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It includes cast & crew bios and more!



CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

# BYE BYE BIRDIE

**YOUNG PERFORMERS" EDITION** 

Book by MICHAEL STEWART Music by CHARLES STROUSE I Lyrics by LEE ADAMS Originally Produced by EDWARD PADULA

Adaptation and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition Developed by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

# Apr 29 - May 8, 2022

# Sat & Sun at 1:00pm & 4:00pm (May 8 1:00pm only) • Apr 29 at 7:00pm

BYE BYE BIRDIE is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK www.tamswitmark.com

## Welcome to CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 64th season of the Conejo Players Theatre! As the only 100% volunteer run theater in California, you have joined us in a truly special place. Our mission — "to share in providing the community with a yearround schedule of affordable live theatre produced to serve the cultural, educational, and entertainment needs of the community" — is deeply important to the wonderful people who give their time here.

As a life long theater lover, I have often felt the excitement of the shared live experience between performers and an audience. I have witnessed the power of great storytelling to touch, inform, (and even change) lives. Whether you are here to laugh, cry, or think (often all in one evening), we hope that this performance entertains as well as enlightens.

The theater is an amazing center of collaboration. Each production relies on directors, producers, performers, choreographers, designers, builders, crew members, ushers, and countless others. Working together creates a family of sorts. We welcome anyone who would like to join our family of volunteers - a truly generous and talented bunch. Try something new—we are happy to train! And, as we build back from lockdown, tax deductible donations are gratefully appreciated too. Feel free to contact me for more information and opportunities.

Thank you for joining us tonight, and enjoy the show!

Conejo Players Theatre is a Proud Member of



Dane Marley-Kolt

Dana Marley-Kolb President Email: President@conejoplayers.org



#### Mission Statement

The mission of Conejo Players Theatre is to share in providing the community with a year-round schedule of affordable live theatre produced to serve the cultural, educational, and entertainment needs of the community; and to welcome and provide an avocational opportunity for all volunteers interested in the theatre arts to participate in the many activities of community theatre.

#### **CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**

presents



#### **YOUNG PERFORMERS' EDITION**

#### Book by **Michael Stewart** Music by **Charles Strouse** | Lyrics by **Lee Adams** Originally Produced by **Edward Padula**

Adaptation and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition Developed by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

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Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

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#### The CAST

Peter Umipig	Albert
Olivia Enriquez	Rosie
Noble Crandall	Mrs. Peterson
Jake McDermott	Conrad Birdie
Ashley Kuzmick	Kim MacAfee
Chris Kolde	
Rikka Tignac	Mrs. MacAfee
Phoenix Reisser	Harvey Johnson/Randolph MacAfee
Caroline Malone	Ursula Merkle
Sebastian Rodriguez	Hugo Peabody
Rosemarie Umipig	Mayor
Mia Brown	
Alicia Hortiales	Mrs. Merkle
Carmen Hortiales	Alice
Ivy Kaplowitz	Deborah Sue
Scarlett Valenzuela	Penelope
Liv Robertson	Mrs. Williams
Joel Hortiales	
Calin Dasaro	
Liam Reyes-Ahern	

#### The **SETTING**

New York City and Sweet Apple, Ohio in 1958

www.ConejoPlayers.org

# Production **STAFF**

Director		
Light Operators Eve Kiefer		
Spotlight OperatorsBrenda Miyamoto, Kristina Reyes		
Sound Operator		
Microphone Assistants Madeline Aflague, Carmen J. Hortiales Photographer		
Construction Crew Bob Jackson, John Holroyd, Lee Marks, Max Honigsberg,		
Monica Steinberg, Rick Steinberg		
Paint Crew Rick Steinberg, Devery Holmes, Elena		
Mills, Lisa Ingalls, Mark Suarez, Jessica Boghosian, Emily Reeves, Abigail Reeves, Zack Reeves, Luis Rodriguez, Sebastian Rodriguez, Kaitlin Monroe, Caroline Malone, Christine Kuzmick, Jess Filippi, Logan Filippi, Leslie Peterson, Kathy Mitchell, Stacy Mills, Brianna Csellak, Larry Laffer, Jennifer Sorensen, Raedyn Sorensen, Laura McDermott, Nate McDermott, Erik Sorensen, Kari Sorensen, Miriam Durrie-Kirsch, Dani Kirsch, Sammy Kirsch, David Friel, Melanie Lindgren, Hannah Saltman, Paige Pensivy, Christina Healy, Alison Norman, Bethany Dream, Tariq Mieres, Brenda Miyamoto		
Strike CrewAlison Norman, Bethany Dream, Brendan Lynch, Brianna Csellak, Brittany Campbell, Chris Lanz, Chris Robertson, Christina Healey, David Friel, Devery Holmes, Elena Mills, Gary Saxer, Hannah Saltman, Jennifer Sorensen, John Holroyd, John Wallis, Larry Laffer, Lee Marks, Mark Suarez, Max Honigsberg, Mike Mills, Monica Montelongo, Lisa Ingalls, Paige Pensivy, PriscillaLosey, Richie Filippi, Rick Steinberg, Shelley Saxer Audition StaffKeith Moreton, Danielle de Romo, Nikki Dossman, Mike Mills Audition Assistants		

