



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

# 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!



*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.



Let's go to the Hop!

May 13, 2023

5:30pm - 10:00pm

This is CPT's 65th year so we're taking you back to 1958 and putting on a supercool '50s themed **FUN**draising Gala Birthday Party! We'll be celebrating our theatre's past -present- and future, while raising critical funds to support the 'on stage' experience for our cast, crew and patrons.

This sock hop will be filled with jumpin' classic cars, fancy burgers, fries and malts, signature cocktails and hit songs from the 1950's. There will also be both a silent and live auction offering some one-of-a-kind amazing items and opportunities for you to take home.

SCAN HERE TO  
BUY TICKETS!



**THIS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISER AND THE FIRST IN OVER  
3 YEARS - BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!**

**CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**  
presents

# Harriet The Spy

by **Leslie Brody**  
From the Book by **Louise Fitzhugh**

Plays for Young Audiences

A Partnership of Seattle Children's Theatre and Children's Theatre Company-Minneapolis

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

**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

## The **CAST**

<b>Kona Casey</b> .....	Harriet M. Welsch
<b>Carmen Hortiales</b> .....	Janie
<b>Logan Filippi</b> .....	Sport
<b>Alicia Hortiales</b> .....	Ole Golly
<b>Peter Umipig</b> .....	Mr. Waldenstein/Papa Dei Santi
<b>Marisa Nunes</b> .....	Cook/Mama Dei Santi
<b>Eve Hardman</b> .....	Marion Hawthorne
<b>Jocelyn Jensen</b> .....	Mother/Miss Berry/Mrs. Agatha K. Plumber
<b>Jack Lawson</b> .....	Father/Fabio Dei Santi/Boy with the Purple Socks
<b>Eve Kiefer</b> .....	Miss Elson
<b>Joel Hortiales</b> .....	Pinky Whitehead/Bruno Dei Santi/Harrison Withers
<b>Belle Krause</b> .....	Beth Ellen Hansen/Little Joe Curry
<b>Sanvi Poddar</b> .....	Rachel Hennessey/Nadine
<b>Viviana Vasquez</b> .....	Carrie Andrews/Laura Peters
<b>Vada Filippi</b> .....	Gina

## Plot **SUMMARY**

Harriet M. Welsch is a 6th grade spy. In her notebook, she writes down everything she knows about everyone, even her classmates and best friends. Then Harriet loses track of her notebook...

## The **SETTING**

New York City, 1963

## Production **STAFF**

Director .....	<b>Beth Eslick</b>
Assistant Director.....	<b>Eve Kiefer</b>
Producer.....	<b>Hannah Saltman</b>
Stage Manager.....	<b>Mark Suarez</b>
Set/Props Designer .....	<b>John Eslick</b>
Lighting/Sound Designer .....	<b>Jeremy Zeller</b>
Costume Designer .....	<b>Beth Eslick, Cast</b>
Costume Assistants.....	<b>Jocelyn Jensen, Karen Graham-Hanna</b>
Head of Construction.....	<b>Rick Steinberg</b>
Construction Crew .....	<b>Lee Marks, Max Honigsburg, Robert Nunes,</b> <b>John Holroyd, Dick Johnson</b>
Light Operator .....	<b>Kristin Krause</b>
Sound Operators.....	<b>Nick Lawson, Robert Nunes</b>
Backstage Crew.....	<b>Jake McDermott, Nate McDermott, Rosemarie Umipig,</b> <b>Hannah Saltzman, Carmen Julia Hortiales, Peter Umipig, Wesley Filippi</b>
Show Poster Art .....	<b>Nate McDermott</b>
Photographers .....	<b>Armaan Ali, Mike McCauley</b>
Language Coach.....	<b>David Parmenter</b>
Usher/Parent Coordinator.....	<b>Jess Filippi</b>
Painting Crew .....	<b>Eve Hardman, Jordan Hardman, Belle Krause, Kristin Krause,</b> <b>Jack Lawson, Viviana Vasquez, Logan Filippi, Jess Filippi, Mark Suarez,</b> <b>Beth Eslick, John Eslick, Eve Kiefer</b>
Strike Crew... ..	<b>Kona Casey, Lindsey Casey, Beth Eslick, John Eslick, Ritchie Filippi,</b> <b>Samantha Gaske, Eve Hardman, John Holroyd, Alicia Hortiales,</b> <b>Carmen Hortiales, Carmen Julia Hortiales, Joel Hortiales, Jeff Jensen,</b> <b>Jocelyn Jensen, Dick Johnson, Eve Kiefer, Belle Krause, Kristin Krause,</b> <b>Aria Lawson, Jack Lawson, Natasha Lawson, Lee Mark, Marisa Nunes,</b> <b>Robert Nunes, Charlie Oberman, Ethan Shemtou, Jennifer Sobczyk Fowler,</b> <b>Brooklyn Sobczyk, Rick Steinberg, Alisha Vasquez, Viviana Vasquez</b>





