Theatre*, and *Small Mouth Sounds with Big Idea Theatre*. Currently, he teaches youth classes for Sacramento Theatre Company and may be seen in episodes of Placer Rep's *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* series episodes on YouTube, for which he is on the writing and directing team, as well as performing duties as the digital editor, or in his solo show, *My Jekyll & Hyde*, currently previewing throughout the greater Sacramento area.

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KEVIN FOSTER - OUTREACH DIRECTOR / MR. CHARLES MUSGROVE

Kevin Foster is a Rocklin local and Sacramento area native, excited to work at Placer Repertory as Outreach Director and in various other capacities. He began training in acting at UC Davis whilst earning his B.A. in Music Performance. After graduating, he performed at Davis Musical Theater Company in *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *Damn Yankees*, and the Elly Award winning production of *Chicago*. His other credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Chautauqua Playhouse and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Sacramento Theater company, where he is currently teaching youth classes. You may see him in Placer Rep's new

digital series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube.



KATHRYN CARNER - MISS ANNE ELLIOT

Actor, solo performance artist and administrator, Carner is a graduate of University of Colorado and the internationally renowned Dell'Arte School of Physical Theater. Currently, Ms. Carner is an acting company member of Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang, and Director of Operations for their Arts in Prison program. She recently co-starred in the ensemble-developed, international touring production *The New Colossus*. A few of her previous film credits include acting and producing: *A Foreign Exchange Love* (2014), *Finding Red Cloud* (2008) and *A Night at*

Sophie's (2004). On behalf of Placer Repertory Theater, Ms. Carner keeps her eye on the national scene and plays a key role as Placer Rep's new works, that premiere in Placer County, tour regionally and nationally.



RODGER MCDONALD - SIR WALTER ELLIOT / ADMIRAL CROFT

Currently, the Financial Controller for Western Care Construction, McDonald is also a seasoned, performing arts professional. A veteran actor and director, his career has spanned more than 5,000 stage appearances and over 250 productions. McDonald won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Elly Organization, and taught Oral Interpretation at BYU and Cornell as a Guest Artist. He performed on three tours with the USO in Europe and Asia through the Air Force and

in his time with Y Children's Theater in Los Angeles, his organization performed for over 1 million children. Previously, McDonald was Chief Financial Officer for Cambridge Development Group in Los Angeles, which built over 18 Tracts of Homes and 5 High Rise Buildings. Currently, McDonald is on the Board of Care West Insurance. Member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA.

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ANNE MERINO - MRS. MUSGROVE

Merino began her career dancing for notable companies such as American Ballet Theatre and the London Festival Ballet and is currently the artistic director of Placer Theatre Ballet. A prolific choreographer, she won the Vanguard Award for Choreography. Merino's traditional theatrical training was received at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Second City with Del Close and John Belushi and later trained under Alan Rickman at the British American Drama Academy. As an actress, Ms. Merino performed with The Groundlings and Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang and recently, she joined the faculty of the theatre department at William Jessup University in Fall, 2020.



NATALIE FARRELL - ELIZABETH ELLIOT / LOUSIA MUSGROVE / MISS CARTERET

Natalie Farrell is a singer, actress, poet, producer, and model working and living in San Francisco and Los Angeles, who specialized in devised theatre as part of her M.A. at UC Santa Cruz. She has appeared in TV and film and may be seen in Placer Rep's *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mystery Series*. Counting among her various theatre credits are *Zoot Suit*, *The Odyssey*, and *Pains of Youth* at UC Santa Cruz, as well as *Cannery Row* at Sacramento City College.



ELIZABETH ANNE SPRINGETT - LADY RUSSELL / MRS. SOPHIA CROFT

Holding a B.A. in Theatre from UC Riverside, Elizabeth Anne Springett is a Sacramento actor who studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and went on to continue her training all over California. Well-versed in a myriad of dialects, her stage credits include Theater One's productions of *Duet for Bear and Dog* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, as well as Sacramento

Theatre Company's *The Crucible*. She may be seen in Placer Rep's *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries*, an original digital series, on YouTube.

