

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Placer Repertory Theater: Info@PlacerRep.org | PlacerRep.org

# Placer Rep Annual Holiday Party 2022 features Guest Performers, Prizes Refreshments & Open Mic

Placer Repertory Theater's Annual Holiday Party returns this year to celebrate Season 2022 with emcee Matt Heyer anchoring the annual celebration. From games, and contests with exciting prizes, to staged readings, refreshments, networking and open stage/open mic opportunities, this year's event, on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Studio E in Lincoln, promises to be a festive, entertaining and rewarding holiday event. Some may remember the lively performer, Matt Heyer, who played the title role in Placer Rep's performance of *An Evening With Sherlock Holmes* in Season 2021.

Placer Rep provides professional entertainment every year and then opens the stage for all things related to culture, performing arts and the humanities. Anything goes during the open stage portion, from a song, a poem, or a comedy bit, to showing off a new painting or sculpture, and of course self-promotion and partnership seeking. "It's such an inclusive, supportive environment that offers endless opportunities to meet and network with creatives from all walks of life and cultural disciplines," said Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater.

For 2022, Placer Rep is also honoring the participants of PRT's inaugural year for Masterclass #680: The Writers Workshop. Professional actors will perform brief excerpts from the writings of workshop participants throughout the evening. This is an opportunity for the writers to share and promote their work and for the actors to receive exposure and continue to hone their performance tools. The writers participating at the party include: Scott Charles, Kim Hlavac, Allison Gylnquist, Michael Selvester, Anne Merino and Kevin Foster.

Matt Heyer, emcee and a performer during the event, remarked, "The Annual Holiday Party is such a rich and vital way to close out the 2022 Season, allowing creative artists, patrons, and supporting civic and non-profit groups to gather together to celebrate our growth and engage each other in future projects for 2023."

"From the stage reading performers, including Ronnie Duska Fowler, Arie Kynazev, Anne Merino, Kevin Foster and Matt Heyer, and the participating writers, to the brave and talented creatives who will step forward to share their talent during the open stage /

# Placer Repertory Theater Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

open mic portions, this party truly is a celebration of local arts & culture and our creative community," said Forsyth. "In particular, I must give a special shout out to our wonderful partner, Tamra Rogers of Tamraloo Studios, for lending us the Studio E Blackbox for this event and supporting us throughout 2022."

While the event is FREE, donations at the door are welcome, and a donation of \$1 (or more) on Eventbrite.com reserves seats in advance for the Placer Rep Annual Holiday Party. "Patrons donate whatever they feel comfortable giving, which allows everyone to attend. Unfortunately, the Studio E blackbox has limited seating, so early reservations are highly encouraged," noted Robert Forsyth, PRT Box Office Manager. "I hope people will reserve their spots early to avoid any disappointment." FMI: (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-annual-holiday-party-tickets-446523141737)

Audiences will remember Placer Repertory Theater as the professional company that recently produced the award winning mainstage world premiere of *Ghosts of Placer County*, a new play that wove threads of regional history through a poignant mother/daughter drama, and *New Beginnings* – an original play about Placer County railroad history, as well as *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* and the award winning, critically acclaimed, *The Jane Austen Soiree featuring Persuasion: A Holiday Romantic Comedy*. Placer Rep was gratified to win "The Best of the Best: Best Live Theatrical Group" from Gold Country Media in 2021 and 2022, as well as four Broadway World Awards for our 2021 season.

Placer Repertory Theater is a 501(c) 3 non-profit performing arts and culture non-profit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to Placer County and surrounding area, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the region. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

# **BIOS – THE TEAM**



HUNTER DAVIDSON FORSYTH – House Management A Sierra College student, Hunter has supported Placer Rep during the 2022 season as a House Manager, Usher, Crew Member, and provided scouting story elements and was a scouting skills consultant for the new play *Ghosts of Placer County*. Hunter is an Eagle Scout and currently works for Quarry Park Adventures in Rocklin. Hunter also performed with PRT's monthly show *Rifts in Time: Interactive Adventure Theater,* and has been known to perform stand-up comedy from time to time and tell great fireside stories when camping or when the power goes out. He plans to get his Ph.D. in History and a degree in Creative Writing to become a

history professor, and fiction & nonfiction author.

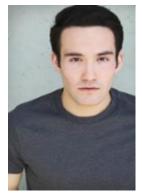




TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director

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 & workforce development nonprofit organization for Santa Cruz County, her performing arts background includes international tours as an actor/singer/dancer, and director/playwright for national and international touring

productions with renowned 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 performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theater, and many other renowned venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Broadway World Awards, the Gloria Burt Fellowship in Literature, finalist for SDC Denham Fellowship, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC, ACPC and corporations. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, SDC Stage Directors & Choreographers, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE).



