

Bay Area Children's Theatre Premieres **GOLD: THE MIDAS MUSICAL** February 23

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GOLD: THE MIDAS MUSICAL, an original production by [Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (BACT) that re-imagines the Greek legend of King Midas, opens Saturday, February 23, in Berkeley.

Directed by Nina Meehan and Bob Shryock with book, music and lyrics by Min Kahng (*The Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga; Inside Out and Back Again*), **GOLD: THE MIDAS MUSICAL** tells the tale of motherless princess Lydia, who yearns for her father's love, while Midas, devastated by the sudden loss of his beloved queen, grows meaner, more distant, and more obsessed by the day. Hestia, the goddess of the hearth, introduces the story, and reappears to urge Midas not to accept Dionysus's offer to give him the golden touch.

This world premiere with soaring music is the latest example of the new work BACT is developing for upper elementary school and middle school audiences (8 and up). The story contains sophisticated themes, including grief, greed, sacrifice and familial love, and it will be performed at The Second Stage, BACT's intimate theatre in the Berkeley Theatre Center, so that audience members will feel deeply connected to the story.

GOLD: THE MIDAS MUSICAL opens February 23 and plays through May 12 at BACT's Berkeley Theatre Center, 2055 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, with performances Saturdays at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

TICKETS: \$17 - \$28

BOX OFFICE: www.bactheatre.org or call [\(510\) 296-4433](tel:5102964433)

((hi-res .jpg attached of Matt Standley, I., as Midas and Elisha Beston as Lydia. Photo credit: Alessandra Mello))

Bay Area Children's Theatre, Sharing Art with Families for 15 Years

Established in 2004, Bay Area Children's Theatre, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves 125,000 children and adults throughout the Bay Area, with main stage performances in Berkeley, San Francisco and Sunnyvale; programs and productions in local schools; and classes and summer camps in the East Bay, South Bay, and San Francisco.

Our Mission: To inspire young audiences with imaginative productions, introduce children of all backgrounds to the excitement of live theatre, and create an engaging, entertaining, and educational environment in which children and their families can explore and enjoy the arts.

How We Carry Out Our Mission:

- Bring high quality, professional theatre to children and their families, with artists who create vibrant worlds that are intriguing to young audiences
- Encourage young people to explore literature, language, and the arts by producing stage adaptations of great children's books

- Engage preschoolers in the world of theatre with productions specially designed for them
- Develop and perform exciting new work for the stage
- Reach out to children who might not otherwise experience live theatre with free tickets, special performances for school groups, and touring productions at local schools
- Create touring productions for young audiences nationwide
- Partner with communities to meet the need for theatre education
- Introduce children to the joy of performance through our theatre education program