



# Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Placer Rep presents June performances of *Haunting History* in Lincoln & Rocklin**

Music, comedy, theater and history all take stage at Placer Repertory Theater's performances of *Haunting History* on June 23 & June 29. This entertaining evening includes original songs performed by musician/singer/songwriter Matthew Kaiser, door prizes from generous local businesses, comedy by Funny Robert, refreshments, "meet the actors" opportunities, and the featured event of the evening, a stage reading of a new Placer County history play in development for audience feedback.

The first performance of *Haunting History* will be held at the Lincoln Civic Auditorium on Thursday, June 23, courtesy of Tamie Crane Rogers of Tamraloo Studios. "Tamie has been a wonderful partner and friend in the short time we've gotten to know each other, and we really appreciate her support for *Haunting History* by offering us the Lincoln Civic," said Producing Artistic Director and Playwright T.S. Forsyth. The second performance of *Haunting History* will be held at the Parkview Room at Johnson-Springview Park in Rocklin CA on Wednesday, June 29 with support from Kevin Huntzinger and the Rocklin Parks & Recreation department.

"What better way to raise funds for *Ghosts of Placer County's* October fully-staged production than to perform *Haunting History*, which includes a stage reading and opportunities for audience feedback toward the play's development," said Placer Rep actor and board member Anne Merino, who plays the central character Dr. Dessa Dagmar. Other cast members include Kevin Foster as Kenny, Katherine Stroller as Aubrey Dagmar, Brennan Villados as Guide-Master Jack/Liam, and Arie Knyazev as Narrator/Damon/Raymond.

According to the playwright, the playscript in development featured at *Haunting History* is a tragicomedy about how individual and community history haunts us and how we haunt history to define ourselves. *Ghosts of Placer County* follows the relationship of a mother and daughter over 30 years as it shares both admirable and dark history, as well as local ghost stories, from ten Placer County population areas. The playwright has been working on this play concept for about eight months so far, with some support toward development costs from the Arts Council of Placer County. "I am incredibly grateful to every archivist, every historical society, community and civic board members, museum volunteers, librarians and members of the public who took the time to share resources with me as well as their own favorite stories from local history," said T.S. Forsyth.



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As part of the preparation for the *Haunting History* performances in June, Placer Repertory Theater held a stage reading in May at Foresthill High School, hosted by language arts instructor Ryan Jacobsen, VAPA instructor Rachel Cottingham, and Principal Danise Hitchcock. Placer Rep also held a private table reading for the playwright's edification. "At our table reading, we were all laughing so hard we cried, and at times we couldn't breathe, so yeah, this play is funny," said Brennan Villados.

"Tickets to performances of *Haunting History*, since it benefits play development and production at Placer Rep a 501(c)3 nonprofit, should be tax deductible," reminded Kevin Foster. ***Haunting History*** tickets are available on Eventbrite.com (<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/30342509116>). Early reservations are recommended as seating is limited. The performances are June 23 at the Lincoln Civic in Lincoln, and June 29 at the Parkview Room in Rocklin with a 7 PM curtain and an approximate runtime of 90 minutes.

Audiences may recall Placer Repertory Theater as the professional theater company that won 5 regional awards in 2021 and produced the "New Beginnings" event which featured a new play about the historic Placer County roundhouses in Roseville and Rocklin.

Placer Repertory Theater (<https://PlacerRep.org>) is a regional award-winning professional theater company that serves Placer County and the greater Sacramento metro area. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Placer Rep's mission is 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, Twitter and Instagram: @PlacerRep, and subscribe to our YouTube Channel to access our digital recordings.

Publishers: Contact Kevin Foster, Outreach Director, at [Outreach@PlacerRep.org](mailto:Outreach@PlacerRep.org), or Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, at [ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org](mailto:ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org).



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## BIOS – THE TEAM



### **TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – *Haunting History* Producer / *Ghosts of Placer County* Playwright**

With an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS in Business Management & Leadership, this former Silicon Valley high-tech VP and 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 and founder/board president of an economic development nonprofit organization, her performing arts background includes directing/playwriting for national and international touring productions with renown performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell'Arte Players. As an educator, she has instructed and/or directed at UC Davis, U of San Francisco, U of Minnesota, and other institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center and other renown venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album, Broadway World Awards, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC, ACPC and corporations. Most recently for Placer Repertory Theater, she is the playwright/director for *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four*, *Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy*, and producer/director/dramaturg for *New Beginnings: the new play about the historic Placer County Roundhouses*. Member: Dramatists Guild (DG), Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), TCG, NNPN/New Play Exchange.



