

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS KATHRYN KEATS'S

# THE HUMMINGBIRD

Written and Performed by Kathryn Keats  
Co-Developed with and Directed by David Ford  
Music by Kevin Gerzevitz and Kathryn Keats  
March 18 – April 15, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (6 February 2023) — Due to popular demand, actor/singer/playwright **Kathryn Keats** returns to The Marsh San Francisco with her solo musical experience *The Hummingbird*. This riveting work takes audiences through Keats' harrowing and redemptive journey, which began with dreams of a stage career and ended with years living incognito with the help of Victim Witness Assistance. In this compelling show with music, Keats relives her gripping tale of landing in New York City at age 17 to fulfill her promising Broadway ambitions, an adventure quickly derailed by an irresistible and seductive offer to become the muse of her Off-Broadway music director. *The Hummingbird* follows the love story between Keats and her music partner, his descent into madness, and her attempt to save him – a tragic experience that culminated in an arduous jury trial, followed by two decades living in hiding. *The Hummingbird* will be presented **March 18 – April 15, 2023** with performances at 7:00pm Saturdays at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco. For information or to order tickets (\$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$50 and \$100 reserved), the public may visit [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

Kathryn Keats began developing *The Hummingbird* as a multicast show at Berkeley Repertory's The Ground Floor. One day while driving, Keats tuned into KPFA and heard an interview with acclaimed Bay Area director David Ford, a frequent collaborator with performers at The Marsh. She connected with Ford, as well as her long-time music collaborator Kevin Gerzevitz, and *The Hummingbird* became a solo beat musical under Ford's tutelage and direction. The piece won Best Solo Musical during The Marsh's 2020 MarshStream International Solo Fest, and was last seen at The Marsh San Francisco at the end of 2022. Local critics applauded the work, with *The San Francisco Standard* calling it "One of the best solo shows of the year." The creative team

## THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS “THE HUMMINGBIRD”

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includes director/development David Ford, co-composer/sound design Kevin Gerzevitz, and creative producer Tina D’Elia.

### **ABOUT KATHRYN KEATS**

Actor/singer/playwright **Kathryn Keats**, born Ellen Christian Munger, lived in anonymity for 20 years after her music and domestic partner lost his long battle with schizophrenia and held her captive for 54 days. With the help of Victim Witness Assistance, she put her promising career as a music artist on hold and went into hiding. Following the death of her former partner, Keats re-emerged into the world and completed her solo beat musical, *The Hummingbird*. She has been featured on various television, podcasts, panels and publications for several organizations including the YWCA, Center for Domestic Peace, Grief Dialogues and Reimagine. Keats has released original music with Grammy Award-winning and nominated producers and musicians including Pete Sears, Narada Michael Walden, Michael Manring, and Aram Avagyan, among others. She has played in a variety of music halls – from Yoshi’s Oakland Jazz Club to the Bitter End, Symphony Space NY, and the Great American Music Hall. In 1987, Keats co-founded Mark Monroe Studios in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The studio supported the development of over 600 students, many who have gone on to successful careers in the industry. Keats has been a Method Acting Teaching Artist since 1993 for film and television actors throughout the world.

### **ABOUT DAVID FORD**

**David Ford** has been collaborating on new and unusual theatre for three decades, and has been associated with The Marsh for most of that time. The San Francisco press has variously called him “the solo performer maven,” “the monologue maestro,” “the dean of solo performance,” and “the solo performer’s best friend.” A week rarely goes by when residents of the Bay Area cannot enjoy one of his productions. Collaborators include Geoff Hoyle, Brian Copeland, Charlie Varon, Echo Brown, Marilyn Pittman, Rebecca Fisher, Wayne Harris, Jill Vice, and Marga Gomez. Ford’s work has been seen regionally at the Public Theatre, Second Stage Theater, Theatre at St. Clement’s, Dixon Place, Theatre for the New City (New York), Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles), and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Washington, D.C.). His work has also been featured in most of the fringe festivals in North America, as well as at theaters around the Bay Area including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Ford’s directing has garnered several “Best of Fringe” Awards and a Goldie Award.

