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**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA  
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED  
ON THE AGENDA**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL:** Commission members Cabrera, Carrasco, Hsiao, Klinenberg, Kraemer, Polcari, Chair Sargent

**2. FLAG SALUTE:**

**3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website on Thursday, June 13, 2024 /s/ Rebecca Poirier

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comments on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker**. If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.*

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** May 20, 2024

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**7A. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

**7B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – ASSIGN REMAINING EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD CATEGORY NOMINATIONS**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and assign each Commissioner who wasn't present at the May 20, 2024 Cultural Arts Commission meeting, a category or categories for which they will secure nominations for 2024 Excellence in Arts Awards. The remaining categories include Arts Education, Drama and Theatre Arts, Literary Arts, Katy Geissert, and the Golden Circle Award.

**7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – SUPPORTS ACCEPTANCE OF ARTISTS THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND ORANGE COUNTY FOR UTILITY BOX PROGRAM ART SUBMISSIONS.**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission extends eligibility of initial Utility Box Program Artists to both Los Angeles County and Orange County.

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to Monday, July 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Conference Room.



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2024, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Carrasco, Hsiao, Kraemer, Polcari and Chair Sargent

Absent: Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte and Community Services Director John La Rock

**MOTION:** Commissioner Polcari moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Klinenberg. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Polcari.

**3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

Cultural Services Manager Harte reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS:**

None.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

A member of the public spoke.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 15, 2024**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the April 15, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

## 7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 7A. DESTINATION ARTS – UPATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

Ms. Margaret Lindsey, Co-Founder and Principal of Destination Arts, presented Item 7A:

- Mission statement of Destination Arts is to elevate the presence of artists in the South Bay and provide collaborative exhibition spaces for artists. Destination Arts looks to build community through creative experiences.
- Public education and workshops are provided through Destination Arts every year; this was recognized by the City of Torrance when Destination Arts received the Torrance Economic Development Medal. An upcoming workshop will host Mr. Tony Allain, a pastelist from the United Kingdom the last week of May 2024.
- There are (6) exhibitions per year along with an addition of an Open Show that is open to all artists, as well as an Associate's Show open to members of Destination Art.
- (3) community outreach programs were added: Art for Everyone, Creative Conversations, and Friends of Destination Arts.
- 5-year goal is to hire an Executive Director. An aggressive fundraising campaign leading up to Destination Arts 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event Saturday, November 16, 2024, will assist with stability in the next 5 years.

Development campaign brochures were provided to the Commission for review.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carrasco moved to accept and file Item 7A. Commissioner Polcari seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

### 7B. THE AEROSPACE PLAYERS – UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

Mr. Chuck Gustafson, Producer for Aerospace Players, presented Item 7B:

- Aerospace Players were formed in 1988 and have had performances every year (except during the pandemic) at the James R. Armstrong Theatre since 1994.
- Upcoming production for Summer 2024 is *Beauty and the Beast*.
- Aerospace Players are a non-profit group sponsored by the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo. The group is funded primarily through ticket sales. Traditional sources of funding have fallen, prompting exploring opportunities and new options for endorsements and fundraising.

Mr. Steve Norris, President of the Arts Council, spoke on the advocacy works of the Arts Council and stated that the main goal was to support the Cultural Arts Center. Mr. Norris announced that the Arts Council would like to have a free kid's day where children could see the *Beauty and the Beast* performance for free on Thursday, July 25, 2024.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hsiao moved to accept and file Item 7B. Commissioner Kraemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

**7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER –CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7C:

- Staff is preparing for Saturday, June 1, 2024, opening of Torrance Summer Nights.
- The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in Arts Committee met Wednesday, April 24, 2024, to discuss the Excellence in Arts event.
- The Cultural Services Division is working with the Library and Parks and Recreation Divisions to expand the Southeast Library Public Art Project launched at the Cherry Blossom Festival in 2024. The Cultural Arts Division have developed packages containing supplies needed to create tiles for the art project; tiles can be returned to Community Services to be included in the art install.
- The first utility box will be wrapped by Sunday, June 30, 2024, at Madrona and Torrance Boulevard. Staff has advertised on multiple platforms to gain interest from artists.
- Torrance Theatre Company is rehearsing *It's Only a Play* which opens Saturday, June 1, 2024.
- The Torrance Civic Chorale's *A Disney Celebration* performance was successful with more than (300) individuals in attendance.
- Torrance Art Museum's *Studio System Experimental Residency Project* and *Resonance* exhibitions opens Saturday, June 1, 2024.
- The Torrance Rose Float Association met with Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee on Saturday, May 15, 2024, to present conceptual design; an Item is scheduled for City Council review on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hsiao moved to accept and file Item 7C. Commissioner Carrasco seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

**7D. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – REVIEW CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REGARDING CONSOLIDATING CITY COMMISSIONS**

Community Services Director La Rock presented Item 7D:

Community Services Director La Rock stated that City Council did not act on consolidation of city commissions. The idea of consolidating commissions reflected a modernization of commission process, cross division activities, and studying neighboring cities who have consolidated their Commissions.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**7E. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – ASSIGN EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD CATEGORY NOMINATIONS**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7E.

