

The Tabard Theatre Company announces
2019-2020 season, its 19th season!
4 musicals, 2 plays + 2 special shows!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press comps are available upon request for reviews and feature stories.

Who: The Tabard Theatre Company announces its 2019-2020 season, the company's 19th, themed "New Beginnings", a season of shows about new experiences, new relationships, new opportunities — All new beginnings.

What: Founder and artistic director Cathy Spielberger Cassetta announced Tabard's 19th season for 2019-2020: 4 musicals, 2 plays, and 2 "Top of the Stairs" productions, which contain grown-up themes and occasional strong language in the season themed "New Beginnings."

When: September 2019- May 2020 (See schedule below)

Where: Tabard Theatre (formerly Theatre on San Pedro Square), 29 N. San Pedro Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (Parking is validated for most performances at the San Pedro Garage directly across the street)

Why: Continuing its mission to present works that are new or not commonly done, in its 19th season themed "New Beginnings" Tabard's productions will include one West Coast Premiere, three South Bay Premieres, a Tony-Award winning musical, the return of a Tabard favorite, and an award-winning comedy.

Box Office: 408.679.2330 or www.tabardtheatre.org/tickets

Tickets: Season subscriptions range from \$78-\$220 for six MainStage productions with further discounts available for Early Bird subscriptions through May 5, 2019. Tabard is also offering for 2019-2020 season a special 3-show Kid subscription to productions that young people will particularly enjoy, noted below with ***.

2019-2020 6-show MainStage Season, themed "New Beginnings":

Sept. 13 - Oct. 6, 2019

West Coast Premiere Musical

Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel* **

Book, Music & Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt & Mark Friedman

Based on the Sherlock Holmes adventures by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The game's afoot as the famous consulting detective Sherlock Holmes and his friend Doctor Watson are given a case by Queen Victoria herself to solve a mystery that could affect the very future of the British Empire! In this musical mystery, to help crack the case, Holmes recruits a group of London street urchins he calls the "Baker Street Irregulars," including new member Georgie, who discovers more than a new life with the gang. At times dodging danger, this lively musical leads you on a merry goose chase from 221B Baker Street all the way to the Tower of London! You'll be as baffled as Holmes' poor housekeeper Mrs. Hudson tries to make sense of all the twists and turns! Fun for the whole family and a case that will keep you on the edge of your seat! 1 of 3 musicals in Tabard's special kid-friendly 3-show subscription.

"Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient come all the same. —S.Holmes" — Sir A.C. Doyle

Oct. 25 - Nov 17, 2019

South Bay Premiere Play

The Tin Woman

Written by Sean Grennan

Meet Joy, a young woman who renews her joy for life and regains her sense of self when she suddenly becomes intimately connected to a family she's never met. Based on a true story, *The Tin Woman* uses humor and pathos to explore family in various forms, and explores being given a second chance at life and, then, embracing that new life with hope and – yes, joy.

"Loaded with questions, answers, dilemmas and paradoxes -- the stuff of humanity. Nearby is humor forged of fire."-- Warren Gerds, wearegreenbay.com

Dec. 6 - 22, 2019

A Tabard favorite Musical

A Taffeta Christmas* **

Written and arranged by Rick Lewis

Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl, and Donna return to Tabard's stage to celebrate the holidays! It's Christmas in Muncie, Indiana, 1959, and the Dumont Television Network is featuring the bright-eyed and bubbly girl group The Taffetas on its weekly show "Hometown Hoedown." And everyone is there, including the girls' cousin, Warren. With several other surprises in store, this musical confection of holiday classics, pop standards and rock and roll holiday songs sung in gorgeous four-part harmony will have you singing right along with this high energy girl group. *A Taffeta Christmas* is a fun-loving musical hometown Christmas - the way it used to be!

"*A Taffeta Christmas* is everything a holiday should be – family-friendly, colorful, and full of Christmas songs!" – TheatreBloom.com

Feb. 7 - March 1, 2020

Award-winning Comedy
The 39 Steps

Written by Patrick Barlow & John Buchan

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This two-time Tony® and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of four), an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, and some good old-fashioned romance!

"Theatre at its finest! [...] Absurdly enjoyable! This gleefully theatrical riff on Hitchcock's film is fast and frothy, performed by a cast of four that seems like a cast of thousands." - *The New York Times*

March 13 - April 5, 2020

Tony-Award Nominated Musical
Baby

Book by Sybille Pearson. Music by David Shire. Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.
Based upon a story developed with Susan Yankowitz.

