



For NEW Immediate Release:
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www.saratobymoore.com

Media Contact:
Sara Toby Moore
(646) 625-9136

BREAKING NEWS: San Francisco legendary entertainer MATTHEW MARTIN has joined the cast of *THE MECHANIX*! Sara Toby Moore's longtime Drag and Comedy partner will be stepping in to replace Michael Phillis who must give more love to his hit, extended show *Jurrasiq Parq* at Oasis! We will miss you, Michael, but bringing Martin and Moore back to the stage together is a damn fine ride, too! Sara Toby and Matthew have been performing together for 20 years, known mostly for their hilarious portrayals of Mr. & Mrs. Roper in Oasis's *Three's Company* parodies, along with sidesplittingly funny shows like Michael Phillis's *TROG!* and *The Hand That Rocks The Crawford*.

You'll need SEVERAL safety bars for this ride, San Francisco!

**THRILLRIDE MECHANICS, DEBRA MOSK PRODUCTIONS & CIRCUIT
NETWORK with Z SPACE**

Present

The World Premiere of

THE MECHANIX

A science fiction-magical realism-human cartoon production

Written by Sara Toby Moore

Directed by Colin H. Johnson

August 23-September 6, 2025

Z BELOW

470 Florida Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

San Francisco - *THE MECHANIX* is the newest production from Sara Toby Moore's Thrillride Mechanics, San Francisco's theatre of human animation, created and presented with their signature blend of human cartooning, magical realism, a tinge of sci-fi and soulful storytelling. *The Mechanix* is a quixotic story about two ride mechanics at a seaside amusement pier who are faced with a baffling conundrum: people vanishing off their rides without a trace. When a bizarre midway appears alongside the pier's real one they are thrust into an alternate dimension where they must navigate a funhouse of characters while discovering their own astonishing secret about identity, loss of enchantment and the mechanics of how and where we all belong.

An all-star creative team accompanies San Francisco's Sara Toby Moore, the originator of "human cartoon" theatre, a form of Clowning celebrating stories of the human experience through an amplified and whimsical lens. Moore is joined onstage by master clown DeMarcello Funes, Bay Area veteran actor Maureen McVerry, and now by her longtime comedy partner and San Francisco legend Matthew Martin! AND special bonus guest appearance by beloved SF comic Erin-Kate Whitcomb. Director Colin H. Johnson brings a comedic filmmaker's eye to the production with a fantastical sound and videoscape enhanced by Sarah Phykitt's dream-like set design. Christian Mejia's otherworldly lighting beautifully accompanies Christina Weiland's jesterish costumes making for an all-around delightful sensory experience. Pull down the safety bar, Bay Area, this ride is taking off!

For Press Materials and Photos visit:
www.saratobymoore.com/mechanix

"IT COMBINED MOMENTS OF FELLINI, CHAPLIN, DADAISM & MELODRAMA INTO A NEW KIND OF THEATER."

*-Jonathan Moscone, former director California Arts Council & former
Artistic Director CalShakes
In response to Thrillride Mechanics' THE SUPERS, 2020*

CALENDAR LISTINGS/SHOW SCHEDULE:

August 23 (Saturday) - 8:00pm OPENING NIGHT

August 24 (Sunday) - 2:00pm

August 28 (Thursday) - 8:00pm, August 29 (Friday) - 8:00pm

August 30 (Saturday) - 8:00pm, September 4 (Thursday) - 8:00pm

September 5 (Friday) - 8:00pm, September 6 (Saturday) - 8:00pm

**Z BELOW - 470 Florida Street (at 17th), San Francisco, CA
Limited Engagement: 8 Performances Only**

OPENING/PRESS NIGHT: Saturday August 23, 2025 - 8:00pm

Website: www.zspace.org/mechanix, www.saratobymoore.com/mechanix

TICKETS: www.zspace.org/mechanix or call 415-626-0453

\$45 Standard Admission/\$25 Community Access

FOR AGES 12+

70 Minutes/No Intermission

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/726680486412552>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thrillridemechanics>

To arrange an interview with writer & performer Sara Toby Moore or any of the artists from THE MECHANIX please email or call:

Sara Toby Moore: saratobymoore@gmail.com or Call 646-625-9136

(please do not publish)

