

The Tabard Theatre Company  
Founder/Artistic Director Cathy Spielberger Cassetta  
Leaving Artistic Director Position June 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Who:** Cathy Spielberger Cassetta, founder and artistic director of The Tabard Theatre Company, announces that 2019-2020 season will be her last as artistic director.

**More info:** Having founded The Tabard Theatre Company in January 2001, Cathy Spielberger Cassetta began work to create the company in November 2000. As she says, "Some might say I'd spent my entire life working toward creating Tabard." Over the past 18 1/2 years, Cassetta has built the non-profit arts organization from a volunteer-run company to one with several employees, and gone from being a nomadic theatre company in its first seven years to having a downtown venue named after it (Theatre on San Pedro Square was re-named Tabard Theatre May 2018). Like most grassroots organizations, as Tabard's founder Cassetta has worn many hats over the years and has been able to take off hats and pass on various departments and responsibilities to others as they have joined the company. The plan is for Cassetta to take off the hat of artistic director in June 2020, making the 2019-2020 season, Tabard's 19th, themed "New Beginnings", her last. "I shall always wear the hat of 'founder.' That will never change," she commented recently.

Prior to founding Tabard, Cassetta had a career in theatre, theatre/arts education, and television production and business in Los Angeles. A champion of arts education, over the years she has taught theatre at every grade level from jr. kindergarten through college and adult classes and established theatre programs at both the high school and college levels. When she returned to San Jose in 1993, she noticed that theatre was not really covered by the press, so she created, produced, and co-hosted the weekly television program *Theater This Week* that presented reviews, previews and interviews. The program ran for two years until she decided she would rather "do" theater than talk about others doing it.

For Tabard, Cassetta has produced all of the nearly 90 productions the company has presented, including 18 world premieres created by local Bay Area theatre artists, as well as many more Bay Area and South Bay premiere productions. Her personal proudest creation is the play *Homeward Bound: An Orphan Train Journey*, which she wrote and directed. *Homeward Bound* had its premiere at Tabard in September 2015 with a presentation that June at the Orphan Train Museum in Concordia, Kansas. She has also directed over a dozen productions for Tabard, created or written as many, and

appeared in a handful. Her goal has always been to provide opportunity for others to explore their potential, whether it is on-stage or off-stage, and looks forward to seeing what will unfold on Tabard's stage in its next two decades.

As for herself, Cassetta is looking forward to the next chapter in her life, which she views as an adventure. She founded Tabard when she was 50. She will leave the position of artistic director when she is a month or so shy of her 70th birthday. When she was in her early 60s, she discovered yoga. A life-long learner and natural-born teacher, she is now a certified yoga teacher with over 700 hours of teacher training, and teaches several classes each week, including aerial yoga.

The artistic director position will be officially posted later in April 2019. Those interested are invited to send an email to [ADSearch@TabardTheatre.org](mailto:ADSearch@TabardTheatre.org).

**Photo:** Courtesy of Cathy Spielberger Cassetta



**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.

The Tabard Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) California Corporation.