The Tabard Theatre Company

Presents

The Immigrant
A Hamilton County Album

November 7 - 22, 2014

Theatre on San Pedro Square
29 N. San Pedro Street • Downtown San Jose
Have you ever been or felt like a stranger in a strange land? Maybe when you were a kid and moved to a new school? Or maybe when your family moved to a new neighborhood or new community? Unless our heritage includes Native Americans, every single one of us, either personally or through a family member a generation or more ago, has been a stranger in a strange land.

Imagine what it’s like to live in a community where no one looks like you, talks like you, or believes like you. Imagine the courage, tenacity, grace, and sheer pluck needed to persevere in the face of adversity and loneliness. This is Haskell and Leah Harelik’s perspective.

Imagine, too, the experience of having a stranger come into your community who doesn’t look like you, talk like you, or believe like you. This is Milton and Ima Perry’s perspective.

The Immigrant shares the true story of Haskell and Milton. It is difficult to imagine a more contrasting circumstance than an orthodox Russian Jew settling into a Southern Baptist community in Texas in the early 20th century. Talk about a stranger in a strange land. Because we live in Silicon Valley in the 21st century, this scenario is one most of us experience on a daily basis.

I invite you now to embrace these different perspectives with the additional understanding and perspective that somewhere, sometime we have all, each of us, been where Haskell has been and where Milton has been.

From Karen Altree Piemme, Director

Theatre provides us with perspective — an opportunity to see the world from another person’s point of view. We come together in the theatre to share tales that move us and speak to us, to connect and empathize with one another, and to expand our understanding of the human experience. Mark Harelik’s The Immigrant allows us to do this beautifully. And yet, it’s a universal story. The struggle to balance familial, cultural and historical heritage with allegiance to our chosen community resonates with everyone. We all have a need to feel that we belong. Nowhere is this more true than here in our incredibly dynamic, multicultural Bay Area community. Thank you for being a part of our community, and for joining us here this evening.

From Nick Nichols, Executive Director

Thank you so much for joining us for this heartwarming production of The Immigrant. As you can already see at most malls, it is not too early to start thinking about the holidays. This year, I invite you to consider giving your friends and family a truly unique gift in the form of tickets to a Tabard play. Tabard is still offering four-play subscriptions, and it is easy to buy gift certificates and single tickets to any of our remaining shows. This holiday season, give your loved ones a gift that will touch their hearts and feed their souls. Give the gift of live theatre! To buy tickets, just go to our website at www.TabardTheatre.org or call us at 408-679-2330. Enjoy the show!
PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer: Cathy Spielberger Cassetta
Director: Karen Altree Piemme
Technical Director: Joe Cassetta
Assistant Technical Director: John Palmer
Stage Manager: Kiana Jackson
Lighting Designer: Rover Spotts
Sound Designer: Robert Lewis
Scenic Artist: Migi Oey
Costume Designer: Marilyn Watts
Properties: "propEARLYdone" by Ruth E. Stein
Backstage Assistants: Hayley Lovgren, Gina Mathios
Set Construction: Harley Goes, Jonathan Jackel, Andrew Marshall
Program Layout: Barbara Reynolds

Tabard offers its sincere and grateful appreciation to...
Los Altos Stage Company, Lyric Theatre, Larry Raboy, South Bay Musical Theatre, WVLO Musical Theatre Company, and all our season subscribers, donors, sponsors, and community partners who helped make this season possible.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

A portion of Tabard’s concession proceeds from this production will be donated to

The Tabard Theatre Company is a proud and active member of:

The Tabard Theatre Company is grateful for the support provided, in part, by the Farrington Historical Foundation, a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose, and a Regional Arts Fund grant from Silicon Valley Creates.

THE IMMIGRANT

Cast

Haskell              Steve Shapiro
Leah                 Erin Ashe
Milton               Donald W. Sturch
Ima                   Denee Lewis
Ima (Nov. 22)        Diane Milo

Scenes and Settings

The scenes, aside from the Prologue, are various locales in and around Hamilton, a tiny agricultural community in central Texas, from 1909 to 1985.