CREATIVE TEAM - BIOS

Sara Toby Moore (Playwright/Producer/Buff/Dimples/Arlene/Sidewinder) is proud to be a celebrated San Francisco actor, writer, educator and physical comedian. Over a 35-year career Moore has created & performed eccentric characters and full shows for Circus, Off-Broadway, Nightclub and Regional Theater. Moore's rubber-faced antics & vaudevillian style of performing was championed early on by impresario Merv Griffin who licensed her to conjure and perform such mayhem as a flying diva with a hydraulic-rising wig and a spring-action human cannonball at his casino showroom! As an educator, Toby was Director of the NEA-award-winning graduate program The Clown Conservatory at Circus Center and has taught Acting, Improv, Solo Performance and Clowning nationwide to both youth and adults. Other career highlights: As a Clown & Gag Writer with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and a Puppeteer for The Krofft Puppets, as well as leading roles in the San Francisco Bay Area with American Conservatory Theatre, Cutting Ball Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, George Coates Performance Works and Oasis; in New York at Ars Nova, La Mama ETC, The Women's Project and P.S. 122. Her one-person, multi-character circus play *Show Ho* has played to sold-out houses in San Francisco and New York and garnered effusive reviews for Moore's ability to character morph! She also wrote and directed the cult indie film *Homo Heights* starring the late Quentin Crisp in his only leading role. Toby is also the founding Creative Director of Thrillride Mechanics in residence at both Z Space and Circus Center, a physical theatre ensemble specializing in the company's own brand of "human cartoon fantasia," and "human animation folly," garnering rave reviews for their productions of *Wunderworld* (Creativity Theatre & Center Rep), *Atomic Comic* (Potrero Stage & Z Space) and *The Supers* (Z Space). Moore has also won numerous awards and grants for these productions including from the National Endowment for The Arts, The San Francisco Arts Commission, The Fleischacker Foundation and, with co-producer Circuit Network, The Wattis Foundation. She has also been awarded a McKnight Film Fund Award for screenwriting and a Theatre bay Area Award for Outstanding Featured Performance in Michael Phillis's *TROG*, opposite Matthew Martin!

DeMarcello Funes (Dutch) is a dynamic and versatile stage performer originally from West Oakland, California. Trained at the Prescott Circus Theatre, Cello has developed a wide range of performance skills including juggling, clowning, hambone body percussion, African drumming, and West African stilt dancing. He is a star of *Circus Bella* where he refined his stage presence and acrobatic talents. In addition to performing Cello is a passionate educator. He teaches circus arts, clowning and physical comedy at Circus Center SF, where he also serves as Community Engagement Associate of Performance. He is currently a performing artist with Thrillride Mechanics, appearing in their productions *The Supers*, *Atomic Comic*, and *The Mechanics*. He recently performed hambone body percussion and acted in the 2024 Midwinter Revels in Tacoma, Washington. Cello also serves as Co-Lead Teaching Artist for West African drumming and stilt dancing with the Beautiful Beginnings Arts Collective in San Francisco, where he shares his love for the performing arts with the next generation.

Matthew Martin (Boris/Irene The Machine) is a native San Franciscan acclaimed for his iconic portrayals of Bette Davis, seen on stages from San Francisco to New York, Los Angeles, and London. His standout credits include *Awe About Eve*, *Hush Up*, *Sweet Charlotte*, *Whatever Happened to B.B. Jane?*, and *The Star*, as well as starring roles in the film parodies *Hush Up*, *Sweet Charlotte* and *Baby Jane?* which premiered at Frameline. He is featured in the documentary *Queer Icon: The Cult of Bette Davis* and stars as Dixie Stampede in D'Arcy Drollinger's 2020 cult film *Shit & Champagne* and returns as Pixie Pardonnez-Moi in the upcoming sequel. Matthew won the Theatre Bay Area award for Outstanding Performance in *TROG* and recently earned rave reviews starring as Joan Crawford in Michael Phillis' *The Hand That Rocks the Crawford*, a wickedly camp send-up of maternal mayhem and thriller movie melodrama. A veteran of the San Francisco stage, Matthew has performed with Theatre Rhinoceros and, for 20 years, has portrayed Blanche Devereaux in the city's beloved beloved *Golden Girls Live*.

