



Press Release

For Photos, interviews, videos, press tickets, etc. contact:

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The Dragon Theatre in Downtown Redwood City Closes Out 2017 With A Hilarious Play

This comedy picks up immediately after the events of the Ibsen classic. Hedda finds herself in fictional character purgatory with child-murdering Medea and Mammy (from *Gone With the Wind*). They set off to find The Furnace, the place from which all fictional characters are born, because Hedda is determined to break her cycle of dramatic suicide. Along the way they meet all kinds of fictional stereotypes and learn that with change comes sacrifice.

The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler is the final show Dragon Productions Theatre Company's 2017 Main Stage series. For the first time ever, Dragon's season has two thematic series. The Main Stage Season is entitled **Women Take Center Stage**. Dragon was founded by actress Meredith Hagedorn because she wanted to make theatre filled with great roles for women. Dragon is a company largely run by women, and has given opportunities to women in all aspects of production, so for our 17th season we decided to celebrate women. And *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* is a terrific showcase for some talented Bay Area women.

Of the play, director Dale Albright says "You may be wondering: Do I have to know *Hedda Gabler* to follow this play? If you can identify with wanting to make a change than the answer is no. It's fascinating to think about the possibility of a place of nothing but stereotypes... and then tease them with the thought that they might actually be able to change. That's the world of *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* and really all you need to know in advance."

Director Dale Albright also says that "aside from the possibility of a fantastic drinking game (take a swig every time you see a new famous character... what can I say... this is how my mind works), the world created by *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* is way more important to us right now in the world than it might seem at first pass. Arguments around if we should place a modern sensibility to representations of history have never been more heated. or tragic. I think it's in the absurd tone of this play that we are allowed a relatively easy access point to what might be described, at least in part, as the theatrical equivalent of Civil War era statues. It seems cringe worthy to say so. There's no doubt its tough (as if often the case, who would have known when this particular play was selected that it would be so well timed?) but I think the pay off and insights that this work offers makes it worth it."

Managing Director Kimberly Wadycki says "like everything we've programmed in 2017, this shows lands a little bit harder and a little bit differently than it did when (Executive Artistic Director) Meredith (Hagedorn) programmed the season in mid-2016. The tension between history and contemporary rings a bit differently today after some heated debates around

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statues commemorating Civil War statues in America. Without giving anything away, because I really hate spoilers, I'm actually very happy we're ending the season with this story. There's a character arc or two in the play that are just so powerful and meaningful under today's lens - and the play and it happens to also be ridiculously funny in the meantime. I'm not sure I've been to a designer run rehearsal in years where we all laughed and cheered as hard as we did - the cast is just bringing the absurd funny."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Jeff Whitty is an American playwright and actor. Born in 1971 in Coos Bay, Oregon, Mr. Whitty got his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon, and received a master's degree in acting from NYU. Best known for his award-winning musicals, Mr. Whitty wrote the book for *Avenue Q*, which won him the 2004 Tony Award for best book of a musical and best overall musical. He also wrote the libretto for *Bring It On, the Musical* which features music by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Locally, you might recognize his work because he wrote the libretto for the musical version of Armistad Maupin's *Tales of the City* for the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* was commissioned by and world premiered at South Coast Repertory in January of 2006 and then played at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2008.

Featuring the talents of: Caitlin Papp (as Hedda Gabler), Juanita Harris (as Mammy), Damaris Devito (as The Woman In Pink and Others), Janine Evans (as Their Neighbor and Others), Josiah Frampton (as Eilert Lovborg and Others), Troy Johnson (as George Tesman), Tyler Pardini (as Steven and Others), Daniel Zafer-Joyce (as Patrick and Others).

Designers & Production Team: Dale Albright (Director), Chrissie Schwanhauser (Stage Manager), Charles McKeithan (Technical Director), Miranda Waldron (Lighting Designer), Brooke Jennings (Costume Designer), Ryan Short (Sound Designer), Beth Covey-Snedegar (Properties Master), Maggie Ziomek (Graphic Designer), Lance Huntley (Photographer)

WHEN: October 27 – November 19, 2017

Thursdays – Saturdays, 8pm, Sundays, 2pm. Doors open 30 minutes before the show.
Pay what you will preview on Thurs., Oct. 26th at 8p
Opening night performance on Fri., Oct. 27th at 8p
Post-show discussion with the cast and director Sun., Nov. 5th

This show is rated PG-13 for adult themes. The run time is approximately 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission.

WHERE: The Dragon Theatre in downtown Redwood City
2120 Broadway Street at the intersection of Broadway and Theatre Way

HOW MUCH:

\$35 for general admission seats; \$27 for student/senior tickets.

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\$15 rush tickets on Thursdays and Fridays starting 2nd week. Limited availability and cash only at the door.

Pay what you will preview on Thursday, October 26th – no reservation necessary, just walk up and pay cash at the door. Doors open at 7:30p; show starts at 8p.

\$175 for the VIP box (seats 4 people and includes champagne and chocolates.)

CONTACTING THE BOX OFFICE: Leave a voicemail at 650-493-2006 x 2 and your call will be returned within 2 business days. If you'd rather email, contact Josiah at tickets@dragonproductions.net. The Dragon Box Office is not staffed 7 days a week so there might be a delay in response. Buying tickets online at <http://www.dragonproductions.net> is the very best way to reserve a ticket in advance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TIX & MORE INFO: <http://dragonproductions.net/>

PRESS PHOTOS: Available online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jkasyan/albums/72157687453068230>

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