



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by JONATHAN LARSON

Musical Arrangements by STEVE SKINNER

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics by BILLY ARONSON

Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements by TIM WEIL

Dramaturg LYNN THOMSON

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and the New York Theatre Workshop

Jun 14 - Jul 7, 2024

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thu Jun 20 at 8:00pm • Sat Jun 29 at 2:00pm

RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Welcome to CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 66th 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 are a non-profit organization, 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-Kolb

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



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Musical Arrangements by **Steve Skinner**

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Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

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The CAST

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brennen Klitzner | Roger Davis |
| Quinn Husband | Mark Cohen |
| Melina Ortega | Mimi Marquez |
| Carzie Carter | Tom Collins |
| Abel Alderete | Angel Dumott Schunard |
| McKenna Tedrick | Maureen Johnson |
| Faith Petrie | Joanne Jefferson |
| Ezra Eells | Benjamin Coffin III |
| Lauren Bailor | Mrs. Marquez/Company |
| Kyler Bray | Scott/Company |
| Sof Cohen | Lou/Company |
| Bucky Delgado | Vendor/Company |
| Caleb Heulitt | John/Restaurant Man/Company |
| Sahai N. Lara | Mrs. Jefferson/Blanket Woman/Company |
| Jenna Lay | Coat Vendor/Company |
| Rondell MacGarvey | "Seasons of Love" Soloist/Company |
| Giane Morris | "Seasons of Love" Soloist/Company |
| Gabriella Perry | Mrs. Davis/Company |
| Brooke Russell | Mrs. Cohen/Tory/Company |
| Isabella Scott | Alexi Darling/Ally/Company |
| Christopher Smith | Mr. Jefferson/Company |
| Jacob Zukowski | Mr. Grey/Alex/Company |

Production **STAFF**

| | |
|---|--|
| Director/Co-Set Designer | Shawn Adams-Lanz |
| Producer/Assistant Director/Filmmaker | Courtney Potter |
| Co-Music Directors..... | Kyle deTarnowsky, Erin Fagundes |
| Choreographer/Intimacy Director..... | Danielle Reyes |
| Assistant Producer/Hair & Makeup..... | Katie Gordon |
| Stage Manager | Carolyn Luu |
| Costume Designer | Ali Deyer |
| Co-Set Designer | Arryck Adams-Lanz |
| Lighting Designer | Jack Allaway |
| Sound Designer..... | Seth Hackett |
| Prop Designer/Quilt Coordinator | Deidre Parmenter |
| Construction Head | Rick Steinberg |
| Backstage and Board/Spot Operator Crew..... | Moe Bongiovi, Haley Cruz, |
| ..... | MacKenzie Dell, Judy Diderrich, Erin Fagundes, Megan Hoffman, |
| ..... | Kayla Knight, Deidre Parmenter, Mark Suarez, Bailey Teal |
| Dramaturg | Sof Cohen |
| Dance Captain..... | Gabriella Perry |
| Photography..... | Ryan Bodily, Ezra Eells, Ritchie Filippi |
| Construction and Lighting Crew | Arryck Adams-Lanz, Alex Choate, |
| ..... | Bucky Delgado, Joey Gordon, Katie Gordon, John Holroyd, |
| ..... | Lee Marks, Dave Parmenter |
| Painting Crew | Arryck Adams-Lanz, Shawn Adams-Lanz, Katie Buchanan, |
| ..... | Scarlett Buchanan, Haley Cruz, Susi Cruz, Jean Doble, Bella Ekstein, |
| ..... | Stacy Ekstein, Katie Gordon, Jenna Lay, Courtney Potter, Chelsea Yessner, |
| ..... | Vanessa Yessner |
| Audition Accompanists | Aaron Benham, Lisa Yaldezian |
| Audition Staff | Arryck Adams-Lanz, Sarah Ely, Katie Gordon, |
| ..... | Jen Isaacs, Carolyn Luu, Deidre Parmenter |
| Strike Crew..... | Abel Alderete, Jack Allaway, |
| ..... | Lauren Bailor, Maggie Bernd, Addie Bernd, Barrett Bernd, Kyler Bray, |
| Ivy Calhoun, Carzie Carter, Sof Cohen, Bucky Delgado, Ezra Eells, Rebecca Fox, | |
| ..... | Megan Fox, Joey Gordon, Katie Gordon, Quinn Husband, Jenna Lay, |
| ..... | Carolyn Luu, Rondell MacGarvey, Lee Marks, Giane Morris, Melina Ortega, |
| ..... | Dave Parmenter, Deidre Parmenter, Gabriella Perry, Faith Petrie, |
| ..... | Courtney Potter, Brooke Russell, Bella Scott, Christopher Smith, |
| ..... | Rick Steinberg, Jacob Zukowski |

