'Sense & Sensibility' at Town Hall Theatre

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Nathan Emley, Alan Coyne, Alisha Ehrlich and Heather Buck in "Sense & Sensibility." Photos Stu Selland

Hall Theatre's "Sense & Sensi- the human heart. bility" had already sold over a thousand tickets, and opening de force to direct and drive the night was sold out. Was it all correct boisterous rhythm for a because of the Lamorinda Janeites (fans of Jane Austen)? Or was it the growing reputation of THT or the rave reviews Kate 15 characters, three horses, two Hamill's new adaptation has dogs, two carriages - all exgarnered in the country?

of the play, even without costumes, this reporter can testify that those early ticket holders charming fantasy, slipping unwill not be disappointed: THT's "Sense & Sensibility" will take audience members to the Regency era in a whirling dance a horse, before returning as one full of life, humor, energy and of the leading characters with passion.

Susan Evans, the artistic direc- away by the turmoil of the story. play a second time with casting tor of THT, will direct a play at the Lafayette venue. She changed from Austen's origihas chosen for her debut a real nal plot. It is about the comcrowd pleaser, in the best sense ing of age of two sisters – their of the term. To those who think hopes, dreams, heartaches, lesthat Jane Austen is too stiff and sons learned and happiness in reserved, the 2014 adaptation the end. The family members, Sensibility" is June 2. For that by Hamill will show them that the beaux, the friends, all have night, THT will host a gala with there is humor, lightheartedness their quirkiness and portray an and social content in her work, era where marriage was the only while those who are Austen adpossible future for a woman,

ven before the actors were mirers will recognize her spirit while elegant idleness the only done with rehearsals, Town and profound understanding of honorable career for a well-bred

For Evans it was a real tour play that is comprised of 45 different scenes, in several different geographic locations, with ecuted by 10 actors, eight chairs After viewing a run through and two tables. The tempo is fast, but not furious. The actors deliver with a high energy and der a table to become a chair, jumping on top of a "carriage" to lead it to London, becoming amazing ease. In fact, they seem This is the first time that to be having a lot of fun, carried

The overall storyline has not

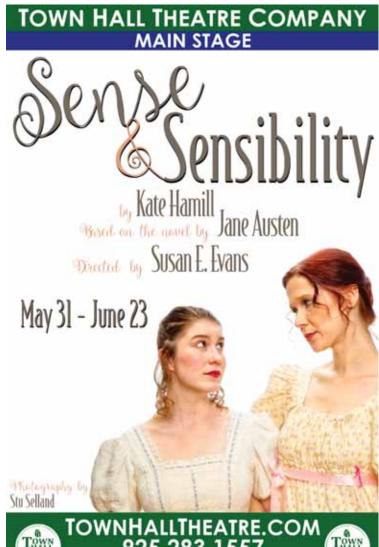
young man.

Evans asked the actresses playing the two sisters, Alisha Ehrlich and Heather Buck, to alternate their characters every week. She says that when she reviewed her casting notes it struck her that the two actresses were equally excellent for both roles. She offered the possibility to them and they accepted. She believes that the result is a greater understanding and empathy with the character of the opposite sister. When this reporter saw the performance, Ehrlich was Elinor Dashwood ("sense") and Buck was Marianne Dashwood ("sensibility"). They were perfect in their roles. It would be interesting to see the

reversed. The rest of the cast is equally well chosen and effective, as well as versatile in the different personae they embody.

Opening night for "Sense & a Regency Ball theme; then on June 13 LIT UP at Town Hall, is a literary salon where patrons can participate; and on June 8 and 22 THT presents Theatre Club, a post-show talk-back with complimentary wine. The final show is June 23. For more information and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.







3535 SCHOOL ST. LAFAYETTE, CA



From left: Heather Buck and Alisha Ehrlich in "Sense & Sensibility."

Host Your Event

At the historic Moraga Barn

- Special Events
- Receptions
- Cocktail Parties
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Wedding Showers
- Wine Tastings Art Show



- Business Dinners
- Private Parties
- Mixers
- Birthday Parties
- Class Reunions
- Seminars
- Benefits

CALL FOR RATES!

Contact Greg Gaskin at (925) 376-7335 or visit us at www.moragabarn.com 925 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Ca 94556