### **KEVIN FOSTER – Outreach Director, *Haunting History* performer**

Kevin Foster is an area local excited to work at Placer Repertory as Outreach Director. He began training in acting at UC Davis while 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 has taught youth performing arts classes. He currently teaches for Rockstar Music Academy in Lincoln and is working on his solo show commissioned by Placer Rep for a 2022 world premiere. Kevin also may be seen in Placer Rep's digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube, in Placer Rep's "The Jane Austen Soiree" and "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," in 2021, and recently won a Broadway World award as a supporting actor in *Persuasion / A Jane Austen Holiday*.



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**ANNE MERINO – Board Secretary, *Haunting History* performer**

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, and former member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA, Ms. Merino performed with The Groundlings and Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang and is a member of the theatre department faculty at William Jessup University. As a writer, she recently won film festival awards for her screenplay, "The Season of the Wolf," and received critical acclaim for her recently released novel,

Hawkesmoor.



**KATHERINE STROLLER – *Haunting History* performer**

Katherine is thrilled to be joining Placer Rep for this new work, *Ghosts of Placer County!* She received her B.A. in Dramatic Art from UC Davis and is a graduate of Foothill Theatre Conservatory. Favorite past roles include Portia from *The Merchant of Venice*, Mindy from *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, Cathleen in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, and The Woman from *The Woman in Black*. When she is not acting, Katherine is a character movement coach and writer. She is a proud member of AEA. Learn more at [katherinestroller.com](http://katherinestroller.com)



**BRENNAN VILLADOS – *Haunting History* performer**

Brennan Villados is a performer based out of Sacramento, California. His most recent acting credits include *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with Freefall Stage, *A Soldier's Play* with Celebration Arts, and *Marat/Sade* with Falcon's Eye Theatre. Brennan made his directorial debut in 2019 with *Romeo and Juliet* for Freefall Stage's Shakespeare in the park. He attended The American Academy of Dramatic Art and has worked for the UC Davis School of Medicine Standardized Patient Program for the last eight years. His other favorite roles include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* with Falcon's Eye Theatre, Patrick Stone in *Inventing Van Gogh* with Big Idea Theatre, Eddie in *Fool for Love*, and Tom in the one-man show

*Poster of the Cosmos*, both for Blank Canvas Theatre. This is his first production with Placer Repertory Theater.



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## **MATTHEW KAISER – *Haunting History* performer**

Born in New England to a musical family - mom a professional singer/soloist and dad an amazing dancer without knowing or showing it – Matthew Kaiser moved with them to Arizona in the middle of 2nd grade. He took over the family Lowry organ and that was it. Band and choral classes, clubs, bands and gigs filled his elementary, junior high, high school and college years. Now he's finally being brave and allowing his closest art babies out of the crib.



## **Funny Robert – *Haunting History* comedian**

A graduate of the San Francisco Comedy College, he has performed regionally throughout California, as well as in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada, and Austin, Texas. As an Emcee, he has hosted professional comedy shows, as well as open mic nights for professional clubs. Among his favorite performances is his evening at The Improv in San Jose and performing as a featured comedian at Rooster T. Feathers in Sunnyvale. He draws his comedy from his family, work and the comic-tragedy that is the human existence.





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## THE PERFORMANCES

### WHO:

Placer Repertory Theater - <https://PlacerRep.org>

### WHAT:

***Haunting History***

(Approximate runtime: 90 minutes)

### WHERE:

June 23:

Lincoln Civic Auditorium

511 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln CA

June 29:

Parkview Room, Johnson-Springview Park

5460 5th Street, Rocklin CA

### WHEN:

Thursday, June 23, 2022. Doors open at 6:30. Curtain at 7 PM

Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Doors open at 6:30. Curtain at 7 PM

### FMI / To REGISTER:

Lincoln: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/haunting-history-lincoln-tickets-354408935667>

Rocklin: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/haunting-history-rocklin-tickets-354420640677>

Placer Rep profile: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/30342509116>

**THREE GRAPHICS BELOW:**



# Placer Repertory Theater

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The cast and playwright prepare for a stage reading.

Placer  
Repertory  
Theater  
Presents

# Haunting History

Help develop a new play for Placer County



**June 23 @ 7 PM in Lincoln**  
**June 29 @ 7 PM in Rocklin**

Play development  
sponsored in part by



Featuring a stage reading of **Ghosts of Placer County**, meet the actors & playwright, give your post-show feedback, **music by Matthew Kaiser**, free refreshments and **door prizes**.



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Kevin Foster in Placer Rep's 2021 history play, "New Beginnings: a play about the Historic Placer County Roundhouses"

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