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World Premiere Comic Musical Leads Ross Valley Players New Works Festival

For a Three Week Run
March 21 – April 6, 2025

ROSS, CA (February 15, 2025) – On March 21, Ross Valley Players makes good on its decades-long, historic commitment to living Bay Area playwrights with a light-hearted spoof that shows the snags of embracing technology over tenderness. “Pet Lingerie” is a musical about “love, dreams, and really bad crowdfunding ideas.”

Co-writers Fred Raker and Bruce Tallerman met in Hollywood, writing for television, before decamping to Northern California and new chapters in their literary lives.

Fred Raker began his career doing stand-up comedy in New York alongside Jerry Seinfeld and Paul Reiser. He moved to Hollywood where he became a staff writer on several network television shows, including ABC’s “Fridays” (featuring Larry David and Michael Richards). In San Francisco, Fred’s solo show, “It Could Have Been a Wonderful Life,” a Jewish take on the Jimmy Stewart movie became a Hanukkah classic.

Bruce Tallerman’s credits include a Showtime-TV series and several TV pilots. He is a published fiction writer, with short stories appearing in small-press literary magazines. Bruce has performed his original songs in New York’s Greenwich Village and is currently performing in various Central Coast venues.

Director/Choreographer Gary Stanford, Jr. is familiar to North Bay audiences not only for his acting, but also his directing. Gary likens *Pet Lingerie* to one of his favorite films, the satirical *Best in Show*, and says, “I don’t take lightly the shows I work on and this spoke to me as a hilarious adventure.”

The acting ensemble includes: Natalie Buck-Bauer, AnneJelika Ong Cortez, Laszlo Horner, Landers Markwick, Vicki Victoria, Dan Schwager, Robin Schild, and Ron Talbot with Suzanne Carroll and Adonis Reyes as understudies. Kevin X. Dong, Wesley Booth, and Thinkh Nguyen are the musicians.

In addition to Direction by Gary Stanford, Jr., RVP’s creative team includes Musical Direction, Kevin X. Dong; Set Design and Master Builder, Michael Walraven; Lighting Design, Michele Samuels; Sound Design, Billie Cox; Costume Design, Valera Coble; Properties Design and Scenic Painter, Dhyanis Carniglia; Projections Design, Zach Norris, Intimacy Choreographer, Heather Ondersma, Stage Manager, Dianne Harrison; Assistant Stage Manager, Adonis Reyes; and Co-Producers, Jay Manley (Production) and Lynn Lohr (Publicity).

The New Works Festival continues with Sunday night readings March 23 and March 30 at 7pm with scripts by Bay Area playwrights John Levine, Patrick Atkinson and Robyn Brooks.

A note from the New Works Committee: “Ten months ago when *Pet Lingerie* rose to the top of 70 local new plays long and short, we were drawn to its originality and audacity. After all, who can remember their passwords or resist the siren call of their smartphone? Plus, a play with a rabbi that wants to be a playwright and a Pope puppet that is the moral center of the show? Now in 2025, the biggest political stage suddenly features brologarchs, fact-checking has for once and all been discarded by Facebook, and AI is slipping its leash. Seems like the moment for a subversive little satire like *Pet Lingerie* to question this ‘Digital Age.’”

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

Directed & Choreographed by Gary Stanford, Jr.; Musical Direction by Kevin X. 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 any available date in the run. Email boxoffice@rossvalleyplayers.com to exchange tickets.

A musical about love, dreams, and really bad crowdfunding ideas. We're at the Airport Suites Hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana, where three characters meet to reboot their lives and present their outlandish and downright silly entrepreneurial ideas to suave, tech-crazed marketing guru Gary Panko. All get a new take on what it means to really connect.

Following and Final Production in the 2024/2025 Season: “STORIES THAT DELIGHT US”

“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 any available date in the run. 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

Single tickets are \$35 plus \$2.80 booking fee (\$37.80) and \$20 plus \$1.60 booking fee (\$21.60) for previews and ages 18 and under. 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.

Tickets for the Sunday night New Works readings are \$10 plus an \$.80 booking fee (\$10.80).

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.