

MEDIA ADVISORY COPY

CONTACT: Andrew Lion
Communications Manager
510.323.4817
Andrew.Lion@eastbaycenter.org

“LOST SECRETS OF THE IRON TRIANGLE” A STORY OF THE HEART OF RICHMOND

Based on the Book “**RICHMOND TALES**”
By Summer Brenner

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts’ *Iron Triangle Theater* celebrates the commissioning and world premiere of the most popular novel of growing up in Richmond in this generation.

Richmond, CA (February 15, 2013)... East Bay Center for the Performing Arts has commissioned a dramatic script of *Richmond Tales* - a magical novel about everyday challenges, unlikely friendships and the coming of age questions that every adolescent asks about why the world it is the way it is. In this case the growing up takes place in Richmond’s Iron Triangle neighborhood. Both the book and the play touch on the broad historical forces and waves of immigration that have shaped the neighborhoods and trajectory of greater Richmond as well as the imagination of two children who envision a future for themselves by traveling back in time – and forwards....

Genesis of the work: In the national adult reading program –“ One City, One Book” – libraries choose a summer reading book each year for a local community, hoping to engage widespread conversations about literature and reading.

In 2007, Author Summer Brenner was asked to advise *West County READS* as they selected a children’s book for summer reading in Richmond. However, when she and a children’s librarian tried to find a narrative that reflected the rich, complex and critical experience of local children, they were stymied.

In 2008, Brenner made the decision to write *that* book: collecting stories from local youth to weave a tale blending adventure and historical discovery with the realities of Richmond life; and connecting young readers to a pride of place, knowledge of the past, and hope for the future. In fall 2008, Brenner received a grant from the Creative Work Fund of San Francisco to support the writing, illustration, design, and production of *Richmond Tales, Lost Secrets of the Iron Triangle*. The book was published in spring 2009. Over 4,000 free copies were distributed to middle-school students for summer reading in Richmond and throughout the district. Several thousand additional copies have since been printed and distributed, but a whole new generation of youth - and parents - is yet to discover this poignant Wizard of Oz like story of how things are set in motion and bittersweet journeys through time.

Production Partnership with Richmond Rotary: In 2011 Richmond Rotary and East Bay Center forged a partnership to stage “Richmond Tales” with the full production values of East Bay Center and its newly rebuilt facility. Local Rotary members have engaged State and International Rotary clubs and are busy organizing local and regional Rotary members as project

volunteers, working with families of youth participants through out the production period with every thing from transportation and set building to audience development and financial underwriting.

PRODUCER: East Bay Center for the Performing Arts' Resident Company
Iron Triangle Theater, Jordan Simmons, Artistic Director

CO-PRODUCER: **Rotary Club of Richmond (CA) Inc.**

DIRECTOR: Britney Frasier

SET DESIGN Gerard Howland

COSTUMES Danae Brissonnet

LIGHTING Stephanie Johnson

WHEN: **May 16 to May 26, 2013** (six shows times 7pm)
(Preview performance Wednesday, May 15 at 8pm)

WHERE: East Bay Center for the Performing Arts
339 11th Street Macdonald Ave, downtown Richmond, CA

PARKING: Secured lot across the street from venue, \$4 for the evening

COST: **\$10** (\$5 Students & Seniors)

TICKETS/INFO: East Bay Center 510-221-6353 box office or visit our website by going to **news and events** and click on **purchase tickets**, or purchase tickets at the door.

WEBSITE: [eastbaycenter.org/news and events](http://eastbaycenter.org/news-and-events)
<http://www.richmondcarotary.org/current-projects>

About the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1968, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts engages youth and young adults in imagining and creating new worlds for themselves and new visions for their communities through the inspiration and discipline of rigorous training in world performance traditions.

We at East Bay Center for the Performing Arts passionately believe in the power of art to create beauty and new ways of seeing the world. We believe in the ability of the performing arts to give voice to the silent, to unite peoples of diverse backgrounds, and to help realize the fullest potential of communities and the individuals who live in them. We affirm the importance of connecting the creative and uplifting powers of the arts with children and youth who in their daily lives must contend with systemic poverty, violence, and other barriers to peace, justice, and prosperity. We welcome all who find resonance with and are committed to these beliefs.

Our programs serve more than 2000 teens and young adults each year. We offer diverse youth and young adults opportunities to grow and excel as learners, creators of art, and contributors to their communities. We provide broad and strategic community-based and public school performing arts access programs; rigorous individual and ensemble training; an intensive four-year, interdisciplinary diploma program;

advanced internships; and commissions for new works of art. Our students, partners, and audiences deepen their experience and engagement with the life-affirming and community-building impact of music, theater, dance, and media-making from a critical selection of the world's great cultures.

The focus of instruction and performance ranges from blues to jazz, classical European chamber music to ballet, West African music and dance to traditional Mexican music and dance. In addition, theater and film/media production opportunities help young artists – and renowned master artists – build works about issues ranging from environmental pollution to urban violence and HIV/AIDS. For its work, the Center has received recognition and funding from local, state, and national sources, including the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information or to make a gift to the Center,

About Richmond Rotary

Richmond Rotary was founded in 1920 and is part of the 1.2 million member Rotary International community service and humanitarian organization, which operate out of 32,000 clubs around the world. At the global level Rotary is eradicating polio (Polio Plus), promoting world peace and understanding (Rotary Peace Fellows & Ambassadorial Scholars) and promoting community health and literacy (Water & Sanitation Projects and Basic Education & Literacy).

Here in Richmond, Rotary has focused on youth education, health and supporting alternatives to community violence. These projects include:

- Promoting science education and literacy at Peres Elementary School, and the Nevin Center, and the Escape Club at DeJean Middle School
- Healthy youth and families with the initial start-up of the Dan Tanita Free Dental Clinic at Peres, The Teen Moms Project at Richmond HS, and the Rota Care Free Clinic at Brighter Beginnings
- A more peaceful community by supporting The Richmond Rotary Peace Project, Kid Power; and this partnership with the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

For more information about Richmond Rotary and our current and historic projects, please visit our website, <http://www.richmondcarotary.org>