### **ABOUT KEVIN GERZEVITZ**

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, **Kevin Gerzevitz** is a professional musician, composer and teacher. He frequently performs as jazz organist with the B3B4 Organ Jazz Quartet, and as a pianist and bandleader with The KG Trio. In his hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Gerzevitz

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attended the University of Michigan School of Music, focusing on piano performance, jazz studies, improvisation, and composition while majoring in Music Theory and German. Upon earning his BMA in 1990, he relocated to the Bay Area where he worked as a freelance pianist, composer, and teacher. Gerzevitz attended Mills College from 2003 to 2005 to innovate his approach to teaching music, earning certifications in Levels I, II, and III as an Orff Schulwerk instructor. Since 2008, he has worked as the Music & Movement Specialist at Pacific Primary Orange Sun School in San Francisco. Gerzevitz has scored several independent films and has produced music for advertising, web, multimedia and theater.

### **ABOUT TINA D’ELIA**

**Tina D’Elia** is a mixed-race Latina lesbian/queer identified feminist artist and professional Actor (SAG-AFTRA). In 2015, she received the Executive Producer and Trail Blazer Awards from the Equality International Film Festival for the diverse and authentic content in her work, the prominent roles of women of color/queer/trans characters in her stories, and her diverse casting work with communities of color and LGBTQ communities. Her award-winning solo show *The Rita Hayworth of this Generation* garnered Best of Fringe and Best of Sold Out Shows at the 2015 San Francisco Fringe Festival. *Lucha*, a short film that she co-wrote with award-winning film director Maria Breaux won The Audience Award at Frameline33 (2009) and nominated for the prestigious Iris Prize (UK). D’Elia’s film/television/Webseries credits include: *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Knife Fight*, *Guitar Man*, *Trauma* (NBC), *Sense8* (Netflix), *Dyke Central* (Amazon Video), *Transfinite* (Vimeo On-Demand) and *Assigned Female at Birth* (YouTube).

### **ABOUT THE MARSH**

**The Marsh** is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.” Since its launch in April 2020, the theatre’s digital platform MarshStream has garnered more than 100,000 viewers. Notable MarshStream moments include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest 1 and 2, The Marsh’s first-ever digital festivals, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world’s most famous social experiments gone wrong. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted over 700 LIVE streams, providing some 300 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art. The Marsh will continue to offer digital content on MarshStream, as well as in-person performances.

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**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Due to popular demand, actor/singer/playwright **Kathryn Keats** returns to The Marsh San Francisco with her solo musical experience *The Hummingbird*. This riveting work takes audiences through Keats’ harrowing and redemptive journey, which began with dreams of a stage career and ended with years living incognito with the help of Victim Witness Assistance. In this compelling show with music, Keats relives her gripping tale of landing in New York City at age 17 to fulfill her promising Broadway ambitions, an adventure quickly derailed by an irresistible and seductive offer to become the muse of her Off-Broadway music director. *The Hummingbird* follows the love story between Keats and her music partner, his descent into madness, and her attempt to save him – a tragic experience that culminated in an arduous jury trial, followed by two decades living in hiding.

**WHEN:** **March 18 – April 15, 2023**

**SHOWS:** 7:00 pm Saturdays

**WHERE:** **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco  
(between 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets)  
*Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage  
(21<sup>st</sup> St between Mission & Valencia)  
Bart Station (closest): Mission & 24<sup>th</sup> Street*

**TICKETS:** \$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$50 & \$100 reserved

**INFO:** For information or to order tickets visit [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org) or call (415) 282-3055  
(Monday through Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm).

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**PRESS:** Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.  
[sydney@cb-pr.com](mailto:sydney@cb-pr.com)

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