

TheWesternStage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Written by Jeffrey T. Heyer

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Squirrel Girl Goes to College: A Squirrel Girl Play

by Karen Zacarias

Based on the Marvel Comics by

Will Murray & Steve Ditko

THE STORY:

Fans of the *Squirrel Girl* television cartoon and people of all ages who like fun now have their chance to see Squirrel Girl and her squirrel friend Tippy-Toe come to full, three-dimensional life in the same room with them. College students portray such Marvel Universe Superstars as Doreen/Squirrel Girl (Hannah Rebancos), Tippy-Toe (Misha Delgado Martinez), the dreadful Doctor Doom (Patric Tipton), Chipmunk Hunk (Quentin Gutierrez), Doreen's new college companion Nancy (Maria Elena Mejia Contreras) and the mental meanie MODOC (Gabriel Lipow). These epic characters are supported by Prof. Brightmind (Ashley Marshall), Freak (Lilijana De Jesus) and a Squirrel Chorus (et al).

The story is a classic Marvel struggle with a dual identity. Through a strange quirk of fate, Doreen Green gained all the proportionate powers of a squirrel. She combines these with all the amazing powers of a girl to become the only champion in the Marvel Multiverse who has never been defeated: Squirrel Girl!

Now, in her everyday guise of Doreen she faces the daunting challenge of graduating from High School and moving on to Empire State University. There she hopes, above all, to make new friends—human beings for a change, instead of fellow squirrels. But with Doctor Doom on her tail, must Doreen turn her back on her secret identity in order to protect her friends from the twisted but brilliant Latverian super-scientist? Can she keep her superhero alter-ego a secret when her favorite computer science professor mysteriously disappears? Or will her inner squirrel spring forth to save the day?

If you want a live experience with a famous superhero who's super excited about squirrels, nuts and kicking butts for justice, come see the 2X4 Bash production of *Squirrel Girl Goes to College!*

But, wait! What is this mysterious “2X4BASH,” you ask? Flashback to 2011 when then TWS Artistic Director Jon Patrick Selover extended TWS’ Outreach offerings with a program for entertainment career-bound theatre artists in their twenties where they would gain a broader, more self-directed experience in creating theater. Teams would produce challenging plays that strike the audience like a 2x4 bash in the head—”Theatre on the edge”, as the program was subtitled. “Bashers” do everything themselves to necessary to produce these plays under the guidance of Theatre professionals.

To quote the 2x4 BASH mission statement:

2x4 BASH provides an opportunity for the next generation of theatre artists to collaborate, innovate and educate through provocative contemporary works. We challenge artists and audiences alike to approach theatre from new perspectives and invite all to connect their own life experience with the work.

As for why *Squirrel Girl* in 2023?: COVID greatly reduced the ability of TWS to produce shows and to teach classes and 2X4, like many other TWS Outreach programs, was put on hiatus while staff worked to re-open the theater. Last year Interim Artistic Director Melissa Chin-Parker chose this unusual piece as the medium for reviving The 2x4BASH in a fun and imaginative way, and on a smaller scale because Hartnell’s Performing Arts Center and home of TWS is under renovation construction in 2023, making rehearsals and producing outside of a theatre environment more difficult. Barring any additional large-scale and unexpected challenges, TWS plans to return to a full 2x4BASH offering in 2024.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Marvel Entertainment Inc., owner of all Marvel Comics and their characters has branched out from comics, movies and television to theater! As Joe Quesada, Chief Creative Officer puts it, “Marvel Spotlight is an all-new way to experience some of the greatest heroes ever. But the best part is that we get to watch you interpret them in your own way as you expand the Marvel Universe into a whole new medium (yes, and then we can claim complete and utter world domination).... So now, if you'd indulge me, take a deep breath and say it with me loud, so that they call down from the hallowed halls of Asgard complaining about the noise: Move over Shakespeare! Take a seat, Chekhov! Here comes Marvel Spotlight!”

THE AUTHOR:

OK, but who wrote this play? None other than Karen Zacarías, one of the most produced playwrights in the world. She penned such award-winners as “The Book Club Play,” “Just Like Us,” the Steinberg citation award play “Legacy of Light,” the Francesca Primus Award-winning play “Mariela in the Desert,” the Helen Hayes Award-winning play “The Sins of Sor Juana” and the delightful “Native Gardens,” produced at TWS under COVID conditions in 2021.

Directed by: **River Navaille**

Costume design by **Ashley Marshall - Niki Moon**

Hair and Makeup design by **Ashley Marshall - Niki Moon**

Lighting design by: **Cory Trachsel - Dante Carballo**

Scenic design by: **Cory Trachsel**
Sound design by: **Dante Carballo**
Stage Manager: **Mireya Pamatz**

CAST LIST

Squirrel Girl (Doreen Green): **Hannah Rebancos**
Tippy-Toe: **Misha Delgado Martinez**
Doctor Doom/Chipmunk/Lil Georgie/Squirrel Girl Chorus: **Patric Tipton**
Tomás: **Quentin Gutierrez**
Nancy: **Maria Elena Mejia-Contreras**
Brightmind/Good Teacher/Smartnoggin/Mean Teacher/Squirrel Girl Chorus: **Ashley Marshall**
Freak/Lil Nancy/Lil Tomás/Squirrel Girl Chorus: **Lilijana De Jesus**
MODOC/Squirrel Girl Chorus: **Gabriel Lipow**

WHEN

DATES, March 24, 25, 26, 31 April 1, 2 Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE

Steinbeck Hall in the Student Center at Hartnell College main campus.
411 Central Avenue Salinas, CA 93901

TICKETING INFORMATION

Adult, Seniors/Military/Teachers \$18; Students \$16 (Hartnell Students FREE); Youths (5-15) \$12;
Group tickets available by contacting the TWS Box Office.

Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com or call (831) 755-6816.

ACCOMMODATIONS

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the ticket office at least one week prior to the event.

CURRENT COVID-19 INFORMATION

The Western Stage is not requiring COVID vaccine or proof of a negative test result at this time. Ticket holders are asked to not attend the event if they have COVID-19 like symptoms and have **not** tested for COVID-19, have been recently exposed to COVID-19 or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. This policy is subject to change based increase infection rates and or Hartnell College policy updates.

ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that provides opportunities for the creative process and high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and believing that strong arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, The Western Stage endeavors to offer a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill

development that address the need for a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts may engage in theatre production while working side-by-side with theatre professionals. Through its annual production season, The Western Stage endeavors to provide strong pathways and development for artists throughout the continuum of a career in theatre and its related performing arts. The Western Stage develops new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and provides educational opportunities for students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talent. www.westernstage.com

ABOUT HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED 1920

The Hartnell CCD serves more than 17,000 students annually through its main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus in East Salinas, and education centers in King City, Soledad, and Castroville. Hartnell College is a Hispanic Serving Institution that provides associate degrees and certificate programs. It prepares students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities and to enter the workforce with necessary skills. Hartnell College is known for its innovative public and private partnerships that support world class education for STEM, career technical education, fine and performing arts, humanities and social sciences, nursing and health sciences, and athletics. We are proud to be winners of the 2015 Innovation Award for CSin3 –a Computer Science collaboration with CSU Monterey Bay that leads to a bachelor's degree in three years. **We are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement and achievement.** For more about Hartnell CCD, visit www.hartnell.edu.

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