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Contact: Liz Liles-Brown
lliles@bstreettheatre.org

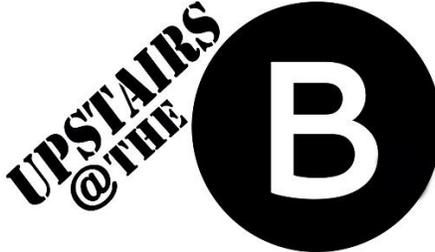


HOME OF



Introducing Upstairs at the B

A third space for artists-in-residence at the Sofia



Stand-up specials, Air Guitar competitions, live RPG nights, Harolds, jazz jams and cocktail hours, live podcasts, and a late night talk show are just a prefatory sample of the programming scheduled in the debut of Upstairs at the B—a third space in the Sofia.

The Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts and new home of B Street Theatre has become a Midtown arts and entertainment jewel since its opening in February of 2018. The Mainstage has presented two hit plays in *One Man, Two Guvvners* and *Dry Powder*. The Family Series has reached over 12,000 students and families with *Gandhi!* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. The Sofia has also become a music destination for touring acts, which has helped the Sofia become a regional economic driver in the city. Now it's time to unveil Upstairs at the B, an intimate third space located in Gallery B.

Upstairs at the B will be limitless in its programming. Here, B Street will produce in-house events and open its programming up to creative ideas that would benefit from professional

INFORMATION

WHAT: Upstairs at the B is an all-purpose, all-inclusive space where artists-in-residence will curate and create events and workshops with production guidance of the B Street Theatre.

WHEN: Nightly

SHOWTIMES: TBA

WHERE: Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts, Mainstage Theatre, 2700 Capitol Avenue.

TICKETS: \$12 (TICKETS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TICKETS AND INFORMATION: (916) 443-5300,
www.bstreettheatre.org

mentorship. Upstairs at the B will open with stand-up comedian Keith Lowell Jensen's one-man special *Not For Rehire* on May 12. B Street Theatre is also excited to become the new home of *The Latest Show* with Mike Cella.

The Latest Show will be our first artist-in-residence. We are excited to bring comedian Mike Cella's show to the B Street audience on Thursday, May 24. *The Latest Show* excels at inventive programming inviting Sacramento's hottest topics and talent to push the envelope of the traditional late night talk show.

Upstairs at the B is seeking future artist residencies and performances as well. To pitch programming visit our website and fill out the [submission form](#).

This announcement is especially exciting for our B-Flex Membership group. All the programming in the Upstairs space is eligible to members at no additional cost. For those who are curious about the membership, it is essentially our "Netflix for Theatre" flexible package in which members have access to all B Street programming for \$20 a month. They decide how frequently they want to be at the Sofia and make reservations by phone or can show up last minute and wait list into sold out performances. For more information visit the [B-Flex Membership](#).

May programming to include:

Maximum Occupancy* – Company Members Dave Pierini, Tara Sissom, Stephanie Altholz and guests perform classic long-form improvisation for a late-night audience. Coming out of Chicago's comedy scene, the Harold has been used by famous improv groups like *Second City* which developed comedic talent such as Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell and Tina Faye. Based off an audience suggestion, performers will create a one-night-only improvised play, so every performance will be unique! As an exciting caveat, if we do achieve "maximum occupancy" aka a sell out show, we buy everyone pizza! Join us on May 18 at 10:30 p.m.

Seekers of the Strange* – Based off of the classic model of *Dungeons and Dragons*, company member John Lamb will bring live role playing to the stage. John and other familiar faces will get out their 20-sided die and role to see who lives and who dies as they battle mysteries and paranormal situations. Audience suggestions and support will guide them on their quest to understand the strange. Perfect for those who enjoy *HarmonQuest* or classic RPGs. Join us on May 20 at 7 p.m.

The Latest Show* – Sacramento's own late night talk show featuring comedy, music, interviews, and slightly, slightly more! *The Latest Show* celebrates the diversity of Sacramentans and their interests. Hosted by professional comedian Mike Cella, the talk show follows the traditional format of monologue, interviews, and performances, while always seeking to defy convention. Join us on May 24 at 8:30 p.m.

Poison Boot* – A live podcast with host Dave Pierini. Named after the theatre folklore of "what happens when the gun doesn't go off," *Poison Boot* features Pierini interviewing actors about the high anxiety moments on stage when the script couldn't save them. In the second act, an improv team performs a skit based on the story. Join us on May 27 at 7 p.m.

Jazz and Cocktails* – Start your night out right with jazz, cocktails and dancing. Upstairs at the B presents an hour of live jazz music and drink specials prior to the Mainstage show. All will enjoy happy hour specials and those seeing the Mainstage show will receive a ticket discount. Join us on May 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Coming in June:

New Comedies Festival – Have your comedic voice heard! After a nationwide open submission process, B Street has selected four, finalist scripts to be workshopped during our week-long New Comedies Festival. The festival will culminate with two public readings of each script featuring B Street's company members and other local professionals. Audience members who attend all four readings may vote on which of the new plays they would most like to see produced in B Street's 2019 Mainstage Season. Join us June 25 to 30.

Official Air Guitar Qualifier Competition – Come witness the spandex, the rock-n-roll, and the greatest thing you've never seen before. Watch all levels of air guitarists compete in 2 rounds of 60 second performances, where technical merit, stage presence, and "airness" earn them points with a panel of judges who will be selecting the top air guitarist to represent Sacramento, CA at the 2018 US Air Guitar Nationals. Current reigning Sacramento champion, Kitkat, will be defending her title as 10-15 air guitarists battle it out on stage. Join us June 9 at 9:30 p.m.

***Indicates recurring programming.**

More about B Street Theatre: B Street Theatre is a non-profit, professional theatre company producing primarily new work for adults, families and children. The two-theatre playhouse on 2700 Capitol Avenue in Midtown Sacramento is home to the Mainstage Series and Family Series, each created to feature intimate, quality theatre for audiences year-round. Recognized as one of the nation's top professional theatres, B Street Theatre has produced more than 160 world premieres written by B Street playwrights and numerous productions which were world, national, West Coast or regional premieres.

B Street Theatre was originally founded in 1986 with the purpose of bringing the excitement of live performance to children through the B Street Theatre School Tour. This educational outreach program still serves over 200,000 students in Northern California annually.

B Street Theatre programs include the Mainstage Series, B Street Theatre Family Series and Family Series Student Matinees (for school field trips), B Street School Tours, Sketch Comedy, B Street Acting Conservatory and Studio for Young People, and the B Street Theatre Internship program for pre-professional/post-college training.

In 2014, B Street brought its most popular play ever, *Around the World in 80 Days*, to India. The original cast performed in three Indian cities, furthering the organization's mission by bringing high quality theatre to an international audience, while also raising money for Indian educational enrichment and schools and partnering with an overseas performing arts center with the hope of future international collaboration. B Street Theatre has produced over 250 professional productions since 1986.

More information at www.bstreettheatre.org.

The mission of B Street Theatre is to promote education and literacy, social interaction, and cultural enrichment by engaging children and adults in the highest quality theatre arts and playwriting.

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