

TARA PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

THE 9TH GRADE PRESENTS

THE WONDIER WHAT

by Kenneth Sawyer Goodman and Ben Hecht

LIVESTREAM
PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 17, 2020

2:30 AND 7:30 P.M.

IN-PERSON LEARNING AND MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE

Tara students, parents, faculty and staff are working hard to keep in-person learning safe and healthy for the young people in our care as well as for those who are guiding them. Additional, special protocols are making performances, travel and festivals possible as well!

How are we making it work?

In consultation with Boulder County Public Health, and following the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment guidance, we have put the following in place: daily health screenings, remote learning options for anyone feeling “off” or experiencing symptoms, mask requirement at all times indoors per state executive order, outdoor and distanced learning whenever possible so that masks can be removed, cohorts by grade level, all-school activities held distanced in our outdoor campus tent, and specially-designed “resonance masks” for use in choir.

So that we can still sing, create theatre, and travel, students and faculty go through two-week preparatory periods of self-quarantine, followed by a COVID test right before these activities. This allows cohort-quarantined and COVID-tested performers to not be fully distanced or masked during the actual festival or performance.

Festivals and dramatic performances require additional distance between the in-person audience and the performers. In-person audience members are also distanced with six feet between groups. The crew and production team who are in close contact with the cast also quarantine and get tested, but still maintain their distance as a cohort distinct from the cast.

To make this piece of art available to an audience beyond the few parents in the theatre attending in person, this project presentation is being shared via livestream Saturday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m. (Cast 1) and again at 7:30 p.m. (Cast 2). You can also order DVDs of the Saturday performances from office@tarahighschool.org.

Thank you to Boulder County Public Health, the Tara community, and our North Boulder neighbors for supporting and understanding the important work we’re doing with young people and for taking the precautions we all rely on to keep each other safe and healthy as we continue to offer a full Tara program.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

About the play:

The Wonder Hat is a Harlequinade, a play in the style of commedia dell' arte, or "commedia" for short. Commedia is a form of comedic live performance that is many hundreds of years old. In the old Italian tradition, troupes of actors would improvise love and trickery-based scenarios on the street. Although commedia is now primarily performed from written plays, the 16th century stock characters remain.

The persona of each stock character lives in its mask. Don't let your eyes fool you - every actor on stage is wearing a mask, physical or not, and as we like to say, "the mask plays you!"

Please enjoy the fruits of our labor, and engage yourself with these stylized characters as they come to life through this extraordinary ninth grade class!

– Keats Dormont, Director

Why commedia dell' arte?

As the parent of a Waldorf high school student, you may hear the ninth grade year described as one of "extremes." As teachers then, we set out pedagogically to take the students to these extremes through the curriculum: from Comedy to Tragedy, through black and white drawing, to the study of light and dark in History through Art, culminating in a study of Rembrandt, the great artist who found that by placing his subjects on a line between light and shadow, the true identity of an individual can be revealed. In the first year of Tara's existence as a high school (when Nomad Production Manager, Catherine Barricklow, was a Tara ninth grader herself!), commedia dell' arte was introduced, and the students excitedly asked if they themselves could do a commedia play. So, we set out on an exploration of the art, and the realization began to dawn that it is the perfect vehicle for the beginning of the drama program at Tara!

The style of commedia dell' arte offers students the opportunity to expand themselves from the tops of their heads to the tips of their fingers and toes. This activity demands an embodiment of the visual image. The clearly defined stock characters, the twists of the action/plot, and the liberating-ly silly signature antics of the characters provide a clear structure that is also full of possibility. Research is relatively simple to do: each character has a clearly defined "mask," set of attributes, thoughts, feelings, voice and use of words. The back-story is traditionally the same; each character has an established way of moving, clearly defined

relationships and dependable status. So, the work of the actor is simple and defined by tradition: the Lovers have their heads in the clouds; they are upright because of their higher status. The Zannis/Servants move in the plié; they are “lower,” relatively dim-witted, curious and confused, with simple needs. And the old men are bearded, big-bellied, blowhards! The actor must commit to the traditional movements, gestures and “shape” required by the characters; this allows the actor to become aware of the idea, feeling and image to be communicated. The physical masks provide an opportunity to “disappear” and re-appear as someone else entirely – perhaps you might not recognize the very students that you know so well! The best part is that you in the audience (even if you are livestreaming) are in the play! The actors are speaking to you directly – and they are waiting for you. Please enjoy!

