

Fairy Tale, fantasy, family and finance on L.A. Stages

24th Street Theatre, a multiple award-winning professional theater company, has created a name for itself as a leading producer of emotionally rich and provocative productions for families. Their latest endeavor, in association with the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, is the world premiere of *Rapunzel Alone*, written by Olivier Award-winning playwright Mike Kenny, and directed by Debbie Devine and Jesus Castaños-Chima. Performances continue at The Wallis in Beverly Hills March 12 to March 19, and at the 24th Street Theatre March 26 to April 30.

Loosely inspired by the famous children's story, **RAPUNZEL ALONE** centers on Lettie, a young mixed-race girl from London who is sent to the countryside for her own safety during the daily bombings of World War II.

On an isolated country farm, she faces her own battles with a strict new guardian and a very "fowl" goose. Tara Alise Cox, William Leon and Marie-Françoise Theodore star, with playwright Kenny providing narration and puppeteer Matt Curtin bringing ornery Gertrude the Goose to life. Adults and children ages 7 and older will be drawn into the fantasy world where a goose and lonely "witch" can turn out to be your best friends when you need companionship the most.

Originally commissioned to address the increasing isolation among teens coming of age in the world of social media, over the course of the past two years of pandemic, lockdown, social uprising, election, insurrection, climate calamities and war, the play continued to evolve, making

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it even more relevant now, given the number of young children currently displaced from their homes due to erupting warfare.

The show is blessed with incredible actors who will mesmerize you with their ability to inhabit their roles, with innovative video projections magically transforming each set into many locations.

"*Rapunzel Alone*" moves into the Lovelace Studio The-

ater at the Wallis Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210 from March 12 to 19 with \$25 tickets.

The play then returns to the 24th Street Theatre, 1117 West 24th Street, L.A. 90007 (near USC) March 26 to April 30 with tickets \$10 to \$24. Patrons ages 5 and up must show proof of vaccination, photo ID, and wear a mask. For exact dates, reservations and information, go to



Photo by Cooper Bates

Puppeteer Matt Curtin brings Gertrude the Goose to life with Tara Alise Cox as Lettie in "*Rapunzel Alone*" at 24th Street Theatre and The Wallis.