

LA's Only Family AEA Theatre & Top Entertainment for  
Young Audiences - Presented Virtually  
Limited Time in November



**MEDIA ALERT**

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Judith Borne: [Judith@borneidentities.com](mailto:Judith@borneidentities.com)  
(310) 305-7888

**Imagine Theatre**  
**Dedicated Exclusively to Young Audiences**  
**Virtually Presents**  
**“The Tale of Turandot”**  
**November 14, 15, 21, & 22 - Free Admission**

Los Angeles, CA – (October 8, 2020) –What are the three riddles of Turandot, and can anybody answer them? Imagine Theatre (formerly Imagine Project) announces a professionally recorded version of their 2019 production, *The Tale of Turandot*, to be presented online for only four dates this November, free of charge to the public on November 14, 15, 21, & 22. Ticketing: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tale-of-turandot-tickets-124282332803>

Inspired by a centuries-old story, **Armina LaManna** created and directed this popular family friendly production. Geared toward children between the ages of four and twelve years old, it was first mounted in 2019 at The Colony Theatre in Burbank, CA. *The Tale of Turandot* has entertained and intrigued nearly 2,000 kids and their families.

“Enchanting show” and a “powerful re-imagining,” wrote ArtsBeatLA. This production garnered “A+” from Culture Spot LA, giving an extra shout out to the “outstanding acting.”

*“I am so thankful for the work that Imagine Project [Imagine Theatre] does. Our students were able to get such a rounded understanding regarding the elements of theater in the production of The Tale of Turandot. A fantastic opportunity!”* - Leilani Brooks, Educator, Sequoya School, Pasadena, CA.

Here’s what kids had to say after seeing Imagine Theatre’s 2019 production of *The Tale of Turandot*:

- “It was beyond amazing!” - David, 7 years old
- “I hope you make more awesome shows like this!” - Victoria, 8 years old
- “Can I come back tomorrow?” - Angelina, 10 years old
- “It was magical, like the best of magic!” - Emily, 5 years old

The Tale of Turandot incorporates puppetry and video projections, with many other creative elements. Imagine Theatre is Los Angeles’s Equity theatre for young audiences. The company is dedicated to telling stories that spotlight a diverse array of female heroes. For more information on The Tale of Turandot, please visit: <http://imaginetheatreca.org/>.

*The Tale of Turandot* will be presented online, **free** for viewers, on November 14, 15, 21, and 22. All performances will be streamed online beginning at 4:00pm PST. A pre-recorded Q&A with the cast will accompany each performance. Link and instructions to accessing the online broadcast performance will be provided after the ticket confirmation, prior to event date.

Imagine Theatre’s *The Tale of Turandot* is a modern theatrical puppetry experience for elementary school-aged children. The fable, perhaps best known as Giacomo Puccini’s final opera, is set in China and involves Prince Calaf, who falls in love with the “cold” Princess Turandot. LaManna wanted to give Turandot her own voice after reading Carlo Gozzi’s

1762 play and later seeing Puccini's opera, challenging the idea that female characters who are smart, are somehow less feminine, less desirable and less human. In the original tale, to obtain permission to marry Princess Turandot, a suitor has to solve three riddles; any wrong answer results in death. LaManna's retelling, however, reinterprets events specifically from the perspective of Turandot, a young woman forced to get married at a very young age before she has had the chance to explore the world and learn about herself. This World Premiere play is a multimedia commedia dell'arte experience that includes original music, puppetry, circus and multimedia elements.

“Kids need magic now in their lives. Until theatres re-open, we shall produce stories using virtual platforms. We are delighted that to have this opportunity of bringing this production to kids everywhere, and we hope to create an experience that our young viewers will carry with them for a long time,” said LaManna. “Study after study strongly demonstrates the impact that high-quality plays have on children’s empathy and education. We believe our work to be a vital part of raising compassionate, courageous, and erudite children in today’s world.”

**This online event is made possible, in part, by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.**

**ABOUT IMAGINE THEATRE:** Founded in 2016, Imagine Theatre (formerly Imagine Project) is committed to producing diverse and memorable theatrical experiences for kids. Armed with its mission statement: “Imagine Theatre strives to build an empathetic and inclusive society, across cultures, by immersing young people in theatre that celebrates gender equity, diversity and civic engagement,” its founders Armina LaManna (Artistic Director) and **Alex Zonin** (Board Chairman) joined forces in 2016 to research and create a flagship professional theatre for young audiences in Los Angeles. Unlike most major cities in the United States, until the founding of Imagine Project, the entertainment capital of the world did not have an Equity theatre dedicated entirely to programming for young audiences.

“There are 2.3 million kids under the age of eighteen in L.A. County,” said Alex Zonin, “and this virtual performance allows us to reach so many more kids than a production in a physical space. We are delighted to bring our production into their homes.”

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## CALENDAR INFORMATION

**Photo:** Matthew Henerson and Joe DeSoto

**Photographer:** Ed Krieger

**WHAT: The Tale of Turandot**  
(an online production from Imagine Theatre)

### WHO:

Written and Directed by Armina LaManna  
Set Design by Thomas Buderwitz  
Lighting Design by Avery Reagan  
Costume Design by Dianne Graebner  
Video Projection Design by Lily Bartenstein  
Puppet Designer by Alex “Jürgen” Ferguson  
Music by Shahen Hagobian  
Sound Design by Jon Steinmeier  
Stage Managed by Elna Kordijan  
Musical Direction by Elizabeth Curtin  
Produced by Armina LaManna & Laura Hill



### CAST:

Joe DeSoto - Arlekino  
Matthew Henerson - Pedrolino  
Mueen Jahan - Pantaloon  
Makha Mthembu - Smeraldina

Arianne Villareal - Isabella  
Aviva Pressman - Colombina

**HOW:** Upon making a reservation, viewer will receive a link and instructions on how to view the performance, prior to event (for viewing on smart TV, computer, smartphone, or tablet).

**WHEN:** Saturday 11/14 at 4:00pm PST / 5:00pm CST / 6:00pm EST  
Sunday 11/15 at 4:00pm PST / 5:00pm CST / 6:00pm EST  
Saturday 11/21 at 4:00pm PST / 5:00pm CST / 6:00pm EST  
Sunday 11/22 at 4:00pm PST / 5:00pm CST / 6:00pm EST

**RUNNING TIME:** Approximately 105 minutes

**PRICE:** Free

**RESERVATIONS:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tale-of-turandot-tickets-124282332803>

**LINKS:**

Imagine Theatre - <http://imaginetheatreca.org/>

*The Tale of Turandot* tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tale-of-turandot-tickets-124282332803>

IP Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/imaginetheatreca>

IP Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ImagineTheatre>

IP Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/imaginetheatreca/?hl=en>

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