

The Tabard Theatre Company announces  
**Incoming Executive Artistic Director and  
2020-2021 season, its 20th season!**  
3 musicals, 3 plays + 1 Celebration Production!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press comps are available upon request for reviews and feature stories.

**Who:** Tabard founder and executive artistic director Cathy Spielberger Cassetta has announced and introduced her successor Jonathan Rhys Williams, who will assume the title of executive artistic director July 1, 2020, when Cassetta retires from the company. She and Williams announced The Tabard Theatre Company's 2020-2021 season, the company's 20th, themed "Celebrate Life".

**What:** The Tabard Theatre Company in downtown San Jose's historic San Pedro Square district has announced Tabard's 20th season (2020-2021) of 3 musicals, 3 plays and one Celebration Production — a production Tabard has previously produced that is being presented with a new cast and design team.

**When:** Tabard's 20th season will run from September 2020 through May 2021 with the Celebration Production being presented in August 2020. (Production descriptions and schedules below)

**Where:** Tabard Theatre (formerly Theatre on San Pedro Square), 29 N. San Pedro Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (Parking is validated for most performances at the San Pedro Garage directly across the street)

**Why:** Continuing its mission to present works that are new or not commonly done, in its 20th season themed "Celebrate Life" Tabard's productions will include one West Coast Premiere, one South Bay Premiere, an award winning musical, the return of a Tabard favorite, and a beloved classic musical.

**Box Office:** 408.679.2330 or [www.tabardtheatre.org/tickets](http://www.tabardtheatre.org/tickets)

Tickets: Season subscriptions range from \$84-\$226 for six MainStage productions with further discounts available for Early Bird subscriptions through May 13, 2020. Single tickets for MainStage go on sale June 1, 2020. Single tickets to the Celebration Production *The Story of My Life* go on sale May 13, 2020.

## **Tabard's incoming Executive Artistic Director, Jonathan Rhys Williams**

With a deep background in theatre, most especially in the greater Bay Area, Jonathan Rhys Williams brings over 30 years of professional theatre management and production experience to his new position as executive artistic director of The Tabard Theatre Company, effective July 1, 2020. He takes over for executive artistic director Cathy Spielberger Cassetta, who founded Tabard in 2001, and is retiring from Tabard in June 2020.

"I am excited to take on the challenges and opportunities of taking Tabard into its third decade, building on what Cathy has accomplished in the last 19 years and the tremendous success and growth Tabard continues to experience. Tabard's mission is unique in the Bay Area, and I am energized to explore ways to build on that even more," Williams shared with patrons at the announcement event at Tabard Monday, January 13.