The **BAND**

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Conductor/Keyboard 1 | Kyle deTarnowsky |
| Keyboard 2..... | Aaron Benham |
| Guitar | David Ellis |
| Bass | Art Gibson |
| Drums | Scott Mundy |
| Drums (6/14 sub)..... | Everett Saltzberg |

Act 1

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| "Tune Up/Voice Mail #1" | Mark, Roger, Mrs. Cohen, Collins, Benny |
| "Rent" | Company |
| "You Okay Honey?" | Angel, Collins |
| "One Song Glory" | Roger |
| "Light My Candle" | Roger, Mimi |
| "Voice Mail #2" | Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson |
| "Today 4 U" | Angel |
| "You'll See" | Benny, Mark, Collins, Roger, Angel |
| "Tango: Maureen" | Mark, Joanne |
| "Life Support" | John, Scott, Company |
| "Out Tonight" | Mimi |
| "Another Day" | Roger, Mimi, Company |
| "Will I?" | Company |
| "On the Street" | Company |
| "Santa Fe"* | Collins, Company |
| "We're Okay" | Joanne |
| "I'll Cover You" | Angel, Collins |
| "Christmas Bells" | Company |
| "Over the Moon" | Maureen |
| "La Vie Boheme/I Should Tell You"* | Company |

Act 2

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| "Seasons of Love" | Soloists, Company |
| "Happy New Year/Voice Mail #3" | Mimi, Roger, Mark, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, Angel, Mrs. Cohen, Alexi Darling, Benny |
| "Take Me or Leave Me" | Maureen, Joanne |
| "Without You" | Roger, Mimi |
| "Voice Mail #4" | Alexi Darling |
| "Contact" | Company |
| "I'll Cover You" (Reprise) | Collins, Company |
| "Halloween" | Mark |
| "Goodbye, Love" | Mark, Mimi, Roger, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, Benny |
| "What You Own" | Mark, Collins, Benny, Roger |
| "Voice Mail #5" | Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Marquez, Mr. Jefferson, Mrs. Cohen |
| "Finale/Your Eyes" | Roger, Company |

*Additional lyrics by Billy Aronson

The **SETTING**

The East Village of New York City, in the early 1990s

Special Thanks

Darrin and Susan Ingram at Encore Studios in Moorpark, National Charity League, Ken Patton, Sean McCulley at Fillmore Town Theatre, Karen and Brian Potter, Rebecca Curci, Gabe Gonzales, Mary Zastrow, and everyone who joined our crew or helped us out in any capacity after the printing of this program!

From **THE DIRECTOR**: A Journey with **RENT**

It is a profound joy and honor for me to bring this timeless musical to life here at The Conejo Players Theatre. *Rent* has always held a special place in my heart, not only for its powerful music and compelling characters, but also for its deep-rooted history and the poignant messages it conveys about love, struggle, and resilience. Having lived, worked, and played alongside the real people these characters were based on in early-1990s New York, I am proud to have witnessed the development of the musical and to have had the opportunity to see it for the first time shortly after its Broadway opening at the Nederlander Theatre.

Rent was composed and written by Jonathan Larson, inspired by Puccini's opera *La Bohème*. It captures the essence of bohemian life in New York City's East Village in the early '90s, set against the backdrop of the enduring AIDS crisis. AIDS claimed or changed the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the community at the time—a mark that lives on to this day, as symbolized by the National AIDS Memorial Quilt, a panel of which is presented on stage today. Many of those affected were young artists and members of the LGBTQ+ community. *Rent* brings into focus to the fears, hopes, and dreams of those living with the disease, offering a raw and honest portrayal of their lives. It serves as both a tribute and a call to action, reminding us of the importance of compassion, understanding, and advocacy. As they say in the show: "No day but today."