Members of the Commission spoke selecting their Excellence in Arts Award categories to present.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carrasco moved to accept nominations of each Commissioner's choice for the Excellence in Arts Award categories which include Commission Carrasco presenting the Dance category, Commissioner Hsiao presenting the Emerging Artist category, Commissioner Kraemer presenting the Visual Arts category, and Commissioner Polcari presenting the Music category. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Polcari announced the Names on the Wall event scheduled Monday, May 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Polcari announced the Annual Tea taking place in August 2024.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** At 8:31 p.m., Commissioner Hsiao moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polcari; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Klinenberg and Cabrera absent).

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For Commission Meeting  
June 17, 2024

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission receive and file updates on the Cultural Services Division. The following is information regarding Cultural Services Division programs and facilities for June 2024:

- The first Utility Box at Torrance Blvd and Madrona Avenue will be wrapped on June 25, 2024.
- Torrance Summer Nights brought in over a thousand people each for both Taylor Nation and Britain's Finest concerts held the first two Saturdays in June. Soul 3 Sixty will perform July 22, 2024.
- Studio System, the experimental art residency where 12 artists create new works inside the Museum, opened to the public on Saturday June 1, 2024, and will end with a closing reception on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- TRYST, the world's largest art fair for alternative galleries, will open at the Del Amo Crossing building, August 23 through 25, 2024, with artist-run galleries presenting emerging artists from around the world. These organizations will come from Southern California and across the nation, including Chicago, Oakland, Dallas, New York and other cities as well as spaces from abroad, including Australia, Romania, Japan, Armenia, Mexico, Albania, Italy, Ukraine, Norway, and Netherlands.
- NOMAD, our annual, giant pop-up exhibition featuring rising stars and recognized artists from the Southern California area, will also reappear at the Del Amo Crossing alongside TRYST.
- The Torrance Theatre Company's production of IT'S ONLY A PLAY has received two rave reviews: Stage and Cinema by Shari Barrett and Stage Scene LA by Steven Stanley. There are limited seats left and the show closes June 22, 2024.
- The Torrance Theatre Company summer musical has been cast and the company begins rehearsals next week. The musical will be directed by Glenn Kelman.

- We are cleaning up Torrance Park for the Park's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the launch of the new Theatre Camps. We'll be there Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- The Summer Session of classes and camps begins on June 17, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Harte", written in a cursive style.

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Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager



**STUDIO SYSTEM**

**ATTACHMENT A**



TRYST ALTERNATIVE ART FAIR

ATTACHMENT B



## IT'S ONLY A PLAY

## ATTACHMENT C

Theater Review: IT'S ONLY A PLAY (Torrance Theatre Company)



[Stage and Cinema](#) Arts and Entertainment Reviews  
by [SHARI BARRETT](#) on *JUNE 8, 2024*  
in [THEATER-LOS ANGELES](#)

### FRANTIC ANTICS FUEL THE HUMOR

Terrence McNally updated his 1986 Off-Broadway comedy *It's Only a Play* for Broadway in 2014 featuring an all-star cast including F. Murray Abraham, Matthew Broderick, Stockard Channing, Nathan Lane, and Megan Mullally. It's a farcical, devilishly witty look behind the scenes at the opening night party of a play whose cast, director and producer have good reasons to be worried about its soon-to-be-published reviews. We get to be a fly on the wall, witnessing the wide range frantic antics and range of human emotions that allow us to see our own frailties.

Since McNally believes the purpose of theater is to explore what connects us as human beings and how to build bridges between people, it makes perfect sense he knew exactly what it is like waiting backstage for the critics' reviews, which somehow were published within hours of a play's Broadway opening night performance. And since there is no way of knowing exactly what will go wrong, there is no doubt something will happen for the first time on opening night.

Directed by **Cate Caplin** with a real appreciation of McNally's wit and a keen sense of how to keep the actors moving at a pace that perfectly reflects their intense emotional

turmoil, *It's Only a Play* takes us inside the master bedroom suite of producer Julia Budder's luxurious Manhattan townhouse where the cast and production team are gathering, while a who's who list of celebrities is gathering downstairs to eat and drink their way into the wee hours of the morning after the opening night of Peter Austin's new play *The Golden Egg*. And the cast at **Torrance Theatre Company** perfectly encapture each of their roles, dressed-to-the-nines by master Costume Designer **Michael Mullen**.

With his career on the line, Peter the nervous playwright (**Bradley James Holzer**) is excited to share his big First Night with his "best" friend James Wicker (**Todd Andrew Ball**), now a well-known television series star who passed on playing the lead role knowing the play would be a turkey; his novice producer Julia Budder (**Jennifer Faneuff**) who glides across the stage; doped-up ankle bracelet-wearing leading lady diva Virginia Noyes (curvaceous **Kate Patel**); furiously self-absorbed British director Frank Finger (**Theodore Coonradt** who commands the stage with his antics); and lethal drama critic Irene Drew (**Cat Rahm**) who shows up with her own hidden agenda and winds up covered in spaghetti.