Is there anything more exciting, frightening and utterly transformational than impending parenthood? *Baby* examines how parents-to-be experience the emotional stresses and triumphs, as well as the desperate lows and the comic highs that accompany the anticipation and arrival of a baby.

Three couples on a university campus deal with the rewarding, sometimes painful and very often agonizingly funny consequences of the universal experience of pregnancy and upcoming parenthood. There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle-aged parents, looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college... when a night of unexpected passion lands them back where they started.

Nominated for multiple Tony and Drama Desk Awards, including Best Musical.

April 17 - May 10, 2020

Tony-Award Winning Musical

The Secret Garden* **

Book by Marsha Norman. Music by Lucy Simon.
Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

"Where you tend a rose, a thistle cannot grow."

This enchanting classic of children's literature is reimagined in the brilliant Tony-winning musical by composer Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Night Mother*. Orphaned in India, spoiled and fearful 11 year-old Mary Lennox returns to Yorkshire where she finds no comfort living with her embittered, reclusive uncle Archibald and his locked-away invalid son Colin. The Yorkshire estate and bleak landscape deepen Mary's isolation. With the help of the kindly servants and local boy Dickon, Mary sets out to uncover the garden's mysteries and in the process, finds the key to lifting the spirits and hopes of those around her. Along the way she discovers many wonders, including a magic garden which beckons the children with haunting melodies and the "Dreamers", spirits from Mary's past who guide her through her new life, dramatizing *The Secret Garden's* compelling tale of forgiveness and renewal.

"Elegant, entrancing...The best American musical of the Broadway season." –*Time*

Top of the Stairs Productions (rated PG13 for grown-up themes and occasional strong language)

June 8 & 9, 2019

San Jose Premiere

In the Wake of the Moon

Written and performed by local playwright/actor Kurt Gravenhorst

America's only Nobel Prize winning playwright, Eugene O'Neill, chose to live in Northern California at the height of his writing career. Isolated from the world and within the walls of his home, O'Neill wrote his final and most memorable plays: *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, which shaped the future of the American stage and influenced playwrights for generations. Hear O'Neill's story from himself as presented by Tabard audience favorite playwright/actor Kurt Gravenhorst (*Farewell, Fitzgerald*; *Love Letters*; *Explorers Club*; *Tuesdays with Morrie*; *Trying*).

"Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue." – Eugene O'Neill

January 10-26, 2020

South Bay Premiere Musical

A New Brain

An autobiographical musical

Music & lyrics by William Finn with arrangements by Jason Robert Brown.

Book by William Finn and James Lapine

By the Tony Award-winning authors of *Falsettos*, this contemporary musical is an energetic, sardonic, often comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency that is composer/writer William Finn's own harrowing personal experience with arteriovenous malformation and the healing power of art. Our hero, Gordon, collapses into his lunch and awakes in the hospital, surrounded by his maritime-enthusiast lover, his mother, a co-worker, the doctor, and the nurses. Reluctantly, he had been composing a song for a children's television show that features a frog – Mr. Bungee – and the specter of this large green character and the unfinished work haunts him throughout his medical ordeal. What was thought to be a tumor turns out to be something more operable, and Gordon recovers, grateful for a chance to compose the songs he yearns to produce. *"Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue."* – Eugene O'Neill

"Apt and original [...] A fascinating story." - *The New York Post*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

