



Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Placer Repertory Theater

Collaboration LAB 2021

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

FREE EVENT: BoxOffice@PlacerRep.org

Placer Repertory Theater is pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Collaboration LAB season on January 28 with the theme “New...” and featuring videos and discussion of Larissa Fasthorse (recent MacArthur Genius Grant recipient for playwrighting) and the Maidu Independent Theater of Auburn, California. Collaboration LAB is the FREE monthly open stage / open mic for the arts, culture and humanities via Zoom, on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (Pacific), January through October 2021. Participants register in advance via email (boxoffice@placerrep.org) for a presentation slot, and may try out new material, share a new work, hone their performance or presentation skills, seek collaborators, market themselves or their group, and may choose to receive feedback from attendees. From actors, singer/songwriters and filmmakers, to visual artists, stand-up comedians, writers, crafters and historical researchers, Placer County creatives come together to incubate new works and ideas in an open and supportive atmosphere.

The line-up of LIVE performers and presenters for January 28, 2021 includes Placer County locals, such as singer/songwriter Ryan Gerberding who will share a new song and Anne Merino, author of the novel Hawkesmoor who will perform a reading, Board Secretary of the Arts Council of Placer County, Twiana Armstrong-Bryant, who will share ACPC upcoming programs and events, and Kevin Foster, who will perform a monologue. Sanjay R. Singhal, an architect and author in Chicago will perform a reading, as will the San Francisco performance artist and poet, Natalie Farrell, while Orangevale’s Jodi Serrano and Elk Grove’s Eric Piotrowski plan to sing a duet. And writer/actor Kate Brolan from the Sacramento area will share her acting talents. Creatives who wish to join in the discussion and nonparticipating general audience members are welcome. To guarantee you receive the Collaboration LAB Zoom link, email Placer Rep a minimum of 24-hours in advance of the event. Contact Placer Repertory Theater (boxoffice@PlacerRep.org) to reserve your seat and receive the Zoom link.



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Placer Repertory Theater was all set in early 2020 to announce its inaugural season, starting with the new work, *My Jekyll & Hyde*, when worldwide health concerns emerged. Committed to serving Placer County, Placer Rep delivers its programs and events through digital recordings and livestream events until it is appropriate to once again present its offerings to live audiences. Contact Placer Rep to be added to their email list to receive information on their events and programs in a timely manner. “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 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 (PlacerRep) and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

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

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TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – HOST, Collaboration LAB

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.



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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 – CO-HOST, Collaboration LAB

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.

KEVIN FOSTER - OUTREACH DIRECTOR, Collaboration LAB



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.



THE FOLLOWING are some of our frequent presenters at **Collaboration LAB**:



SANJAY R. SINGHAL - Author, Architect

Sanjay R Singhal, RA is an architect, an interior designer, a strictly amateur painter and artist, and an emerging writer. Born in India, Sanjay emigrated to the United States at the tender age of three, living and travelling across the country in places as varied and as unique as his own persona. Additionally, Sanjay has travelled extensively abroad, and has lived, at times, in both Paris and in Rome, and is currently writing about his journeys there.



ANNE MERINO – Novelist, Screenwriter, Adjunct Faculty, Artistic Director of Placer Theatre Ballet

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, is on the Theater department faculty at William Jessup University. Her screenplay, *A Season for Wolves*, recently won the Critics' Choice award at the Madras Film Festival.



NATALIE FARRELL – Performance Artist, Published Poet

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. She is currently working on a movement and poetry performance art digital project in collaboration with T.S. Forsyth at Placer Repertory Theater.



Kate Brolan – Author, Actor

Kate Brolan, a retired Attorney and special education instructor, has studied Acting for film and stage with instructors such as Edward Claudio and Dennis Glasco, and voice with Ray Nakamoto. A Radio/TV/Voice-Over artist for the SF Bay Area, she played Peter Quince in *Midsummer Night's Dream* for California Stage Theatre and Dr. Zarkov in *Flash Gordon* at the Thistledeew Old Radio Show and is currently the writer/actor



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for a video project of character vignettes and recently completed a children’s book, “The Runaway Toaster.”



ERIC PIOTROWSKI – Singer, Actor, Frontline health care worker

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.



JODI SERRANO – Actor, Singer, VO Artist, Music Instructor

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.

THE EVENT

The Last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (Pacific) - January through October 2021

<https://placerrep.org/programs/collaboration-lab/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/846278669474869>

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DETAILS

WHAT:

Placer Repertory Theater presents the live-stream Zoom event: Collaboration LAB, featuring new presentations, performances and works by Greater Sacramento Area creatives and cultural



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organization. Hosted by T.S. Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, Co-Hosted by Ryan Gerberding, Digital Media Director. Coordinated by Kevin Foster, Outreach Director.

WHERE:

Livestream via Zoom. Email BoxOffice@PlacerRep.org for the Zoom link.

WHEN:

Last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Pacific, January – October 2021

TICKETS:

Email BoxOffice@PlacerRep.org to receive the Zoom link, or to schedule a presenter slot for February – October 2021.

WHO:

Host: T. S. Forsyth

Co-Host: Ryan Gerberding

Coordinator: Kevin Foster

January 28 @ 7 p.m. 2021 LINE-UP:

- Larissa Fasthorse (video & discussion)
- Maidu Independent Theater (video & discussion)
- Arts Council Placer County (Live - Twiana Armstrong, Board Secretary)
- Sanjay R. Singhal and Anne Merino (Live – authors perform a live reading)
- Kate Brolan – (Live, acting monologue)
- PRT's Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mystery Series, Episode 3 (video, Q&A)
- Natalie Farrell – (Live - poetry and song)
- Eric Piotrowski & Jodi Serrano (Live – song duet)
- Kevin Foster (Live – Singer, Actor)
- Ryan Gerberding (Live – singer/songwriter with new song)
- Placer Rep Season 2020 in Review (Video & announcement of shows for season 2021)

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