



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
press@rossvalleyplayers.com
www.rossvalleyplayers.com
Allan Casalou
(415) 269-1971

Ross Valley Players Present *The Book of Will* – A Celebration of Theater

Opening Night: May 9, 2025, at the Barn Theatre
Preview: May 8, 2025 | Runs Through June 8, 2025
Tickets: \$35 (Discounts Available for Members and Youth 18 and Under)

ROSS, CA (April 7, 2025) – Ross Valley Players proudly announces the opening of “The Book of Will”, a captivating play that tells the true story behind the creation of Shakespeare's First Folio. Directed by Mary Ann Rodgers, this production will open on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Barn Theatre, with a preview performance on May 8. The play will run through June 8, 2025.

“The Book of Will” unfolds seven years after the death of the legendary playwright William Shakespeare, focusing on the journey of two of his friends and fellow company members who set out to collect the most accurate versions of his plays, ultimately resulting in the publication of the First Folio. This vital collection included 36 plays, 18 of which had never been published before, including beloved works such as “Twelfth Night” and “Macbeth”. “They may have been lost to us forever, but it wasn't easy...” shares Director Mary Ann Rodgers.

“The play is a celebration of theater, and I've wanted to direct it since the theaters were closed because of Covid-19,” Rodgers adds. “It's really a good time at the theater – it'll make you laugh, and it'll make you cry! Audiences don't need to know Shakespeare to love this play.”

Rodgers is proud to present a talented cast of thirteen actors, including familiar faces from the local community as well as new talents from Sonoma, San Francisco, and Oakland. The audition process saw an overwhelming response, showcasing the vibrant artistic spirit of the region.

The production features an exceptional design team. Ron Krempetz returns to create a stunning set, while Michael Walraven brings his building expertise to the project. Costume designer Valera Coble is crafting imaginative attire that surpasses expectations for a community theater, and Billie Cox will provide original compositions along with her outstanding sound design. The atmosphere will be enhanced by Ellen Brooks' sensitive lighting design. Props will be managed by Dhyanis, who is delving into 17th-century printing techniques, alongside newcomer Rob Dario, who will fill the stage with essential book-making elements.

The creative team will also benefit from the expertise of movement specialist Elena Wright and choreographer Jennifer Le Blanc, who has a rich history with the play, having performed in its premiere at the Denver Center.

Producers Steve Price and Heather Shepardson are excited to bring this remarkable story to life, with the guidance of stage manager Madge Grahn and assistant stage manager David Smith, both seasoned collaborators of Rodgers.

“The Book of Will” marks the third production by acclaimed playwright Lauren Gunderson that Ross Valley Players has staged, following successful productions of “Silent Sky” in 2020 and “Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight” in 2017.

Gary Zeider of The Boulder Weekly wrote of the Denver Center premiere, “The Book of Will” unequivocally announces Gunderson as a playwright with whom to be reckoned. It is, quite frankly, one of the best plays I have ever seen.”

Tickets are available for \$35, with discounts for members and youth 18 and under. Join us for an unforgettable experience that honors the legacy of Shakespeare and the power of storytelling.

For ticket information and to purchase, please visit www.rossvalleyplayers.com or email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com.

The following productions follow this one in the 95th Season. Please note the information about press tickets and exceptions to the regular schedule.

“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. RVP will accommodate other date requests as necessary. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets once received.

TICKET INFORMATION

Season subscriptions are available at www.rossvalleyplayers.com. Single tickets are \$35 plus \$2.80 booking fee (\$37.80) and \$20 plus \$1.60 booking fee (\$21.60) 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. 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.org for more information.