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RICK ELDREDGE - CAPTAIN WENTWORTH

Rick Eldredge is a trained baritone and actor who possesses an MFA from the International Actor Training Academy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, as well as a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Sonoma State University. His various credits include *The Secret Garden* at Summer Repertory Theatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival, *Killer Joe* at Big Idea Theatre, *Trenchcoat In Common* at Main Stage West, and *August: Osage County* at Capital Stage.



DELTON ENGLE-SORRELL - MR. SHEPHERD / MR. MUSGROVE / DR. MURPHY / DR. MONTGOMERY / BUTLER MERRIMAN

As a linguistics major with a degree from UC Riverside, Delton Engle-Sorrell enjoys a career as a voice actor / voice-over artist. Trained at VoiceOne in San Francisco, he is the voice for a number of commercial products and services throughout California.



JODI SERRANO - MRS. CLAY / HENRIETTA / MRS. SMITH

An Actor, singer, VO artist, private coach, as well as Music Teacher and Director at various public and private schools, Jodi Serrano holds a B.A. in Choral Performance from CSU Northridge and an M.A. in Education from Brandman University. She received the Chelsey Award for Best Supporting Actress at Woodland Opera House and a Lifetime Membership with the International Thespian Society. Her credits include *Beauty And The Beast* at Woodland Opera House, *Flowers for Algernon*, and her performances as Mary Magdalene with Best of Broadway, and Vocalist for the Camellia Symphony Orchestra of Sacramento.

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HANA HOLLOWAY - MARY MUSGROVE / NURSE ROOK

Hana Holloway is an actor, model, teaching artist, and puppeteer. She received her B.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in Acting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her proudest accomplishment is her work as a program director with *Lights, Camera, Learn!*, an international non-profit organization that unites Filmmakers and Educators to help empower children of different backgrounds.



ANTHONY THEMOLEUS - FOOTMAN DOWNES / FOOTMAN FIELDS / CAPTAIN BENWICK

Anthony Themoleus is a screenwriter, actor, comedian and improv artist residing in Sacramento. He received his education at Long Beach City Theatre and San Francisco State University Theatre. He has appeared in commercials, web series, and film, including *So, About Your Girlfriend*, *Drowning*, and *Trouble, Man*.



ERIC PIOTROWSKI - CAPTAIN HARVILLE / "THE KNOWING NARRATOR"

Eric Piotrowski is an actor and Bass-Baritone with the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, where he has performed in *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, and as a Chorus Member. He has appeared in TV and film, and his other theatre credits include *Sweeney Todd* with Sacramento City College and *The Rose Gala* with Roseville Theatre Arts Academy.

THE PRODUCTION

<http://www.showtix4u.com/events/JaneAusten>

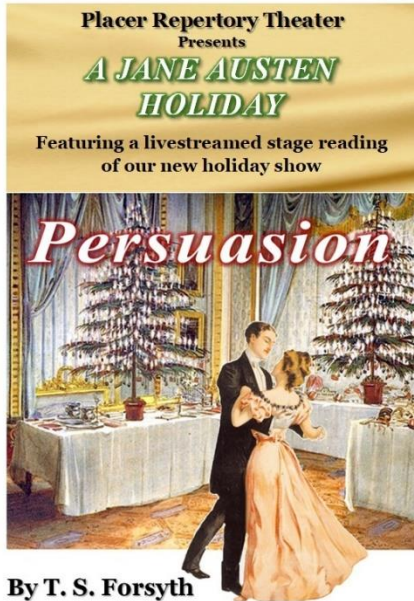
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DETAILS

WHAT:

Placer Repertory Theater presents the live-streaming event: A JANE AUSTEN HOLIDAY featuring a stage-reading of the new holiday romantic comedy *Persuasion* by T.S. Forsyth

WHERE:

CA (Livestream via ShowTix4U.com)

WHEN:

Saturday, December 12 at 7 p.m. PST

TICKETS:

Online: <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/JaneAusten>

All ticket questions must be directed to ShowTix4U

WHO:

Playwright: T. S. Forsyth

Cast:

Kathryn Carner, Natalie Farrell, Rodger McDonald, Elizabeth Anne Springett, Rick Eldredge, Delton Engle-Sorrell, Jodi Serrano, Hana Holloway, Anthony Themoleas, Ryan Gerberding, Kevin Foster, Anne Merino, Eric Piotrowski

Director: T. S. Forsyth

Assistant Director: Ryan Gerberding

Producer: Placer Repertory Theater

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