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HOME OF



Historical Women of the Skies

Ride Sally Ride:

The Story of Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride

By Tara Sissom & Katerina Pruitt

B Street Theatre is taking to the skies in 2020. Our first production in the Family Friendly Theatre series is *Ride Sally Ride: The Story of Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride*.

These women of space and aviation were pioneers that refused to let gender biases stop them from greatness. For Amelia Earhart, she strived to break records by becoming the first woman to pilot a plane across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932, broke the women's altitude record in 1922, and the first and fastest woman to fly nonstop, transcontinental trips. Earhart paved the way for Sally Ride to achieve her own groundbreaking accomplishments. Ride was the first American woman in space aboard the Challenger shuttle in 1983 and maintained a decorated career with NASA.

INFORMATION

WHAT: The story of Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride! In this thrilling story, young Sally Ride is visited by her idol, Amelia Earhart. Together, they explore the history of aviation, breaking barriers, and the ongoing role these pioneers had in the advances by women in space and exploration. This electrifying play will illuminate these fearless icons and inspire children of all ages!

Recommended for ages 5 and up.

WHEN: February 8, 2020 to February 29, 2020

SHOWTIMES: School matinees on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM. Public performances on Saturday at 1:00 PM with select 4:00 PM dates and Sundays at 1:00 PM with select 4:00PM dates.

PREVIEW: There are no public previews for this show.

OPENING: Saturday February 8 at 1:00 pm

WE RECOMMEND REVIEWERS ATTEND OPENING!

Please schedule with: Liz Liles-Brown -

lliles@bstreettheatre.org

Press packets will be available at Box Office up on arrival

WHERE: The Sofia, Sutter Theatre, 2700 Capitol Avenue.

TICKETS: \$24 Adult, \$19 Children, (TICKETS SUBJECT TO CHANGE).

TICKETS AND INFORMATION: (916) 443-5300,

www.bstreettheatre.org

*Please note this price includes a \$7 Facility Fee.

** Select performance dates only: please call the Box Office at 916-443-5300 to confirm.

Playwright Tara Sissom said she and Katerina had two goals when they began this project two years ago: inspire and entertain young audiences about women in aviation.

“We hope to inspire with the message that ‘nothing is impossible’ and more importantly you don’t need permission from anyone to pursue your biggest and wildest dreams,” Sissom said.

Since these two incredible women never had the opportunity to meet in real life, the play imagines a young Sally Ride defying her teachers and writing an essay about Amelia Earhart. But as she’s writing, she falls asleep and in her dreams, she’s visited by the famous pilot who encourages her toward greatness. Eventually Sally goes to Stanford and there’s a big opportunity to be recruited by NASA, but once again there are those in her life who doubt her capabilities and instincts and she must once again look to her mentor in order to overcome.

For this production B Street has hired Los Angeles based director Hannah Wolf to bring her expertise in staging productions that she refers to as “subversively shiny.”

“I’m incredibly excited to work on this new play for young audiences and to bring them the story of Sally Ride,” Wolf said. “This play has it all, big adventure, friendships and the challenges that it takes to pursue one’s dream. Tara and Katerina have created a story that feels like a roller coaster ride, where Sally learns about the importance of trying—even if you might fail—and that she has a voice that’s worth listening to.”

The Playwrights:

Tara Sissom - Tara is a member of the B Street Theatre Core Acting Company. Recent Mainstage credits include: *On An Open Fire*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Airness*, *Dolls House Pt. 2*, and *House On Haunted Hill*. B Street Writing credits include: *Treatment* (Mainstage) and *Brother Sister* (New Play Brunch). Tara is a member of the Upstairs at the B improv trio, *Maximum Occupancy* and the role-playing, paranormal investigation show *Seekers of the Strange*. A founding member of The New Colony in Chicago, Tara developed and wrote *11:11* (Richard Christensen Theatre-Victory Gardens) and *Pancake Breakfast* (The Viaduct). Tara holds a BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University, and teaches in the B Street Theatre Studio for Young Actors. Learn more at tarasissom.com

Katerina Pruitt - Katerina Pruitt lives in Sacramento with her children True and Langston and her husband David. Her undergraduate and graduate degrees in English with an emphasis in American and Women’s literature are from UCLA and Georgetown University. She also has a law degree from UCLA. She was a public school teacher for years. Students who think outside of boxes have always been her favorite. She’d like to thank her pal Tara Sissom for wanting to write a play together. She’d also like to thank her mom Tzorique Vartanian for teaching her how to be a feminist. She is a proud B Street Board Member.