– Laurel Fisher, Artistic Director

THE PRODUCTION CREW

Director – Keats Dormont

Costumes – Terry Stilwell

Set – Shevek Majors–Peer

Lights – Shevek Majors–Peer

Props – Marcella DeLaPaz

Accordion – Ruffiana Accordionista

Tech Crew – Eoin Galloway, Miles Fee, Kiri Booth

Graphic Design – Anne Starke

Running Crew

Stage Manager – Marcella DeLaPaz

Stage Manager (Calling) – Andrew Wiebe

Light Board/Sound Board Operator – Eli Booth

Assistant Stage Manager – Emma Simoneau

Nomad Playhouse Staff

Production Manager/Producer – Catherine Barricklow

Technical Director – Shevek Majors–Peer

Administrative Assistant/Rental Coordinator – Ingrid Nilsson

THE CASTS

Cast 1

Thursday 2:30 (dress rehearsal), Friday 7:30, Saturday 2:30, Sunday 7:30

Harlequin Rohin Garnsey
Pierrot Aubrielle Cook
Il Dottore Chaya Kidane
Punchinello Kyla Renfree
Columbine Celeste Nicault
Margot Autumn Rose
Ensemble Maia Cole, Jake Garber, Merin Ingalls,
Shaena Putnam, Hanna Scharff, Chava Simoneau

Cast 2

Thursday 7:30 (dress rehearsal), Friday 2:30, Saturday 7:30, Sunday 2:30

Harlequin Merin Ingalls
Pierrot Chava Simoneau
Il Dottore Hanna Scharff
Punchinello Jake Garber
Columbine Shaena Putnam
Margot Maia Cole
Ensemble Aubrielle Cook, Rohin Garnsey, Chaya Kidane,
Celeste Nicault, Kyla Renfree, Autumn Rose

*Please remember to turn off your mobile phone.
Please do not take photos or video during the performances.*

KEEPING THE VISION ALIVE

"We've invested in Tara because we think our child needs an educational experience built on immersive collaboration, extreme problem solving, and intensely expansive creativity, not just so she can survive but so she can thrive.

Tara is the life-changing vehicle we know will fuel thoughtful healthy relationships, high level thinking and the out-of-the-box mindset that all the Tara students will need in a rapidly changing world."

– Tara Parent



Will you help us ensure Tara's future sustainability? Even in these times of uncertainty, we are planning for the future. The biggest help possible, other than a large donation, is to carefully think about people you know who would like to make a real difference in the world. Do you know someone able to donate a scholarship for four years, give \$50,000 or more annually to help with operating costs, or sponsor the Nomad at \$5,000 annually for the next five years? Do you know someone who can help build our 15M endowment fund? Please introduce us! Contact Betsy Barricklow at betsy@tarahighschool.org.



"There was something essential that was instilled in me at Tara ... I think it gives me an edge ... A few things continually come up ... Comedy ... Story ... Art as a lifestyle ... An overall need to create deep and accurate beauty."

– Alumna, Tara Class of 2006

Learning in the time of COVID and making the Tara program possible at this time present special challenges and significant extra expenses. At the same time, many families have been impacted financially, challenging their ability to remain at the school. We are committed to keeping our community together, providing in-person learning along with drama, festivals and travel, and insuring continuity for students who are steadfast in their desire to stay enrolled in Tara. **Please help if you can, so that we can help those who can't right now.**

To donate to the Tara Community Support Fund or to contribute to the increased operating budget for the year, click on the Support Tara tab at www.tarahighschool.org.

Sponsor the Nomad!