I am honored and humbled to have come of age amidst the bohemian lifestyle of NYC's East Village in the late 20th century. In that place and time, the area was characterized by a vibrant and eclectic community of artists, musicians, and thinkers. It was a haven for those seeking to express themselves freely and live unconventionally, often in defiance of societal norms. People like me.

I am an incredibly fortunate director to get to present this piece with all this brilliant local talent. They encapsulate the essence of the bohemian spirit—portraying characters who grapple with issues of poverty, addiction, and identity while striving to create meaningful art and forge deep connections. Their characters' struggles and triumphs highlight the beauty and chaos of this unique social/cultural moment.

Jonathan Larson poured his heart and soul into this work, drawing from his own experiences and the lives of those around him. Tragically, Larson passed away unexpectedly the night before the musical's off-Broadway premiere, never witnessing the impact his creation would have on the world. His legacy lives on through *Rent* and reminds us of the power of art to bring about social change and to illuminate the human condition. When I saw the show for the first time, his death was fresh and the wounds were raw; to say that every note was heartfelt and tragic would be a vast understatement.

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In directing *Rent*, I am constantly inspired by the raw emotion and authenticity that permeate Larson's masterpiece, and even more by the passion with which our cast—most of whom weren't even born yet—brings it to the stage. It is my hope that our production honors his vision and resonates deeply with you, our audience. Larson's work is a testament to the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity, exploring themes of friendship, love, and the pursuit of artistic expression. As we delve into the lives of these unforgettable characters, may we all be reminded of the importance of living fully, loving fiercely, and cherishing every moment we have.

I dedicate this production to all the friends, friends-of-friends, acquaintances, and total strangers who have bravely fought in the war against HIV and AIDS. Thanks to them, we have come so far today—and thanks to them, we will someday soon have a cure. <https://aplahealth.org/>

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Enjoy the show.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Shawn Adams-Lanz, Director

National AIDS MEMORIAL

Conejo Players Theatre is proud to have partnered with the National AIDS Memorial to display a panel of their Quilt during the run of *Rent*. Considered the largest community arts project in history, the AIDS Memorial Quilt helps us remember the unique lives and stories of those who've passed.

This production is part of the National AIDS Memorial's efforts to bring the Quilt to communities across the United States to raise greater awareness and education about HIV/AIDS and to remember those lost to the pandemic. Heartfelt thanks to Deidre Parmenter for her efforts in securing this meaningful piece of living history, and to our quilt sponsors Don & Maryanne Johnson and Michael Rohde.



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



Brennen Klitzner (Roger Davis) is very excited to be a part of his first production at Conejo Players Theatre. He was recently seen in High Street Arts Center's productions of *Crazy For You* (Lank Hawkins/Bobby Child) and *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville* (Tully). Other roles include Frederick in *Young Frankenstein*, Kenickie in *Grease*, and Joe in *9 to 5: The Musical*. He would like to credit CCLO Theatre Company, GPAC, and dTHS Theatre Arts for inspiring his love and passion for theatre. He'd like to thank the entire *Rent* production staff for their constant support and for believing in this amazing cast. "This one is for you, Dad; I love you and miss you." @brennen.klitzner



Quinn Husband (Mark Cohen) is thrilled to make his Conejo Players Theatre debut in his first mainstage lead role, having previously been seen on the High Street Arts Center stage as Race in *Newsies*; Peter Quince in *Something Rotten!*; as the understudy for the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*; and most recently in *Crazy For You*. He would like to thank his amazing parents for loving and inspiring him to pursue his passion for the arts. He'd also like to thank all of his friends in the theater community for making him feel at home in the theater—as well as the production team, the cast, and the crew for putting their all into bringing a classic show to life with such care and love.



