



TheWallis

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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Presents
the 24th Street Theatre World Premiere Production of
*Rapunzel Alone***

**Sophisticated Reimagining of Classic Fairy Tale
Geared for Adults and Children Alike**

March 12 - 19, 2022

(Beverly Hills, CA, February 10, 2022 -UPDATED) – The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents the **24th Street Theatre** world premiere production of **RAPUNZEL ALONE**, a sophisticated reimagining of a classic fairy tale geared for adults and children (ages 7+) alike in seven performances from Saturday, March 12 through Saturday, March 19, 2022, in The Wallis' Lovelace Studio Theater. Commissioned by 24th Street and written by Olivier Award-winning playwright Mike Kenny (*Walking the Tightrope*), *Rapunzel Alone* is loosely inspired by the famous children's story and centers on Lettie, a young mixed-race girl from London who is sent to the countryside for her own safety during the daily bombings of World War II. On an isolated country farm, she faces her own battles with a strict new guardian and a very "fowl" goose. 24th Street Theatre artistic director Debbie Devine co-directs with Jesús Castaños-Chima.

Tara Alise Cox, William Leon and Marie-Françoise Theodore star, with playwright Kenny providing narration and puppeteer Matt Curtin bringing ornery Gertrude the Goose to life. The original score is composed by pianist Bradley Brough.

24th Street initially commissioned Kenny in 2019, pre-pandemic, to adapt the Brothers Grimm classic in response to increasing isolation among teens coming of age in the world of social media. Then, over the course of the past two years of pandemic, lockdown, social uprising, election, insurrection, climate calamities and war, the play continued to evolve as the world changed.

“The Wallis has admired 24th Street Theater’s dedication to telling compelling stories through the prism of diverse communities for many years now, so we were all thrilled to present this world premiere,” says Camille Jenkins, The Wallis’ Programming Manager, “and we look forward to sharing this very unique experience with Los Angeles audiences.”

“I’m a fan of historical fiction, but rarely see anyone who looks like me in that genre,” says Cox, a mixed-race actor who stars as Lettie.

In a review of an audio-only version of the play, created last fall as a “teaser” for the in-person world premiere, Broadway to Vegas called *Rapunzel Alone*, “Enchanting... All events in this production are metaphors constructed in a way that are understandable for children, yet not boring to adults... encourage[s] people to think about and discuss universal problems: loneliness, being bullied, being lied about, isolation, heartache, struggle, taking on too many responsibilities and looking out for others.” The audio version remains available for listening at <https://soundcloud.com/user-978180212/rapunzel-alone>.

As an adjunct to both the in-person performances and the audio recording, “Lettie's Journal,” a hauntingly beautiful visual record of the character’s experiences is available for both online viewing and digital download. “Lettie’s Journal” was created by high school student **Leah Abazari** under the mentorship of Hill.

Other upcoming performances at The Wallis in February and March include the Connie Han Trio (February 25); A Conversation with ClassPass Founder Payal Kadakia (February 27); Bridge to Everywhere, led by Artistic Director Derrick Skye (March 3); Shai Wosner (March 5); The Wallis debut of MUSE/IQUE, led by Artistic Director and Conductor Rachael Worby (March 12 and 13); Sunday Funday (March 13); DIAVOLO (March 18-20); *Bedtime Stories* (March 24-26); and Hershey Felder Presents Live from Florence *The Verdi Fiasco* (livestreamed beginning March 27). The World Premiere production of *The Excavation of Mary Anning*, originally slated to open in February, has moved to The Wallis’ 2022/2023 Season.

Ticket prices are \$25 per person. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/rapunzel.

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis’ ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, our staff, and artists inside and outside our venue are a top priority for The Wallis, which is requiring all patrons to provide, upon entry, proof of full vaccination, including proof of a booster shot, or a negative PCR test result within 48 hours or a verifiable Antigen test within 24 hours from your performance date, along with a government issued photo ID. Facial masks, covering both the mouth and nose, are still required at all times while within the venue. The Wallis’ health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue’s sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Our current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at TheWallis.org/Safety.

About Mike Kenny (Playwright)

Mike Kenny is one of the England's leading writers, specializing in young people's theater. He is the recipient of numerous awards, was included in the Independent on Sunday's list of Top Ten Living UK Playwrights and his plays are performed regularly throughout the UK and all over the world. In 2013 he was given an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Nottingham University, England.

About 24th Street Theatre

24th Street Theatre is a multiple award-winning professional theater company with a unique connection to its local inner-city community: the giant green doors to the theater (a historic 1928 carriage house located on the edge of L.A.'s historic West Adams historic district) are literally kept open to the street every day. Neighborhood residents, homeless people, local kids, students and visiting parents from nearby USC, and others stop in daily for coffee, conversation or to access educational, cultural and social service resources. Founded in 1997 as a more traditional theater, the community needs changed the theater's focus from simply creating high caliber art to using that art to make a difference in the lives of the local neighborhood residents. With a mission to engage, educate, and provoke its diverse community and city with an eclectic array of high quality artistic programming, 24th Street Theatre serves over 10,000 people annually: 6,000 children and youth, and 4,000 adults, the majority of whom are low-income. The 24th Street brand, marked by resolute commitment to the integrity of the work and a heightened, minimalistic style, is reflected in its arts education programs as well as in its mainstage productions for families.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 300 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as "au courant" (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, "If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis." Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff and Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit: TheWallis.org/Press.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**WHAT:****WORLD PREMIERE**

A 24th Street Theatre Production

In Association with The Wallis

RAPUNZEL ALONE

By Mike Kenny

Directed by Debbie Devine and Jesús Castaños-Chima

Lovelace Studio Theater

WHEN:

Saturday, March 12 – Saturday, March 19, 2022

- Saturday, March 12 at 7 pm
- Sunday, March 13 at 2 pm
- Wednesday, March 16 at 7pm
- Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm
- Friday, March 18 at 7 pm
- Saturday, March 19 at 2 pm and 7 pm

WHO

Starring Tara Alise Cox, William Leon, Marie-Françoise Theodore

Narration by Mike Kenny

Puppeteer (Gertrude the Goose): Matt Curtin

Music composed by Bradley Brough

RUN TIME:

Approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE:

Due to current health and safety variables, the engagement or select performances are subject to change, postponement or cancellation.