#### **Special Thanks**

Nikki Dossman, Elmer Umipig, Kaitlin Malone, Brian Dasaro, Mike Mills, Madeline Aflague, Sean Ahern, Carmen J. Hortiales



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# From THE DIRECTOR

Bye Bye Birdie is such an iconic piece – and to see young people experience that is a treasure. What a joy it is to watch children grow! Seeing these precious kids come alive, be creative, sing at the top of their lungs, dance with abandon - this cast has come so far since Day One!

From their first day of auditions, my entire staff and I have consistently encouraged kindness, gentleness, understanding, and fun. I hope that some of this has made a difference in every actor's life, and that they are able to share that with you, their audience.

I have so many to thank. Elena, you have been the most amazing, dependable producer anyone could ever ask for – and all your beautiful costume design! My husband John, thank you for encouraging me all along the way. Oh, and for our fabulous props! Rick and crew, thank you for our wonderful set and set pieces – your hard work is unsung far too often. Rosemarie, your energy, enthusiasm, and patience has made our actors' choreography adorably fun to watch! Scott, music director extraordinaire, thank you for your dedication and your persistence that helped our kids sound remarkable! Mark, the kind, gentle way you have stage managed, hefted and hauled, swept and cleaned, and kept our kids and our set safe – thank you. And thank you, parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles – thank you for supporting your children in this craft that they love.

- Beth Eslick, Director

#### Scene BREAKDOWN

- Scene 1 Almaelou Music Corp. Office
- Scene 2 The Telephone Hour
- Scene 3 Kim's Bedroom
- Scene 4 Penn Station
- Scene 5 Sweet Apple Railroad Station
- Scene 6 Courthouse Steps
- Scene 7 MacAfee House
- Scene 8 Central Movie Theater
- Scene 9 Ed Sullivan Show Studio
- Scene 10 Kim's Bedroom
- Scene 11 MacAfee House
- Scene 12 Maude's Roadside Retreat
- Scene 13 The Ice House
- Scene 14 Sweet Apple Railroad Station

#### Song BREAKDOWN

"An English Teacher" – Rosie "The Telephone Hour" - Alice, Penelope, Harvey, Boys & Girls "How Lovely To Be A Woman" - Kim "Put On A Happy Face" Albert, Ensemble "A Healthy, Normal, American Boy" - Albert, Rosie, Ensemble "One Boy" - Kim, Alice, Girls, Rosie "Honestly Sincere" - Conrad, Boys & Girls "Hymn For A Sunday Evening" - MacAfee Family "One Last Kiss" - Conrad, Ensemble "What Did I Ever See In Him?" - Rosie, Kim "A Lot Of Living' To Do" - Conrad, Kim, Boys & Girls "Kids" - Parents "An English Teacher (Reprise)" - Rosie "Hand Car" - Boys & Girls "Rosie" - Albert, Rosie, Ensemble

#### Meet THE CAST



Alicia Hortiales (Mrs. Merkle) is a fourteen-year-old girl who decided to give theatre a try. This is her first production, not including a school play and some small skits way back when. She loves to play the piano and has been playing since she was five. The cast is amazing, friendly, and welcoming making this experience a great one. She loves to do creative writing and play outside when she finds time in between her classes.



**Ashley Kuzmick** (Kim MacAfee) is ecstatic to be back in the theatre. She previously has played in *Annie, Aladdin, High School Musical*, and multiple vocal showcases with her vocal coach Saundra Aida-Agababyan. In her free time Ashley loves to sing and write. She would love to thank her family, her friends, everyone who helped her prepare for the show, and her *Bye Bye Birdie* family! Being a part of this show has been such an amazing part of her life these past few months and hopes you enjoy it!



**Calin Dasaro** (Tony) this is Calin's first time performing on the stage. Calin is 7 years old and loves exploring new challenges. He recently expressed his interest in becoming an actor. Calin loves hockey, basketball, parkour, and is trained in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. We are very excited to kick off his theater journey with *Bye Bye Birdie Jr*!