#### **KEVIN FOSTER - Performer, Playwright**

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 taught youth performing arts classes. He is currently working on

his solo show set during his time as a performing artist in New York. Kevin also may be seen in Placer Rep's digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube and Facebook, in Placer Rep's 2021 productions "The Jane Austen Soiree" and "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," and in 2021 won a Broadway World award as the best supporting actor for *Persuasion* / A Jane Austen Holiday from December 2020.





# GAGE DOSS - Audio Engineer, Stage Manager

Doss is currently the lead Audio Engineer for Love Horror Events in Sacramento, a position he has held for over twelve years, and has a long history as a sound designer and stage manager for theatrical events. Gage has already been instrumental in improving the sound quality of the ColLABoration LAB as we work to provide a high-quality experience for both those in-person, and our presenters and guests that participate live via Zoom.



## ANNE MERINO - Performer, Author

Merino began her career dancing for notable companies such as American Ballet Theatre and the London Festival 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 Jim 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 novel, *Hawkesmoor*.



## MATT HEYER - Emcee, Performer

Graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his BFA in Theatre, Matthew won the Irene Ryan award for his ensemble work in 2018 and for his performance as Elliot in Completeness in 2019. His favorite mainstage productions include Stanley in A Streetcar Named Desire, Charles in As You Like It, Thomas Putnam in The Crucible, and Shakespeare in The Bard on Broadway. Matt studied IPA and performs duties as a Dialect Coach for Placer Repertory Theater productions. As an actor, for Placer Rep

in 2021, Matthew has played the characters George and Milo in From the Mind of Scott Charles, and the title role in "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" featuring a new play based on The Sign of the Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.





#### ARIE KNYAZEV - Stage Reading Performer

Ghosts of Placer County is Arie's first opportunity to work with Placer Repertory Theater. Recently he starred as the character William Gillette in Ken Ludwig's play *The Game's Afoot*, produced by the State Theatre Acting Company at the Auburn State Theatre in Auburn, CA. A software engineer by day, he says he would happily give up his lucrative high-tech career to become a starving professional actor.



RONNIE DUSKA FOWLER - Stage Reading Performer Ronnie Duska Fowler previously performed at Theatre in the Heights in *Done To Death, Twelfth Night, Love's Labour's Lost, Blithe Spirit,* and *Don't Dress For Dinner*. Favorite rolls elsewhere include Susanna in the workshop production of *The Chisera by Paula Cizmar*, Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Carlotta/The Other Woman in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and Angelica Bianca in Aphra Behn's *The Rover*. More recently, she performed in The Mousetrap with Freefall Stage.



# THE EVENT

## WHO:

Placer Repertory Theater - https://PlacerRep.org

Performers: (performers of the stage reading excerpts) Matt Heyer Anne Merino Ronnie Duska Fowler Kevin Foster Arie Kynazev

Writers: (stage readings of passages from their works) Scott Charles Kim Hlavac Allison Gylnquist Anne Merino Kevin Foster Michael Selvester

## WHAT: Event:

The Placer Rep Annual Holiday Party 2022

## WHERE:

Studio E, 578 E Street Lincoln, Lincoln, CA 95648

# WHEN:

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## TICKETS/FMI:

General seating. Event is free, donations accepted at the door.

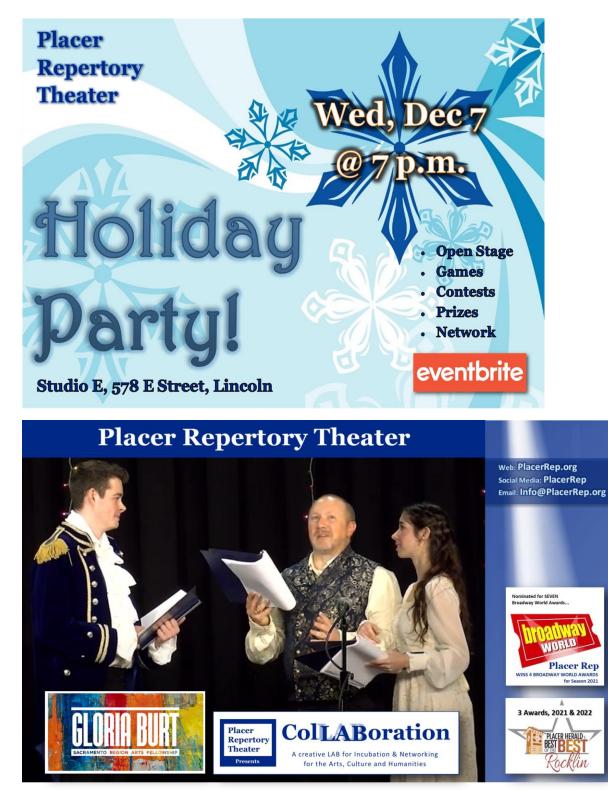
 For \$1 (or more) donation, you may reserve your seats in advance. Due to limited occupancy of the blackbox venue, reservations are highly recommended.

FMI / Reservation: visit Eventbrite.com: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-annual-holiday-party-tickets-446523141737</u>



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## TWO GRAPHICS BELOW:



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