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(510) 387--0205

Classic Comedy *Blithe Spirit* Brings Delight to the Barn this Autumn

For a Five Week Run
November 15 – December 15, 2024

ROSS, CA (October 11, 2024) – On November 15, 2024, Noël Coward’s farce of phantasms materializes on RVP’s stage. David Abrams, who both directed and played Tom in last season’s tender *The Glass Menagerie*, pulls the strings on a séance gone wrong.

This clever play brings an eccentric spiritualist medium into the home of a novelist, conjuring up the ghost of his first wife and leading to a series of hilariously otherworldly complications. As the humorous chaos unfolds, the playwright deftly mixes sharp wit with spectral hijinks, creating an enduring favorite.

Written by Coward in less than a week as Britain suffered World War II blitz bombings, onstage in London six weeks later with hardly a line changed, and going on to initially play more than 2,000 performances, the cosmopolitan playwright had found a tonic for turbulent times. The comic cocktail works its magic still.

“With a world climate of conflict and challenges, it may be necessary to laugh at the worst parts of ourselves in order to appeal to the better angels of our nature,” said director Abrams, adding, “Beyond that, may this play go out to all the people who would love a good haunt from those they miss.”

Prepare for spirited laughter with Noël Coward’s supernatural comedy, “Blithe Spirit.”

The acting ensemble featuring “a psychic *ménage à trois*,” includes: Malcolm Rodgers, Jessica Powell*, Ashley Garlick*, Robert Molossi, Amy Dietz, Tori Truss, and Lizzy Bies with Doug Epps, Beth Jensen, and Marissa Ellison as understudies.

*Appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

In addition to Direction by David Abrams, RVP’s creative team includes Set Design, Tom O’Brien; Lighting Design, Frank Sarubbi; Sound Design, Bruce Viera; Costume Design, Valera Coble; Property Design and Scenic Painter, Dhyanis Carniglia; Master Builder, Michael Walraven; Intimacy Coach, Heather Undersma; Dialect Coach, Danielle Levine; Stage Manager, Sophie Gilmore; Assistant Stage Manager, Piper Gilmore; and Producer, Steve Price.

“Blithe Spirit” by Noël Coward

Directed by David Abrams

November 15 - December 15, 2024

Preview: Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, November 15, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Exceptions: No show on November 28 or 29; 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, November 30.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, November 15, 2024, which may only be exchanged for November 16 or 17 if necessary. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

Following Productions in the 2024/2025 Season: “STORIES THAT DELIGHT US”

“The Spitfire Grill” - a musical by James Valcq and Fred Alley

Directed by Jay Manley

January 24 – February 23, 2025

Preview: Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, January 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Exceptions: No show on February 13 and 14; 2:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, February 15.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, January 24, 2025, which may be exchanged for January 25 or 26. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

This moving tale of a fresh start in a small town features a soul-stirring score that fuses folk and Americana; an award-winning musical that demonstrates how a single place can become a beacon of hope, bringing a community together and healing old wounds.

“Pet Lingerie” Book & Lyrics by Fred Raker and Bruce Tallerman; Music By Bruce Tallerman

Directed & Choreographed by Gary Stanford, Jr.; Musical Direction by Kevin Dong

March 21 – April 6, 2025

Preview: Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, March 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Exceptions: 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 5.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, March 21, 2025, which may be exchanged for March 22 or 23. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

It's Gary Panko's Crowdfunding Seminar, at the Airport Suites Hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana, and a motley crew of characters has descended upon a conference room to present their outlandish, ridiculous, and downright silly kickstarter ideas. RVP's 2025 New Works presentation selected from 50+ scripts from area playwrights.

“The Book of Will” by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Mary Ann Rodgers

May 9 – June 8, 2025

Preview: Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, May 9, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Exceptions: No show on May 29 or 30. 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, May 24.

Press tickets: two press tickets are issued for Friday, May 9, 2025, which may be exchanged for May 10 or 11. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

Close the season with "The Book of Will," a tribute to the legacy of Shakespeare celebrating the unsung heroes who preserved Shakespeare's works. Follow John Heminges and Henry Condell, Shakespeare's fellow actors, as they embark on a seemingly impossible task to gather and publish the original texts of his plays.

TICKET INFORMATION

Four-show season subscriptions are available at www.rossvalleyplayers.com. Single tickets are \$35 plus \$2.80 booking fee (\$37.80) and for previews and ages 18 and under \$20 plus \$1.60 booking fee (\$21.60).

RVP members receive a \$4 discount. Group rates available for groups of 8 or more. Additional booking fees apply. Contact the box office at boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com for more information.

Note the following exception: Single tickets are \$40 for “The Spitfire Grill” plus \$3.80 booking fee (\$43.80).

Preview and ages 18 and under are \$25 for “The Spitfire Grill” plus \$2 booking fee (\$27.00).

BARN THEATRE

All performances occur at the Barn Theatre on the campus of the Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., in Ross. Parking is found in the Center's main parking lot.

ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS

Founded in 1930, Ross Valley Players is one of the longest running community theaters around. RVP is proud of our many awards and nominations. Among others, our productions have been nominated by Dean Goodman, the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle (BATCC), and Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Awards. RVP is also proud to be the resident theater company at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Visit our website at www.rossvalleyplayers.com for more information.