**Carmen Hortiales** (Alice) is a 13-year-old girl who just started theater and is loving it so far. She loves to sing, learn, help, and perform. She also loves animals! She really enjoys playing piano and has been playing the piano since she was 5. She also loves to play handbells and has been playing them since she was 7. She'd like to thank her family for supporting her in this new experience. She'd also like to thank the cast, directors, producers, and everyone that made it possible for making it such a wonderful and fun experience!



Caroline Malone (Ursula Merkle) not only is Caroline just completely SWOONING over Birdie, she's also swooning over her musical debut with Conejo Players Theatre! Caroline has appeared in several plays at Hillcrest Center for the Arts, most recently The Curious Case of the Cryptic Catchers and Polly Wants a Curtain Call. She attends acting classes with Gold Coast Theater Conservatory and Off the Beaten Path Productions. She'd like to thank her singing coach, Dawn Walters, and is thrilled to be working with Beth Eslick, Scott Donohue, Rosemarie Umipig and the talented BBB cast. She's appreciative of Elena Mills for being a positive ray of light and strength, and for creating such a fun and positive theater environment. She thanks her parents, and Brother Dillon, for the hours and hours they have endured listening to her singing 24/7 and for supporting her passions – always. When Caroline is not acting, dancing, or singing you will find her on the basketball court or with her head in a good book. Enjoy the show!

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**Chris Colde** (Mr. MacAfee) has performed in several musicals, with his favorites being *Chicago*, *Aladdin*, and *Mary Poppins*. He also plays percussion in the Westlake High School marching band. Chris is very grateful to be in this show and would like to thank the amazing cast and crew of *Bye Bye Birdie!* Hope you enjoy the show!



**Ivy Kaplowitz** (Deborah Sue) is a 4th grader at Sycamore Canyon, where she is the Student Council Secretary. At school, she enjoys writing, math, and reading. This is Ivy's second performance with Conejo Players Theatre. Previously, she was in the ensemble for *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* When she is not performing, Ivy plays club soccer for NPSC Vortex and club basketball for United. In her spare time, Ivy loves to surf, play the piano, and sing.



Jake McDermott (Conrad Birdie) is so excited to be a part of this talented cast! Jake has performed in many musicals including *A Christmas Carol, Annie,* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* He has also done some work on television and films. Jake sings in the National Children's Chorus and plays the cello. He also loves to swim, play tennis, and spend time with his friends, family, and animals. Jake would like to thank his *Bye Bye Birdie* family and his coaches, agents, and loved ones for always supporting his dream of becoming a star! He would like to dedicate this performance in memory of his Great Uncle Kevin and his Great Grandma Helen who were also part of the CPT family. Jake is so proud to be a fourth generation Conejo Players!



**Joel Hortiales** (Mr. Johnson) is 11 years old and the youngest of 3 children. He started theater along with his sisters and has been enjoying it. His personality makes him a pleasant person to be around. He is a smart kid and loves science. Also, he loves to play video games.



**Liam Reyes-Ahern** (Tommy Roberts) Liam is excited to be joining the cast of *Bye Bye Birdie Jr.* after having completed *Matilda* at High Street. Liam has been a Who in *Seussical the Musical* and Kristoff in *Frozen Jr.* He would like to dedicate his performances to his friends and family! Enjoy the show!!!



**Liv Robertson** (Mrs. Williams) has been doing musical theater for over 7 years, and loves every bit of it! She has performed in multiple musicals such as *Aladdin, Mary Poppins* and *Chicago*. She sings in her school's choir, and is always looking for ways to improve her skills. She would like to thank her family for accepting her busy, chaotic schedule. And to thank the entire community at Conejo Players, who are always kind, loving and supportive.



**Mia Brown** (Gloria Rasputin/Ensemble) is so happy to be back on the Conjeo Players stage! Mia started in musical theatre at age 6; some favorite shows include *Les Misérables* (Young Cosette), *Moana Jr.* (Moana), *Annie Jr.* (Annie) and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (Chip). She made her CPT debut in the ensemble of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.* and performed in several CPT online shows including *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* (Mrs. Cartero). Love and gratitude to family and her vocal coach Dawn Walters for their continuous support! IG: @mia\_akemi



**Noble Crandall** (Mrs. Peterson) started their love for performing in elementary school when they joined show choir. Once they got to high school, they decided to start doing theater. Since then, they have been in plays such as *Women Who Weave, Romeo and Juliet,* and *The Jungle Book*. They are excited for you to see how their skills have grown since then and hope you enjoy the show.