All the guests are attended to by the wide-eyed innocent, fresh-off-the-bus coat check attendant Gus Head (**Ronan Meade**) on his first night in Manhattan. During the talkback, Meade shared this is his first play in Los Angeles after moving here to pursue his acting career. It was wise of Ms. Caplin to nab him for this role.

Knowing full well how New York opening nights go, McNally sets the quick-paced banter as alternately raucous, ridiculous, and tender. Across the two acts boasting almost as many Broadway name-drops as punch lines, the talented cast under Caplin's pinpoint artistic vision delivered their intersecting lines with perfect comic timing, obviously knowing how important it is to both give and take with your fellow actors. And all the while, non-stop entrances, exits and laughs abounded. Don't miss this barb-filled love letter to the madness of high-stakes New York theater.

## IT'S ONLY A PLAY

### [Stage Scene LA](#)

By Steven Stanley on June 9, 2024

Torrance Theatre Company closes its 2023-24 season with the most impeccably cast, directed, performed, and designed of the three productions I've seen of Terrence McNally's backstage comedic gem *It's Only A Play*.

It's opening night on Broadway, and playwright Peter Austin (Bradley James Holzer) isn't the only one awaiting reviews for his newest opus *The Golden Egg*.

So are the its director, its leading lady, Peter's best friend, an infamous theater critic, and a starstruck fledgling actor who's booked his first Broadway gig: carrying guests' coats to the luxurious upstairs bedroom where the abovementioned luminaries have gathered as partygoers celebrate the show's opening one floor below.

Malaprop-popping producer Julia Budder (Jennifer Faneuff) may have a tendency to misquote Irving Berlin ("There's no business like the one we're in!"), but if anyone deserves the Tony speech she hopes to deliver when awards season rolls around, it's this daffiest of theater-loving ducklings.

Hollywood superstar Virginia Noyes (Kate Patel) has returned to Broadway fresh from an Oscar win (and a not so successful rehab stint) with an ankle bracelet to ensure she doesn't evade parole.

Wunderkind British director Sir Frank Finger (Theodore Coonradt) has garnered so many rave reviews, there's nothing he wants more now than a first-ever pan, and in the meantime, if he happens to display a certain tendency towards kleptomania, being knighted while still in your 20s does sort of put the pressure on.

Peter's longtime bff James Wicker (Todd Andrew Ball) ought by rights to have been starring in tonight's opus had he not achieved sitcom fame some nine seasons back, though with *Out On A Limb* on its last legs, he might just wish the part had been his after all.

Drama critic Irene Drew (Cat Rahm) may not have achieved her New York Times counterpart's make-it-or-break-it status where reviewing is concerned, but her venomous write-ups are the stuff of legend.

Fresh-faced, fresh-off-the-bus Broadway hopeful Gus P. Head (Ronan Meade) can't believe his luck in securing tonight's gig as coat-check boy that has him hobnobbing with Broadway's brightest.

And last but definitely not least, playwright Peter finds himself wishing and hoping and thinking and praying and planning and dreaming that The Golden Egg won't lay one, though with a title like that, critics' daggers may soon be out.

Anyone who's ever done theater in any capacity will find much to identify with in It's Only A Play, and if you happen to know who Tommy Tune, Daniel Radcliffe, Harvey Fierstein, and others of their Broadway status are, so much the better.

But even if the closest you've ever come to the Great White Way is a season ticket to Torrance Theatre Company, you're in for two acts of laughter to do Neil Simon proud.

Fresh from directing Arthur Miller's A View From The Bridge at Theatre Palisades, Cate Caplin makes it two winners in a row with It's Only A Play, eliciting a septet of comedic star turns every bit as memorable as her previous cast's dramatic work.

Surrounded by Caplin's handpicked cast, Ball's supremely, sophisticatedly catty James is even better in 2024 than he was when he dazzled in the role last year; Patel is movie star glamour personified and as gorgeous and talented as if she were the love child of Meryl Streep and Angelina Jolie; and Holzer's leading man looks and charisma are matched by his comedic *and* dramatic chops. (His Act Two tears had me shedding some of my own.)

Coonradt skewers every pretentious, overpraised British director to perfection, Faneuff's Julia is as delightfully sweet and sincere as she is befuddled, and Rahm's amusingly quirky Irene (originally Ira) makes it clear that Paulene Kael has tough competition in the cutthroat critic department.

Last but not least, newcomer Meade gives Gus a wide-eyed and eager-to-learn innocence that proves downright irresistible.

Jorge Macias's elegant New York apartment set (scenic painting by Diedre Allabashi), Michael Mullen's costume design finery, Steve Giltner's expert lighting Macias's spot-on sound design are all of regional theater caliber.

Daniel Scipio is stage manager, Jonathan Strand is assistant stage manager, and Cary Jordahl is technical director.

You don't have to know the difference between Chita and Rita or Bens Franklin and Brantley to fall for It's Only A Play, and if you do, you'll love it even more. In either case, this is community theater at its pro-caliber best.