

# "DON'T DRINK THE WATER"



CONEJO PLAYERS  
THEATRE

BY  
**WOODY  
ALLEN**

"Don't Drink the Water" is  
presented by arrangement  
with Concord Theatricals on  
behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**Jan 13 - Feb 4, 2023**

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thu Jan 19 at 8:00pm

Sat Jan 28 & Feb 4 at 2:00pm

# Welcome to CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 65th season of the Conejo Players Theatre! As the only 100% volunteer-run community theater in Southern California, you have joined us in a truly special place. Our mission — “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” — is deeply important to the wonderful people who give their time here.

As a lifelong 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



*Dana Marley-Koltb*

**Dana Marley-Koltb**

President

Email: [President@conejoplayers.org](mailto: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

# "DON'T DRINK THE WATER"

by **Woody Allen**

Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals

**Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA**

**Jan 13 - Feb 4, 2023**

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thu Jan 19 at 8:00pm • Sat Jan 28 & Feb 4 at 2:00pm

## Production **STAFF**

Director .....	<b>John Eslick</b>
Producer .....	<b>Carla Ames</b>
Stage Manager .....	<b>Mark Suarez</b>
Light Designer .....	<b>Jeremy Zeller</b>
Sound Designer .....	<b>John Eslick</b>
Costume Designer .....	<b>Beth Eslick</b>
Set Designer .....	<b>John Eslick</b>
Props Designer .....	<b>Brooks Roche</b>
Head Of Construction .....	<b>Rick Steinberg</b>
Light Operator .....	<b>Alivia Infeld</b>
Sound Operator .....	<b>Andy Ames</b>
Script Supervisor .....	<b>John Barker</b>
Lobby Board Photographer .....	<b>Jesse Ames</b>
Audition Staff .....	<b>Rita McCaffrey, Judy Diderrich, Avery Sierra-Valdes,</b> <b>Beth Eslick, Jesse Ames</b>
Strike Crew .....	<b>Avery Sierra-Valdes, Judy Diderrich, Jeff Ham,</b> <b>Bryan White, Kathy White, Robert Chambers, Alex Greene, John Eslick,</b> <b>Beth Eslick, Kelly Green, Karen Brundage, Anthony Contreras, Carla Ames</b>
Construction Crew .....	<b>Lee Marks, John Holroyd, Max Honigsberg</b>
Painting Crew .....	<b>Kelly Green, Jeff Ham,</b> <b>Avery Sierra-Valdes, Jesse Ames, Carla Ames, Raymond Mastrovito,</b> <b>Robert Chambers, John Eslick, Beth Eslick, Mark Suarez</b>
Specialty Painting .....	<b>Robert Chambers</b>

## **Special Thanks**

**Raymond Mastrovito, Joel Bauer, Jeremy Zeller**

## The **SETTING**

An American embassy behind the Iron Curtain, 1967

From **THE DIRECTOR**

I've been a fan of Woody Allen's work as far as I can remember. From movies like *Sleeper* and *Bananas* to his many humor books, he has often made me laugh out loud with his absurdity and physical comedy.

The first time I was exposed to Allen (phrasing!) as a playwright was when my high school produced the Cold War farce *Don't Drink the Water*. Even though the play was first produced several years before, the Cold War between the Americans and the Soviets was still going strong, and the threat of nuclear annihilation was still a remote possibility. Allen found humor in the situation while not diminishing it, like other comedies of that era such as *Dr. Strangelove* and *The Russians Are Coming The Russians Are Coming*.

This play has several stock characters we can all identify; the bumbling bureaucrat who has no business being in charge, the "meet cute" couple, the boorish American tourists, just to name a few. But in front of the backdrop of a serious international conflict, they bring levity to an otherwise tense situation.

Thanks to this awesome cast and crew for bringing out the best of their talents to tell this hilarious story!