## From **THE DIRECTOR**

*Harriet the Spy* was the first book I remember loving when I was young – my paperback copy was so dog-eared it ended up wrapped in a rubber band just so I wouldn't lose any pages. When I found this stage play, so very close to Louise Fitzhugh's words from so long ago, I was ecstatic. The chronicles of the somewhat nerdy, very intense, intelligent 11-year-old Harriet are such fun to follow – and this cast has done a phenomenal job of portraying the characters!

From the first day of auditions, my staff and I have worked incredibly hard to ensure the children that they were safe (emotionally and physically) in our beautiful theatre, and that they are free to be themselves, always. We encouraged kindness, gentleness, understanding, and fun. I also welcomed (and usually implemented) any and every suggestion from all who offered them – cast, staff, and crew alike. It's my theory that this show isn't about the director – it's a piece we have all put on stage together.

Parents, thank you for loaning your precious children to me for this time. It has been a wonderful journey that will live on in my heart forever. Please always foster your child's interest in the arts, in theatre, in music, in dance – and in living life to the fullest.

- **Beth Eslick**, Director



## Meet THE CAST



**Alicia Hortiales** (Ole Golly) is really happy to be back at Conejo Players in her first play, not musical. She has always loved working in the arts and has a few other productions from Conejo Players under her belt (*The Music Man Jr.* and *Bye Bye Birdie YPE*) She wants to continue being active in theater and this play seemed like the perfect way to experiment something new. She wants to thank her parents who have made the sacrifice of driving her and her siblings 40 minutes to an hour everyday for rehearsals and performances. Hope you enjoy the show!



**Belle Krause** (Beth Ellen/Little Joe Curry) is incredibly excited to be making her Conejo Players debut in *Harriet the Spy*. She has been in love with theatre since she was 5 years old and has performed in *A Christmas Carol* and *Cinderella Rocks*. She wants to thank her family, friends, coaches, the cast, and the production team for all their kindness and support throughout this adventure. Enjoy the show!



**Carmen Julia Hortiales** (Janie) is super happy and blessed to be in Conejo Players' *Harriet the Spy*! She just started theater a year ago and absolutely loves it! Here at Conejo Players Theatre she has performed in *Bye Bye Birdie YPE* and *The Music Man Jr.* She would like to thank her parents for supporting her and everyone who made the show possible! Enjoy the show!



**Eve Hardman** (Marion Hawthorne) is thrilled to be making her stage debut in *Harriet the Spy*. She has loved her time with the cast and production team, and would especially like to thank Beth for making this experience so special. Eve would also like to thank her family, especially her mother for her patient help memorizing her lines, and her friends for all their encouragement as she tries something new. Enjoy this fun show!



**Eve Kiefer** (Miss Elson) is so happy to be playing alongside these incredibly talented kids in this production of *Harriet the Spy*. It is interesting to her to be playing a teacher from the era when she was actually in school. Eve is trying hard to channel her former teachers of the time. She wishes to thank her family, blood related and not, for supporting her in her theater journey, no matter where it takes her.



**Jack Lawson** (Father/Fabio Dei Santi/The Boy with Purple Socks) is thrilled to make his debut with the Conejo Players Theatre in *Harriet the Spy*. Jack has been in love with the arts ever since the 3rd grade, and has played Mike Teavee in his school's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* Jack is also a dedicated cellist and also enjoys playing piano, guitar, and singing. He would like to thank his family and especially his uncles along with the cast and crew for all their support throughout the production process of this show.



**Jocelyn Jensen** (Mother/Mrs. Agatha K. Plumber/Miss Berry) is so excited to be back and onstage at Conejo Players! Previous shows she has done include *The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.*, *The Music Man Jr.*, *The Jungle Book* and many more! She would like to thank her brother, Mom, and Dad for always supporting her as well as the wonderful production team that put this show together. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Joel Hortiales** (Pinky Whitehead/Bruno Dei Santi/Harrison Withers) is a talented, smart, and sweet kid. This is the 3rd theater production, but his first play. When not on mic or stage, he is an active gamer with his other CPT members or a speedy bookworm tearing through the books like Percy Jackson.