We invite you to become a Season Sponsor at the Nomad Playhouse, which engages the spirit of community through a wide range of professional-caliber productions of live music, film and theatre, including six productions by Tara Performing Arts High School students, the resident theatre company at this historic venue.

Your sponsorship will directly support:

- Space for local professional artists to develop new and cutting-edge theatre productions
- Arts education outreach to Boulder youth through free programs hosted by the Nomad with local organizations such as Boulder Bach Festival's Education Series and Tara Performing Arts High School's free student matinees for school groups
- Upgrades and improvements to the theatre's comfort and utility for resident/guest artists and audience members
- Theatre operations and maintenance of the historic structure



Contact Betsy Barricklow at betsy@tarahighschool.org

2020-21 Nomad Sponsors

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“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life
by what we give.” –Winston Churchill



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We pride ourselves on giving back to the community, especially to Waldorf Education. We know the benefit to the community in helping foster the performing arts and the philosophy of Waldorf.

Because of this, we donate 10% of our sales commissions to Waldorf education. The performances by Tara at the Nomad Theatre have been an exciting and fulfilling reward for us.



All of us at Boulder Valley Real Estate would like to take this time to thank those of you who have sought out and relied on our services thus allowing us to continue our ongoing support of Waldorf education!

John J. Kelly



303-591-1608 (cell)
303-444-4333 x13 (office)
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john@bouldervalleyre.com



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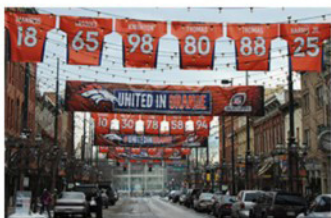
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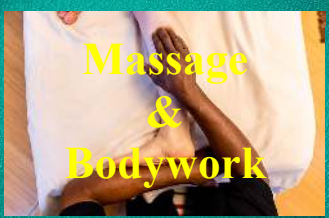
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INTERESTED IN A TARA EDUCATION?

Tara is accepting applications for the fall 2021 ninth grade, and we have one spot available in the current tenth grade; all other classes are full and starting waitlists! Please tell anyone who might be interested in applying to sign up:

Curriculum Sampler

Saturday, October 24th, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tara's commitment to in-person learning is strong, and so is our commitment to give prospective families an informative and fun in-person (and socially distanced) glimpse into the academic, social and cultural life of the school. Parents will hear a presentation and have a Q&A session with Tara faculty and current twelfth grade students. Students will enjoy a theater workshop, sample lessons with Tara faculty and a conversation with current twelfth graders.

Space is limited to 10 students (plus one parent/guardian each). We are already half full, so reserve your place soon - but only when you are sure you can come so as not to deprive others of the opportunity. Attendees will also receive complimentary access to the livestream of the ninth grade play. The sampler will start on time; we encourage you to come five to ten minutes early to get settled. And we'll be outside, so bring coats, mittens and scarves as appropriate for the weather!

Make your reservation by emailing admissions@tarahighschool.org

To you I wish

The opportunity of an education
From a school built on kindness
and compassion

To you I wish curiosity for ancient
cultures and adventure

On your quest for knowledge.

To you I wish the good fortune
of attending a school

That elevates your being
to its highest potential.

To you I wish all the love in the world
On this exquisite journey
which is your life.

To you I wish Tara.

- Nola Hayes, Tara Class of 2013
(at the groundbreaking for the
science building)

TARA PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL
UPCOMING EVENTS

A Modern Drama

The Twelfth Grade Play

Thursday – Saturday, November 19 – 21, 2020

The 27th Annual

Christmas Candlelight Festival

Friday – Sunday, December 18 – 20, 2020

A Shakespeare Selection

The 11th Grade Play

Friday – Sunday, February 5 – 7, 2021

An Historical Selection

The 10th Grade Play

Friday – Sunday, March 12 – 14, 2021

The Fundraising Talent Show

Desserts & Dreams

Friday, March 20, 2021

School Musical

To Be Announced

Thursday – Sunday, June 16 – 20, 2021