- **John Eslick**, Director

The **CAST** (in order of appearance)

<b>Raymond Mastrovito</b>	Father Drobney
<b>Jeff Ham</b>	Ambassador Magee
<b>Robert Chambers</b>	Kilroy
<b>Alex Greene</b>	Axel Magee
<b>Karen Brundage</b>	Marion Hollander
<b>Kelly Green</b>	Walter Hollander
<b>Briana Bauer</b>	Susan Hollander
<b>Bryan White</b>	Krojack
<b>Avery Sierra-Valdes</b>	Burns
<b>Anthony Elias Contreras</b>	Chef
<b>Paul Newman</b>	Sultan of Bashir
<b>Kathy White</b>	Sultan's Wife
<b>Brian Tash</b>	Kasnar, Novotny
<b>Judy Diderrich</b>	Countess Bordoni

Scene **BREAKDOWN**

**Act I**

- Scene 1: A late summer afternoon
- Scene 2: Later the same day
- Scene 3: Several days later
- Scene 4: Late that night
- Scene 5: Several days later

**Act II**

- Scene 1: The next day
- Scene 2: Two days later
- Scene 3: That night
- Scene 4: The next morning

## Swing **CAST**

**Jeff Ham, Anthony Elias Contreras, Paul Newman, Judy Diderrich, Avery Sierra-Valdes, Brian Tash, John Eslick, Carla Ames, Mark Suarez**

### Meet **THE CAST**



**Raymond Mastrovito** (Father Drobney) is delighted to return to the Conejo Players stage for this hilarious farce. He has appeared onstage since 1988 for 5-Star Theatricals, Conejo Players, Simi Valley ARTS, Elite Theatre, High Street Theater, and Santa Paula Theater Center. Ray served as chair of the board of 5-Star from 1992-2000 and is again currently serving on the board. He and his wife Cheryl produced 10 musicals on the stage of the Bank of America Kavli Theatre from 1994-2004. He is a retired physician and continues to enjoy life doing what he loves. Heartfelt thanks for all the friendships forged through the years at Conejo Players. Thanks especially to the wonderful cast of *Don't Drink the Water*.



**Jeff Ham** (Ambassador Magee) is thrilled to be making his CPT debut. Favorite roles include C.S. Lewis in *Freud's Last Session*, Ed Boone in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Matthew Brady in *Inherit the Wind*, and Curley in *Of Mice and Men*. His original plays have been produced in Los Angeles and Ventura at Candelfish, Jewel Box, The Met and most recently as part of The Speakeasy Project with Fractured Actors Theater Co. where he also serves as board member. Jeff is grateful for the love and support of Shannon, Hudson and Harper, and he thanks you for supporting local theater.



**Robert Chambers** (Kilroy) has been involved in numerous productions at Conejo Players for the past seven years. He was recently in the production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* this past fall. Previous productions he has been in are *Almost, Maine*, *Is He Dead?* and *A Murder is Announced*. He has also helped design and operate sound for various productions and musicals. Feel free to keep in touch @bobbychambers.



**Alex Greene** (Axel Magee) returns to the CPT stage after last being seen as Prielli in *Sweeney Todd*, and not a moment too soon! Everyone knows that without an audience, actors gradually melt away like the Wicked Witch of the West. Other career highlights include Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Moorpark College), Lurch in *The Addams Family* (High Street Arts Center), and the title role in *Shrek the Musical* (Always on Stage). Special thanks for Mom and Dad for keeping me sane, and G for keeping me honest.



**Karen Brundage** (Marion Hollander) is thrilled to be returning for her third Conejo Players production! Previous theatre credits include *Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Nerd Anarchy*. Television credits include Netflix's *The Politician* and *I Think You Should Leave*, HBO's *Perry Mason*, and CBS' *Criminal Minds*. Karen is currently represented by The Jana Luker Agency and CSP Management.



**Kelly Green** (Walter Hollander) returns to the stage where he made his Ventura County debut in 1995. Kelly has performed for stage, film, and television. A veteran of national tours, regional theater, and not a few dive bars. He is a founding member of the "Bard in the Yard," a Shakespeare in the Park company out of Long Beach; and the "Globe-e Players," Shakespeare's least favorite band of actors. Kelly would like to express his gratitude to the cast and crew of this production for welcoming him back.



**Briana Bauer** (Susan Hollander) is thrilled to be back home with Conejo Players! Having trained for over 15 years in classical ballet, Briana brings a physical flair to every role. Favorite roles include Charity Hope Valentine in *Sweet Charity*, Graziella in *West Side Story*, Essie in *You Can't Take It With You*, and Ellen in *The Curse of Alder Gulch* (Virginia City, MT). To my parents, family, boyfriend, and fur-pup Romeo, "I love you! Thank you for supporting my love of the arts!" Training: Yuri Grigoriev (Bolshoi Ballet Grad & principal dancer with the Moscow Stanislavsky Ballet), Jeff Weatherford (Julliard Drama Grad). CSUN graduate, (Marketing, BS) @brielesque



**Bryan White** (Krojack) is so happy to be back on the boards at CPT. He will always be grateful to the amazing group of artists, both on stage and off, that have made *Don't Drink the Water* a reality! Some of his favorite roles include Sigmund Freud in *Freud's Last Session*, Sgt. Merwin J. Toomey in *Biloxi Blues*, and Paul Zara in *Farragut North*. Lastly, a big THANK YOU is ever deserved for his best friend and love of his life, Katherine, for the continuing journey.



