

Youth Musical Theater Company
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YMTC to Present Irish-Inspired Musical, *A Man of No Importance*, March 9–17

Berkeley, California, January 28, 2019—Now in its 14th year of producing highly-regarded regional theater, Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC) will stage the award-winning musical, *A Man of No Importance*. The play opens Saturday, March 9, at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. Its run consists of three 2:00 p.m. matinees (3/10, 3/16, 3/17) and three 7:30 p.m. performances (3/9, 3/15, 3/16).

A Man of No Importance debuted in 2002 at Lincoln Center in New York City and won the 2003 Outer Critics Circle award for Best Off-Broadway Musical. Its focal character is Alfie Byrne, a bus driver in 1964 Dublin, whose heart holds secrets that he can't share with anyone but his imagined confidante, Oscar Wilde. When he attempts to produce an amateur version of Wilde's *Salome* in the local church hall, he confronts the forces of bigotry and shame over a love "that dare not speak its name." The show's melodic, Irish-flavored orchestrations, emotional depth, drama, and comedy make for a truly uplifting theater experience.

According to Director Jennifer Boesing, "*A Man of No Importance* is a perfect play set to the richly emotional score of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens—the same team who created *Ragtime*. I think the play's perfection lies in its subtlety. It's emotional, but not a rollercoaster ride the way so many dramatic musicals are. There's a gentleness to it and incredible depth. In the first weeks of rehearsals, the cast and the directors delved into the scenes and songs and found that it was much like reading a poem. The more you read it, the more it unfolds its myriad meanings."

Music Director David Möschler notes, "The score is one of my absolute favorites. Ahrens's lyrics with Flaherty's gorgeous score of Irish-inspired ballads and reels combine to form something that is almost more poetry than song. The music is interwoven tightly with Terrence McNally's beautiful dialogue to create something wholly unique in the musical theater canon."

A Man of No Importance features a cast of 16 performing arts students (ages 15 to 19) from cities throughout the Bay Area. They are led by a team of professional directors, designers, and musicians, including Director Boesing, Choreographer Janet Collard, and Music Director Möschler.

Tickets are available online at www.ymtcbayarea.org beginning February 14, 2019 or at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$16–32, with discounts for students, seniors, military, teachers, and groups. YMTC offers one "pay-what-you-will" performance to provide affordable musical theater to all in the community. This performance will be on Friday, 3/15, at 7:30 p.m., when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online.

COMPANY'S 14th SEASON

YMTC continues its 14th season with *A Man of No Importance* (March 9–17, 2019) and *Les Misérables* (July 19–28), both at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. Two-show season subscriptions can be purchased online at <http://www.ymtcbayarea.org>.

ABOUT YMTC

YMTC is dedicated to providing exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area's most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as students of technical theater—with professional directors, designers, choreographers, and musicians. They take on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

CALENDAR LISTING

YMTC presents the musical *A Man of No Importance*. Dublin, 1964, is the setting for this musical about an Oscar Wilde-loving bus driver, who directs shows at a local church and confronts the forces of bigotry and shame over a love “that dare not speak its name.” Based on the movie of the same name.

Show Run: March 9-17, 2019

Opens: Saturday, March 9, 2019

Performances:

Saturday, 3/9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 3/10, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, 3/15, 7:30 p.m. (Pay-What-You-Can Performance)

Saturday, 3/16, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 3/16, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 3/17, 2:00 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. Near El Cerrito Plaza BART.

Ticket Prices: \$16–32. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available. Purchase tickets at www.ymtcbayarea.org or at the door, which opens one hour prior to performance.