



Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

FREE PUBLIC SHOW / EVENT

Placer Rep's June LAB features writers, musicians, comedians and more

Luisa Piette, TV Host of “What Matters Most” and Comedian Funny Robert are just two of the creatives pre-booked to perform at Collaboration LAB on Sunday, June 25. Held in the event room at Cool River Pizza & Taphouse on the border of Rocklin and Roseville, Luisa and Robert will be joined by musicians, writers, artists, and volunteers from the audience who take to the open stage to round out an evening of creative incubation and networking. Free reservations are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-lab-tickets-515729529907>.

A communications executive formerly with UPI and the BBC, TV Host Luisa Piette is a philanthropist and human rights activist who recently took over the reins as President of Placer Community Theater in Auburn. Under Luisa’s new leadership, the community theater is hosting a 20th Anniversary Gala on July 22, 2023, that features a performance of the radio drama “War of the Worlds.” (FMI: PlacerCommunityTheater.org)

“I’m looking forward to hearing about Luisa’s plans for Placer Community Theater, another comedic set from Funny Robert, and how these two presenters deal with creative blocks,” said Matthew Heyer, Collaboration LAB Color Commentator.

June’s Collaboration LAB theme is “Blocked: We cannot create; the outer world impedes, or the inner voice no longer guides our work.” Creatives will share their work, their process, and a time when they found their work blocked and how they overcame the issue. A sneak-preview of the line-up so far for Collaboration LAB on June 25 includes:

- Luisa Piette, TV Host “What Matters Most,” and President of the Placer Community Theater



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- Allison Arredondo – Novelist/Writer
- Craig Dunlap – Singer/Songwriter/Musician
- Michael Selvester – Young Adult Fiction Writer
- Funny Robert – Comedian
- Actors Matthew Heyer, Arie Knyazev, Tess Forsyth
- Open Stage (open mic) performers from the audience

After the pre-booked creatives present or perform, creatives from the audience are invited to occupy the open stage and share their work or promote their organization. Held in the event room at Cool River Pizza & Taphouse in Rocklin, the LAB is conveniently located on the Roseville/Rocklin border and allows for a large variety of presenters from poets, designers and musicians to visual and performing artists, crafters, cultural groups and comedians. Wine, beer, soft drinks and the full Cool River menu of items are available for purchase, and Placer Rep provides a couple pizzas to snack on for the room.

Collaboration LAB is a free monthly event. Onsite presenters and audience are eligible for the monthly drawing of \$100 in prizes. June's prize sponsors are PRIMO on Sunset Blvd. in Rocklin, featuring great pasta, burgers, beer and wine, and FOUR SISTERS CAFÉ on Fairway in Roseville, a local favorite known for their tasty and generous breakfasts and lunches. The monthly prize is an incentive to remind presenters and attendees to register for the LAB **as seating is limited**. Visit *Placer Repertory Theater* on *Eventbrite.com* to register for this *FREE* live event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-lab-tickets-515729529907>.

Placer Repertory Theater (www.PlacerRep.org) is a 501(c)3 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 and surrounding areas, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the region. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook (PlacerRep), Twitter and Instagram: @PlacerRep and subscribe to their YouTube Channel (Placer Repertory Theater).

Publishers: Contact BoxOffice@PlacerRep.org



COLLABORATION LAB TEAM



TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director, LAB PRODUCER, JUNE HOST

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, the Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theater, and many other renowned venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, and an Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album. While with Placer Rep, her projects have won Broadway World Awards, the Gloria Burt Fellowship in Literature and Gold Country Media awards. Her prior works have won 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), TCG and NNPN/New Play Exchange.



ARIE KNYAZEV – LAB CO-HOST / TECHNICIAN

Haunting History in 2022 was Arie's first opportunity to work with Placer Repertory Theater. Previously, 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 and as Max in *Lend Me a Tenor* for Lincoln Theatre Company. A software engineer by day, he says he would happily give up his lucrative high-tech career to become a starving professional actor. Currently he studies with Placer Repertory Theater in Studium-Practicum, a professional growth program providing MFA curriculum to Placer Rep company members and affiliates.



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MATT HEYER – COLOR COMMENTATOR

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*. Having studied IPA, Matt 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. In 2022, Matt was part of the ensemble cast for *Haunting History*, and the ASM and Understudy for two roles in the mainstage world premiere of *Ghosts of Placer County*.



FUNNY ROBERT – Comedian

A graduate of the San Francisco Comedy College, Robert has performed throughout California, as well as in Reno, Las Vegas, and Austin, Texas. As an Emcee / comedian, he has hosted comedy shows, as well as open mic nights for professional clubs, and has been seen briefly on TV in *Last Comic Standing*. Among his favorite performances are 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 tragicomedy that is the human existence.



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THE EVENT

CoLABoration LAB

- Open Stage event that features New Work/Talent Incubation & Networking.

DETAILS

CoLABoration LAB - An open stage incubation and networking monthly event offered in-person and via zoom, featuring presentations, performances and new works shared by individual creatives and cultural organizations from Placer County and beyond. Open stage time is offered to the audience after the pre-booked presenters complete their performances. Drawing of \$100 in prizes for those presenters and attendees who register via Eventbrite.com and are present onsite during the drawing.

WHERE:

In-Person: Cool River Pizza & Taphouse, 6200 Stanford Ranch Rd., Rocklin CA

WHEN:

June 25, 2023 (Pacific)

FMI / TICKETS:

Free registration on Eventbrite.com:

Seats: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-lab-tickets-515729529907>

Reserve Presentation Slot for July: email BoxOffice@PlacerRep.org

WHO:

- T. S. Forsyth, LAB Producer, June Host
- Arie Knyazev, Co-Host / Technician
- Matthew Heyer, Color Commentator

TWO GRAPHICS INCLUDED BELOW:

- 1) Luisa Piette, TV Host.
- 2) Placer Repertory Theater Logo



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