



NEWS RELEASE

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Final Cast Announced for Mainstreet Theatre Company Production of Mirette, Opening April 23rd at the Lewis Family Playhouse

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rancho Cucamonga, California - MainStreet Theatre Company is pleased to announce the cast for the Theatre for Young Audiences premiere of *Mirette* opening April 23rd at the Lewis Family Playhouse, with book by Elizabeth Diggs, Music by Harvey Schmidt, and Lyrics by Tom Jones.

Based on the Caldecott winning book by Emily Arnold McCully, *Mirette* is the story of a young girl in 1890's Paris who convinces a retired high-wire artist to teach her his trade - and in turn teaches him to overcome his own fear. Children as well as adults will relate to the main character, who is trying to figure out her place in the world. It's a fresh and unique coming-of-age story set in the backstage world of the circus, which celebrates both the joy and the struggles of being a performing artist. School performances begin on April 18th, with the public opening on April 23rd. The show runs until May 8th. Recommended for ages 7 and up.

Elizabeth Diggs has revised her original book for the musical, and this *new version* has been pared down to one act, with a cast of 8 performers. Casey Stangl directs the Los Angeles based cast which includes Aly Fainbarg in the title role and Mark Doerr as Bellini, the mysterious, retired high-wire walker with a secret. Tracey Leigh, seen in last season's *The Three Little Pigs* is Mirette's practical mother, Madame Gateau.

The rest of the cast play various "artistes" who live in the boarding house run by Madame Gateau: Curt Bonnem plays Tabac, a juggler; Ann Marie Lee is Madame Rouspenskaya, a Russian Opera singer; and brother and sister Jonathan Christopher MacMillan and Natalie Hope MacMillan play a pair of acrobats. Arthur Hanket is Max, an impresario.

Thanks to a "Challenge America Grant" from the NEA, MainStreet will host writer Elizabeth Diggs during the rehearsal process, and Rob Mermin, the founder of Vermont's Circus Smirkus, will also be on hand as the Circus Consultant, lending an air of authenticity to the proceedings. Musical Director Janice Rodgers Wainwright will lead the live band.

- More -

Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center

12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739 · Administration: (909) 477-2775 · Fax: (909) 477-2774

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The physical production will include a real "wire" as well as some surprises! Scenery is by Francois-Pierre Couture, Lighting by Jaymi Lee Smith, and Costumes are by Tina Haatainen-Jones.

Families who arrive early to the weekend performances will be encouraged to try out some of their own circus skills, as well as other fun activities tied to the theme of the show. In addition to the performances, the Lewis Family Playhouse will be hosting a Parisian Tea to celebrate Mother's Day. Tickets to the tea are discounted for patrons who also purchase tickets to *Mirette*.

Single tickets are priced at \$18.00 for Adults admission and \$16.00 for children up to age 12, and seniors 60 and older. *Foundation Family Flex Packs* tickets are only \$12.00 if they're bought in packs of four or more for the same performance and are available for all MainStreet Theatre Company productions. The Rancho Cucamonga Community & Arts Foundation also continues to support *Foundation Family Saturdays* for the opening performance, (April 23rd at 4:00 p.m.), where all tickets are only \$10.00.

MainStreet Theatre Company is the resident Equity Company at the Lewis Family Playhouse, producing innovative shows specifically for children and family audiences. Drawing from creative talent from all over Southern California, MainStreet Theatre Company introduces many children to the wonder of live theatre for the very first time! MainStreet shows are performed for school groups as well as for general audiences, with most shows based on classic or contemporary children's literature.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

For more information - For additional information or to purchase tickets for any of our performances please visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com or call the Box Office at (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422.

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