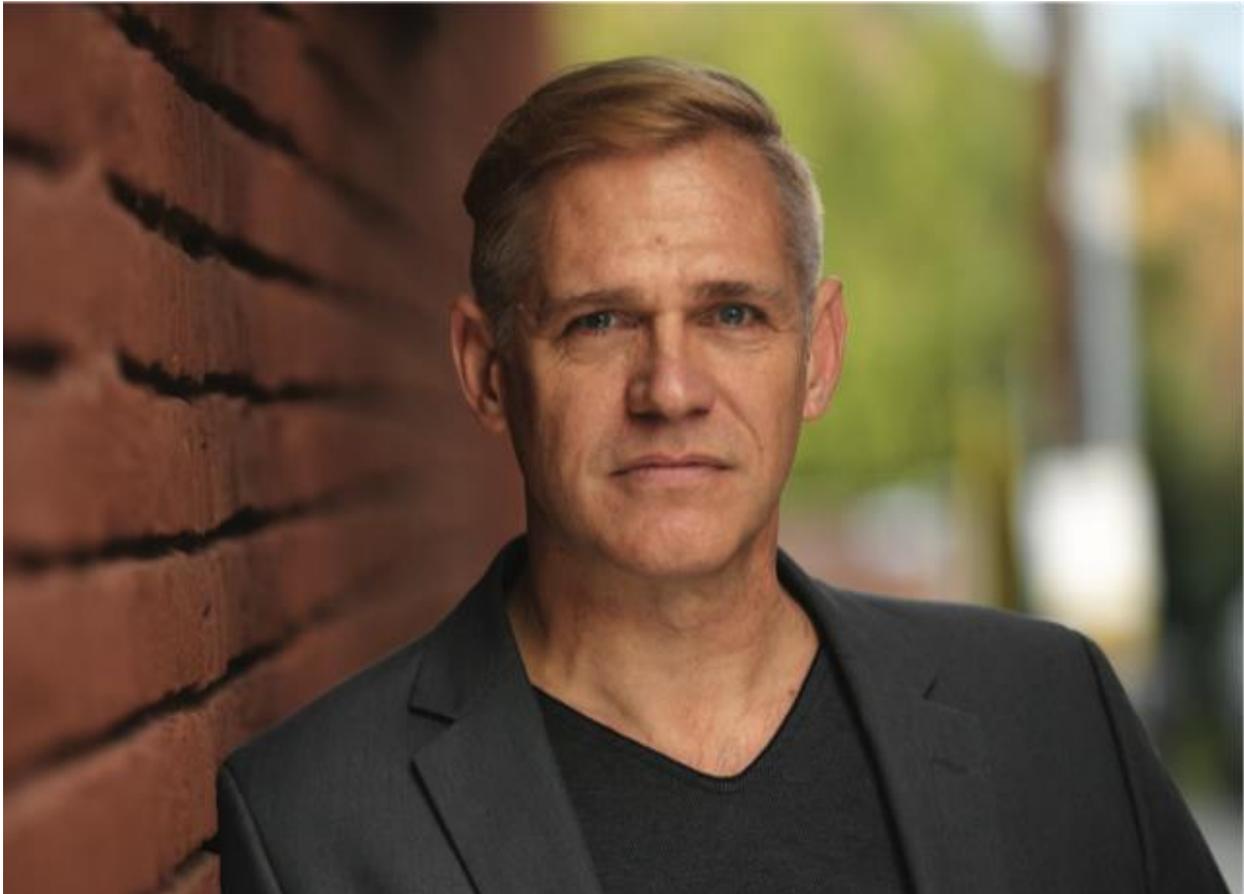
Cathy Cassetta added, "I am deeply grateful that someone with the qualifications and experience that Jonathan has will be serving Tabard in its primary leadership position. Jonathan exceeds my hopes and expectations for Tabard's next executive artistic director. Add to his education, experience, and expertise, Jonathan is a nice, kind, and thoughtful person who likes to laugh. Those are all important qualities to lead any arts organization in California in the 21st century. Interestingly, in 2002 he performed in a production at and for Theatre on San Pedro Square, long before the venue came to be managed by Tabard (and re-named Tabard Theatre in 2018). It's a rather lovely full circle kind of thing. And that Jonathan is a Bay Area native with deep roots in the local theatre community is just icing on the cake for Tabard."

A Bay Area native, Jonathan returned to the San Francisco Bay Area after graduating from California Institute of the Arts in 1994, and began his career as a professional actor and director for a wide range of local theatre companies, including TheatreWorks, San Jose Stage Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, American Musical Theatre, Theatre on San Pedro Square, and American Conservatory Theatre.

In 2002 Williams relocated to Sacramento where he co-founded Capital Stage Company, serving in various capacities from Director of Production to Producing Artistic Director. In 2010 Capital Stage Company moved from its original location on The Delta King Riverboat to a newly revitalized 125-seat performance space in Midtown Sacramento for which Jonathan led the construction project, acting as project manager, completing the new facility on time and on budget. In his final year as Producing Artistic Director he led the organization to become an anchor tenant of the new CLARA Performing Arts Center. In significant part to Jonathan's leadership, Capital Stage Company is now one of the leading arts organizations in California.

Recently Jonathan has been working as a freelance actor and director in the Bay Area, working with companies like TheatreWorks Silicon Valley (*Tuck Everlasting*) Aurora Theatre Company (*Creditors*), and San Jose Stage Company (*Disgraced* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*), and will be appearing in TheatreWorks Spring production of *Ragtime*.

Jonathan can be reached at [Jonathan@TabardTheatre.org](mailto:Jonathan@TabardTheatre.org)



**2020-2021 6-show MainStage Season, themed “Celebrate Life” plus Celebration Production:**

**Sept. 18 - Oct. 11, 2020**

Madcap Musical Comedy

***Chaps!***

By Jahhna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner

Whoa, Britannia! Panic at the BBC! It's 1944, America's favorite singing cowboy Tex Riley and his musical mavericks are late for a special broadcast. Out of desperation, their tour manager and frantic young producer grab whomever they can, slap them into

costume, hand them scripts and shove them in front of the studio audience. Staid Brits become singing Yankee cowboys before their eyes – and ears!