Maureen McVerry (Tessa Needleman/The Cyclonaut) is a Bay Area comic legend and a performer in the Bay Area for the last forty five years. Throughout the career she has been nominated and received several TCCBA acting awards etc. Miss McVerry has acted in eleven feature films, several TV movies of the week, commercials, industrial films, just about ANYTHING but her passion is Theatre. In 2020, she was in Thrillride Mechanics' *THE SUPERS* at Z Space and it opened up a whole new world to her. In TM's *Atomic Comic*, also at Z Space, Maureen played the on-screen character of loudmouthed talent agent Shelly. Most recently in spring 2025 Maureen performed in Kander and Ebb's *The World Goes 'Round* at The Lark Theatre in Larkspur. Thank you for supporting local, original, inventive theatre and sending us the love!

Erin-Kate Whitcomb (Secret Special Guest Voice) is a veteran comic actor and voice artist. Favorite experience: touring nationally with the great Barry Humphries as Dame Edna's long-suffering daughter! She has also been an active voice-over talent in San Francisco and has contributed narration for many character voices to the interactive game landscape.

Colin H. Johnson (Director/Sound & Video Designer) is a multi-hyphenate theatre and video production artist/ educator who has been recklessly operating in the Bay area since 2008. He is Founding Artistic Director of Awesome Theatre, Creative Director of Troubleshoot Productions and former Director of Film at The Clown Conservatory. Notable collaborations include but are not limited to: PianoFight, Playground, Circus Center Cabaret, San Diego Comic-Con, Image Comics, Pegasus Books, Shotz, The Curran, SF Fringe, SF Olympians, 3GT, Quantum Dragon, BattleStache Studios and Thrillride Mechanics. He is now off to grad school this fall at California College Of The Arts.

Annie Tillis (choreographer) is a fool who loves to dance. She is typically found in the booth or backstage on headset running the show (ODC/Dance Company, Smuin Ballet, Magic Patio, Atomic Comic, The Supers), but loves to be involved with Thrillride Mechanics in whatever way she can, especially as choreographer! Tillis has been trained in jazz, hip-hop, and lightly in ballet, but Fosse will always be the key to her heart. She thanks you for your support of live theatre and the arts by attending this show, and thanks her husband and family for their everlasting support and love. #Nebzforever

Christian V. Mejia (Lighting Design) Christian's approach to design seeks to create environments that invite us to lean into and learn something about our shared humanity. His design practice includes live performance, architectural lighting, and immersive entertainment. His work has been seen on stages and in built environments around the globe. He received his BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. He teaches lighting design at Stanford University. www.christianvmejia.com.

Christina Weiland (Costume Design) has been making costumes for as long as she can remember, and has been working professionally in costuming for over 25 years. She has designed and created costumes for countless circus artists and dancers as well as full productions for Woodminster Summer Musicals, Circus Bella and Menlowe Ballet. She is a former ballet dancer and circus aerialist, and is currently a proud member of IATSE TWU 784 – San Francisco's wardrobe union serving the greater Bay Area.

Sarah Phykitt (Set Design) is a very busy Bay Area scenic and video designer who has worked on myriad projects over a twenty-plus year career. Highlights include Golden Girls Live at the Curran Theatre, Sara Toby zMoore's Atomic Comic at Z Space, numerous productions at Berkeley Playhouse and Oasis SF, NCTC and Custom Made Theatre as well as Magic Theatre and SF Playhouse.

Thrillride Mechanics is San Francisco's theatre of human animation and the world's first Clown Opera company. The company was founded in 2013 by Sara Toby Moore and Michael Phillis at The Creativity Theatre in Yerba Buena Gardens with the critically lauded production of *Wunderworld*, a re-telling of the Alice stories in full pantomime. We produce works of highly animated physical theatre, telling stories of inclusivity with a wonderfully diverse and intergenerational creative team. Our primary mission statements: Humor as resilience. Love is the last great technology.

Circuit Network (Co-Producer) founded in 1984, is a non-profit producer and artists' service organization dedicated to fostering the development of contemporary dance, theater, music and performing artists who are creating work of high artistic caliber, deep social import and wide cultural impact.

Debra Mosk (Co-Producer) is an enthusiastic producer & advocate of SF Theatre, and queer theatre in particular. As a longtime former Board member with New Conservatory Theatre she helped guide many a world premiere and classic LGBTQ play into existence. She is longtime collaborator of Mx. Moore's Thrillride Mechanics theatre company, co-producing their trademark "human cartoon" productions including Moore's *Show Ho* and two productions of *Wunderworld*, *Atomic Comic* as well as Michael Phillis's *It's Christmas*, *Carole*. She is now an executive producer with NCTC.