Melina Ortega (Mimi Marquez) is excited to be back on the Conejo Players Theatre stage! She feels so blessed to be a part of such a special show. It's truly a dream come true. "Le gustaría darle las gracias a su mamá y su papá por siempre apoyarla en todo lo que hace. Gracias por enseñarme a soñar, nada sería posible sin ustedes." She'd like to thank her family, best friends, and loved ones for always believing in her. She's so grateful to the production team for trusting her to tell this beautiful story, and to her cast who worked so hard to bring it to life. "This one's for you, M." No day but today <3



Carzie Carter (Tom Collins) is excited... no, thrilled... nay, OVERJOYED! to be returning to theater—to be returning to Conejo Players Theatre stage—and with THIS production. The last time audiences saw Carzie on this stage was *Hairspray* in 2017! Needless to say, a return's been overdue. Most recently, Carzie played Michael in Jonathan Larson's *tick, tick...BOOM* with Out of the Box Theater Co. in 2022. Carzie would like to thank his friends and family for their unwavering love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Abel Alderete (Angel Dumott Schunard) is happy to be back on the Conejo Players Theatre stage. He most recently appeared in productions of *Crazy For You*, *Something Rotten!*, *In the Heights* (in which he played Piragua Guy and participated as assistant choreographer), *West Side Story*, *A Chorus Line*, *Grease*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. Other stage credits include the operas *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Trouble in Tahiti*, as well as CPT's *Side Show*, *Reefer Madness*, and *Young Frankenstein*. He has also music-directed Junior shows around the county, and has been dance captain in various productions in the area. He'd like to thank his family and friends for supporting him in all his endeavors.



McKenna Tedrick (Maureen Johnson) is so excited to be back at Conejo Players Theatre again. She graduated from Weber State University, majoring in Musical Theatre with a minor in dance. Favorite past roles include Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* (High Street Arts Center), Sandra in *The Play that Goes Wrong* (CPT), and Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* (Young Artists Ensemble). McKenna is so grateful to work with such a talented, dedicated cast and crew. Get ready to jump over the moon with us!



Faith Petrie (Joanne Jefferson) is a Los Angeles-based performer who is thrilled to be making her Conejo Players Theatre debut as Joanne in *Rent*. Previous theatre credits include *Parade* (Minnie) and *Hairspray* (Lorraine). Faith would like to thank her family, friends, partner, and her community for supporting her during this process, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Ezra Eells (Benjamin Coffin III) is a bartender and educator (sometimes at the same time) from the idealistic little town of Ojai. Which is just about as far away as you can get from 1990s Lower Manhattan. In this regard, he is incredibly thankful to be able to be a part of this production, honoring and hopefully bringing to life a piece of culture that he has a great respect for. "To be an artist means never to avert one's eyes."



Lauren Bailor (Mrs. Marquez/Company) has dreamed of performing in *Rent* for over a decade now, so being a part of this cast has meant the world to her. This is Lauren's third show with Conejo Players Theatre (previously seen as a Jet Set in *Catch Me if You Can*, and in the ensemble of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), and she continues to love participating with such talented groups of people. She would like to thank the fantastic production team for this opportunity, as well as her friends and family for their continued support.



Kyler Bray (Scott/Company) is so excited to be performing alongside an incredible cast in *Rent*. This is his first show with Conejo Players Theatre, but not his first time in *Rent*—he performed in the show at Kentwood Players, and was also recently seen as the Will Shakespeare cover in High Street Art Center’s production of *Something Rotten!* Kyler would like to give a huge thank you to the incredibly talented cast and crew of this amazing production, and to his wonderful family and friends.



Sof Cohen (Lou/Company) is excited to return to Conejo Players Theatre for the second time in *Rent!* Past credits include *Parade* (Young Soldier), *Something Rotten!* (Minstrel), and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak). They are thrilled to be a part of the cast of *Rent* and to work with wonderful people on such an influential part of the musical theatre canon.



Bucky Delgado (Vendor/Company) is so excited to be a part of the cast of *Rent* at Conejo Players Theatre! This will be his musical performing debut, but he has done previous work on tech, scenic construction, and painting for Moorpark College’s productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *The Curious Savage*, and *Cabaret*. He’d like to thank CPT for the opportunity, and his friends and family for all their support of his part in this show. Viva La Vie Boheme!



