

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

Ripped from the headlines?

'A Kid Like Jake' in Pasadena

The essentials: Daniel Pearle revised this 2013 play for IAMA Theatre Company. Six years is a millennium when it comes to our evolving conception of gender identity. As Pearle says in IAMA's news release he first wrote about a 4-year-old boy who identifies with Cinderella "before 'Transparent,' before Caitlin Jenner and Laverne Cox." He then adapted it for the 2018 feature film starring Claire Danes and Jim Parsons. Details have changed, but the story hasn't: "It's still about the anxiety of being a parent, of trying to do the right thing for your child," Pearle said.

Why this? This West Coast premiere, hosted by the Pasadena Playhouse in its intimate Carrie Hamilton Theatre, has mustered star power: The cast includes Sharon Lawrence ("NYPD Blue") and Sarah Utterback ("Grey's Anatomy"), along with the director Jennifer Chambers, whose world premiere of Bekah Brunstetter's "The Cake" in 2017 became a national hit.

Details: IAMA Theatre production at the Carrie Hamilton Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, 39 S. El Molino Ave. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 3. \$35. (323) 380-8843, iamatheatre.com