

From: attheatrenearu.org

Subject: World Premiere of the comedic and irreverent musical, *'Twas Brillig*

Date: May 1, 2015

A THEATRE NEAR U PRESENTS

The World Premiere of

'TWAS BRILLIG

Composed by Andrew Lu & Emil Ernström

Additional music by Will Kast

Book & Lyrics by Tony Kienitz & Lewis Carroll

Produced by Tanna Herr

Directed by Tanna Herr & Tony Kienitz

Musical Direction by Andrew Lu

Additional Vocal Direction by Pierce Peter Brandt

Choreographed by Kaylie Caires

Additional Tap Choreographed by Nicole Meador

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, 2015 — Last June, the critically acclaimed, **A Theatre Near U** "...fired the first shot in a revolution to determine the future of Youth Theatre." (*Harry Duke, Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Member*) This spring, the revolution continues with the irreverent and raucous original musical, *'TWAS BRILLIG*, starring a troupe of triple-threat teens. In this off-beat comedy, plucky Mary Pickett steps through a doorway and finds herself in the land of Wonder mere hours before the coronation of a new Queen is set to commence. Trouble is, it is Mary the lunatics intend to crown, and, well frankly, she isn't so keen on that. Will she capitulate? Who will she decapitate? And will it all happen before brillig?

'TWAS BRILLIG plays **June 12 – June 27, 2015**

Performances at **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, SecondStage**

Located at 500 Castro Street (corner of Castro and Mercy streets) in downtown Mountain View, California.

\$22 adults; \$17 seniors/students (Ticket price includes a \$2 Facility Use Fee)

TICKETS: Call 650-903-6000 or online at mvcpa.com

Producer/Director **Tanna Herr** says, "This year we decided to create a play that was polar opposite from last season's dramatic war and angst driven musical, choosing instead to produce a funny outlandish tale. Keeping with our tradition of introducing irreverent ideas to Youth Theatre, it's been exhilarating to again work with our immensely talented troupe to bring *'TWAS BRILLIG* to the stage. We look forward to sharing this exciting piece of theatre with our audiences."

'TWAS BRILLIG has a cast comprised of teens from ten different Bay Area Schools and is A Theatre Near U's second full production. Each of the actors has helped to mold and create their own unique characters. Coupled with the brilliant, toe-tapping original music of composers Lu & Ernström, *'Twas Brillig* captures the madcap madness of youth and airs it out for all to see.

This production of *'TWAS BRILLIG* features the talents of (with notable past roles included):

Cara Parker as **Mary** – (Janet *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Little Red *Into The Woods*, Willa *Body of Water*)

Quincy Shaindlin as **Little Ben** – (Artful Dodger *Oliver!*, Wm. Barfee *25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee*)

Elizabeth McCole as **Vicky** – (Cole, *Body of Water*, Edna Turnblatt *Hairspray*, Rizzo *Grease*)

Atticus Shaindlin as **Theo** – (Jean Valjean *Les Miserables*, Tevya *Fiddler On The Roof*)

Jackson Wylder as **Tom** – (Buster *Body of Water*, Nick Bottom *Midsummer's Night Dream*, Willard *Footloose*)

Jasmyn Donya Molaei as **Eugenia** – (April *Body of Water*, Lily St. Regis *Annie*, Poppy *Noises Off*)

Alexandra Dinu as **Eugenius** – (Puss *Puss in Boots*, Snow White *The Stinky Cheese Man*)

Will Kast as **Wiggy** – (Robert *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Truffaldino *A Server of Two Masters*)

Raymond McCarthy as **Speedo** – (Cyrano *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Oliver *As You Like It*, Gulliver *Gulliver's Travels*)

Roddy Cardamone as **Jesse** – (Edward Bloome *Big Fish*, Jesus *Godspell*, Lumiere *Beauty & The Beast*)

Gil Weissman as **Dodo** – (Aladin *Aladin*, Caliban *The Tempest*)
Zoe Stanton-Savitz as **Connie** – (March Hare *Alice in Wonderland*, Veta *Harvey*)
Monica Hobbs as **Slithy Tove** – (Flotsam/Dance Captain, *The Little Mermaid*)
Jennifer Tashjian as **Slithy Tove** – (Dorothy *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Kim *Bye Bye Birdie*)
Lauren Emo as **Slithy Tove** – (Ariel *The Little Mermaid*, LeFou *Beauty and the Beast*)
Rachel Lock as **M.T.** – (Kate *Pirates of Penzance*, Gertrude *Sensical*)
Amanda Clausen as **M.T.** – (Millie *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Jenny *Big Fish*)

A THEATRE NEAR U's Artistic Director, **Tony Kienitz** has written the book and lyrics for **'TWAS BRILLIG** as well as shared directorial duties with **Tanna Herr**. Originally from Los Angeles where he acted extensively in film, television and stage, Tony, since moving to the Bay Area, has directed dozens of youth theatre productions as well as writing other stage plays: *Body of Water* (for ATNU), *A Server of Two Masters* (an adaptation for Palo Alto High School), *Firebird* (premiered at The Palo Alto Children's Theater) and *The Royal Falcon* (which had its debut at Chapman College).

Tanna Herr, Producer and Co-Director of **'TWAS BRILLIG** is a graduate of UCLA's department of theatre arts and The American Film Institute Master Directors Program. Her film, *Mr. Willard Swallows a Fly*, received many awards and accolades in a worldwide tour of film festivals. She, too, acted on screen and stage in Los Angeles before returning to her childhood home in Palo Alto. Since her return she has directed over 45 plays, both adult and youth productions, most memorably, the well received *Legally Blonde* with the Sunnyvale Players and last year's critically acclaimed production of ATNU's *Body of Water*.

Andrew Lu and Emil Ernström, Co-composers for **'TWAS BRILLIG**, are both seniors at Palo Alto High School. Andrew works as the student teacher for the Paly Concert Band, was the Assistant Conductor for the Stanford production of *Yeoman of the Guard*, and is the Founder and Music Director of the much-beloved TLC Jazz Quartet. Emil Ernström was the First Place winner in the High School division of "The Other Composition Competition" hosted by University of Miami, Frost School of Music as well as being the lead composer for the video game, "Mainframe Loves You." He will be attending Yale University in the fall.

The Creative Team also includes Scenic Design by **Tony Kienitz**, Lighting Design by **Katherine Craig**, Sound Design by **Edward Park**, Properties Design by **Charlotte Moffatt**, and stage management by **Hannah Nguyen**.

A THEATRE NEAR U is a film and theatre academy for artistic teens eager to participate in the advanced study of film and theatre acting, directing and writing. A Theatre Near U offers training in these disciplines at a level not found elsewhere in our community. It is a place where those who take their craft seriously can work with peers equally devoted and passionate.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: **A THEATRE NEAR U** presents the raucous and irreverent teen musical, **'TWAS BRILLIG** starring a troupe of triple-threat teen performers. In this off-beat comedy, plucky Mary Pickett steps through a doorway and finds herself in the land of Wonder mere hours before the coronation of a new Queen is set to commence. Trouble is, it is Mary the lunatics intend to crown, and, well frankly, she isn't so keen on that. Will she capitulate? Who will she decapitate? And will it all happen before brillig?

WHEN: June 12 – June 27, 2015

SHOW TIMES: Fridays at 7:30 pm, Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:00pm

WHERE: Performances at **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, SecondStage**.
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INFO: For additional information or inquiries email Tony Kienitz at contact@theatrenearu.org

PRESS TICKETS: Email Tony Kienitz at contact@theatrenearu.org

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