Caleb Heulitt (John/Restaurant Man/Company) is happy to be returning to Conejo Players Theatre after last appearing here in *9 to 5: The Musical*. Other notable roles include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Vittorio Vidal in *Sweet Charity*, Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Cyril in *Princess Ida*, Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!*, and Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*. Caleb would like to thank Shawn, Courtney, Kyle, Erin, Dani, Katie, and Carolyn for including him as a part of this fabulous cast and production.



Sahai N. Lara (Mrs. Jefferson/Blanket Woman/Company) is beyond excited to be back onstage at Conejo Players Theatre! She’s previously been seen in CPT’s productions of *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble) and *Avenue Q* (Gary Coleman). She also enjoys her work behind the production table! At CPT, she directed *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. This show means the world to Sahai, and she’s so grateful to be performing alongside this fantastic cast. A special thanks to Mama, Dad, Granny, and Mira. Sahai dedicates this, and every performance, to her Uncle Mel—“love y’all!”



Jenna Lay (Coat Vendor/Company) grew up doing theatre in Ventura County and in all honesty, that's not really important. Jenna dedicates her performance to her mother who overcame so much to live as her authentic self. Her mother, Holly, has given her a wonderful step mother, Christine, whom she'd also love to dedicate her performance to. She also dedicates the show to the LGBTQIA+ individuals who've served as mentors, friends, and family to her in the theatre. Jenna would like to thank the production staff and her loved ones for their endless trust and support. Live boldly, lead with love and compassion, and please remember that God loves ALL.



Rondell MacGarvey ("Seasons of Love" Soloist/Company) is elated to be a part of this wonderful production of *Rent* at Conejo Players Theatre. Fun fact: *Rent* was the first Broadway recording he pirated off LimeWire (yes, he's aging himself.) He's been a "RENTHead" ever since! He was last seen on the CPT stage in 2022 in musical *9 to 5: The Musical*. He wants to thank Shawn and the rest of the production team for the opportunity to be a part of this impactful show. Rondell is grateful for friends, family, and of course The 5ths, for their endless love and support. Never measure your life by possessions. Measure it by the hearts you touched; the smiles you created; and the love you shared. Imagine what this world would look like if all of us pursued measuring our life in love. Enjoy the show!



Giane Morris ("Seasons of Love" Soloist/Company) received the Theatre Palisades Best Lead Actress Award, for the 2017-2018 season, for her role as Luisa in *The Fantasticks*. Favorite roles include: Martha Jefferson in *1776*, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and most recently, Brenda Strong in *Catch Me if You Can*. Between 2019 and now, Giane produced her solo cabaret; co-produced two episodes of a musical comedy show called "Boon TV" (YouTube); and opened for several notable Filipino artists including Sharon Cuneta and Regine Velasquez. IG: @gianemay



Gabriella Perry (Mrs. Davis/Dance Captain/Company) is beyond thrilled to be in her first production at Conejo Players Theatre! She is a current Dance Studies major at CSU Channel Islands. Favorite past credits include *The Lightning Thief* (Silena Beauregard) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck). She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support in her theater journey, and the amazing cast and crew for all their incredible work. Enjoy the show!



Brooke Russell (Mrs. Cohen/Tory/Company) is over the moon to be back on stage and performing with Conejo Players Theatre once again! She was last seen in *Matilda* with High Street Arts Center, and worked backstage there for *Something Rotten!* She'd like to thank her friends, family, and the staff for allowing her to express herself within this show, and can't wait for everyone watching to experience the performance themselves. "We all have a story to tell, and this is that story. Please sit back and enjoy *Rent*—a gift from all of us to you."



Isabella Scott (Alexi Darling/Ally/Company) has been performing since she was 5 years old, and has been involved in countless performances in the community. Last seen as Phoebe in Conejo Players Theatre's *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Isabella studied Vocal Performance at Westmont College (2022)—and is currently working toward her M.A. in Theology and the Arts at Fuller Theological Seminary, which she will graduate with in the fall. She would like to express her deepest gratitude to the cast, crew, and her family for their endless support.



