

Triad High School 2026 Fall Play, *The Ruby Sunrise*
By Shannon Mallrich, director

Triad High School's Fine Arts Department presents its fall play, *The Ruby Sunrise* by Rinne Groff. It will be performed in the school's cafetorium on Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6, at 7 p.m.

For many years the Triad fall play has commemorated important historical events, from the bombing of Hiroshima to 9/11, the publication of Anne Frank's diary to the death of William Shakespeare. In keeping with that tradition, *The Ruby Sunrise* was chosen as a nod to NBC celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2026. *The Ruby Sunrise* is written by Rinne Groff, and the production is

The play is about the invention of television. It begins with the story of a young woman named Ruby, a character partially inspired by real-life Philo T. Farnsworth. A bright, young woman, Ruby is working diligently in her aunt's Indiana barn in 1927 to create the first all-electrical TV system, motivated by the promise of television to connect people and foster global peace and democracy.

In the second half of the play, the play flashes forward 25 years to New York during the Golden Age of television. Here Ruby's daughter, Lulu, works as a script coordinator. An opportunity presents itself to tell her mother's story and have it produced for television, but she faces pressure to alter the narrative to suit commercial and political interests during an era of censorship and fear.

The play explores the personal sacrifices and later commercial compromises behind the invention of television, as it examines how history and personal stories are rewritten and sanitized.

The cast includes senior Bela Zarzecki as Ruby, junior Bennett Figas as Henry, and senior Rosalyn Cigliana as Lois. Sophomore Sophia Rulo plays Lulu, and junior Mason Morris plays Tad Rose. Senior Judah Young plays Martin Marcus, and freshman Ariya Crandell plays Suzie Tyrone. Senior Zach Eeftink plays Paul Benjamin, and senior Paige Obernuefemann plays Ethel Reed. Sophomore Leah Masinelli plays Elizabeth Hunter.

Assistant directors are senior Darcy Maguire and junior Elliana Eichenseer. Student directors are junior Annalee Kennett and sophomore Kendall Kitchen. Trainee Directors are junior Amelia Branson, sophomore Brynna Cushing, senior Calleigh Hart, and freshman Peyton Szegedy. Stage managers are seniors Aubrey Little and Tessa Whitehead with assistant stage

managers senior Hannah Lawson, junior Ava Wilkinson, and freshmen Julie Landolt and Lola McDonnell.

Sound technicians are Gracey Lovett, Renn Rakers, Tate Whitehead, and Lilea Zurliene working with Mr. Kyle Metze. The lighting technicians are Riley Collins, Charlotte Ryterski, Grace Wood with assistance from Dameon Clark and Piper Harms. Madalyn Klingelhoef is props master with assistance from Audrey Russell and Lila Sellers. Hannah Koford is costume master with assistance from Heidi Boehning and Arianna Wiley. Chloe Hudson serves as hair and makeup artist. Mackenzie Hoover designed the poster for the performance.

Mrs. Robin Zarzecki and Mr. Jeff Zarzecki serve as technical directors with Obernuefermann as set lead and a stage crew of Abigail Bednarz, Amelia Branson, Cassidy Crist, Devin Culpepper, Brynna Cushing, Zach Eeftink, Cyé Farrell, Bennett Figas, Blake Frey, Joseph Hunt, Hannah Koford, Addison Lindow, Gracey Lovett, Fiona Macomber, Charles Maher, Leah Masinelli, Ben Montano, Mason Morris, Aiden Nichols, Alexis Rials, Audrey Russel, Lillian Shelton, Abby Stroup, Peyton Szegedy, Tate Whitehead, Vivienne Whitmore. Mrs. Veronica Rice offered technical assistance as well.

Mrs. Shannon Mallrich directs.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors online at <https://dashboard.onthestage.tickets/productions/6ac7b67f4ca0c0067d4d2d03/website-editor/tickets> and \$12 for general admission and \$7 for students and seniors at the box office on the night of the performance.

THE RUBY SUNRISE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.