



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
www.rossvalleyplayers.com
(510) 387--0205

Award-winning Musical “The Spitfire Grill” Leads Off 2025 at the Barn

For a Five Week Run
January 24 – February 23, 2025

ROSS, CA (December 14, 2024) – On January 24, Jay Manley, beloved for his hits for The Mountain Play and most recently for his direction of the world premiere of RVP’s “The Divine Sarah” last season, turns his experienced hand to “The Spitfire Grill.”

Based on the 1996 film and newly revised in 2024, *The Spitfire Grill* is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of perseverance and family. The show features a gorgeous, soulful score that fuses folk and Americana. The Off-Broadway premiere at Playwrights Horizons in 2001 won the Richard Rodgers Production Award administered by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

A troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start follows her dreams to Wisconsin, based on a page from an old travel book, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret. Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town’s capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope.

Manley mused about the musical’s timeliness for the start of a new year, “We can see ourselves in these relatable characters and their redemption. The show is a joyous celebration of the best in humankind accompanied by rich, country- and folk-infused songs.”

The acting ensemble includes: Julianne Bretan, Kelly Ground*, Jane Harrington, Kyra Lynn Kozlenko*, Brad Parks, Kyle Stoner, and Bradley Markwick, with Kayla Gold, Claire Houghton Renoe, and Justin Hernandez as understudies. Nick Brown, Evan Ceremony, and Nina Hand are the musicians.

*Appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

In addition to Direction by Jay Manley, RVP’s creative team includes Musical Direction, Nick Brown; Set Design, Ron Krempetz; Lighting Design, Michele Samuels; Sound Design, Bruce Viera; Costume Design, Valera Coble; Properties Design and Scenic Painter, Dhyanis Carniglia; Master Builder, Michael Walraven; Dialect Coach, Kimily Conkle; Stage Manager, Dianne Harrison; Assistant Stage Manager, David Smith; and Producer, Steve Price.

“The Spitfire Grill” - a musical by James Valcq and Fred Alley, based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

Directed by Jay Manley

January 24 – February 23, 2025

Preview: Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, January 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Exceptions: 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, February 15.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, January 24, 2025, which may be exchanged for January 25 or 26. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

Following Productions in the 2024/2025 Season: “STORIES THAT DELIGHT US”

“Pet Lingerie” Book & Lyrics by Fred Raker and Bruce Tallerman; Music By Bruce Tallerman

Directed & Choreographed by Gary Stanford, Jr.; Musical Direction by Kevin X. Dong

March 21 – April 6, 2025

Preview: Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, March 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Exceptions: 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 5.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, March 21, 2025, which may be exchanged for March 22 or 23. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

It's Gary Panko's Crowdfunding Seminar, at the Airport Suites Hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana, and a motley crew of characters has descended upon a conference room to present their outlandish, ridiculous, and downright silly kickstarter ideas. RVP's 2025 New Works presentation selected from 50+ scripts from area playwrights.

“The Book of Will” by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Mary Ann Rodgers

May 9 – June 8, 2025

Preview: Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, May 9, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Exceptions: No show on May 29 or 30. 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, May 24.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, May 9, 2025, which may be exchanged for May 10 or 11. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

Close the season with "The Book of Will," a tribute to the legacy of Shakespeare celebrating the unsung heroes who preserved Shakespeare's works. Follow John Heminges and Henry Condell, Shakespeare's fellow actors, as they embark on a seemingly impossible task to gather and publish the original texts of his plays.

TICKET INFORMATION

Single tickets are \$40 for “The Spitfire Grill” plus \$ 3.80 booking fee (\$43.80). Preview tickets and ages 18 and under are \$ 25 plus \$ 2.00 booking fee (\$27.00).

RVP members receive a \$4 discount. Group rates available for groups of 8 or more. Additional booking fees apply. Contact the box office at boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com for more information.

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.com for more information.