Christopher Smith (Mr. Jefferson/Company) is ecstatic to be in his first performance at Conejo Players Theatre! You may have seen him recently in High Street Arts Center's performances of *Crazy For You* and *Something Rotten!*, or in Moorpark College's production of *Cabaret*. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their love and support, and hopes that you all enjoy the show!!!



Jacob Zukowski (Mr. Grey/Alex/Company) is performing in a musical for the first time—and only his second time on stage—since moving to California in 2017. He has mostly been acting in film and television, with his most notable credit so far being his co-starring role as Joseph Bradehoft in the Netflix series *Monster: The Jeffery Dahmer Story*, where he acted alongside Evan Peters. He is currently in his first year at Moorpark College studying Game Design.



Meet THE STAFF

Shawn Adams-Lanz (Director/Co-Set Designer) is thrilled to be back at Conejo Players Theatre directing *Rent* with this phenomenal cast and production team; he last directed *Pippin* here in 2019! Having lived in New York in the early 1990s during the development of the show, these characters and their story are very close to his heart. Shawn is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC, holding a Bachelors Degree in Musical Theatre and a Masters Degree in Business. You might have seen his name most recently as the Asst. Director for *Something Rotten!* and *Matilda* at High Street Arts Center in Moorpark, but Shawn's local directing credits are lengthy—including *Side Show*, *Mary Poppins*, *Rags*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Aida* (twice!), *Hairspray*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and so many more. This show is dedicated to all of the friends, loved ones, and strangers who have fought battles against AIDS and HIV; some have lost and some are still winning, but all are heroes. As a proud gay man, he would also like to thank the unsung heroes of the lesbian community who rose up and stood by our side during the AIDS epidemic, when nobody else was listening and most were running away. Without solidarity, without each other, we would be nothing. Stay strong, together.

Courtney Potter (Producer/Assistant Director/Filmmaker) is so very proud to help bring this extraordinary show to the Conejo Players Theatre stage. As a producer and/or assistant director, Courtney has worked behind-the-scenes on CPT's acclaimed productions of *Pippin*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Aida*, and more. Primarily a performer, recent local/regional credits include Bea in *Something Rotten!*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia!*, and Winifred in *Mary Poppins* (all at High Street Arts Center); Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein* (CPT); Woman 2 in *I Love You ... Now Change* (Elite Theatre Company; Four Star Award); Ms. Jensen in *110 in the Shade* (Actors Co-Op Hollywood; Ovation Award, Best Musical – Intimate Theatre); and Missy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Canyon Theatre Guild). Love and thanks to Shawn, Katie, Carolyn, Kyle, Erin, Dani, and our entire badass production staff; to our ridiculously talented cast and band; and to friends and family. For Lee, Michael, Michael, Michael, Nick, Keith, Edward, Ryan, Pedro, Howard, and so many more friends and favorites who left us much too soon. #AIDS_Memorial #whatisrememberedlives

Erin Fagundes (Co-Music Director) is grateful for the opportunity to work and play with this incredible group of artists and friends. Usually found coaching voice students, performing onstage, or directing shows in the community, she is enjoying the chance to stretch her wings in the MD role. Erin dedicates this show to Uncle Barry and Uncle Pate who, like so many represented in this piece, were lost so tragically to the AIDS epidemic. We hope this show honors them and all the others who were gone too soon but never forgotten.

Kyle deTarnowsky (Co-Music Director) has served as music director and/or conductor for stage productions in and around Los Angeles, including *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Ghost: The Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dreamgirls*, and others. Additionally, he has worked as composer and orchestrator for a variety of film, television, podcast, and web productions. Kyle is on the faculty at Viewpoint School, and is on the faculty and is Music Director at USC's Kaufman School of Dance. Special thanks to Erin Fagundes for her talent and generosity.