The Director:

Hannah Wolf - Hannah Wolf is a Los Angeles based director originally from Juneau, Alaska. She makes “subversively shiny” work for the stage that experiments with form, content and the role of the audience. Hannah collaborates with playwrights, musicians, magicians, craft brewers, dancers, puppeteers and many others to develop new plays and to subvert old ones. Recent work includes: *She Buried the Pistol* by Lydia Blasidell (La Jolla’s WOW Festival) *Instructions for a Séance* by Katie Bender (MoHA), *Franklin* by Samantha Noble (Perseverance Theatre), *TITLE LOADING* (Fusebox Festival), *The Bigot* by William Glick, *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spigel, *ENRON* by Lucy Prebble (UT Austin), and *The Sky Game* by Kimberly Belflower (Peppercorn Theatre). She’s directed and developed new plays with the Geffen Playhouse, Chance Theater, Greenway Arts, We the Women Collective, The Fountain Theatre, Superhero Clubhouse and The Civilians. She founded the LA event Meet Cute and curates the blog [Ask A Director](#). SDC Associate, National Directors Fellow, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab and Fulbright Research Fellow (Bucharest Romania) MFA: UT Austin. hannahjwolf.com

The Cast:

Brittni Barger - Brittni is a proud B Street Company Member and elated that *Ride Sally Ride* is her debut at The Sofia. Past B Street Family Series credits include: *Junie B. Jones*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Gift of the Magi*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Anastasia Krupnik*, and *The Giver*, while the grown-ups might know her from B Street shows like *Bloomsday*, *Equivocation*, *Provenance*, *Love And Baseball*, or *B Street Live!* She now lives in San Diego where she’s had the opportunity to film content with Intel, HP, Wish, Traveller Customizable Card Game, Manscaped, and *The New Yorker*. She is also a host on the Amazon Prime show *Beyond Geek*. Visit her on the Gram @brittnibarger.

Elisabeth Nunziatio - Elisabeth is a founding B Street Theatre Company member, appearing most recently in *The Last Match*, *The House On Haunted Hill*, *We’re Gonna Be Okay*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Hand to God*, *Chessman*, *A Masterpiece of Comic...Timing*, *Mud Blue Sky*, *The Realistic Joneses*, and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*. She recently made her feature film directorial debut with *Stolen Moments*, an NK Media/Iron Mountain Films production. She has been fortunate to work with Academy Award winners Danny Glover, Robin Williams, Forest Whitaker, and Robert Duvall. She is partnered with her husband Jason Kuykendall in NK Media, winner of the 2011 National ADDY, the world’s largest advertising competition.

John Lamb - John is a proud member of the B Street Theatre Core Acting Company. Mainstage credits include: *The House On Haunted Hill*, *Airness*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The Book of Liz*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *Jack Goes Boating*, *the Seafarer*, and *The Explorer’s Club*. Family Series credits include: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Charlotte’s Web*, *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook*, *Going West: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad* and *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi*. B Street Theatre directing credits include: *Hand to God*, *Women who Steal*, *The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife*, *Earshot*, *The Maintenance Man*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Big Bang*. John is the creator of *Seekers of the Strange*.

Taylor Fleeer - Taylor Fleeer is a local actor and teaching artist for B Street Theatre. She loves her job of bringing acting, improv, and playwriting workshops to children and adults throughout the Sacramento region. She has also been on two school tours with B Street as well as in the Family Series production *The Sword In The Stone* and the Mainstage show *Airness*. She is also involved with several theatres in the area as an actor, dancer, and choreographer. Some of her favorite roles have been Kelly in *Reborn*, Billie in *Born Yesterday*, and Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*. She thanks her friends and family for always uplifting her and supporting her in all her endeavors!

Antoine Brown - Antoine Johnson Jr. graduated from Linfield College with a B.A. in Theatre Arts and a minor in Creative Writing. During his time at Linfield he's directed Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*, and played many roles, of which his favorite and most impacting were James from Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and the Emcee from Joe Masteroff's *Cabaret*. After graduating, Antoine received professional training in both Shakespeare and stage combat while attending CSU Fresno's summer arts program. This is his first professional production and looks forward to the many more that will soon follow.

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 Field Trips, B Street School Assemblies, Upstairs at the B, 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.