**Olivia Enriquez** (Rosie) is thrilled to be performing in *Bye Bye Birdie*. She has previously been in *The Little Mermaid Jr*. and *The Jungle Book*. Olivia has taken singing lessons with her wonderful acting and vocal teacher Maripat Davis. She just recently joined the theatre community last summer and landed a big role in this musical. Olivia loves to hang out with her friends and dance on her free time. She would like to thank her friends and family for inspiring her to do this show, especially her Mother and Stepdad. Olivia is so excited to be a part of the *Bye Bye Birdie* family, it is such a blessing. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Peter Umipig** (Albert) loves to entertain and make people laugh. He has performed in many musicals, including *Flat Stanley Jr.*, *Schoolhouse Rock Jr.*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.* Peter also sings with several choral groups and competes in musical theater competitions with Born to Perform Studio. He plays piano and cello, most recently with the Junior High All-State Orchestra. Peter is an enthusiastic video gamer in his spare time. He would like to thank his *Bye Bye Birdie* family for helping him grow as a performer.



**Phoenix Reisser** (Harvey Johnson/Randolph MacAfee) started singing before he was speaking. He has always loved music and has recently discovered a passion for musical theater. He loves to perform and always enjoys interacting with an audience. He played Michael in *Mary Poppins* and Grimsby in *The Little Mermaid*. He is a member of a Musical Theater Competition Team with Born to Perform Studio that has performed and competed with various musical medleys including *James and The Giant Peach* and *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. Phoenix has also had the amazing opportunity to hone his studio singing skills on various projects for Film/TV/Musical Artists. He would like to thank the Conejo Players family for welcoming him and giving him a protected space to learn and grow in his understanding of Theater Arts. He is so excited and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the *Bye Bye Birdie* cast. In his spare time, he enjoys his guitar, baseball, playing with his baby sister and Minecraft.



**Rikka (Grey) Tignac** (Mrs. MacAfee) loves to perform, especially musical theater. They have performed in shows from their high school such as *Almost*, *Maine* and DTASC *Little Shop of Horrors*. They have also been in talent shows and open mic nights, they also chaired the Simi Youth Council's talent show. In their spare time, they play video games, watch anime, and write songs.



**Rosemarie Umipig** (Choreographer, Mayor) loves to dance! She has been a featured dancer in several musicals including *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* and *The Music Man Jr.* Rosemarie also plays the piano and violin, most recently with the Southern California High School Honor Orchestra. In her spare time, she competes with Moorpark Community College's speech and debate team, where she earned a bronze medal in the California state finals. She would like to thank her *Bye Bye Birdie Jr.* family for helping her grow as a performer and choreographer.



**Scarlett Valenzuela** (Penelope) is 8 years old. This is Scarlett's theatrical debut. Scarlett loves to sing, tell jokes, and entertain. In Scarlett's free time she plays piano, softball, and takes singing lessons. Scarlett is excited to be a part of the production and is enjoying her fellow thespians.



**Sebastian Rodriguez** (Hugo Peabody) is extremely proud to be part of the *Bye Bye Birdie* cast. Sebastian enjoys music most of all. He currently sings at the Los Robles Children's Choir and plays cello with the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra. He also likes theater and has been a part of many plays like *Peter Pan* in Kensington Gardens, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, and Brundibar Children's Opera. In his free time, he likes reading books and listening to music.



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### Meet THE STAFF

**Beth Eslick** (Director) This show has been a huge growing experience, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of so many. "Thank you, Elena, John, Mark, Rick, and so many more! And especially thank you, my precious cast. Thank you, amazing parents, for loaning your kids to me for this time. I love that you all helped make this wonderful show come alive on our stage!"

**Elena Mills** (Producer) is so happy to work with kids again! She is excited to see how everyone works hard and grows as a performer, learning how to be a team and making friends. Elena is so glad to work with "old friends" and thrilled to see so many new people. She is very grateful to everyone who worked hard to make this show! Very special thanks for all parents for their help and commitment. "To our cast, crew and the production team – break a leg! To our audience - enjoy the show!!! "

**Scott Donohue** (Music Director) this will be Scott's first time Music Directing a show at CPT. Scott has previously performed on this stage, playing ensemble in *Pippin* and Dr. Sanderson in the recent production of *Harvey*. He has played music in school bands since elementary school, and now utilizes a home studio to produce music with friends. He would like to thank Beth and Elena for this opportunity to work with all these incredibly talented kids. Music can be a universal language, and despite the dated references in this text, the themes of this story are ably communicated through the notes on the page. Much love to his wife and infant son, without whom life would be that much less fun and exciting.

