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## **ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS UNVEILS CAPTIVATING LINEUP FOR ITS 94<sup>th</sup> SEASON**

New season features **The Glass Menagerie**, **It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play**, **Our Town**, **The Book Club Play** and a new original musical, **The Divine Sarah**

ROSS, CA (July 12, 2023) – Ross Valley Players, an award-winning community theater, is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated 94<sup>th</sup> season, featuring an enticing selection of timeless classics and captivating new works. With a rich history of entertaining audiences, RVP's upcoming season promises to deliver extraordinary performances that will engage and inspire theater lovers of all ages.

The 94th Season will kick off with Tennessee Williams' masterpiece, "The Glass Menagerie." Directed by David Abrams, the play will transport audiences into the fragile and haunting world of the Wingfield family.

As the holiday season approaches, RVP will present the heartwarming production, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" by Joe Landry. Adapted from Frank Capra's beloved film and directed by Adrian Elfenbaum, this charming holiday production takes theatergoers on a nostalgic journey with a wealth of seasonal songs, reliving the story of George Bailey and the power of community.

In the new year, RVP will stage Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "Our Town." This American classic delves into the lives of ordinary people in a small New Hampshire town, exploring themes of love, loss, and the preciousness of everyday moments. Directed by Chloe Bronzan, this production promises to resonate with audiences, reminding them of the beauty found in the simplicity of life.

In a stunning tribute to the legendary actress, RVP presents "The Divine Sarah," a new musical by June Richards and Elaine Lang celebrating the life and career of Sarah Bernhardt. Through fascinating storytelling, mesmerizing songs, and exceptional performances, audiences will be transported to the Belle Epoque era, discovering the trials and triumphs of the renowned French actress. Directed by Ellen Brooks, "The Divine Sarah" was selected from over 40 entries in RVP's annual New Works competition.

Closing the season, RVP will present another hit comedy by Karen Zacarías, "The Book Club Play." This delightful work takes a humorous and heartfelt look at the complexities of friendships, book clubs, and the power of literature. Audiences will be drawn into the quirky and relatable world of book enthusiasts, where laughter, secrets, and unexpected twists abound.

"Ross Valley Players is thrilled to present our 94th season. It promises to be a richly familiar and surprisingly diverse theatrical journey," says Steve Price, Executive Producer. "Each production has been selected to delight and engage our audience and provoke meaningful conversations. We look forward to welcoming you to The Barn and sharing these amazing stories that will resonate with people from all walks of life."

### **The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams**

Directed by David Abrams

September 15 – October 14, 2023

Press Weekend – September 15-17, 2023

Peer into the captivating world of Tennessee Williams as he paints a poignant portrait of family dynamics and shattered dreams in his memory play, *The Glass Menagerie*. Witness the delicate beauty of Laura and her glass collection, the desperate yearning of Tom's restless spirit, and the bittersweet nostalgia that envelops Amanda's faded Southern belle charm. With exquisite prose and unforgettable characters, this play is an evocative exploration of human frailty showcasing Williams' unparalleled ability to capture the intricacies of the human heart.

The *Glass Menagerie* received the Drama Critics Circle award when it first appeared on Broadway in 1945. It is Williams' most autobiographical work, reflecting much of his own background in heartfelt and poetic language. To quote Tom, "I give you truth in the pleasant guise of illusion."

Preview: Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, September 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, September 15, 2023, which may be exchanged for September 16 or 17. Email [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) to exchange tickets,

### **It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play by Joe Landry**

Directed by Adrian Elfenbaum

November 17 – December 17, 2023

Press Weekend – November 17-19, 2023

Don't touch that dial! Frank Capra's holiday classic is live on stage at a snowbound 1940s radio station, with every memorable character and wacky sound effect, and the heartwarming conclusion of the iconic film recreated live before your ears – and eyes! With humor and humanity, George Bailey's tale of love, loss, and redemption mixes an exuberant cast and a wealth of seasonal songs into a radio days hit come to life!