Act I

Scene 1: 1909 - Front porch of Milton & Ima Perry's home
Scene 2: 1909 - The town square, the next day
Scene 3: 1909 - The Perry front porch, same day
Scene 4: 1909 - The Perry front porch
Scene 5: 1909 - Milton's office in the Perry National Bank building, six weeks later
Scene 6: 1909 - The Perry front porch, a Wednesday evening
Scene 7: 1909 - The Perry house, before dawn
Scene 8: 1910 - Harelik's Fruits and Vegetables on the town square
Scene 9: 1910 - The Harelik home, several months later

Act II

Scene 1: 1911 - The Perry kitchen
Scene 2: 1911 - The Harelik front porch, very late at night
Scene 3: 1917 - The Harelik front porch
Scene 4: 1922 - The Harelik front porch
Scene 5: 1939 - The Harelik home, the Sabbath
Scene 6: 1940 - The Harelik front porch, daytime
Scene 7: 1940 - The Perry front porch

Time well spent. Tabard.

Bring your imagination; we'll do the rest. Tabard.
Erin Ashe (Leah) is delighted to be in her first Tabard production. Recent favorites include Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Cinnabar Theater); Vivian in *The Speakeasy* (Boxcar Theater); Shelby in *Steel Magnolias* (Novato Theater Company); and Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* (Santa Rosa Junior College). Erin recently graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a B.A. in theater and performance studies. She is also a voice-over actor and can be heard in various video games, apps, and commercials.

Denee Lewis (Ima) is excited to make her Tabard Theatre debut in *The Immigrant*. Her most recent credits include Claire in *Proof* at South Valley Civic Theater and Sis in *Queen of Bingo* at Northside Theatre Company. Other favorite roles include Truvy in *Steel Magnolias* at Limelight Actors Theater in Gilroy, and Val in *Looking* at Pintello Comedy Theater. Denice would like to thank her family for all their love and support as she continues with her acting endeavors.

Diane Milo (Ima, Nov. 22) returns for her 18th production at Tabard, most recently directing one of the 10 in 10 plays and the all-female production of *1776*, and directing/performing in *The World Goes ’Round*. She has more than 80 theatrical credits with companies across the Bay Area, most recently providing vocal direction for South Bay Musical Theatre’s *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Kiss Me, Kate* as well as their upcoming production of *Curtains*. She is directing/vocal directing *Drood!* for Sunnyvale Community Players in the spring.

Steve Shapiro (Haskell) was last seen on Tabard’s stage as Sam Posner in *Crossing Delancey*. Most recently, Steve performed the role of Austin in *True West* at Northside Theatre Company. Steve is also a musician and served as music and vocal director of *Little Shop of Horrors* with Sunnyvale Community Players earlier this year. Outside of theater, Steve writes a monthly column called “Father Knows Best?” for *Parenting on the Peninsula*. He dedicates his performance in *The Immigrant* to his father, Allan Shapiro.


Cathy Spielberger Cassetta (Producer) is a theatre/television veteran and entrepreneur who created/produced/co-hosted the weekly TV program *Theater This Week* in the 1990s before founding Tabard in 2001. For Tabard she’s directed *Scapin, Dames at Sea, The Gifts of the Magi, The Dog Sitters, Sabrina Fair, A Taffeta Wedding, It’s a Wonderful Life, Crossing Delancey, Babes in Hollywood*, and the award-winning production of *Trying*; she created and co-wrote *More Than Petticoats*; and she both directed and wrote *Stompin’ at the Savoy, Bandstand Beat, The Duke, The Count, and Me*, and *Love, Laughter & Linguine*; and two plays in Tabard’s recent *10 in 10: Perspective*. Representing Tabard, she serves on the Executive Committee of San Jose Downtown Association and chairs SJDA’s San Pedro Square business committee.

Joe Cassetta (Technical Director) continues to lead Tabard’s technical team, which he has done since the company was founded in 2001. With a B.S. in mechanical engineering and an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University, Joe’s steady and skilled leadership has led to Tabard’s increased ability to explore and expand what we do technically.

Mark Harelik (Playwright) was born in Hamilton, Texas, and grew up in the only Jewish family in that small town where his two biographical plays *The Immigrant* and sequel *The Legacy* take place. Following its 1985 premiere *The Immigrant* was the most widely produced play in the country, with presentations done at nearly every major theater in the nation, and is now a favorite in regional theater. Mark has many other stage, TV, and film credits, including co-writing the screenplay to award-nominated *Lost Highways: The Hank Williams Story*, as well as appearing on *Broadway in The Light in the Piazza*, and as a recurring character on *The Big Bang Theory, NCIS*, and *Will & Grace*, among others. In 2005 he adapted his family’s story into a musical.

