

CONTACT:**9-27-20**

Clark Sayre

Director

Dos Pueblos Theatre Company

Dos Pueblos High School, 7266 Alameda Ave., Goleta, CA 93117

csayre@sbunified.org

(805) 722-5475

www.dptheatrecompany.org**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HIGH SCHOOL EMBRACES ZOOM TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE "THEATER IN THE ZOOM"**

No sets. No costumes nor lights. Not even a live audience. Is this even theater? ZOOM to the THIRD co-creators Clark Sayre and Kenny Luper prefer calling this new form of COVID19 performance "Theater-in-the-Zoom," a medium they hope will incite, enlighten and entertain online audiences throughout the country. Sayre says, "This year, thinking 'outside the box' means creating content 'inside the box' - the ZOOM boxes in which we live, work and play."

High school theaters and theater companies across the world scramble to fill the void left by the lack of live theater performances. While recognizing that nothing can replace the live theater experience, Sayre and Luper, noted several things about this unique time: 1) people long for a communal live theater-like experience 2) the usual audience/actor relationship cannot be replicated via ZOOM 3) Live performances (with their usual constructs) don't work on the ZOOM platform.

Sayre and Luper plan to lean into the ZOOM medium by: 1) embracing quirky, often times messy transitions 2) utilizing the live chat feature for immediate real-time feedback 3) staging for the ZOOM camera versus traditional staging 4) utilizing the students' actual bedrooms and clothing for sets and costumes 5) dramatizing unique ZOOM realities like forgetting to unmute, using breakout rooms and watching pets steal the scene 6) using real-time audience surveys to inform the action 7) editing scenes like TV or movies so boxes may be placed strategically 8) reaching out to larger nationwide audiences. Luper notes, "We see this as a great opportunity to teach students what professional artists must do: adapt, adjust, re-envision and create within the limits of specific outside parameters."

ZOOM to the THIRD, consists of three unique one-acts created specifically for ZOOM audiences: RELATIVITY an original musical by seventeen year old Senior Neve Greewald THE GAMES WE PLAY by comedian Kenny Luper and Theater Director Clark Sayre, and JUDGING by established screenwriter/TV writer Jurgen Wolff.

Greenwald's musical RELATIVITY centers around Mileva Maric, the first woman accepted into the prestigious Zurich Polytechnique and Albert Einstein's wife. Largely uncredited for Einstein's groundbreaking work, Mileva Maric was a female science pioneer and one whose forgotten legacy Greenwald wishes to acknowledge and celebrate.

Jurgen Wolff, established TV/Film Writer and ex-USC Film School faculty, wrote the original one-act JUDGING, where, In a high-school court case conducted via Zoom, a student jury has to decide whether an incident was a prank, an attempt to help, or harassment in the form of

body-shaming. As the sometimes-distracted members of the jury pose questions and the judge tries to keep order, a fractured friendship is exposed...and possibly healed.

Comedian Kenny Luper and Director Clark Sayre penned THE GAMES WE PLAY, a real-time one-act that requires audience participation via ZOOM chats. While contestants try to win games like SHARK TANK, LET'S MAKE A DEAL and FAMILY FEUD, their convoluted interactions reveal the psychological games they're playing underneath the surface - the games everyone plays in order to survive a constantly shifting world.

ZOOM TO THE THIRD will be streamed LIVE and presented in a drive in movie format where cars pull into the school's parking lot and watch the performance from their vehicles, as it is projected on the large exterior theater wall. Drive in viewers will be able to listen through a designated channel on their car's radio. Audience members from around the world will be able to watch the show "LIVE" as well. Those not able to attend may order the link online and may also add bonus options like discussions with the cast and crew and rehearsal bloopers.

The show's evolution and development mirrors the unpredictable nature of COVID itself. When it became clear that Ms. Greenwald's show would need to be scaled back in cast size and length, Sayre scrambled to put together an evening that would include more roles for students. He recalled his mentor Hal Prince's production of 3HREE which combined three one-act musicals into a single event. Since writing a solid musical in a matter of weeks wasn't possible, Sayre enlisted several of the writers from his professional writers group to create original comedic material suited for this particular moment in history - material that would incite, enlighten and entertain.

Ms. Greenwald's student written musical one-act is sandwiched between two works by professional writers, bringing to fruition one of DP Theatre's underlying goals: to bridge the gap between educational and professional theater. Sammy Buck, librettist/lyricist for LIKE YOU LIKE IT has served as Ms. Greenwald's mentor throughout the writing process. Recently, Dos Pueblos produced the World Premiere production of GRAND DUCHY, by Tony Winner Robert L. Freedman and Leonard Bernstein protege John Bayless. Dos Pueblos' Broadway Beginnings Advisory Board consists of theater luminaries: Stephen Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Flaherty, Jason Alexander, Victoria Clark, Howard McGillin and others.

The LIVE performance takes place on November 13 and 14th at 7pm PST. Tickets for the LIVE STREAM are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and may be purchased at www.dptheatrecompany.org For more information, please email producer Taylor Vaughn tv Vaughn195.00@gmail.com OR text her at (805) 705-1243.
