



CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE
presents a staged reading of



While there is no charge for admission, we gladly accept donations for the Conejo Players Theatre. Your donation supports the work of the Conejo Players including no-cost youth theatre programs, community outreach and training the next generation of performers and technicians.

donate.conejoplayers.org

For mature audiences – Adult themes and language

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



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

Sage

a new play by **Darrin Ingram**

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

July 30, 2023

Production STAFF

Director/Writer	Darrin Ingram
Readers Theatre Company Producers	Paul Babb, Scott Quintard
Soundboard Operator.....	Andy Ames
Lightboard Operator.....	Andy Ames

The CAST

Richard Johnson	The Old Man
Scott Gilbert	The Park Keeper
Abby Cluster	The Mother
Tanner Redman	The Son
Santiago Rodriguez	The Little Boy
Scott Quintard	The Best Friend
Samantha Netzen Bingham	The Nurse
Bella Phillips	The Runner
Melissa Harkness	The Chef/Contestant
Skyler Ingram	The Young Man/Contestant
Eddie Speirs	The Bagel Man/Game Show Host
Rita McCaffrey	Narrator

SUMMARY

A slice of life piece set in a park where the central characters, a retired widower and an autistic park keeper, navigate the personalities and challenges of the park regulars. When tragedy strikes one of their own, how will they overcome their differences to bring hope to those who need it most?

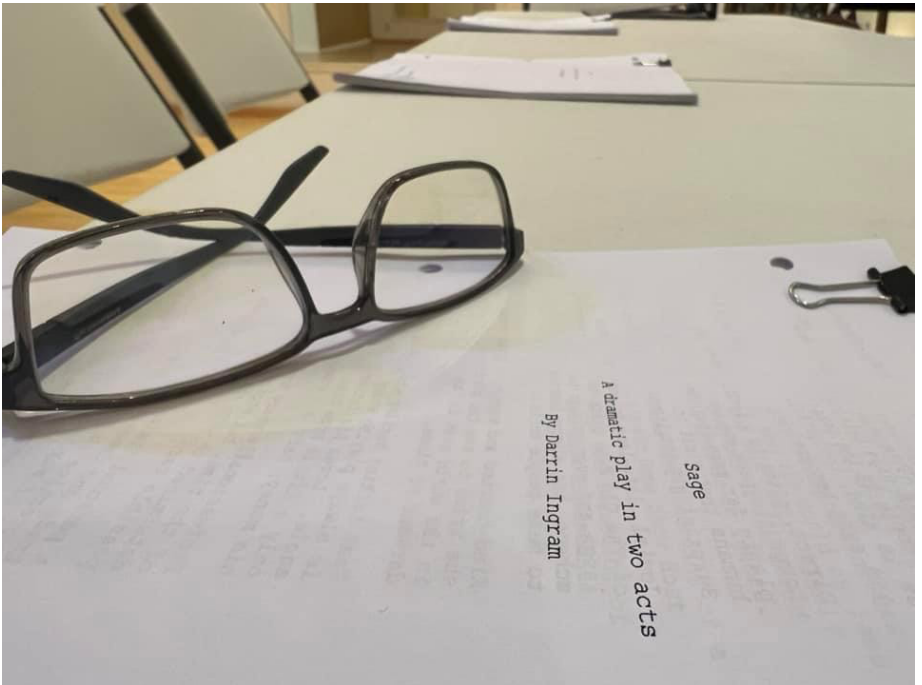
From **THE DIRECTOR**

First off, I'd like to thank you for watching the Staged Reading of this play. You offered your time, which is the most valuable thing we have, in exchange for a story and I am truly grateful.

The hope for this piece is to create real characters, people we know, who live and breathe in ordinary and extraordinary situations. Whether it is the calming patience of The Old Man, the centered strength of The Runner, the heartbreaking love of The Mother, or the refreshing directness of The Park Keeper, each human in this story is supposed to have edges, flaws, and nuance. I suppose that's what makes them relatable.

As the parent of an autistic child, it is important to note that, although the role of The Park Keeper was written as autistic, the show is not about autism. The Park Keeper's challenges are personal to him as are everyone else's. Respecting differences begins with accepting that we are all different and that's what makes life interesting and wonderful. So, as The Old Man says, let's begin each day by "embracing every little human connection."

- **Darrin Ingram**, Director/Writer





Be part of the CPT family!