Kiana Jackson (Stage Manager) received her B.A. in theatre arts at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. She is overjoyed to continue her career in theatre with Tabard by taking on the role of production intern to the company and stage manager of *The Immigrant*. Ultimately, her goal is to pursue an M.F.A. in production or stage management.

Robert Lewis (Sound Designer) returns to Tabard after working in multiple backstage and technical roles for *10 in 10: Perspective* and *Starting Here, Starting Now*. As well as most of the shows last season. A New Jersey native and electrical engineer by education, Robert is now a 27-year resident of the Bay Area (with stops in Dallas, Boston, and Tokyo along the way) and software consultant. Happily married for 35 years, he enjoys singing and playing mandolin with his church music group.
Meet the Artists

Migi Oey (Scenic Artist) has worked on the Tabard technical team since Bandstand Beat in 2011. She designed the set for the award-winning Trying. Her knowledge of the performing arts stems from photographing musicians to working with local theatres, schools, and corporate events. She is skilled at drawing, painting large-scaled murals and faux finishes, photography, floral design, textiles, and graphics.

John Palmer (Assistant Technical Director) returns to working on the technical side of Tabard productions, having worked with Tabard in that capacity from 2002-2013. Prior to that, he was the theatre technician for West Valley College’s theatre. An active member of the singing group Stoctet, his personal joy is singing.

Karen Altree Piemme (Director) returns to Tabard, having directed a play in 10 in 10: Perspective! An accomplished director, actor, dramaturg, and acting instructor, she specializes in community access and new works development. She has directed productions, taught classes, and conducted workshops locally, nationally, and internationally for over twenty-five years. In 2011 she received the Champion of Arts Education Award from the City of San Jose, and in 2012 was named one of the “35 Faces” of Theatre Bay Area.

Rover Spotts (Lighting Designer) is most excited to be lighting his second show here at Tabard, following Starting Here, Starting Now. During the day he works in the IT and Performing Arts departments for a private K-12 school. He also works for the City of Sunnyvale’s theater and has designed shows for Sunnyvale Community Players, Lyric Theatre, 42nd Street Moon, Theatre Rhinoceros and various other Bay Area theater companies.

Ruth E. Stein (Properties) is an award-winning on-stage and off-stage theater veteran, who has performed throughout the U.S. and extensively in the Bay Area for over five decades. RuthE’s “propEARLYdone” supplies properties for many local theater companies. Her recent on-stage credits include: Ben Franklin in Tabard’s all-female 1776, as well as Sophie Greengrass (Social Security), Bellomy (The Fantasticks), Auntie Juliana Tesman (Hedda Gabler), Ida (The Cemetery Club) and her one-woman show Sister Robert Anne’s Cabaret Class.

Marilyn Watts (Costume Designer) has been Tabard’s resident costume designer since the company’s second season and designed the costumes for the award-winning Trying. Marilyn is also Tabard’s audience services director and is costumer for several theatre/dance companies. What brings an even bigger smile to her is anything related to I Love Lucy.
Theatre is more than a show. Tabard.
2014 – 2015 Season
Partnering through Donations and Grants

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Diane Milo

Ed Sengstack

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Joe Cassetta

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Marilyn Watts

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‘tab’ard: \\text{‘tab-\ }\text{ärд Also -ård\ n: } 1. \text{An ancient London inn featured in Chaucer’s } \textit{Canterbury Tales}, from which pilgrims began their journey to Canterbury Cathedral and at which the innkeeper offered a free meal to the best storyteller. 2. A tunic worn by a knight over his armor and emblazoned with his sovereign’s arms. 3. The name appropriated by numerous contemporary collegiate literary fraternities. 4. A \textit{dynamic and imaginative theatre company in Silicon Valley, CA}

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\textbf{Our Mission Statement: The Tabard Theatre Company is committed to making a difference in the community through the arts by providing professional-quality theatre experiences such as productions and workshops that are appropriate and affordable for audiences of all ages. Tabard focuses on new works or works not commonly produced. Especially engaged with altruism and philanthropy, Tabard reaches out to the under-served, such as the blind/visually impaired and children in low-income areas, and donates a portion of each production’s concession proceeds to a designated local charity.}