

Article from "The Mickaboo Bird Rescue Companion"
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City Lights Theater is for the Birds!

By Rebecca Wallace, Marketing Director, City Lights Theater Company



Famed author Trig (played by Andrew Cooperfauss) has quite the effect on aspiring actress Nina (Sarah Hess).

This fall, Mickaboo is taking center stage in downtown San Jose, thanks to a partnership with City Lights Theater Company. For each show, City Lights chooses a different nonprofit organization to support, and Mickaboo is the partner for the dark comedy *Stupid F**king Bird*, Aaron Posner's adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull*.

The title may be irreverent, but the partnership is sincere. City Lights is promoting Mickaboo's good work to the arts community through social media, emails to its patrons, and two large displays in the theater. On Sunday, Oct. 8, Mickaboo CEO Michelle Yesney will give a curtain speech before the 2 p.m. matinee of *Bird*, and City Lights will donate 25% of the proceeds from regular-priced single-ticket sales for that day to Mickaboo.

In addition, when you buy a ticket to any performance of *Bird* and give the promo code "Mickaboo," City Lights will donate another \$5 to our organization. The show runs through Oct. 15: Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2. If you go, make sure you see the Mickaboo displays of beautiful, large photos of rescue birds!

Bird opened Sept. 14 and is getting raves as a funny, moving play that stays true to the sly humor and poignancy of the classic while updating it for today's theatergoers. It's not your father's Chekhov, that's for sure.

Playwright Posner, who has also adapted other works by Chekhov, Shakespeare and Chaim Potok, moves the action to a modern-day country house where unrequited desire drowns in sarcasm and alcohol. Characters including actresses, writers and even a ukulele-playing cook—all fully aware they're in a play—bare their souls as they struggle to find the truths of life. And everyone discovers the disappointments of art, love and growing up.

The *LA Weekly* has called *Bird* "the best Chekhov adaptation in two decades," while the *Washington Post* said it's "a funny, moving slugfest." And what does playwright Posner say about the title? Well, he chose it for a reason. "It lets people know in no uncertain terms what kind of a play they are going to see," he once said in an interview with the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia. "If you don't want to hear colorful language or are not comfortable with passion...and adult complexities of life...then this is perhaps not the play for you."

Bird is directed by director/playwright Kirsten Brandt, formerly associate artistic director of San Jose Repertory Theatre; and stars Tasi Alabastro, Andrew Cooperfauss, Stefan Fisher, April Green, Sarah Haas, Jacob Marker and Sharon Shao. The play features original ukulele songs by James Sugg.

City Lights Theater is in downtown San Jose at 529 S. Second St, between William and Reed. For more information or to buy tickets, go to cltc.org or call 408-295-4200. Remember to mention "Mickaboo" to help the birds!