



## 5th and D Street Theater

Home of Redwood Curtain and North Coast Repertory Theatre Companies

300 D Street, Eureka, CA 95501

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### Redwood Curtain Theatre Presents *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* by Lauren Gunderson

We're thrilled to invite you to the first production of the 5th and D Street theater's third season: *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* by Lauren Gunderson produced by Redwood Curtain Theatre Company. This opening production will set the tone for a year of bold storytelling, powerful performances, and shared moments that can only happen in live theatre!

Featuring Redwood Curtain Theatre Company's Peggy Metzger and Cassandra Hesseltine, Lauren Gunderson's two-women show *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* centers on the friendship between two-time Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie and engineer and social reformer Hertha Ayrton following the scandalous public revelation of Curie's affair after the death of her husband, Pierre. Feeling ostracized by the male-dominated scientific community and the Parisian public, Marie retreats to Hertha's seaside home. Through their spirited conversations, the play subtly examines the systemic misogyny and intense scrutiny faced by brilliant women who dare to transgress societal norms, suggesting that even monumental scientific achievement offers no shield from reputational damage. Ultimately, *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* is a testament to the enduring strength found in female alliance and the quiet resolve required to keep one's purpose—and work—afloat amidst a sea of judgment.

Humboldt Del-Norte Film Commissioner and long-time Redwood Curtain Theatre director and actor Cassandra Hesseltine plays Marie Curie, and her real-life best friend, Redwood Curtain Theatre co-founder, director and actor Peggy Metzger, plays Curie's long-time friend and confidant Hertha Ayrton. "In the 30 years that we have been working together, although we have directed each other in shows, Peggy and I have never had a chance to perform on stage together. We have been aching for this opportunity and are so excited to be telling this story of friendship and female empowerment," states Hesseltine. Metzger adds, "The fact that we have been friends and colleagues for so long makes this story so easy to tell. Cassandra and I have been there for each other through many difficult times in our lives, and just like Curie and Ayrton, we love, support and challenge each other on a daily basis. The moments we share on stage are grounded in honesty and genuine friendship."

The production is led by directors Nanette Voss and Julie Benson, with Ivy Carter serving as Stage Manager and Holly Couling as Assistant Stage Manager. The set is designed by Nanette Voss, with lighting design by Spike Foster and sound design by Tammy Rae Scott. Costume design is by Megan Hughes and Catherine Jenny Brown, with properties designed by Nora East. The technical team includes Carolyn Yawn as Light Board Operator and Blue Waites as Sound Board Operator, with hair and makeup design by Lily Herlihy.

**Performances:** January 29th, 30th, 31st, February 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st at 8pm  
February 8th, and 15th at 2pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$25 for Supporter/\$20 for General. Thursday performances discounted!

**Tickets and Information:** [www.ncrt.net](http://www.ncrt.net) / [redwoodcurtain.com](http://redwoodcurtain.com)

**Contact:** [ncrtboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ncrtboxoffice@gmail.com) / (707) 442- 6278 / 300 D Street Eureka, CA 95501

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Evan Wish Photography

**Photo 1 and 2:** Cassandra Hesseltine and Peggy Metzger

***Because life shouldn't be all work and no plays!***