*It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* was first performed at Stamford Center for the Arts in 1996 and premiered at American Theatre Company in Chicago in 2007. With more than 1,000 productions since its debut, it has been named one of the top ten most produced plays in the country.

Preview: Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, November 17, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, November 17, 2023, which may be exchanged for November 18 or 19. Email [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) to exchange tickets,

### **Our Town by Thornton Wilder**

Directed by Chloe Bronzan

January 26 – February 25, 2024

Press Weekend – January 26-28, 2024

Step into a world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary, and the mundane transforms into moments of profound meaning. Welcome to *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, a timeless masterpiece that has captured hearts and minds for generations.

In the small, idyllic town of Grover's Corner, Wilder weaves a tapestry of everyday life, inviting us to reflect on the essence of human existence. Through the young lovers, Emily and George, their strong and

loving parents, and the many other Grover's Corners locals, we're gently reminded of the importance of appreciating the life we have, and the people with whom we share it.

Our Town appeared on Broadway in 1938 to wide acclaim and won the Pulitzer Prize.

Preview: Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, January 26, 2024 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, January 26, 2024, which may be exchanged for January 27 or 28. Email [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) to exchange tickets.

### **The Divine Sarah by June Richards and Elaine Lang**

Directed by Ellen Brooks

March 15 – March 31, 2024

Press Weekend – March 15-17, 2024

*Introducing The Divine Sarah, an inspiring new musical that brings to life a legendary icon of the stage, Sarah Bernhardt.*

*The Divine Sarah beautifully captures the essence of Bernhardt's extraordinary life. Immerse yourself in the opulence of the Belle Époque era and witness the rise of a true trailblazer. Feel the electricity in the air as she fearlessly challenges societal norms, defying expectations as both an actor and a woman. From humble beginnings to international stardom, this spellbinding musical takes you on an emotional rollercoaster, touching your heart, and transports you to the world of grand theatres where Bernhardt reigned supreme.*

*The Divine Sarah was selected from over 40 entries in RVP's New Works festival and makes its premier at the Barn Theatre this season.*

Preview: Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, March 15, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, March 15, 2024, which may be exchanged for March 16 or 17. Email [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) to exchange tickets.

### **The Book Club Play by Karen Zacarias**

Directed by Mary Ann Rodgers

May 10 – June 9, 2024

Press Weekend – May 10-12, 2024

Dive into the world of books, friendships, and comical chaos as *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias takes center stage at the Barn Theatre. Ana is a Type A personality who lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job, and her greatest passion: the book club. But when her cherished group becomes the focus of a documentary film, things take a turn for the hilarious.

Follow the quirky and loveable members of the book club, each with their unique personalities and opinions, as they navigate the highs and lows of their reading adventures. From passionate debates on classic novels to uproarious discussions on contemporary bestsellers, this play celebrates the joy and power of literature in a truly entertaining way.

*The Book Club Play* premiered at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland in 2009.

Preview: Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, May 10, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, May 10, 2024, which may be exchanged for May 11 or 12. Email [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) to exchange tickets.

### **BARN THEATRE**

All performances occur at the Barn Theatre on the campus of the Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., in Ross. Parking is found in the Center's main parking lot.

### **ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS**

Founded in 1930, Ross Valley Players is one of the longest running community theaters around. RVP is proud of our many awards and nominations. Among others, our productions have been nominated by Dean Goodman, the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle (BATCC), and Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Awards. RVP is also proud to be the resident theater company at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Visit our website at [www.rossvalleyplayers.org](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.org) for more information.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Season subscriptions are available at [www.rossvalleyplayers.com](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com). Subscriptions are \$136 for all five productions - a 20% savings. Single tickets are \$35, \$30 for The Divine Sarah, and \$20 for previews and ages 18 and under. RVP members receive a \$4 discount. Group rates available for groups of 8 or more. Additional booking fees apply. Masks are recommended by not required. Contact the box office at [boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com) for more information.