An 'Ideal' Mix of Wit and Deceit at Town Hall Theatre

By Kara Navolio



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Heather Kellogg, DC Scarpelli and Dana Lewenthal in "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde, June 1-June 24 at Town Hall Theatre in Lafavette. Photo Stu Selland

Wilde's "An Ideal Husband," run- epigrams." ning June 3-24, with previews June 1 and 2.

risy, secrets, and witty humor scathingly witty and thoroughly Hall Theatre's production of Oscar always been a fan of Wilde's pithy

Wilde's most famous play is "The Importance of Being Ear- 1895 and was revived many times, Although the play is set in 1895 nest." However "An Ideal Hus-London, the themes could not be band" was chosen by Artistic Dimore relevant today. Director Su- rector Susan Evans for its social san Hovey states, "The topic is commentary which still seems so timeless. There is political intrigue modern and its grit. Evans added, and scandal, but the show does not "Director Susan Hovey has added

political corruption, hypoc- hit you over the head with it. It's a modern element to the show by using contemporary music between blend perfectly in Lafayette Town entertaining at the same time. I've the scenes as a nod to the very modern message from a play written in the late Victorian period."

The show, which premiered in most notably on Broadway in 1996 and locally at CalShakes in 2008, poses the question: Is it possible to have an ideal husband? While scandal unfolds, each character learns celebration will take place. June 11

costumes.

Several special events are June 3, "A Wilde Opening Night" atre.com or (925) 283-1557.

that we all have flaws and secrets. audience members are encouraged In the end what really matters is to wear costumes and come for "A Wilde Tea Party" following the The show features well- show. On June 17, literary consulknown local performers: Dennis tant Katie Zeigler has lined up local Markham as Sir Robert Chiltern, authors to discuss the topic of "sin" Heather Kellogg as Lady Chiltern, at "A Wilde Salon Night" before DC Scarpelli as Lord Goring, Dana the evening performance (costumes Lewenthal as Mrs. Cheveley, and encouraged). All special events will Amanda Leigh as Mabel Chiltern. feature small culinary bites by Rêve The design team has created an au- Bistro. In addition, on June 9 and 23 thentic turn-of-the-century set and there will be post-show Talk-Balk with the actors.

Tickets and more information planned for the show's run. On are available at www.townhallthe-

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Award-winning author Fowler to speak at unique writing conference at SMC



profit, announce Bridging: A One-Day Hedgebrook Writing Retreat for writers who identify as wom- participate in workshop sessions en, on Saturday, June 10 at Saint on developing artist statements and Mary's College.

rooted in the student-centered nonfiction; and gain important inimmersive writing approach of Hedgebrook and will feature a keynote address by award-winning celebrated authors and receive imwriter Karen Joy Fowler.

is also free and open to the public.

three short story collections, Fowler's most recent novel "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves" was shortlisted for the Man Booker Lounge at De La Salle Hall. Fowl-Prize and was the winner of the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award and the California Book Award for Fiction. Her book, "The Jane Austen Book Club," spent 13 weeks on The New \$130 and includes choice of one York Times bestseller list and was a New York Times Notable Book.

Hedgebrook is a 28-year-old nonprofit dedicated to supporting women and non-binary writers across a broad spectrum, including age, citizenship status, current place of residence, nationality, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and economic resources and professional experience. More than 50 percent of Hedgebrook's alumnae are women of color, and come from all over the world and all walks of life.

the radical hospitality we practice by email at jf14@stmarys-ca.edu. at our retreat on Whidbey Island in Washington to SMC's extraordinary MFA program and writing commutreat. — Peggy Spear

nity," said Hedgebrook Executive Director Amy Wheeler "There is such good synergy in our shared vision to create space for women to come together, in solitude and community, to write, think, engage in big ideas and work together in the movement for equal voice in the cultural conversation for women."

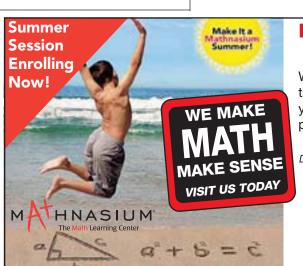
Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program Manager Sara Mumolo said the Bridging retreat reflects a mission match between Hedgebrook and the graduate program. "We felt a deep connection between Hedgebrook's philosophy he MFA Creative Writing Pro- of putting radical kindness first and gram at Saint Mary's College women writing for change within and Hedgebrook, the prestigious our own social justice tradition, women's writing retreat and non- which is unique to our MFA pro-

During the retreat, attendees can press kits; exploring story, plot, and The second annual retreat is character development, and flash sights into applying for writing residencies. Participants work with portant feedback on their work from The keynote address by Fowler other Bay Area women writers and Hedgebrook alumnae, who include The author of seven novels and Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program faculty and graduates.

> The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Hagerty er's keynote address will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Soda Center on the

> Cost for the day's program is of four writing workshops, happy hour reception (non-alcoholic options available), three meals with evening cake and coffee (vegan and gluten-free options available), and networking opportunities with Bay Area women writers groups. Limited partial scholarships are available.

For more details about the Bridging: A One-Day Hedgebrook Writing Retreat collaboration between Hedgebrook and the Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program, contact Bridging coordinator "Hedgebrook is thrilled to bring Joanne Furio at 415-686-8695 or Learn more about the retreat online stmarys-ca.edu/hedgebrookreat



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