**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Logo, company name

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***ANTIGONE WITH A TWIST* AT TOWN HALL THEATRE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – A piece written by Madhuri Shekar “Antigone, presented by the girls of St. Catherine’s” will be the second show for the 2021-2022 Mainstage Season at Lafayette’s Town Hall Theatre.

The St. Catherine's Preparatory School Drama club is about to put on their first play when suddenly, a scandal: their beloved drama teacher has betrayed them in an unforgivable way. Their production of Sophacles' Antigone becomes a shocking parallel for their own roles in society. Posing the impossible questions: What is the right thing to do? Should the show go on? And how does a teenager stand up to authority?

“Antigone is a character that is hard to forget.” shared director Claire Ganem. “A daughter of Oedipus, she was an anarchist ahead of her time- standing up for what she believed in despite society's attempts to silence her. Many young women are introduced to *Antigone* during high school English class while they are growing into societies' rules of what women should be and what they should accept. *Antigone, Presented by the Girls of St Catherine's* introduces us to a group of these young women, embarking on a school production of *Antigone.* I found myself particularly drawn to these characters as they attempt to navigate the right moral choices while fighting against an environment that is trying to silence them. We cannot wait to share Shekar's retelling of this classic Greek myth with Town Hall audiences!”

“Antigone, presented by the girls of St. Catherine’s” will feature talkbacks after the June 11th and June 18th performances with the cast and Victoria Schubert-Gardiner.

For our performance on Juneteenth, all bar and audience donations will be shared with Ujima The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. <https://ujimacommunity.org/>

**Content Advisory for this Production**

*Antigone, presented by the girls of St. Catherine’s* contains Strong Language and Themes of Sexual assault.

**ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

**Madhuri Shekar** is a playwright and screenwriter of the 2020 Amazon/Blumhouse feature “EVIL EYE” produced by Priyanka Chopra Jonas and starring Sarita Choudhury, based on her [Audible original audio drama](https://www.audible.com/pd/Evil-Eye-Audiobook/B07QP1X8B7). She is currently writing the screenplay for “SISTER ACT 3”, produced by Whoopi Goldberg and Tyler Perry, and directed by Tim Federle. Her TV credits include the upcoming series adaptation of “THREE BODY PROBLEM” for Netflix, executive produced by Benioff and Weiss, Alex Woo, and Rian Johnson, and the HBO fantasy epic “THE NEVERS”. She is writing a new epic drama pilot for Hulu, ABC Studios and Nisha Ganatra. Her play “A NICE INDIAN BOY” is also being adapted into a film by Levantine Films.

She received her MFA from USC and graduated from the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at Juilliard. Her play “HOUSE OF JOY” first premiered at California Shakespeare Theatre in 2019, and will have its next production at St. Louis Rep. Her other plays include “QUEEN” (2019 New York Innovative Theatre Awards, Outstanding Original Full Length Script; Edgerton New Play Award), “IN LOVE AND WARCRAFT” (Kendeda Graduate Playwriting Award), “A NICE INDIAN BOY”, “ANTIGONE: PRESENTED BY THE GIRLS OF ST. CATHERINE’S” and the TYA play “BUCKET OF BLESSINGS” (Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Original Work – TYA).

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

**Claire Ganem** is a director/performer/educator, who has a passion for bringing new works to the stage. She is a current company member and ambassador at Playground SF. In addition to Playground, her work has been featured at Magic Theatre, Cutting Ball Theater, Pianofight, and Santa Cruz Shakespeare. Upcoming: *Mirror Face* at 3Girls Theatre Company in June 2022. She is a proud graduate of UC Santa Cruz and Nazareth College of Rochester, NY.

**ABOUT THE DRAMATURG**

**Victoria Schubert-Gardiner** holds a Master of Arts in Dramaturgy from the *University of California, Santa Cruz*. While there she worked on a landmark production of Luis Valdez’s *Zoot Suit* and wrote her thesis on anti-fascist protest theater while working on Brect’s *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui.* Victoria has always had a passion for the revitalizing of classical works through modern plays; the very thing that makes *Antigone, Presented by the girl’s of St. Catherine’s* so fascinating to work on! She is delighted to be working with Town Hall Theater Company for this outing.

**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. In December of 2021 Town Hall Theatre Company became the owners of the historical Town Hall Theatre which had been maintained by the Lafayette Improvement Association since its construction in 1914.

**COVID PRECAUTIONS**

Town Hall Theatre is prioritizing the health and safety of our artists, staff, and audiences above all else. We are keeping close watch on the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations and if we feel we cannot safely produce any of our works, we will move to a hybrid in-person and digital model or postpone to a later date.

Town Hall Theatre has joined Theatre Bay Area’s coalition on COVID protocols (https://www.theatrebayarea.org/page/bayareasafe). Town Hall’s full COVID policy (found at https://www.townhalltheatre.com/covid19) states:

*Town Hall Theatre reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave the premises immediately.*

***MASKS UP AT ALL TIMES***

*- Masks that cover the nose and mouth must be worn in Town Hall Theatre or during any in-door off-site Town Hall produced events or classes regardless of vaccination status. This includes but is not limited to rehearsals, performances, classes, or meetings. This policy applies to audiences, performers, staff, Teaching Artists, students, visitors, and volunteers.*

*- Masks may be temporarily lowered to consume food or drink, but then must be replaced while not actively consuming food and beverage.*

*- Town Hall will provide disposable masks to anyone who needs them.*

***PROOF OF VACCINATION OR RECENT NEGATIVE COVID TEST IS REQUIRED*** *- Anyone who has received a vaccination must present proof of vaccination in the form of a vaccine card or state-issued digital vaccine record (which may be obtained at https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/).*

*- Anyone who has not received a vaccination must present a negative COVID test from the past 72 hours.*

*- Appropriate photo ID is required to match both COVID test results and/or vaccination records.*

*- Students under the age of 12 registered in classes will not be required to provide vaccination status or COVID test. No-contact (laser, infrared) temperature checks may be administered prior to any onsite, indoor activities.*

*- Rapid tests will not fill the requirement for a recent negative COVID test. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results will be the only results accepted.*

**CALENDAR Information for Antigone, presented by the girls of St Catherine’s**

**WHO: TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY**

**WHAT: “*Antigone, presented by the girls of St. Catherine’s”***

By Madhuri Shekar

Directed by Claire Ganem

**CAST:** Sarah Hadassah Negrón, Natalie Farrell, Evelyn McCollum, Emma Simpson, Alan Coyne.

**DATES:** Previews: June 2nd and 3rd at 8:00pm

8:00pm Performances: June 4th,10th,11th,17th,18th,23rd,\*24th, and 25th.

2:00pm Performance: June 12th and 19th

\*Pay-What-You-Like Performance

**WHERE:** Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549

**TICKETS:** Previews: $18

Evenings: General $35, Sr (65+)/Youth (18-) $32, 18-35 - $30

Matinees: General $32, Sr (65+)/Youth (18-) $30, 18-35 - $28

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