

Youth Musical Theater Company



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YMTC Presents *BAT BOY—The Musical*, November 11–18, at Oakland’s Malonga Center

Berkeley, California, September 27, 2018—Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC) launches its 14th season with *Bat Boy—The Musical*. The show opens Sunday, November 11, with a 2:00 p.m. matinee and continues daily from November 15 through November 18 at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland.

A story pulled from *The Weekly World News* inspired this rock-infused contemporary musical-comedy horror show. The story and book were written by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming, with music and lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe. The *New York Times* wrote, “The show is a jaggedly imaginative mix of skewering and self-puncturing humor. ... It sends up everything it touches with energetic glee.”

Set in the 1980’s, a half boy/half bat creature is discovered in a cave and taught to act like a “normal” boy. *Bat Boy* is happy with his new life, but when he naively tries to fit in with the narrow-minded people of the fictional community of Hope Falls, a struggle for acceptance ensues.

Director Jennifer Boesing adds, “*Bat Boy* is an irreverent, camp-filled romp full of humor, horror, cultural references. It boasts a skillfully derivative score that will make you want to either howl with laughter or tap your toes and sing along. It’s also a wonderful training opportunity for the company to learn a completely different style of musical theater. At its heart, *Bat Boy* is also about tolerance, acceptance, compassion, and the consequences of “othering”—themes that our young artists are eager to explore.”

Bat Boy features a cast of 26 performing arts students (ages 13 to 21) from cities throughout the Bay Area. They are led by a team of professional directors, designers, and musicians, including Directors Jennifer Boesing and Simone Kertesz, Choreographer Janet Collard, and Music Director Diana Lee, who will lead a live, five-piece band.

The show’s run consists of three 2:00 p.m. matinees (11/11, 11/17, 11/18) and three 7:00 p.m. performances (11/15, 11/16, 11/17). After the 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, 11/11, the audience is invited to join a post-show reception and toast to the start of YMTC’s 14th season.

Tickets are available online at www.ymtcbayarea.org 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 Thursday, 11/15, at 7:00 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's 2018–19 season of three musicals has been announced: *Bat Boy: The Musical* (November 11–18, Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, Oakland), *A Man of No Importance* (March 9–17, 2019, El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater), and *Les Misérables* (July 19–28, El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater). Three-show season subscriptions, offering discounted ticket prices, and ticket exchange purchases, 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 *Bat Boy—The Musical*, a rock musical comedy horror show.

A story in *The Weekly World News* about a half-boy/half-bat creature discovered in a cave inspired this contemporary rock musical comedy horror show.

Show Run: November 11–18, 2018

Opens: Sunday, November 11, 2:00 p.m.

Performances:

Sunday, 11/11, 2:00 p.m. (Post-show reception and toast to the start of YMTC's 14th season)

Thursday, 11/15, 7:00 p.m. (Pay-What-You-Can performance, cash-only seats at the box office)

Friday, 11/16, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11/17, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11/17, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 11/18, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland. Near 12th St. 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.