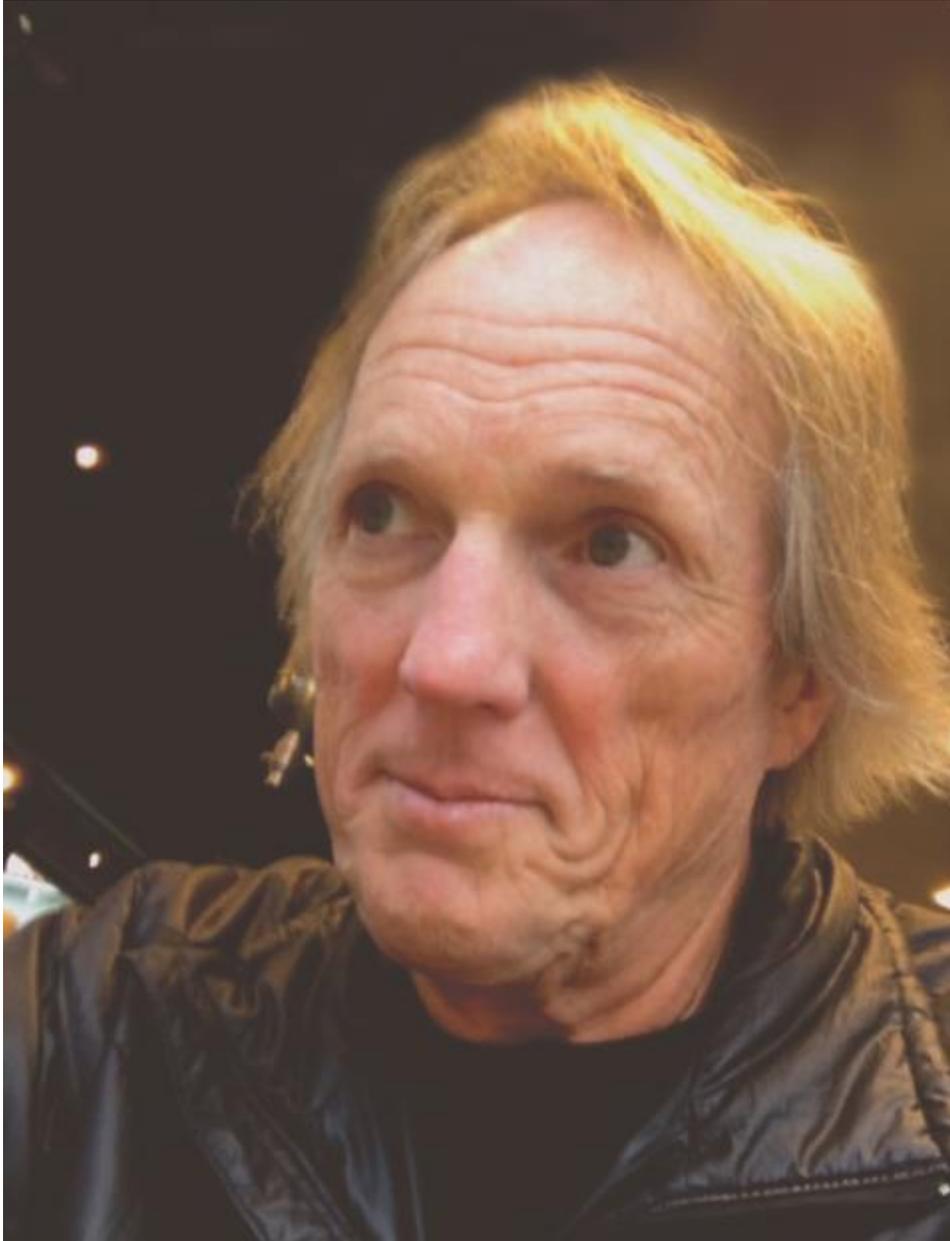
Founder/Artistic Director: Cathy Spielberger Cassetta

QUOTE: "I suppose it is incumbent upon an artistic director to state s/he is excited about the new season being announced. The truth is I am especially excited about the productions we have chosen to present in our 19th season, which we've themed 'New Beginnings'. Included in our season of MainStage productions are

several exhilarating, inventive, thoughtful, and delightful works that are new to our area plus a couple that are genuine audience favorites that I am pleased to be bringing back for our audiences to enjoy a-new. Additionally, we are presenting under our Top of the Stairs banner two shows that do not fit the usual Tabard family-friendly fare that are both brilliant works that deserve an audience and a voice in the South Bay. Each of these eight works touch on new experiences, new relationships, and/or new opportunities — all new beginnings. It's a season worth embracing.”

Photos: Cathy Spielberger Cassetta, Tabard founder/artistic director. Kurt Gravenhorst, playwright/actor.





Tabard Theatre (formerly Theatre on San Pedro Square) — *The Destination for Arts Discovery* — is located in the heart of historic San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose amid a bustling restaurant district. This intimate and unique venue brings a touch of Manhattan to the South Bay with its rustic yet edgy feel. Old brick walls, plush leather seats, antique wood plank floors, sweeping red velvet drapes and a 35-foot mahogany bar create a casual cabaret atmosphere. The full bar also offers a variety of food choices that may be enjoyed while watching the show.

Tabard's Mission

Tabard's mission is to provide live entertainment experiences that are enlightening, appropriate and affordable for audiences of all ages. We champion new works, innovative interpretations, and unique plays rarely staged. Tabard is an inclusive environment where the community can participate in every aspect of the plays, musicals, educational programs and music concerts we produce. With altruistic attention to the underserved, Tabard reaches out to communities such as the visually impaired and children in low-income areas, and donates a portion of each production's concessions proceeds to a designated local charity.

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