“Combine Monty Python and Tex Ritter, and you get a bloody funny singing buckaroo!” — *Herald News*

### **Oct. 30 - Nov 22, 2020**

Inspired by a True Story – South Bay Premiere

#### ***Radium Girls***

By D.W. Gregory

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage – until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, *Radium Girls* traces the effects of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. A compelling story of young resilience and courage.

“[C]elebrates our individual courage.” – *The Daily Record*

### **Dec. 4 - 20, 2020**

A Heartfelt Holiday Classic

#### ***It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play***

Adapted by Joe Landry

From the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra & Jo Swerling Experience this beloved American holiday classic as a live 1940s radio broadcast complete with sound effects done right before your eyes and a small ensemble, each playing multiple roles as they bring to life the story of idealistic George Bailey and his encounter one fateful Christmas Eve with an angel name Clarence.

“*One of the best holiday shows around!*” – *Mary Houlihan, Chicago Sun-Times*

### **Jan. 15 – Feb 7, 2021**

Delightful Period Comedy

#### ***Enchanted April***

By Matthew Barber

From the novel by Elizabeth Von Arnim

Feeling lost in the shadows of marriage and forgotten in the rush of 1920s post-war society, two London housewives pool their savings to rent a villa in Italy for a ladies-only holiday away, reluctantly recruiting a pair of difficult upper-class women to share the cost and the experience. Together under the Mediterranean sun, the four women clash—and then begin to bond and bloom—until men once again upset the balance.

“[L]ush, thoroughly refreshing ... a magical triumph.” – *LA Times*

**Feb. 19 – Mar. 5, 2021**

Poignant Musical Comedy

***Baby***

Book by Sybille Pearson. Music by David Shire. Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.  
Based upon a story developed with Susan Yankowitz.

Is there anything more exciting, frightening and utterly transformational than impending parenthood? This life-affirming and hope-filled musical looks at how three couples deal with the rewarding, sometimes painful, and often agonizingly-funny consequences of pregnancy and parenthood.

Tony-Nominated for Best Musical & Best Original Score

**Apr. 16 - May 9, 2021**

Beloved Classic Musical

***Camelot***

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. Music by Frederick Loewe.

Book Adapted by David Lee

Adapted from T. H. White's *The Once and Future King*, a fictional telling of the Medieval *King Arthur*

The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guinevere and Sir Lancelot leaps from the pages of T.H. White's novel in Lerner and Loewe's award-winning, soaring theatrical classic. In a creative reimagining of this heralded musical, eight performers bring the magical story to life with passion and vitality.

"Pure magic." – *TheatreMania*

**Celebration Production**

**Aug. 14-30, 2020**

Tabard Audience Favorite

***The Story of My Life***

Music & Lyrics by Neil Bartram

Book by Brian Hill

A man struggles to write his best friend's eulogy in this emotional tribute to the people who change our lives. In turn playful, touching and dramatic, this musical inspires us to reconnect with those who were part of the earliest chapters of our own life stories.

"A heartfelt little musical that has the courage of its sweet-tempered...convictions." – *Michael Kuchwara, The Associated Press*

**Tabard Theatre** (formerly Theatre on San Pedro Square) — *The Destination for Arts Discovery* — is located in the heart of historic San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose amid a bustling restaurant district. This intimate and unique venue brings a touch of Manhattan to the South Bay with its rustic yet edgy feel. Old brick walls, plush leather seats, antique wood plank floors, sweeping red velvet drapes and a 35-foot mahogany bar create a casual cabaret atmosphere. The full bar also offers a variety of food choices that may be enjoyed while watching the show.

**Tabard's Mission** - Tabard's mission is to provide live entertainment experiences that are enlightening, appropriate and affordable for audiences of all ages. We champion new works, innovative interpretations, and unique plays rarely staged. Tabard is an inclusive environment where the community can participate in every aspect of the plays, musicals, educational programs and music concerts we produce. With altruistic attention to the underserved, Tabard reaches out to communities such as the visually impaired and children in low-income areas, and donates a portion of each production's concessions proceeds to a designated local charity.

The Tabard Theatre Company is grateful for support provided by grants from The City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs and Silicon Valley Creates.

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