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**AARON POSNER'S 'STUPID FUCKING BIRD'  
OFFERS UP A BOLD, RAUCOUS RIFF ON 'THE SEAGULL'**  
*'The best Chekhov adaptation in two decades' -LA Weekly  
Sept. 14-Oct. 15, 2017*

*"Yes, of course I know I'm in a play. I'm right here and you're right there,  
and since you can see and hear me let's just assume I can see and hear you too."*  
-Con

SAN JOSE, CA (Aug. 18, 2017) – Complete with an F-bomb in the title, the play *Stupid Fucking Bird* is Chekhov like you've never seen it before. Award-winning playwright Aaron Posner gives the classic *The Seagull* a contemporary take, bringing the action to a country house where unrequited desire drowns in sarcasm and alcohol. And, occasionally, muffins.

The *Bird* characters, fully aware that they're in a play, include actresses, writers and a ukulele-playing cook, all of whom bare their souls as they struggle to find the truths of life. Everyone discovers the disappointments of art, love and growing up.

The play will have its South Bay premiere at City Lights, running Sept. 14 through Oct. 15, directed by Kirsten Brandt. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 (no show on Sept. 17). For details and tickets, go to [cltc.org](http://cltc.org) or call 408-295-4200.

Commissioned by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., *Stupid Fucking Bird* premiered there in 2013. The play came to the Bay Area in 2015 with an SF Playhouse production, and the following year was presented at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company, where playwright Aaron Posner directed. Reviews have included praise from the *Washington Post*, which wrote: "The show is smart enough to have it both ways: It mines *The Seagull* for classical heft even while giving it the bird."

Posner is also a founder of the Arden Theatre Company and experienced director, helming plays all over the country. As a playwright, he has authored numerous adaptations, including *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev*, based on Chaim Potok's novels. His other Chekhov adaptations include a take on *Uncle Vanya* called *Life Sucks*.

**Cast:**

Dev: Tasi Alabastro  
Mash: Sharon Shao  
Sorn: Stefan Fisher  
Nina: Sarah Haas  
Con: Jacob Marker  
Emma: April Green  
Trig: Andrew Cooperfauss

**Kirsten Brandt (Director)** is an award-winning director and playwright, with regional credits at companies including San Jose Repertory Theatre (Associate Artistic Director), TheatreWorks, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Marin Theatre Company, Jewel Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival and The Old Globe. For seven years, she served as Executive Artistic Director of Sledgehammer

Theatre, San Diego's alternative theater known for innovative and provocative world premieres and reinterpretations of classics. She is the author of the award-winning plays *Berzerkergång*, *NU*, *The Waves* and *The Frankenstein Project* and the co-author of the musical *The Snow Queen*. Brandt lectures in the theater departments at San Jose State University and UC Santa Cruz.

**Designers:** Ron Gasparinetti (Scenic), Alina Bokovikova (Costumes), Nick Kumamoto (Lighting), George Psarras (Sound Design), Miranda Whipple (Props).

**Sponsors and Supporters:** *Stupid Fucking Bird* is produced by Kavin Hagan. Other supports include The Shubert Foundation, Silicon Valley Creates, Applied Materials Foundation, the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and many other individuals, corporations, and foundations.

City Lights' 2017-18 season continues with the Jane Austen-esque holiday play *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*; the Civil Rights-era drama *Alabama Story*; Shakespeare's ever-controversial *The Merchant of Venice*; the romantic comedy *The Siegel*; and the vibrant Lin-Manuel Miranda musical *In the Heights*. Details at [cltc.org](http://cltc.org).

## DETAILS

**WHAT:** Aaron Posner's play *Stupid Fucking Bird* offers up an irreverent, contemporary take on Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Characters, fully aware they're in a play, bare their souls as they struggle to find the truths of life.

**WHEN: Sept. 14-Oct. 15, 2017**

**Pay What You Can Night:** Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 p.m.; **\$19 Preview Night:** Friday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m.

**Opening Night** (with a post-show party catered by San Jose's Cafe Stritch): Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.  
Showtimes: Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. No performance on Sept. 17.

**WHERE:** City Lights Theater Company, 529 S. Second St., San Jose, CA 95112

**TICKETS:** Tickets are \$19-\$44, with discounts for seniors (55+), students/educators, and groups (10+). (There is a \$2 surcharge for phone and in-person buys.) Closing-weekend tickets are increased by \$2.

**INFO:** For tickets and details, go to [cltc.org](http://cltc.org) or call 408-295-4200. The theater is wheelchair-accessible.

**PRESS:** For press passes or more information, contact City Lights marketing director Rebecca Wallace at [rebecca@cltc.org](mailto:rebecca@cltc.org) or 408-295-4200. **High-res photos can be downloaded at [bit.ly/sfbphotos](http://bit.ly/sfbphotos).**