Volunteering at Conejo Players Theatre

At the heart of Conejo Players Theatre is its volunteer members. Our theatre is unique in the Conejo Valley, as it's operated on a solely volunteer basis since its inception in 1958; the theatre's board members, actors, production staff, and technical crew do not receive any monetary compensation for their services. But the rewards of volunteering with our theatre are many -- we provide a medium for creative self-expression, with opportunities to get involved both onstage and behind-the-scenes ... acting, directing, producing, stage managing, scenic design and construction, theatrical lighting and sound, costuming, and the list goes on.

We're proud of the dedication of our volunteers, and the services they provide are invaluable to our success. It's our volunteers -- both adults and children -- that have allowed Conejo Players to thrive since its humble beginnings. In return, our volunteers gain invaluable creative experiences while enjoying the fun and friendships that come with working in the ever-evolving atmosphere of live theatre. We invite you to join us in our efforts to support the cultural, educational, and entertainment needs of the community through the arts!

These are some of the volunteer opportunities available:

**Usher/Ticket Taker/Snack Bar • Costumes • Props • Set Builders
Sound Board Operator • Light Board Operator • Outreach Committee**

Email us at info@conejoplayers.org for these and other volunteer options.

We are often asked, "Why should I spend \$1 to become a Conejo Players Theatre Member?"

There are 4 reasons that we share:

1. By becoming a member, you are part of our CPT family for life. You are on our rosters and members can follow up with you to let you know what is going on at CPT.
2. When you fill out the form, you can opt in to receive our weekly newsletters and let us know what you are interested in doing, whether it be on stage or off stage. We can share with the Directors and Producers, Front of House Coordinators, Stage Crew team etc. what you are interested in doing.
3. By becoming a member and an active member, it gives you the opportunity to be a part of the direction of the theatre. You have a vote to make a difference on the direction the board takes. You can become a part of the board. You have decided you care about the theatre and want to make your voice heard.
4. You will receive invitations to exclusive Member Only Events!

We hope you do choose to become a member and join our family. We will work to find the best opportunities that match your interests!

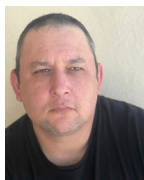
Meet THE CAST



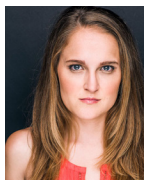
Samantha Netzen Bingham (The Nurse) Samantha is elated to join another Conejo Players Reader Theatre production, after performing in *The Nameless Star* (Mademoiselle Cucu) earlier this year. She could not be more excited to be a part of this phenomenal cast and bring this script to life. Favorite roles include *Crimes of the Heart* (Babe), in *Matilda* (Mrs. Phelps) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily). Huge thanks to her friends and family, especially to Shane and Pumpkin (aka The Husband and The Cat).



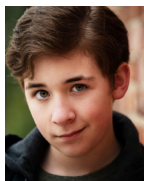
Abby Cluster (The Mother) Abby is filled with gratitude to be working on such an important show. It's been a while since she has had the opportunity to get on stage, last seen here at CPT as Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* in 2017. Thanks to Darrin, Paul, Scott, and everyone else involved in getting this thing on its feet! Love you Bear, Bubba and Bean!



Scott Gilbert (The Park Keeper) Scott is honored to be involved in such a great project and would like to thank Darrin for giving him the opportunity to join such a talented group of people to breathe life into this wonderful play. Scott has been doing theater in Ventura for over 20 years. Some of his most recent include *Of Mice and Men* (Lenny), *Matilda* (Mr. Wormwood), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Baker), and *Guys and Dolls* (Big Jule).



Melissa Harkness (The Chef/Contestant) Melissa is thrilled to be back at Conejo Players Theatre. She appeared last year in CPT's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Siobhan). Other CA Productions include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Jess) and *An Ideal Husband* (Mrs. Cheveley) with 413 Rep Theatre. She would like to thank Mom, Dad, Mare, Thomasino Bambino, and of course her long-suffering husband Eric.



Skyler Ingram (The Young Man/Contestant) Skyler is thrilled to be making his return to Conejo Players Theatre after portraying Harold Hill in *The Music Man Jr.* last Summer. His past credits include *Ride The Cyclone* (Ricky), *The Little Mermaid* (Prince Eric), *West Side Story* (Baby John), *Peter Pan* (John), and *Mary Poppins* (Michael). An avid musician, Skyler is working on his debut album and will be releasing his single *How Do You Sleep?* in the Fall. He'd like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.



