
A “WILDE” NEW MUSICAL COMES TO TORRANCE!

TORRANCE, Calif., November 20, 2021 - Torrance Theatre Company is back with in-person performance AND a brand-new musical! The next offering in the season is ***THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: A WILDE NEW MUSICAL***, with music by Bret Simmons (***Falling for Eve***), book and lyrics by David Howard (***Galaxy Quest***), and directed by Glenn Kelman. The show runs December through 19th at 1316 Cabrillo Ave in downtown Torrance, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and select Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.. General Admission seating is now available for \$30, at www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com or by calling the box office at (424) 243-6882.

Oscar Wilde's ***The Importance Of Being Earnest*** tells the story of two bachelor friends, dandy Algernon Moncrieff and reliable John “Jack” Worthing, as they take on double lives to court the attentions of the desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. But the gallants must then grapple with the uproarious consequences of their ruse... and with the formidable Lady Bracknell. Oscar Wilde's much loved and exhilarating masterpiece, with its high comedy and witty dialogue have helped make ***The Importance Of Being Earnest*** Wilde's most enduringly popular play. Now this classic has been adapted into a brand-new musical, with a soaring score by Brett Simmons, and deliciously funny lyrics by David Howard.

Torrance Theatre Company is thrilled to have its audience be among the first to see this brand-new musical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic! TTC Artistic Director, Gia Jordahl shared that “it’s amazing working with Bret and Davd on the evolution of their show.” The show had a workshop in late 2019, and recently a staged reading of the show was held at Music Theatre West. “We knew that we wanted to work with the creative team, and be amongst the first to perform the piece, but then the pandemic hit, and plans were put on hold,” said Jordahl. Now almost two years later, the TTC is getting the chance to help bring this new musical to the stage.

The cast includes Jay Miramontes (Jack Worthing), Tariq Mieres (Algernon Moncrieff), Maura Lefevre (Gwendolen Fairfax), Audrey Pennington (Cecily Cardew), Dyan Hobday-Smith (Lady Bracknell), Eleen Hsu-Wentlandt (Miss Prism), Gary Kresca (Lane/Merriman), and Tim Blake (Dr. Chausable).

For information: www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com. The Torrance Theatre Company is a program of the Cultural Services Division of the Torrance Community Services Department. www.TorranceCA.Gov. Sponsored in part by Friends of Torrance Theatre Company.

CREATIVE TEAM

BRET SIMMONS

Bret Simmons has credits within the music industry as a Composer, Producer, Arranger, and Musical Director. His versatile talents have been showcased as the on-camera Bandleader and Keyboardist for TV's The Megan Mullally Show on NBC. His work has been featured in hundreds of live shows and special events for clients ranging from The Walt Disney Company to the Olympics. During his career, he has served as Staff Music Director for Disney and Staff Songwriter for a variety of music publishers, including EMI Music Publishing and Famous Music Corp. His recordings have been released on CBS/SONY records and Walt Disney Records. He is the composer of the musical *Lucky Star* (Phoenix Theatre), as well as the Off Broadway musical *Falling for Eve*, written with David Howard and Joe DiPietro, it's licensed at Theatrical Rights Worldwide along with *Changing Minds*, and *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*.

DAVID HOWARD

David Howard's most visible credit is DreamWork's major feature film **GALAXY QUEST** (Story and Screenplay credit), recently recognized as #61 on the Writers Guild 101 Funniest Screenplays of all time, and for which he received a Hugo Award, a Nebula Award and a Silver Raven Award. David has also worked in television, and live theatre. Television credits include **THE CARVER BROTHERS** (series pilot), with Robert Deniro's Tribeca Films for CBS (co-written with M.F. McDowell) and **DEAD AND BREAKFAST** (series pilot) for the WB. Live stage credits include *Falling for Eve* (lyricist, based on his play *Adam Alone*) with book by Joe DiPietro and music by Bret Simmons, which played Off-Broadway at the York Theatre. His play *Electric Roses* was performed at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and published in anthologies by Samuel French and Smith Kraus.

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