**Kona Casey** (Harriet M. Welsch) is thrilled to be making her acting debut at Conejo Players Theatre and wants everyone to know that she is much nicer than the character she plays. This is Kona's first play away from Red Oak Elementary where she attends 4th grade and has performed in several musicals including *Suessical Jr. (Jojo)*, *Peter Pan Jr.*, and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Offstage, Kona loves singing, dancing, and basketball. She would like to thank her parents, grandparents, amazing friends, and this wonderful cast and crew who she absolutely loves. Tomato sandwiches for all!



**Logan Filippi** (Sport) is delighted to be back performing on the Conejo Players stage! He is grateful to his family for supporting him and is so thankful to the cast, crew, and everyone who comes to see the play! Past credits include Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Scott in *Dear Edwina Jr.*, *Music Man Jr.*, *The Lion King Jr.*, and *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*. You can follow him on Instagram @ Logan\_Filippi.





**Marisa Nunes** (Cook/Mama Dei Santi) is thrilled to make her debut performance in the Conejo Players production of *Harriet the Spy*. Marisa has appeared in CSPAR's *The Little Mermaid* as a dancer, Trident's Court, Flamingo, Chef, and Adult Ensemble, as well as Princess in CSPAR's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* in the summer of 2022. She has seven years of Folklorico dancing experience and two years of ballet. Marisa has performed at multiple events and has performed many solo Folklorico dance routines. She loves to play games with her family, stepping out of her comfort zone, and binge-watching comedy and horror films. Marisa would like to thank everyone from the Conejo Players Theatre for this opportunity and support.



**Peter Umipig** (Papa Dei Santi/Mr. Waldenstein/Backstage Crew) loves to entertain and make people laugh. He has performed in many musicals, including *Bye Bye Birdie*, *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 and the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony. Peter is an enthusiastic video gamer in his spare time. He would like to thank his *Harriet the Spy* family for helping him grow as a performer.



**Sanvi Poddar** (Rachel Hennessy/Nadine) is extremely excited to be part of her debut play *Harriet the Spy* with Conejo Players Theatre. Sanvi loves acting and developed her fondness for theater when she first auditioned for a school play in the 5th grade. She is a trained Indian classical dancer. She also enjoys playing piano and singing. She would like to thank her family, her friends, the cast, and the amazing crew for their kindness and support throughout the adventure and making it a fun experience.



**Vada Filippi** (Gina) is so excited to be making her stage debut in *Harriet the Spy*. She wishes to thank her brother for sharing the stage, her Mommy for taking her to rehearsals, and to everyone who comes to see the show!



**Viviana Vasquez** (Carrie Andrews) is so happy to be part of *Harriet the Spy*! This is her first performance with Conejo Players Theatre. She previously participated in the musical productions of *The Lion King Jr.* and *Newsies Jr.* at the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark. She would like to thank all of her castmates and staff! When not involved in theater rehearsals Viviana loves horses and started competing in horse shows last year, winning Reserve Champion. Hope you all enjoy the show!

## Meet THE STAFF

**Beth Eslick** (Director) Directing, like many other things, came a little later in my life. After 18 years of teaching elementary school, it just seemed to come naturally. And I must say I love it! I certainly couldn't have directed this show and these kids without the help of so many. Eve, my wonderful assistant director; Hannah, my amazing brand-new producer; Mark, my ever-present, incredibly hard-working stage manager; Rick and his faithful construction crew; John and my beautiful set and perfect props; all the helpful parents ... and my precious cast. Thank you all for working so hard to make this dream come true.

**Eve Kiefer** (Assistant Director) was thrilled to be asked to AD this production of *Harriet the Spy*. The last time she filled this kind of role was back when she was a freshman in college. Eve has learned so much, not only from Beth, but also from the kids themselves. They are a really talented and creative bunch and watching them grow into their characters has been amazing. Thanks to Beth Eslick for this great opportunity. I don't think I have ever laughed so much while working on a show than I have with this one!

**Hannah Saltman** (Producer) couldn't be more thrilled to be part of the Conejo Players production of *Harriet the Spy*! Hannah is a long-time theatre veteran, but this is her first role behind-the-scenes. You may have seen her recently on the CPT stage as Kim MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* or Olive Ostrovsky in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other favorite roles include Sandy in *Grease*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, and "Learn Your Lessons Well" in *Godspell*. She would like to thank Beth and Eve for taking her under their wing, her parents for always unconditionally supporting her love for theatre, and her boyfriend, Armaan, for being his wonderful self.