**Mark Suarez** (Stage Manager) has been involved with Conejo Players, nearly continuously, since 2018. Most recently, he directed this season's opening production of *Harvey* and stage managed and performed in *Bye Bye Birdie*. With his background in modern dance and his preference for black box theaters, he directed the actors to pursue a more naturalistic form of interaction without the usual concern for facing forward. This approach required the actors to explore physical expression. Outside of Conejo Players Theatre, Mark produces his own pieces and new works by other playwrights. This summer, Mark will produce staged readings at the Hollywood Fringe Festival through Seditious Apostate Theatre Company, LLC, of which he is the owner and artistic director.

**Rick Steinberg** (Set Designer/Construction Head) has been involved with the Conejo Players in one way or another since his first adventure in *Pipe Dream*, way back in 1981. He has been seen on stage in a variety of shows and has won awards in both Directing and Set Design. He is an Honorary Lifetime Member and multiple Harlequin Award recipient. He is also pleased that he is again serving as Executive Director of Conejo Players.

Jack Allaway (Lighting Designer) retired as General Manager of the Alex Theatre in Glendale, and has served as the Technical Director for 5-Star Theatricals in Thousand Oaks. He has also designed several sets, including *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Evita*, and *The Elephant Man*. He served three terms as CPT's Executive Technical Director. **John Eslick** (Property Master) has designed and constructed props for many CPT productions, the last being *Almost*, *Maine*. John has many years experience as a prop and model maker for special effects and entertainment companies. He is the Props Custodian for the theatre. Keep shining, Sunshine!

**David Gietzen** (Sound Operator) is honored to contribute to Conejo Players as an audio engineer and lighting designer. David has done lighting and sound for the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse in *Elf Jr.*, and he appreciates this opportunity to be involved in the theater again with his good friends. David's favorite subjects are math, history, astronomy, and writing essays. He plays the piano, trumpet, and trombone, and is on a competitive swim team. David enjoys building computers in his spare time, and longs for the day when he can beat a bot to a new graphics card.

**Jasmine Chang** (Backstage Crew) is excited to be back in the theater. After many years on stage, she was eager to explore backstage work. With this being her second production working backstage with Conejo Players Theatre, she is interested in getting involved with the theater program at her future university. In her free time, Jasmine loves to read, crochet and write.

**Adeline Regier** (Backstage Crew/Camera Operator) has always loved the theater and enjoyed the time she has spent with the people of Conejo Players Theatre. Previously, she was in *Flat Stanley, Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.*, and *A Midsummer Camp's Dream*.

**Pax Losey** (Backstage Crew) has enjoyed watching live theatre many times. His voice was recorded as part of the kid's chorus for CPT's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. But this is his first time as a member of the backstage crew. Pax's favorite subjects in 2nd grade are math and recess. He likes to build Lego sets, plays soccer, and is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He would like to thank Elena and Beth for the chance to be part of this very fun show.



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#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	. Dana Marley-Kolb
Vice President	Elena Mills
Secretary	Sarah Ely
Treasurer	Mark Grisez
Business Director	Patrick McMinn
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Media Director	Robin Rassell

#### THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Board Meeting SponsorBeth Dressed
Legal Advisor Jason Kirkpatrick
Box Office ManagerSarah Ely
House Mgr. Coordinator Elena Mills
House ManagersMegan Brister,
Patrick Rogers, Elisabeth Kirkpatrick,
Dona Pugh, Erin Fagundes,
Carla Ames, Ken Endress
Jess Filippi, Danielle Romo
Snack Bar CoordinatorJim Bukowski

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

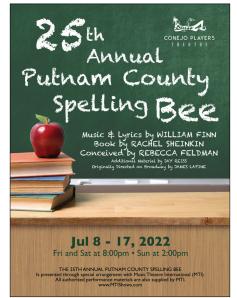
Exec.	Director	<b>Rick Stei</b>	nberg
Exec.	Producer	Beth	Eslick
Exec.	Tech. Director	. Jeremy	Zeller

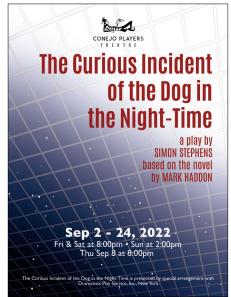


Director Emeritus.....Dick Johnson

Front-of-House Coordinator. <b>Eve Kiefer</b> Front-of-House Coordinator (Thurs.) <b>Sharon Caswell</b> Usher Coordinator (Youth Shows)
ArchivistMike Mills
Costume CustodianBeth Eslick
Furniture Custodian Rick Steinberg
Props Custodian John Eslick
Graphic Designer John Eslick
Pre-Show VO John Eslick
Key MasterJim Diderrich
Theatre Ghost Albert

#### NEXT ON THE BOARDS





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