

MIDNIGHT'S WORLD PREMIERE "TINSEL TOWN" TO OPEN AT .ZACK

The Midnight Company will present TINSEL TOWN, Three Short Plays-24 Hours In L.A., the World Premiere of a new script by Midnight's Artistic Director Joe Hanrahan, directed by Rachel Tibbetts. TINSEL TOWN will open December 2 and will run through December 18 with performances Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and with two Sunday matinees, December 5 and 12 at 2pm. Performances will be at the .ZACK theatre, and reserved tickets will be available at MetroTix.com, on sale Friday, November 5, or at the door. Tickets will be \$15 for Thursdays, \$20 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. More information is available at MidnightCompany.com.

In TINSEL TOWN, Ellie Schwetye and Hanrahan each play characters in the three short plays set in the Los Angeles entertainment scene.

In LATE LUNCH ON MELROSE, (1:30pm) Hanrahan is a talent agent trying to convince his movie star client, Schwetye, to accept the new normal. Her career is in meltdown. The pandemic shut down her dream projects. But her agent - soon to arrive, one would hope - better have some answers.

In JUST OFF SUNSET, (12:15am) Schwetye is a singer/songwriter attempting a comeback, who's just finished a frustrating gig at a club. Hanrahan is an out-of-work session musician who's seen it all in the industry. The music biz is rough - but it's the music that keeps them coming back for more.

And in SHOOT IN SANTA MONICA, (12:40pm) Hanrahan is a British actor brought to Hollywood for a role in a science fiction film, which Schwetye is directing. She has to finish this piece of sci-fi crap, so she can get to the movie she wants to make. While he wants to make an impression and get more work. Maybe he can do that by saving the world from the space vampires.

Director Rachel Tibbetts was recently promoted to the role of Artistic Director of the Prison Performing Arts group. One of the leaders of SATE, she will be back on stage in PPA's Spring adaptation of Margaret Atwood's HAG-SEED.

Ellie Schwetye, who operates SATE along with Tibbetts, directed Midnight's HERE LIES HENRY earlier this year, with Hanrahan in the title role. And next Spring will direct EVERY BRILLIANT THING for New Jewish Theatre.

This year, Joe Hanrahan has appeared in Midnight productions of IT IS MAGIC and HERE LIES HENRY, and in his scripts of NOW PLAYING THIRD BASE FOR THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS...BOND, JAMES BOND, MY VIOLIN MY VOICE at The St. Louis Fringe Festival and TONIGHT'S SPECIAL at the St. Louis Theatre Showcase. Currently he is planning Midnight's 2022 25th Anniversary Season.

Hanrahan first worked with Tibbetts when he recruited her to direct an earlier Midnight run of SEX DRUGS ROCK & ROLL, after seeing her direction of BACHELORETTE for her home company, SATE. Thus began an association between their two companies, with Hanrahan acting in ONE FLEA SPARE, OF MICE AND MEN, DOCTOR FAUSTUS and 2020's APHRA BEHN FESTIVAL for SATE; and Schwetye directing JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG (with Tibbetts in the cast), A MODEL FOR MATISSE (and HERE LIES HENRY) for Midnight. But it was during the winter of 2016/2017 that these three did two plays together that demanded a third to complete a triptych sometime in the future. At that time, Hanrahan directed Schwetye and Tibbetts in the vampire drama, CUDDLES, for SATE, followed by Schwetye directing Tibbetts and Hanrahan in Midnight's Irish thriller, LITTLE THING BIG THING. So a third show

was needed, with (as TINSEL TOWN provides) roles for Schwetye and Hanrahan, and Tibbetts directing.

And thus, the cycle will be complete, and TINSEL TOWN will bring Midnight's 2021 season to a close.

Kristen Strom will be the Stage Manager for TINSEL TOWN, Erik Kuhn will design set and lights, Michael Musgrave-Perkins will be providing video design, and Liz Henning will design costumes.

(photos Todd Davis)