



Idiot String / The Peripatetic Players Media Contact:  
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## IDIOT STRING ANNOUNCES 2022 PERIPATETIC PLAYERS SUMMER TOUR:

### “A LORD OF A RING IN A SUITCASE: A TWO-PART TRILOGY (THE EXTEND-ISH EDITION)”

**Oakland, CA (June 15, 2022)** - Idiot String (Founding Producers Joan Howard and Rebecca Longworth) is proud to announce The Peripatetic Players’ 2022 Bay Area Parks tour. This summer’s show, created and performed by the traveling ensemble, is a parody of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* entitled *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase: A Two-Part Trilogy (The Extend-ish Edition)*, and will play 12 performances in public parks on **Saturdays and Sundays, July 16-31, 2022**. Presented as two shows in repertory, all performances are free of charge (though donations are accepted). Each show runs about one hour; on most days, audiences can see both shows at one location. No tickets or reservations are necessary. For more information, visit [www.peripateticplayers.org](http://www.peripateticplayers.org).

#### About the Show

*A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase: A Two-Part Trilogy (The Extend-ish Edition)* is The Peripatetic Players most ambitious production to date. By adapting a three-part trilogy into two-parts, the Players find themselves banding together and to tell what many regard as the most thrilling story ever told - and one of the most epic. Part One will feature the story of *The Fellowship of the Ring*, with Part Two featuring *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Audiences can come in the morning to experience the first tale and stay to watch the second performance, or return on a different date to see how the story concludes.

“This summer, Samuel Peaches and the Players are packing their entire production into several suitcases,” explains Joan Howard, Idiot String’s co-founder, who also plays Thumper of the Peripatetic Players. Past tours have featured Fluxwagon, the Players’ folding mobile stage, but this year all the props, costumes, and scenic elements will come out of the suitcases -- as the parody’s title implies. Joan says, “we figured that since the Hobbits and their companions had to carry all their possessions during their epic journey to destroy the One Ring, we should do the same for our show.”

Traditionally, the audience factors in Peripatetic Players productions, and *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase...* will be no different. “In past productions, the audience have been cast as a pirate army, alien ball guests, rebel pilots, and flocks of sheep,” Rebecca explains. “As it turns out, this production has a ghost army, pirates, and several other occasions when the Players will need to enlist the audience’s help.” The Players often find a wide variety of reasons to interact with the audience

during the show, and enjoy chatting with audience members both before and after the performance. This year, actors in proximity to audience members will be masked; the ensemble has also taken other precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including regular testing.

### **About the Ensemble**

The Players are welcoming new members into their ensemble this summer. The ensemble's actors play recurring characters who take on various roles in each production. Some members of the troupe have performed at each summer park tour since 2014, including Sam Bertken (playing the actor-character Meekins), Casey Robbins (Samuel Peaches), Marlene Yarosh (Princess Gwen), and Howard. Soren Santos (Percival Perkins) also appeared in the 2017 and 2019 tours. New members include Mayreni Sweis (Admiri Casus of Arcanum), Austine de los Santos (Loxie Doo), and Chris Hernandez (Dr. Moss, the stage manager). Rebecca Longworth directs and plays Madame Directrix, the flighty patroness of the troupe. As always, the Players' backstage antics are as much a part of the show as the story itself.

*A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* will mark the Peripatetic Players' seventh performance tour to Bay Area Parks. The Peripatetic Players' last tour was presented in 2019, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented performance tours in 2020 and 2021. Past productions have included *Shiver We Timbers* (2018), a pirate-themed choose-your-own-adventure; *O Best Beloved* (2014), an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's short stories; and *Shakespeare or Space Wars* (2016 and 2017), the players' mashed-up parody of both *Romeo and Juliet* and the *Star Wars* franchise.

### **2022 Tour Details**

This summer's tour will start in Santa Clara at City Park near the Mission Branch Library, then continue with two stops in the city of Alameda, at Delucchi Park in Pleasanton, Dimond Park in Oakland, and Live Oak Park in Berkeley before concluding at the Port Costa Schoolhouse in Port Costa. The Santa Clara performance is presented in association with the [Santa Clara City Library](#), while shows in Alameda are presented in association with [Alameda City Recreation & Parks](#), in Pleasanton with the [City of Pleasanton's](#) Library and Recreation Department, in Oakland with the [Oakland Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Development](#), in Berkeley with [Berkeley Parks and Recreation](#), and in Port Costa with the [Port Costa Conservation Society](#). The Dimond Improvement Association is also sponsoring the performance at Dimond Park in Oakland.

