

**HAMMER THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS
KAT EDMONSON
STREAMING LIVE IN A NEW EXTENSION
OF ITS “BLACK CAB JAZZ” SERIES**

7:00pm, Friday, February 12

SAN JOSE, CA (20 January 2021) – **Hammer Theatre Center** presents critically acclaimed vintage pop singer/songwriter **Kat Edmonson** streaming live from Brooklyn, New York, as part of the virtual extension of its popular “Black Cab Jazz” series. Curated by internationally renowned arts organization San Jose Jazz in partnership with the Hammer Theatre Center, the series showcases exclusive performances from today’s hottest jazz artists. Hailed as “one of the greatest I’ve ever heard” by *The Boston Globe*, Edmonson has played major stages around the world, appeared in major motion pictures, performed on radio and television, and released five groundbreaking albums to date. This genre-defying artist memorably appeared in Woody Allen’s 2016 period film *Café Society* as a 1930s jazz singer and is highlighted on the official soundtrack performing her rendition of “Mountain Greenery.” **Kat Edmonson** will be streamed live **7:00pm, Friday, February 12**. For tickets (pay-what-you-can) or more information, the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com.

Jazz vocalist **Kat Edmonson** brings the songs and sensibility of the Great American Songbook into the 21st century with her lighter-than-air voice and sly touch. When the pandemic struck, Edmonson was on a 40-city tour promoting her fifth and latest album, *Dreamers Do*. She pivoted quickly, transforming her living room into a charming, homemade set where she could stream intimate performances live from home. *Dreamers Do* combines mid-20th century Disney songs (from *Alice in Wonderland*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, *Mary Poppins*, and more) with familiar classics (“What A Wonderful World”), and features two new, original songs (“Too Late to Dream” and “Someone’s In

The House.”) The LP, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Jazz Chart, takes place in a single night, from bedtime till morning. “It’s about our concepts around dreaming—all of the wonderful things, the fearful things, and the things that keep us awake in the middle of the night,” Edmonson explains.

Dreamers Do follows the release of 2018’s *Old Fashioned Gal*, which *NPR* called “a handsome showcase for her songwriting, which has grown ever more confident over the last decade.” The Texas native began crafting her signature sound while performing in Austin’s local club circuit before breaking into the music scene with her 2009 debut album *Take to the Sky*, which climbed into the Top 20 of the Billboard jazz charts. Hailed as “one of the greatest vocal albums” (*The Boston Globe*), Edmonson’s sophomore album *Way Down Low* garnered positive attention from *NPR* and *The New York Times* as it soared to number one on Billboard’s Heatseekers chart. She went on to tour worldwide with high profile acts including Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Chris Isaak, Gary Clark Jr., Smokey Robinson, and more. With her moving lyrics and show-stealing voice, Edmonson expertly brings the classic sound of 1930s jazz into our modern world.

The **Black Cab Jazz** series is named after Hammer Theatre Center’s intimate black box theatre space, where San Jose Jazz partnered with the theater to present performances held in the spirit of classic intimate cabaret shows. This new, virtual extension of the series aims to bring performances from outstanding jazz artists to audience members to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes.

Owned by the City of San Jose and operated by San Jose State University, the **Hammer Theatre Center** is a state-of-the-art performance venue located in the heart of downtown San Jose at 101 Paseo De San Antonio, between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The Hammer’s latest tech innovations, crowdfunded by the community and installed over the summer, will allow the venue to continue offering its community vibrant productions through streaming now, while large public gatherings are prohibited, as well as in the near future, when only smaller groups may be allowed in the audience. It also offers an alternative for the distant future, when public gatherings may once again be prohibited, and/or to

provide accessibility to those unable to attend a live event in person. The 528-seat theatre has presented an array of offerings including outstanding professional productions, community-based works, SJSU shows, and concerts, as well as dance, music, talks, film screenings—even live aerial performances with dancers suspended outside, scaling the sides of the iconic blue building. In its 2018-19 season, the Hammer presented nearly 200 events, drawing more than 57,000 audience members. From jazz performances to mariachi extravaganzas, the popular *National Geographic Live!* speaker series to the acclaimed *National Theatre Live* film screenings, Cinequest film festival presentations, ballet and modern dance shows, kid-friendly performances, live art and more, the Hammer’s mission is to serve the community through artistic and educational programming that express the unique characteristics and diverse cultures of Silicon Valley.

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: **Hammer Theatre Center** presents critically acclaimed vintage pop singer/songwriter **Kat Edmonson** streaming live from Brooklyn, New York, as part of the virtual extension of its “Black Cab Jazz” series. Hailed as “one of the greatest I’ve ever heard” by *The Boston Globe*, Edmonson has played major stages around the world, appeared in major motion pictures, performed on radio and television, and released five groundbreaking albums to date. This genre-defying artist memorably appeared in Woody Allen’s 2016 period film *Café Society* as a 1930s jazz singer and is highlighted on the official soundtrack performing her rendition of “Mountain Greenery.”

WHERE: View from home – ticket holders are sent a link for viewing.

WHEN: **7:00pm, Friday, February 12**

INFO: For tickets (pay-what-you-can), the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com.

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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/hammer2021>