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

**John Eslick** (Set/Props Designer) John has designed sets for several Conejo productions over the years. Some of his favorite designs have been for *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Singin' In The Rain*, and *The Women*. He also designed the productions of *Bad Seed* in 2012 and *Farragut North* in 2016, both of which won him a Four Star Theater Award. 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!

**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.

**Rita McCaffrey** (Light Operator) is delighted to be part of this terrific production. She has been involved with Conejo Players Theatre for many years. Her participation at the theater has involved ushering, prop mistress and performing. Shows include *Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Mrs. Dubois), *Follies* (Hattie Walker) and *Harvey* (Betty Chumley). She loves to see these young people perform. Enjoy the show!

**Jake McDermott** (Backstage Crew) loves being a part of the CPT family and is so honored to be working with this talented cast! You may have seen Jake recently in Conejo Players' productions of *The Secret Garden* as Colin Craven, *The Music Man Jr.* as Charlie Cowell, and *Bye Bye Birdie YPE* as Conrad Birdie. Jake loves to act, sing, play tennis, swim, and spend time with his family, friends, and animals. Jake would like to thank everyone at CPT for making him feel at home. Enjoy this amazing show!

**Nate McDermott** (Sound/Backstage Crew) is excited to be assisting with sound for this incredible show! Nate was the spotlight operator for *The Music Man Jr.* and has volunteered with CPT during strikes and set painting, and has made cast posters for many shows as well. Nate was Beast in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* last summer, but usually he likes to be behind the scenes in theatre productions. He is a talented painter, and an avid golfer and chess player. Nate would like to thank everyone at CPT for inspiring him! Break a leg, everyone!!

**Wesley Filippi** (Backstage Crew) is really excited to help bring *Harriet the Spy* to life. He is interested in theater lights, sound, and sets. Wesley is usually watching his brother on stage, but this time he wanted to try out being a part of the crew. "I hope Logan and Vada break their legs!"

**Mark Suarez** (Stage Manager) has been contributing to Conejo Players Theatre productions periodically since 2009. He started as a performer and, through his participation with this company, has expanded his skillset to include stage managing. His past productions include *Aida*, *The Who's Tommy!* *Candide*, *Almost Maine*, and *Last Train to Nibroc*. Immediately preceding this production of *Harriet the Spy*, Mr. Suarez portrayed Fakir in *The Secret Garden*. Mr. Suarez received his B. A. in Dramatic Arts from U. C. Davis. Outside of his contributions to CPT, he produces his own works.

**Rosemarie Umipig** (Backstage Crew) is excited to be back at Conejo Players. She loves to dance and has been a featured dancer in many musicals including *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* and *Bye Bye Birdie YPE*, in which she had the pleasure of choreographing. Rosemarie also plays the piano and violin, most recently with the Southern California High School Honor Orchestra and has been invited to play at the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony. Additionally, 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 express gratitude to the *Harriet the Spy* family for such a fun and awesome experience.

**Robert Nunes** (Sound Operator) is thrilled to make his debut in the Conejo Players Theatre production of *Harriet the Spy*. Robert has worked on CSPAR's *The Little Mermaid* and *The Little Mermaid Jr.* in the summer of 2022 as stagehand, security and other support positions. Robert has also assisted Hidalgo Folklorico for several years with preparation and performances. Robert enjoys the performing arts and is always willing to assist.

**Nick Lawson** (Sound Operator) is excited to be a part of *Harriet The Spy*, his first production Conejo Players Theatre. Nick spent his childhood theater-adjacent (his sister was a successful actress) and continues to love all things art to this day. With a background in the music business, he seemed a natural fit to help run the sound! He is immensely proud to be the father of Jack Lawson who is acting in his first production for Conejo Players as well.



## SANTA SUSANA HIGH SCHOOL AND TROUARTS PRESENT



Oct 19 & 21



Oct 20 & 22



Dec 1, 2 & 3



Feb 17 & 18



Mar 9, 10 & 11



Apr 20, 21, 22, 28, 29



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



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

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## NEXT ON THE BOARDS

**calendar girls**

based on the Miramax motion picture by **Juliette Towhidi & Tim Firth**

**CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**

**May 26 - Jun 17, 2023**  
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm  
 Thu Jun 1 at 8:00pm • Sat Jun 10 & 17 at 2:00pm

"Calendar Girls" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

**CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**

**THE AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MOUSETRAP**

**Jul 21 - Aug 12, 2023**  
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm  
 Thu Jul 27 at 8:00pm • Sat Aug 5 & 12 at 2:00pm

"The Mousetrap" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com