### **About Idiot String and the Peripatetic Players**

Idiot String is a collaborative ensemble theatre company devoted to inciting delight and activating meaningful human connection through play. Their adaptations of popular stories featuring the Peripatetic Players have toured Bay Area parks and public spaces each summer since 2014. With a cast of eccentric thespians that appear in each show, the Peripatetic Players have created a signature style of over-the-top performance and brightly-colored, unabashedly theatrical stage sets that usually appear on FluxWagon, their folding mobile stage. Idiot String also creates other plays, including *Elixir of Life*, an original, interactive play that toured Bay Area parks in the autumn of 2017; and a new site-specific play, *Port Stories*, that premiered in Port Costa in June 2019, taking the audience on a journey from the historic Port Costa School to various sites throughout the town to follow characters' stories. The company is fiscally sponsored by Independent Arts & Media, a San Francisco nonprofit organization dedicated to building community through media and the arts. More

information on supporting Idiot String and the Peripatetic Players can be found online at [idiotstring.org/donate](http://idiotstring.org/donate) or by calling 510-394-2132.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase: A Two-Part Trilogy (The Extend-ish Edition)* by The Peripatetic Players

**WHEN & WHERE:**

**Saturday July 16: Part 1 @ 11am, Part 2 @ 2pm**

City Park at Mission Branch Library, 1098 Lexington St, Santa Clara

**Sunday July 17: Part 1 @ 11am, Part 2 @ 2pm**

Lincoln Park, 1450 High Street, Alameda

**Saturday July 23: Part 1 @ 11am, Part 2 @ 2pm**

Delucchi Park, 4501 First St, Pleasanton, CA 94566

**Sunday July 24: Part 1 @ 11am, Part 2 @ 2pm**

Franklin Park, Alameda, San Antonio Ave at Paru Street

**Saturday July 30: Part 1 @ 11am, Part 2 @ 2pm**

Dimond Park, Oakland, off Dimond Avenue, one block north of MacArthur Blvd.

**Sunday July 31: Part 1 @ 11am**

Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

**Sunday July 31: Part 2 @ 3pm**

Port Costa Schoolhouse, 1 Plaza Del Hambre, Port Costa

**RUNNING TIME:** 60 minutes per performance.

**TICKETS & INFORMATION:** Performances are free of charge and no reservations are necessary. Donations are accepted. For more information, visit [www.peripateticplayers.org](http://www.peripateticplayers.org) or call 510-394-2132.

PHOTOS:

**YouWouldHaveAQueen.jpg**

Marlene Yarosh as Princess Gwen / Galadriel in *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* at Lincoln Park, Alameda, Summer 2019. Photo by Rebecca Longworth.

**ringwraiths.jpg**

Sam Bertken as Meekins, Joan Howard as Thumper / Witch King, and Casey Robbins as Samuel Peaches play Ringwraiths in *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* at Dimond Park, Oakland, Summer 2019. Photo by Rebecca Longworth.

**DoorOrcs.jpg**

Sam Bertken as Meekins / Gandalf, Soren Santos as Percival Perkins / Aragorn, Joan Howard as Thumper / Legolasgimli, Marlene Yarosh as Princess Gwen / Frodo, and Casey Robbins as Samuel Peaches / Boromir in a scene from *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* at Lincoln Park, Alameda, Summer 2019. Photo by Rebecca Longworth.

**Galadriel\_Prologue.jpg**

Marlene Yarosh as Princess Gwen/Galadriel delivers the prologue to *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* as the ensemble (Sam Bertken as Meekins, Casey Robbins as Samuel Peaches, Joan Howard as Thumper, and Soren Santos as Percival Perkins) listen. Lincoln Park, Alameda, Summer 2019. Photo by Rebecca Longworth.

**BowsCrop.jpg**

Soren Santos, Sam Bertken, Casey Robbins, Joan Howard and Marlene Yarosh take a final bow at *A Lord Of A Ring In A Suitcase* at Dimond Park, Oakland, Summer 2019. Photo by Rebecca Longworth.

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