

THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY PRESENTS

Lizard Boy

A New Musical

Book, Music & Lyrics by Justin Huertas

Directed by Brandon Ivie

October 6-31, 2021 (*opening night: October 9*)

MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA (2 September 2021) — **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** returns to in-person performances, launching its 51st season with the new indie folk-rock musical *Lizard Boy*. A cast of three exceptionally talented actor/singer/musicians play myriad instruments from cello to guitar, piano, ukulele, and even kazoo in telling this fresh comic book-infused tale set in modern-day Seattle. With an infectious original soundtrack (that has already captured more than one million streams on Spotify), this wildly imaginative work follows the title character, Trevor, who embarks on a first date turned stunning mythological journey and along the way discovers identity, acceptance, and how to save world. Directed by **Brandon Ivie** and featuring book, music, and lyrics by **Justin Huertas**, *Lizard Boy* will be presented **October 6-31, 2021** (*press opening: October 9*) at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View. Single tickets (starting at \$30) will be available September 8, 2021 and 2021-22 subscriptions are available now. For more information the public may visit **TheatreWorks.org** or call **(650) 463-1960**.

TheatreWorks recently announced COVID-19 health and safety requirements and will require proof of vaccination and masks for all staff and audience members entering any of its theatres, offices, and public spaces through December 31, 2021. Patrons must present a vaccination card, a photo of the card, or a digital vaccine record (myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) with matching ID. Patrons who are legally exempted from being vaccinated must reach out to the TheatreWorks Box Office at least four days prior to their performance. All attendees must remain masked while indoors.

Lizard Boy will also be offered via video streaming, allowing patrons to watch either from home or in-theatre, making these shows accessible to additional audience members, including those unable or unready to attend in- person. More information will be available soon at **TheatreWorks.org**.

Lizard Boy was commissioned by Seattle Repertory Theatre, where it debuted in 2015 to sold-out houses and swept the Seattle awards season. It has continued to develop through productions at San Diego's Diversionary Theatre, staged readings at Playwrights Horizons, and was a recent favorite at the 2020 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival. The show has been lauded as "A sure sign that the American musical is as novelistic, vibrant, fearless, and joyous as ever" by the *San Diego Reader*, and "Exciting. A completely fresh and original show with wonderfully inventive staging" by *BroadwayWorld.com*. The *San Diego Union-Tribune* called it "Innovative, funny, and wildly entertaining" as well as "Smart, tight, heartwarming, hilarious, and filled with theatrical surprises."

Lizard Boy's original cast members reprise their roles at TheatreWorks with playwright/composer-lyricist **Justin Huertas** starring as Trevor alongside **Kirsten "Kiki" deLohr Helland** and **William A. Williams**, all making their TheatreWorks Silicon Valley debuts.

Justin Huertas plays Trevor, a sweet and insecure recluse covered in scales following a freak childhood accident. Huertas is a Seattle-based award-winning playwright, composer-lyricist, actor, and musician. His original musical *Lizard Boy* world-premiered at Seattle Rep, toured to Diversionary Theatre, was presented at NAMT's Festival of New Musicals, and returns to the stage this fall at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Justin also wrote *The Last World Octopus Wrestling Champion* (co-composed with Steven Tran) for ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery, and *Lydia & the Troll* (co-created by Ameenah Kaplan) for Seattle Rep. He is composer-lyricist for *Howl's Moving Castle* (Book-It Repertory Theatre) and *The Lamplighter* (co-written with Kirsten "Kiki" deLohr Helland and Sara Porkalob). Justin is currently under commission at Seattle Rep, the 5th Avenue Theatre, ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Kirsten "Kiki" deLohr Helland plays Siren, an enchanting and mysterious musician whose voice is taking over Trevor's dreams. Helland is a Seattle-based award-winning performer. Her theatre credits include performances onstage at 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theatre, ArtsWest, and Seattle Rep (in the World Premiere of *Lizard Boy*), and in the film *Laggies*. Helland is co-writer of *The Lamplighter* (with Justin Huertas and Sara Porkalob).

William A. Williams plays Cary, a charming and charismatic newcomer to Seattle who connects with Trevor on a dating app. Williams is a California native musician/actor now based in New York City. He originated the role of Cary in *Lizard Boy* at Seattle Rep, for which he won a Gregory Award for best

supporting actor. He has also acted in productions at Contemporary Classics, Village Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, played guitar for shows at ArtsWest and Balagan Theatre, and played bass guitar for The Iceman Lab at Target Margin Theater.

