From: atheatrenearu.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 Hairpray, Rizzo Greet)
Atticus Shaindlin as Theo – (Jean Valjeján 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 Pass in Boots, Snow White The Stinky Cheese Man)
Will Kast as Wiggy – (Robert The Drowsy Chaperone, Truffaldino A Server of Two Masters)
Raymón McCarthy as Speedo – (Cyrano Cyrano de Bergerac, Oliver As You Like It, Gulliver Gulliver’s Travels)
Roddy Cardamone as Jesse – (Edward Bloom 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 Seussical)
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. Located at 500 Castro Street (corner of Castro and Mercy streets) in downtown Mountain View, California.

TICKETS: $22 adults; $17 seniors/students (Ticket price includes a $2 Facility Use Fee) Call 650-903-6000 or online at mvcpa.com

INFO: For additional information or inquiries email Tony Kienitz at contact@ateatrenearu.org

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

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos available at this page link: http://atheatrenearu.org/home/category/stills/