

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS
HICK: A LOVE STORY
BASED ON ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S
LETTERS TO LORENA HICKOK
5:00pm Sundays, June 9 – July 14, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (22 May 2024) — In celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, **The Marsh San Francisco** will present *Hick: A Love Story*, a play based on Eleanor Roosevelt's letters to Lorena Hickok, written by award-winning pioneer lesbian playwright/actor **Terry Baum** with playwright/actor **Pat Bond**. This captivating and thought-provoking solo show follows Eleanor Roosevelt's love affair with reporter, Lorena Hickok, their 30-year relationship, and their humanitarian work. Hickok was the most famous female journalist of her time and the first woman to have a byline on the front page of *The New York Times*. She met Eleanor Roosevelt during FDR's first Presidential campaign in 1932, and after convincing her editor that this candidate's wife was worth being covered by her own reporter, got the assignment. *Hick: A Love Story*, written by **Terry Baum** and **Pat Bond**, performed by Baum, developed with **Carolyn Myers**, and directed by **Sarah Albertson**, in co-production with Lilith Theater, will be presented 5:00pm Sundays, June 9 – July 14, 2024 at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia Street, San Francisco. For tickets (\$20-\$35 adult general admission sliding scale; \$50-\$100 reserved), or more information, the public may visit themarsh.org.

The discovery of 2,336 touching and intimate letters in 1978 revealed a love affair and lifelong friendship and offers a rich insight into Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok's relationship. Hickok played a pivotal role in Roosevelt's life, providing mentorship and support as the latter rose to become a prominent advocate for democracy and human rights, one of the most significant American women of the 20th century. To authentically portray their relationship, Baum, the founder of San Francisco's famed Lilith Theater, meticulously researched original documents, including Eleanor's letters from the "Lorena Hickok" files at the FDR Library in Hyde Park, New York and interviewed people who knew Hickok. In *Hick: A Love Story*,

Baum's portrayal is made up of precise quotes from Eleanor Roosevelt's letters, authenticated and approved by her literary estate, bringing to life this extraordinary relationship, the profound connection the two shared, and the secret nature of their bond in a society that did not publicly admit nontraditional relationships.

Hick: A Love Story premiered in San Francisco in 2014, received rave reviews and played packed houses. The *San Francisco Examiner* hailed it as “Compelling... A real love story like no other,” while the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* described how “Baum brilliantly captures Hick’s transformation as the First Lady returns her affections.” Baum toured with *Hick: A Love Story*, continuing to garner raves. *The Baltimore Sun* called the play “Valiant, valuable and vivid,” and *DC Metro* described Baum as “Captivating... She gives a skilled and nuanced performance.” At the 2015 New York Fringe Festival, *Hick: A Love Story* was named a Fringe Fave and the 2019 San Francisco Fringe Festival gave the play a Best of Fringe Award.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Since 1975, **Terry Baum** (Playwright/Performer) has been a prominent figure in San Francisco's theater scene, founding Lilith, A Women’s Theater. Her plays have garnered international recognition, being published, produced, and translated into multiple languages such as French, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, and Swedish. Baum's solo performances have taken her across the globe. Recently, *Exit Press* published *One Dyke’s Theater*, an anthology of Baum’s plays edited by Carolyn Myers, highlighting the enduring legacy of Lilith Theater. Baum also ran for Congress (2004) and Mayor (2011) as the Green Party candidate.

The late **Pat Bond** (Playwright) spent the 70s and 80s touring the country, sharing stories of her life as a lesbian in 1950s San Francisco, alongside her service in the Women’s Army Corps during the post-World War II witch hunt against lesbians. Bond became the first openly lesbian figure in theatre for many in the LGBTQ+ community, and her solo shows on Gertrude Stein, Lorena Hickok, and Lizzie Borden gained widespread recognition. Her one-woman show *Gerty Gerty Stein is Back Back Back* was filmed for PBS television. From childhood, Bond admired Eleanor Roosevelt, and portraying Lorena Hickok fulfilled her lifelong passion.

Carolyn Myers (Developer) is a founding member of three social action theaters: The Gorilla Theater, The Isla Vista Community Theater, and Mixed Company Theater in Ashland, Oregon. Meyers also directed Planned Parenthood's Teen Theatre in Southern Oregon for 15 years. *Girl Talk* and *Hot Flashes*, co-written with Dory Appel, are published by Concord Theatricals. Additionally, her collaborative work on *Dos Lesbos* garnered international attention when it was featured in Rome for EuroPride 2000, facing censorship from the Pope.

Sarah Albertson (Director) has extensive experience in both Off-Broadway productions and collaborations with theater companies across the United States and Canada. Additionally, she has

shared her expertise by teaching theater workshops in London and Paris. Currently residing in Santa Cruz, California, Albertson serves as a member of the Theatre Arts faculty at Cabrillo College and directs performances at the Santa Cruz County Actors' Theatre, notably contributing to their longstanding 10-minute play festival, 8-10's at Eight.

ABOUT LILITH THEATER

Lilith Theater, the Bay Area's internationally renowned women's theater of the 1970s and 1980s, was founded in Berkeley, California in 1974, by Terry Baum, Charlotte Colavin, and Shelley Fields. Moving to San Francisco in 1976 and continuing through 1985, Lilith Theater produced many collectively created original plays including *Good Food*, *Moonlighting*, *Sacrifices*, *Exit the Maids*, *Fetal Positions*, and *Breeding Grounds*. They also produced plays by women playwrights such as *Pizza*, *Manifesto*, and *The Daughters of Erin* and toured at European and American Theater Festivals. Now, after a hiatus of a few decades, Terry Baum and Carolyn Meyers have created Lilith Theater San Francisco and return to the Bay Area theater scene with its production of Terry Baum's solo play *Hick: A Love Story*.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as "a breeding ground for new performance." Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances 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 the 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." In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people's storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

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candidate's wife was worth being covered by her own reporter, got the assignment.

Hick: A Love Story:

Written by Terry Baum and Pat Bond

Performed by Terry Baum

Developed with Carolyn Myers

Directed by Sarah Albertson

WHEN: **June 9 – July 14, 2024**

SHOWS: **5:00pm Sundays**

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco**

Parking: New Mission Bartlett Garage, 3255 21st St.

(21st St between Mission & Valencia)

BART station (closest): Mission & 24th Street

TICKETS: \$20-\$35 sliding scale; \$50 and \$100 reserved

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

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PRESS: Contact Paige D'Encarnacao, Carla Befera & Co.
paige@cb-pr.com | 415-570-2623

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
https://cbpr.co/press/Hick_ALoveStory