Lizard Boy features scenic design by **L.B. Morse**, scenic adaptation by **Andrea Bechert**, costume design by **Erik Andor**, lighting design by **Robert J. Aguilar**, and sound design by **Jeff Mockus**. **Taylor McQuesten** serves as stage manager, with **Emily Anderson Wolf** and **Chloe Rose Schweizer** as assistant stage managers.

Brandon Ivie (Director) is currently the Associate Artistic Director at Village Theatre in Seattle. He directed the World Premieres of *Lizard Boy*, *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes*, *Jasper in Deadland*, *String*, *The Yellow Wood*, and *The Hinterlands*. His Broadway credits include associate directing *A Christmas Story* and *First Date*, dramaturgy for *Catch Me If You Can*, and assisting the writers of *Next to Normal*. He has worked on productions at leading theatres across the country including The Public Theater/Joe's Pub, HERE Arts Center, Prospect Theatre Company, Paper Mill Playhouse, Signature Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, Goodspeed Musicals, Ford's Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Seattle Rep, Diversionary Theatre, and The 5th Avenue Theatre where he spent four seasons as Casting Director. Ivie is the Drama League Directing Fellow, holds the Charles Abbott Directing Fellowship, and participated in the LCT Directors Lab.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley is the recipient of the 2019 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Led by Artistic Director **Tim Bond** and Executive Director **Phil Santora**, the Palo Alto-based theatre company serves more than 100,000 patrons per year and has captured a national reputation for artistic innovation and integrity, often presenting Bay Area theatregoers with their first look at acclaimed musicals, comedies, and dramas, directed by award-winning local and guest directors, and performed by professional actors cast locally and from across the country. The company's 51st season has been postponed in accordance with global efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and TheatreWorks is currently scheduled to resume in-person performances in October 2021 with the comic book-infused indie folk-rock musical *Lizard Boy*.

Media sponsor for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's 2021/2022 season is the San Francisco Chronicle and SFGATE.

For Calendar Editors:

WHAT: **TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** returns to in-person performances, launching its 51st season with the new indie folk-rock musical *Lizard Boy*. A cast of three exceptionally talented actor/singer/musicians play myriad instruments from cello to guitar, piano, ukulele, and even kazoo in telling this fresh comic book-infused tale set in modern-day Seattle. With an infectious original soundtrack (that has already captured more than one million streams on Spotify), this wildly imaginative work follows the title character, sweet and insecure Trevor, who embarks on a first date turned stunning mythological journey and along the way discovers identity, acceptance, and how to save world. The show has been lauded as “A sure sign that the American musical is as novelistic, vibrant, fearless, and joyous as ever” by the *San Diego Reader*, and “Exciting. A completely fresh and original show with wonderfully inventive staging” by *BroadwayWorld.com*. Featuring book, music, and lyrics by **Justin Huertas** and direction by **Brandon Ivie**, Huertas stars as Trevor with original cast members **Kirsten "Kiki" deLoehr Helland** and **William A. Williams**.

WHEN: Previews: Wednesday, October 6 – Friday, October 8, 2021
Opening: Saturday, October 9, 2021
Closes: Sunday, October 31, 2021

SHOWS: Previews: 8:00pm
Tuesdays: 7:30pm
Wednesdays: 2:00pm, 7:30pm
Thursdays: 8:00pm
Fridays: 8:00pm
Saturdays: 2:00pm, 8:00pm
Sundays: 2:00pm, 7:00pm

WHERE: **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**, 500 Castro St. Mountain View, CA 94041

Online. Video streaming will be offered for *Lizard Boy*, allowing patrons to watch either from home or in-theatre. Patrons who purchase a streaming ticket will be emailed a link to stream the program at home on their computer, SmartTV or other device. Further details about streaming tickets will be available in September.

TICKETS: In-person ticket prices start at \$30; savings available for educators, seniors, and patrons 35 and under. Single tickets will be available September 8, 2021. Pricing subject to change.

On-demand video streaming tickets available for \$25.

INFO: For information or to order tickets visit **theatreworks.org** or call **(650) 463-1960**

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PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.

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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here: <http://cbpr.co/press/lizardboy/>