



For Immediate Release
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6th Street Playhouse to Present 2017-18 Season-Closer *Illyria* A Modern, Musical *Twelfth Night*!

SANTA ROSA, CA (May 16, 2018) 6th Street Playhouse to present *Illyria*, by Peter Mills and Cara Reichel, adapted from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Directed by Craig A. Miller, music direction by Lucas Sherman and choreography by Amanda Morando, the musical will run June 15th-July 8th in the G.K. Hardt Theatre.

The Playhouse is excited to present its 2017-18 Season closer—a festive comedy of unrequited loves and mistaken identities! In *Illyria*, courtship, hijinks and mistaken identity abound in this gender-jumbled romantic tale. Hauntingly beautiful music and endlessly clever modernized lyrics breathe new life into *Twelfth Night*, the evergreen Shakespearean comedy about the unfortunate tendency folks have of falling in love with the wrong people.

"I have always thought that, of all Shakespeare's plays, *Twelfth Night* would lend itself best to being turned into a musical," says Director Craig A. Miller. "Shakespeare already set six songs in the play to begin with, so add to the equation that it is revered as his greatest comedy of the canon, and the recipe is delicious! I was lucky enough to be part of the original artistic team that brought this wonderful musical to life back in 2006 and I am so excited to finally share it with our audiences here at 6th Street Playhouse. With its super smart, at-times-rollicking and lush score and a modernized script that keeps the Bard's story and colorful cast of characters vibrant, the whole experience is perfectly accessible to a contemporary audience. *Illyria* is a theatre lover's feast!"

The cast of *Illyria* stars: Ben Acedo as Antonio; Lorenzo Alviso as Sebastian; Joy Bessonon as Maid/Ensemble; Seth Dahlgren as Sir Toby Belch; Gillian Eichenberger as Maria; Tracy Hinman as Countess Olivia; Stephen Kanaski as Andrew Aguecheek; Austin Maisler as Guard/Ensemble; Teanna Maloney as Maid/Ensemble; Carmen Mitchell as Viola; Tim Setzer as Feste; Burton Thomas* as Duke Orsino; and Larry Williams as Malvolio.

On opening night, June 15th, there will be a complimentary reception following the performance where patrons can meet the cast and enjoy sparkling wine and nibbles.

Illyria opens in the G.K. Hardt Theatre June 15th and runs through July 8th every Friday and Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 2:00, with one performance on Thursday, June 21st, at 7:30 pm and Saturday, June 30th, at 2 pm.

Tickets are \$28 - \$38, and Under 30 is \$22, and are available at 6thstreetplayhouse.com or by calling the Box Office at (707) 523-4185 ext. 1.

Illyria is part of the "Shakespeare Funnies," a package consisting of one ticket to any performance of each of the Playhouse's three Shakespeare shows (*Compeat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)*, *Illyria* and *The Comedy of Errors*), and is available for purchase online at 6thstreetplayhouse.com or by calling the box office at (707) 523-4185.

Prices, that include the service fee, are \$79 for the Value Package and \$89 for the VIP Package, with savings averaging over 20% off single tickets. The VIP Package offers

reserved armchair seating for the outdoor show. The Package will be available for purchase until June 3, 2018.

*Actor appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

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About 6th Street Playhouse

In 2004, a new partnership reunited the Santa Rosa Players and Actors Theatre under one board of directors. Together they renovated the 119-year-old Del Monte cannery into the 6th Street Playhouse, which houses a 185-seat main stage (the G.K. Hardt Theatre) and a 99-seat black box (the Studio Theatre).

6th Street Playhouse is a performing arts organization that produces live theatre and provides education programs of the highest quality that engage, delight, and inspire the diverse communities of the North Bay region. 6th Street Playhouse is the central hub of the Sonoma County arts scene. It is known throughout the region for its high level of artistry, professionalism, educational opportunities and the bravery of its approach to works both new and old.

Award-Winning

As the most award-winning theatre company in the North Bay Area, 6th Street Playhouse has been named "Best Theatre Troupe" by the North Bay Bohemian readership for the last eight consecutive years, and "Best Local Theatre Company" by the Press Democrat "Best of Sonoma County" Awards for the last four out of five years. The Playhouse was named "Theatre of the Year" by Broadway World San Francisco 2012-2014.

In 2012 Playhouse Artistic Director, Craig A. Miller, was named one of Sonoma County's "Forty Under 40" by the North Bay Business Journal, honoring the County's forty most influential people in their field under the age of 40.

In the last five years, 6th Street Playhouse has received over fifty nominations for excellence in all areas of production from the leading Theatre Arts adjudication organizations in the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (SFBATCC), Theatre Bay Area (TBA), and Sonoma One Theatre Awards (SOTA). Of those nominations, The Playhouse received six awards at the 2013 San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, including Best Ensemble for our production of *Red*, and Best Leading Male and Female Actors for *The Rocky Horror Show*.

In our 2013/14 Season, the musical production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* swept the SFBATCC Awards, taking home wins in all four of its nominated categories; winning a total six awards for the season, which was highlighted in *American Theatre Magazine*.

In 2015, the Playhouse took home three awards at the Theater Bay Area Awards for Best Direction, Best Ensemble, Best Actress, and Best Production for *Clybourne Park*. In 2018, the Playhouse's production of *Equus* received a five-star rating from the North Bay Bohemian and was named a "Go See!" production by the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. Both *Equus* and 6th Street's following production of *Noises Off* were named Theatre Bay Area recommended productions.