Dick Johnson (The Old Man) Dick is a CPT Director Emeritus having served as Executive Director of the theater for more than eleven three-year terms. Onstage appearances include *You Can't take it With You* (Grandpa), *Never Too Late* (Harry), *Mister Roberts* (Doc) and *The Lion in Winter* (Henry). Dick has designed over 54 productions, and directed nearly half that number of plays and musicals for CPT. He has received 39 Harlequin Awards, is an Honorary Life Member, and was honored by the City of Thousand Oaks Art Commission with the Encore Award. He received the Conejo Players Arts Advocate Award in 2015.



Rita McCaffrey (Narrator) Rita is happy to be included in this staged reading of Darrin Ingram's *Sage* as Narrator. She has appeared in many local theaters. Most recently she was Jessie in the Conejo Players Theatre production of *Calendar Girls*. Other roles include *Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher) and *The Addams Family* (Grandma). She also likes to assist with props and lights. Thank you for this opportunity.



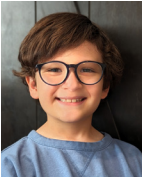
Bella Phillips (The Runner) Bella is ecstatic to be making her CPT debut with this amazing group of people in *Sage!* She was recently seen last year in High Street Art Center's production of *Legally Blonde* (Understudy). Her other past credits include *In the Heights* (Nina Rosario), *Carrie the Musical* (Frieda Jason), *Hollywood Fringe Festival's Nineteen Years Later: A Surprisingly Dark Satire of Witchcraft and Wizardry* (Julianne Rycroft), and more! She would like to thank her family, friends, her bubba Ezra for their never-ending love and support as well as Darrin for giving her this opportunity to help bring this beautifully written story to life!



Scott Quintard (The Best Friend) Scott is thrilled to help bring *Sage* to life. He has recently been seen here at CPT in *Pippin* (Charlemagne) and *9 to 5* (Franklin Hart Jr.). His next appearance will be as Reverend Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*. He is so thankful for the love of his wife Ann and three beautiful kids. Special thanks to Darrin Ingram for this amazing play and Paul Babb for being my co-producer for the Readers Theatre program.



Tanner Redman (The Son) Tanner is no stranger to the CPT stage where he proposed to his wife Randi Saxer Redman and has been a part of the CPT family for ten years now. He has done many things in many places, is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA since 2007 and has been a drama teacher at ESAT High for the past 11 years. Directing credits at CPT: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and *Is He Dead?* Acting credits at CPT: *Forever Plaid*, *Shrek*, *Chess*, *Psycho Beach Party*, *Side Show*, *Lonely Planet* (Livestream).



Santiago Rodriguez (The Little Boy) Santiago is 8 years old and honored to be part of *Sage*. He has appeared in musical theater productions like *The Music Man Jr.* (Winthrop Paroo, CPT) and *Dear Edwina Jr.* (Charlie, Backyard Playhouse). Santiago plays both the piano and violin, and is part of Los Robles Children's Choir and the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra, Youth Strings. He thanks Darrin Ingram for the opportunity of being part of this project with such amazing fellow actors.



Eddie Speirs (The Bagel Man/Game Show Host) Eddie is excited that his first CPT production is written/directed by Darrin Ingram. Eddie is grateful to work with this amazing cast in this engaging and heartfelt play. He thanks his wife and two daughters for their continuous support. Previous performances include *Seussical the Musical* (Cat in the Hat, CSPAR), *The Sound of Music* (Franz, HSAC), and *Newsies* (Wiesel/Mr. Jacobi, HSAC). Eddie also performs standup comedy at clubs in Ventura and LA Counties.



Darrin Ingram (Writer/Director) Darrin is honored that CPT chose *Sage* for their Readers Theatre. Previous online productions of *Sage* include Star-Ing Act Productions (L.A.), ATC Studios (N.J.), and TheaterMakers Studio (NYC - TheaterMaker Awards: Best Play, Best Actor, Best Director*). Additionally, The Old Man's Monologue from *Sage* was selected for the Smith & Kraus Best Men's Monologues of 2021. Most recently, Darrin was Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* at HSAC, producer of *The Music Man Jr.* at CPT, director of *West Side Story* and was Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at HSAC. He'd like to thank Next Stage Press for their support, and he is forever grateful to Skyler for teaching him to laugh from the belly, Kaelia for teaching him to sing from the heart and Susan for teaching him to love from the soul.



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NEXT ON THE BOARDS