**Avery Sierra-Valdes** (Burns) is excited to be onstage again at Conejo Players. Raised in Newbury Park, they were in Honor Choir in High School and performed at many venues and competitions. They started theatre as a senior in high school with the fall musical, *Cinderella*, and spring play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Their college production was at CSU Channel Islands where they are pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology. In Fall 2021, they wrote for and acted in Camarillo Tales: Echoes in the Hills. Avery's community debut was at CPT in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. They send their love to their long-distance girlfriend, Alex, for her unwavering support. They also thank their parents and talented theatre sib for encouraging their pursuits.



**Anthony Elias Contreras** (Chef) is an actor hailing from beautiful Oxnard, California. He is proud to be making his CPT debut with this amazing cast and crew. Anthony was last seen this year as Rolondo in *Journey of the Skeletons* (Elite), and as the year 2022 in *The Speakeasy Project: Area 22* (Fractured Actors). Anthony's life-long love of film and television propelled him to pursue acting seven years ago. It has been an exciting journey and he can't wait to see where it takes him next. Anthony dedicates this performance to all the dreamers working hard to make those dreams come true.



**Paul Newman** (Sultan of Bashir) has been onstage for 50 years as an actor, singer, musician, and director as well as an event host and auctioneer for non-profit corporations. *Don't Drink the Water* marks his return to the Conejo Players stage; his last performance there was as Max the Manager in *Heaven Can Wait*.



**Kathy White** (Sultan's Wife) is very pleased to be making her debut at CPT! This has been an amazing experience for her. She is most grateful to the cast, crew, and you. Being a Blues singer is her driving passion, however, she does love the stage. She last appeared in Fractured Actors Theater's production of *Inherit the Wind* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Saving the best for last, she thanks her best friend and husband Bryan for sharing life and the stage with her!



**Brian Tash** (Kasnar/Novotny) is very excited to be in his first production at Conejo Players! He has been seen in *The Sound of Music* at High Street Arts Center and has helped out on various other productions in the local area. He is thrilled to be a part of this production of *Don't Drink the Water* with an amazing cast and crew.



**Judy Diderrich** (Countess Bordonni) has been working with Conejo Players Theatre for over 40 years and is an Honorary Life Member. Most recently on this stage, she has been seen in *Harvey*, *Is He Dead*, and *Biloxi Blues*. She is also an active member of The Every Now and Then Theatre, performing radio dramas to raise money for charity. She has also worked in dinner theatre, touring theatre, cartoon voice over, and died horrible deaths in bad zombie flicks.



## Meet THE STAFF

**John Eslick** (Director/Set Designer) This is the fourth production John has directed at Conejo; the first being Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*, followed by *Don't Dress for Dinner* and the online version of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* [REVISED]. He has also directed several productions for the Elite Theatre Company. John acts as well, most notably as Elwood P. Dowd in High Street Art Center's production of *Harvey*, which won him a Four-Star Theater Award; last year he reprised his role as Elwood in Conejo Players' version. He feels blessed with this exceptional cast, some of whom he has had the pleasure of working with before. John thanks the board for this stellar opportunity, as well as his tireless crew; and of course, Beth for making the cast look fantastic and being a constant source of sunshine.

**Carla Ames** (Producer) has been in three productions at CPT: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Maudie Atkinson), *You Can't Take It with You* (Rheba) and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander/Voice 6). She is now trying her hand on the production side, and she has enjoyed working with this cast and crew tremendously. She is grateful to CPT for the creative outlet and community that it provides to her and so many others. She cannot thank her husband Jesse enough for his support of her theatre endeavors!

**Jeremy Zeller** (Lighting Designer) is the Executive Technical Director for the Conejo Players and the "Drew Carey" of the Conejo Improv Players. He hopes you enjoy this production.

