



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOWN HALL THEATRE PUSHES THE ENVELOPE WITH FUNDRAISING EVENT: A
SERIALIZED ADAPTATION OF *FANTASTICLAND***

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 - Playwright and Town Hall Theatre board member M. E. Ianiro has been working closely with author Mike Bockoven to bring an adaptation his thrilling hit, ***FantasticLand: A Novel***, to a digital medium in Town Hall's March fundraising event: ***FantasticLand***.

FantasticLand will be available at TownHallTheatre.com. On Thursday, March 11 the series will premiere with a double-episode drop. After that a new episode will become available every Tuesday and Wednesday March 16 through April 7. Tickets are \$25 and will be available on TownHallTheatre.com.

After a major hurricane destroyed the popular Florida theme park *FantasticLand*, employees and park-goers fought for their lives to survive the wreckage and each other. Now, after a social media frenzy spreads the harrowing images across the world, a fact-finding investigation interviews those who experienced the horrors first-hand. ***FantasticLand*** presents their tales of competing tribes fighting for food, water, medicine, and dominance.

Featuring over twenty actors from California to New York, director Alysia Homminga has crafted a compelling and innovative online experience that fans of Town Hall Theatre and of the original novel will find enthralling and electrifying.

"My goal in directing *FantasticLand* was to explore the theatrical innovations made possible by 'Zoom theatre,'" says director Alysia Homminga. "I used technology to my advantage and made *FantasticLand* into more of a 'theatrical mini-series,' rather than a virtual play."

"This is a very unique piece for Town Hall," says M. E. Ianiro who has adapted the script from the original novel. "I am thrilled to have received permission from one of my favorite authors, Mike Bockoven, on the adaptation. Town Hall has gathered some of the best actors around to tell this hip, somewhat eerie and exciting dystopian, disaster story."

Along with *FantasticLand*, Town Hall will be releasing episodes of *Before the Storm* live each Monday. Featuring interviews with *FantasticLand*'s actors, creative

team, and behind-the-scenes looks at the production and story, *Before the Storm* is offered is free on Facebook (Facebook.com/TownHallTheatre).

This event is a fundraiser for Town Hall Theatre Company as we weather COVID-19 and plan our return to in-person programming when it is safe for our artists and patrons.

Content Advisory for this Production

FantasticLand contains adult language and graphic descriptions of violence and gore. Viewer discretion is advised.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT

M.E. Ianiro (playwright) has been performing, writing, directing and singing in the Bay Area for 25 years. She is also a producer with Ianiro Productions and since 2020 has been on the board of Town Hall Theatre serving as the head of the Artistic Programming Committee.

Ms. Ianiro has published and produced plays under M.E. Ianiro and Michelle E. Ianiro. Selected works: *Abigail Dreary*, *Sex With Eric*, *Sisters*, *Eleanor and Me*, and of course this adaptation.

Some notable acting roles: Katisha in 42nd Street Moon's *Hot Mikado* (2020), Jeanette in BAM's production of the *Full Monty* (2020), Oda Mae in OMG's *Ghost* (2017), Penelope Pennywise in Clayton Theatre's *Urinetown*.

Mike Bockoven (author, *FantasticLand: A Novel*) is the author of *FantasticLand: A Novel* and *Pack* both of which he wrote, largely, while his daughters were in gymnastics practice. Town Hall is the first group to adapt his work and he is overwhelmed by the talent on display and by the kindness Town Hall has shown in having him in on some of the planning and meetings for this show. You can learn more about Mike's work at mikebockoven.com or on Facebook.com/Bockovenbooks.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Alysia Homminga is a director and actor originally from Michigan. In June of 2020, she graduated with honors from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, MI with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts. Alysia's directing style focuses on characterization and relationship development discovered through improvisation and scene work. She trained in Method Acting and Directing at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in New York City, where she made her NYC directorial

debut directing *Wine & Pizza* in 2019. She is also an experienced improviser and former captain of the Monkapult Improv Team at Kalamazoo College. Other credits include *Waiting for Doggot* (Imaginarium Theatre Company), *Beauty's Daughter* (Dungeon Theatre of Festival Playhouse), and Assistant Director for *Twelfth Night* (Festival Playhouse).

About Town Hall Theatre Company

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs, Town Hall Theatre is the oldest continuously active theatre in Contra Costa County. Town Hall Theatre was awarded Best Theatre Troupe 2016 by Diablo Magazine, Best of The East Bay, and is the past recipient of numerous Shellie Awards, and Theatre Bay Area Awards. THT is also home to an extensive children's educational program, twice voted the Best Children's Theatre Company by Bay Area Parent Magazine. THT's home is in the historic Town Hall Theatre building located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette is owned by the Lafayette Improvement Association (LIA).

Through the COVID-19 pandemic Town Hall has reduced staff and move its education and entertainment offerings online. During this time Town Hall's Box Office does not have regular hours. Information can be found on Town Hall's website (TownHallTheatre.com) or by calling the Box Office at 925.283.1557.

CALENDAR Information for *FantasticLand*

WHO: TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY

WHAT: *FantasticLand*, a fundraising event.

Directed by Alysia Homminga

Written by M. E. Ianiro

based on *FantasticLand: A Novel* by Mike Bockoven

CAST: Anders Finholt, Briel Pomerantz, Chanel Tilghman, David Richardson, Desiree Juanes, Don Hardwick, Dorian Lockett, Eiko Yamamoto, Emma Curtin, Gretchen Lee Salter, Heather Kellogg Baumann, Jackson Thea, Jean Forsman, Justin Hanks, Justin P. Lopez, Kyle Clark, Lexi Stein, Lisa Graham Parson, Lisa-Marie Newton, Louel Señores, Melissa Momboisse, R. Stephen Kanaski, Robert Lopez, Sam Tillis, Sarah Negrón, Sophie Hill, and William Goldman

DATES:

Premiere: Episodes 1 & 2 – March 11

Episode 3 – Tuesday, March 16

Episode 4 – Wednesday, March 17

Episode 5 – Tuesday, March 23
Episode 6 – Wednesday, March 24
Episode 7 – Tuesday, March 30
Episode 8 – Wednesday, March 31
Episode 9 – Tuesday, April 6
Finale: Episode 10 – Wednesday, April 7

WHERE: Only at TownHallTheatre.com

TICKETS: \$25 for access to all 10 episodes. No discounts are being offered for this fundraising event

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