Danielle Reyes (Choreographer/Intimacy Director) was last seen at Conejo Players Theatre as Fastrada in 2019's *Pippin*. Now she brings her choreography to the stage in this remarkable show with an incredible cast and crew. Recently, you may have seen her in High Street Arts Center's productions of *West Side Story* as Anita, or *Little Shop of Horrors* as the understudy Audrey. Recent choreography credits include the hilarious *Something Rotten!* at HSAC and *The Phantom of the Opera* with Young Artists Ensemble. She would like to thank her parents for their unending support, and her uncle Mark Reyes for the love of theater. "Gracias a mi abuela y abuelo Reyes. Ustedes son mis ángeles del teatro." And lastly, she thanks her son Jude—who is and always will be the inspiration to reach for the edge of the universe.

Katie Gordon (Assistant Producer/Hair & Makeup) is "over-the-moon" excited to be back at Conejo Players Theatre, working with this stellar team of extremely talented artists. She is proud to help bring audiences a show that will not only entertain, but hopefully raise awareness to a time when so many were affected by the AIDS crisis in the early '90s and beyond. Drawing from her experience as a bedside nurse during the COVID pandemic, Katie hopes the story of *Rent* will remind people of just how impactful a new and unknown disease can be—particularly on communities which tend to be overlooked and underserved. Over the 20+ years that Katie has been involved with CPT, she's worn many hats, including actor, crew, props, hair and makeup design, production assistant, and now assistant producer.

Carolyn Luu (Stage Manager) is elated to be making her return to Conejo Players Theatre with this production of *Rent*. This show holds a very special place in her heart, as it was the first professional musical she saw—making her fall in love with theater. She's been seen across the Ventura County community theater scene since 2013 in roles including Marcy in *25th Annual ... Spelling Bee* (Elite Theatre Company) and Grandma Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (High Street Arts Center), and working behind-the-scenes as a stage manager (*Yankee Dawg You Die*, ETC) and producer (*I Love You ... Now Change*, ETC). She'd like to thank her wonderful family and friends for their constant support; Ricky for his unconditional love; and Shawn, Courtney, Katie, Erin, Kyle, and the cast: "Thank you all for making this experience so special; love you all so much. No day but today."

Ali Deyer (Costume Designer) is excited to be a small part of this amazing production. She wants to thank DB for making the connection and CP for being the best ever.

Arryck Adams-Lanz (Co-Set Designer) is excited to be collaborating on another show with his husband, this time as co-set design. Arryck is no stranger to Conejo Players Theatre, having been involved with the theatre since 1994. He has acted, directed, choreographed, and designed many shows at The Players over the years. Arryck has designed sets for everything from large-scale productions, including *Les Miserablés*, *Follies*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Pippin*, to small and simple, such as *25th Annual ... Spelling Bee* and *Cabaret*.

Jack Allaway (Lighting Designer) has been a member of Conejo Players Theatre since 1978. He is an Honorary Life Member and a multi-decade Harlequin Award winner. Over the years, Jack has designed lights for many productions at CPT, including *The Mousetrap*, *Calendar Girls*, and most recently *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Jack served several terms as CPT's Executive Technical Director and is currently Technical Director for 5-Star Theatricals.

Seth Hackett (Sound Designer) was introduced to Conejo Players Theatre by his wife Julie, and has appeared on its stage as Jesus in *Reefer Madness* and the house band for *Loveland Burlesque*. He has sound designed and co-designed several CPT productions, including *Amadeus*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Is He Dead?*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Social Security*, and *Calendar Girls*.

Deidre Parmenter (Prop Designer/Quilt Coordinator) is happy to be working with this beautiful team of dedicated people. She has been on and off stage at Conejo Players Theatre and other local community theatres since 2004 and loves (almost) all aspects of putting on a show. May this story remind us all of our humanity and how much love helps us live better with joy and hope. FAAE.

Rick Steinberg (Construction Head) has been involved with Conejo Players Theatre, 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 for both directing and set design. He is also a CPT Honorary Life member and a multiple Harlequin Award recipient.

Haley Cruz (Backstage Crew) is excited to work her fourth show at Conejo Players Theatre. She enjoys helping the shows come to life. She took a five-year break from theater but is excited for the future and working more shows.



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