**Beth Eslick** (Costume Designer) Beth has enjoyed costuming these hilariously funny actors, and is amazed at their abilities on stage. Beth is an Honorary Life Member of the Conejo Players Theatre, is a proud owner of a coveted Golden Sweatshirt, and has been the Costume Custodian for CPT since 2007. In real life, Beth is a Costume Designer and the Wardrobe Supervisor at Will Geer Theatre in Topanga. "Hugs and kisses to my incredible, ever-so-patient Sunshine." Bethdressed.com.

**Mark Suarez** (Stage Manager) has been involved with Conejo Players Theatre for several years. Some of the productions he has contributed to include *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Last Train to Nibroc*, *Almost, Maine*, *The Diaries of Adam & Eve*, and *Home for the Holidays* most recently. In addition to serving as stage manager, Mark enjoys exploring other ways to contribute to productions, including performing, fight choreography, and dramaturgical analysis. Outside of his volunteer work, Mark also writes and produces new works by other writers.

**Rick Steinberg** (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.

**Brooks Roche** (Props Designer) is a hobbyist maker and professional programmer living in Thousand Oaks with his wife Jenni and dog Carlos. He attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara where he studied English literature and Business. This production is his first foray into local theater.

# SANTA SUSANA HIGH SCHOOL AND TROUARTS PRESENT

 <p><b>TREASURE ISLAND</b></p> <p>Oct 19 &amp; 21</p>	 <p><b>PUFFS</b></p> <p>Oct 20 &amp; 22</p>	 <p><b>FREAKY FRIDAY</b> <small>the Musical</small></p> <p>Dec 1, 2 &amp; 3</p>
 <p><b>ALICE</b> <i>in Wonderland</i></p> <p>Feb 17 &amp; 18</p>	 <p><b>the CRUCIBLE</b></p> <p>Mar 9, 10 &amp; 11</p>	 <p><small>Book by</small> <b>Matilda</b> <small>THE MUSICAL</small></p> <p>Apr 20, 21, 22, 28, 29</p>



**PURCHASE TICKETS!!!**

**SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE CAMERA**

**OR VISIT [HTTP://SSPAB.ORG](http://SSPAB.ORG)**

**SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 3570 COCHRAN STREET SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063**



# Board of **DIRECTORS** and Theatre **MANAGEMENT**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... **Dana Marley-Kolb**  
Vice President ..... **Elena Mills**  
Secretary ..... **Sarah Ely**  
Business Director ..... **Patrick McMinn**  
Facilities Director ..... **Mike Mills**  
Media Director ..... **Robin Russell**  
Technology Supervisor ..... **Jeremy Zeller**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Exec. Director ..... **Rick Steinberg**  
Exec. Producer ..... **Beth Eslick**  
Exec. Tech. Director ..... **Jeremy Zeller**



Director Emeritus.....**Dick Johnson**

## THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Box Office Manager ..... **Sarah Ely**  
House Mgr. Coordinator ..... **Elena Mills**  
House Managers ..... **Danielle Romo,**  
..... **Patrick Rogers, Amie Smith,**  
..... **Dana Marley-Kolb, Erin Fagundes,**  
.. **Dona Pugh, Ken Endress, Jess Filippi,**  
..... **Janet Tamborelli, Beth Eslick**  
..... **Eve Kiefer**  
Front-of-House Coordinator. **Eve Kiefer**  
Snack Bar Coordinator ..... **Jim Bukowski**

Board Meeting Sponsor...**Beth Dressed**  
Legal Advisor ..... **Jason Kirkpatrick**  
Archivist.....**Mike Mills**  
Costume Custodian ..... **Beth Eslick**  
Furniture Custodian ..... **Rick Steinberg**  
Props Custodian..... **John Eslick**  
Graphic Designer ..... **John Eslick**  
Pre-Show VO..... **John Eslick**  
Key Master ..... **Jim Diderrich**  
Theatre Ghost ..... **Albert**

## NEXT ON THE BOARDS

**CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**

# The Secret Garden

Book and Lyrics by **MARSHA NORMAN**  
Music by **LUCY SIMON**  
Based on the novel by  
**FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT**

**Mar 24 - Apr 16, 2023**  
Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm (no show Apr 9)  
Thu Mar 30 at 8:00pm • Sat Apr 8 & 15 at 2:00pm

THE SECRET GARDEN is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**

# Harriet The Spy

by **LOUISE FITZHUGH**  
adapted for the  
stage by **LESLIE BRODY**

**Apr 28 - May 7, 2023**  
Apr 28 & May 5 at 7:00pm • Apr 30 & May 7 at 1:00pm  
Apr 29 & May 6 at 1:00pm & 4:30pm