



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

ROMEO & Juliet

by William Shakespeare
ADAPTED BY PATRICK MCMINN

Sep 8 - 17, 2023

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm
Sat & Sun 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!



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.

From **THE DIRECTOR**

You would be hard-pressed to go anywhere in the world where *Romeo and Juliet* isn't known either as a film, opera, ballet, or as you will see tonight, a play. I can't imagine how many productions have been performed since it first premiered in 1596 at the Curtain Theatre just outside of London with Richard Burbage playing Romeo opposite Master Robert Goffe as Juliet. Since then, these two title characters have proven to be an exciting challenge for generations of actors – transcending any language or cultural barrier.

Placing our version in 1935 in Verona, Mississippi (yes, it really does exist) proved to be a comfortable fit for the story, the lyricism of the language, and the characters' world. With feuds often breaking out over land rights and property lines in this agricultural society it isn't hard to imagine how the Montague and Capulet families have been pulled into a generational feud. Add to that the hot, humid days of July; the gloom of the Great Depression; and the personal fortunes of each family having been depleted, and the stage is now set for the tale to unfold.

For me music serves as another character in a play. This production is steeped in Mississippi Delta Blues and Big Band music from the 1930's; and for Romeo and Juliet's dance I was thrilled to be able to use a 1932 recording of the Tom Gerun Orchestra featuring my grandfather, Frank McMinn, on trumpet!

As you watch the play tonight, it's important to remember that the story takes place over a relatively short time span, beginning on a Sunday morning and ending very early on the following Thursday. I've staged it so that you'll get a sense of this swift time sequence that serves as a driving force behind why decisions are made haphazardly, mistakes are quickly compounded, and good intentions turn into tragedy...or do they?

I, along with our producer and very talented cast, have strived to make the language, characters and situations written in the 1590's relatable for today's audience. The people you'll meet are colorful, complex and sometimes very flawed, in a story that is as relevant today as it was then. I hope our production brings you a renewed enjoyment and appreciation for *Romeo and Juliet* as it's presented in a way you have never seen before.

- **Patrick McMinn**, Director



CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE
presents

ROMEO & Juliet

by William Shakespeare • Adapted by Patrick McMinn

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Sep 8 - 17, 2023

Fri & Sat at 8:00 pm • Sat & Sun at 2:00pm

The CAST

THE CAPULETS

Hollis Dohr..... Juliet
Jim Miller..... Mr. Capulet
Melissa Harkness..... Mrs. Capulet
Ronna Jones..... Nurse
Neirin Winter..... Tybalt
Jerome A. Morata..... Gregory
Gianni Nicolini..... Samson
Aubrey McGowan..... Peter

THE MONTAGUES

Rankin Dean..... Romeo
Alan Wasserman..... Mr. Montague
Nancy Hullihan..... Mrs. Montague/Apothecary
Connor O'Brien..... Benvolio
Zacharias Lopez..... Balthasar

OTHERS IN VERONA

Rachel Borbas..... Mercutio
Scott Quintard..... Reverend Lawrence
Terry Edwards..... Sheriff Escalus
Benjamin Birmingham..... Paris
Arriana Rodriguez..... Ella Mae Sanders
Ryann Hernandez..... Alla Mae Sanders/Juliet Understudy

Production **STAFF**

Director/Adapter.....	Patrick McMinn
Producer/Dramaturgue	Dana Marley-Kolb
Choreographer.....	Wendy Babb
Fight Choreographer	Connor O'Brien
Set Designer.....	Rick Steinberg
Costume Designer	Beth Eslick
Light Designer.....	Jim Diderrich
Sound Designer.....	Brendan Lynch
Prop Designers.....	Jaye Depew, Dona Pugh
Projections.....	Paul Babb, Patrick McMinn
Score Composer.....	Benjamin Birmingham
Stage Manager.....	Arriana Rodriguez
Light Board Operator.....	Kristin Krause
Projections Operator.....	Emma Garcia
Sound Operator	Carla Ames
Spot Operator.....	Saranya Rai-Burke
Script Secretary.....	John Barker
Publicity/Lobby Photos	Scott Quintard
Production Photos.....	Mike McCauley
Lobby Board.....	Dylan Kolb
Audition Assistants.....	Mary Alice Brady, Jim Bukowski, Jess Filippi, Rick Kleber Joshua Oldt, Dona Pugh, Arriana Rodriguez
Dialect Consultant.....	Terri Dykstra
Costume Crew.....	Betty Fuhrmann, Kristin Krause, Susan McNeill
Construction Crew	John Holroyd, Max Honigsberg, Lee Marks, Rick Steinberg
Specialty Painter.....	Kimme Black
Strike Crew.....	Jim Bukowski, Brooklyn Cooley, Jessica Cooley, Hollis Dohr, Terry Edwards, Samantha Gaske, Ryann Grey, Joey Hemings, Ryann Hernandez, John Holroyd, Max Honigsberg, Nancy Hullihan, Ronna Jones, Doug Looper, Dana Marley-Kolb, Aubrey McGowan, Patrick McMinn, Natalie Moresi, Charlie Oberman, Lilah Reines, Sarah Reines, Brooklyn Sobezyk, ... Jennifer Sobezyk, Rick Steinberg, Kanto Vigo, Alan Wasserman, Jeremy Zeller

Special Thanks

National Charity League, Boys Team Charity

The **SETTING**

Verona, Mississippi - July, 1935 - The middle of the Great Depression



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



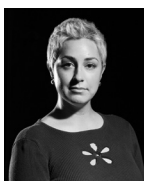
Nancy Hulihan (Mrs. Montague/Apothecary) "All the world's a stage...And one man in his time plays many parts." Nancy's previous favorite parts include Ruth in *Calendar Girls*, Veta in *Harvey* and Lola in *Damn Yankees*. She thanks Patrick for his passionate vision for this timeless Shakespeare classic and Dana for her amazing talent for organization. Fare thee well and enjoy!



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



Terry Edwards (Sherrff Escalus) The role of Sheriff marks Terry Edwards first show at our theatre. He has performed in the Pacific Northwest, Midwest and Southeast. Recently retired and relocated to our area, Terry is excited about this project. As a native Southerner, he is having fun using the accent again.



Rachel Borbas (Mercutio) has been on stage and in front of the camera for over a decade. Her favorite roles include the tragically devoted Portia in *Julius Caesar*, the neurotic Sarah in *Beau Jest*, and the incessantly bubbly Belinda in *Noises Off!*. Rachel is also a trained stunt performer and dancer and is usually caught either throwing a punch, doing a split, or screaming her head off at a Styx concert. Rachel would like to thank everyone at CPT for their unprecedented warm welcome. IG: Rachelborbas



Aubrey McGowan (Peter) is incredibly grateful to be returning to the stage! Although this is their first show with Conejo Players, you may have previously seen them as the Audrey II Puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors* (HSAC), Mel in *Cacophony* (MCC), Donna in *Mamma Mia!* (MHS), and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* (MHS). Aubrey thanks their friends and family for always supporting them, and the entire cast, crew, and production staff for making this a wonderful experience!



Neirin Winter (Tybalt) Neirin's acting experience includes Shakespeare plays and musical theatre. He recently played Dauphin in Shakespeare's *Henry V* and Pippin in the musical *Pippin* with Rubicon Theatre's Summer Youth Productions; in 2022, he was Sam in *Mamma Mia!* and in 2016 and 2017, Boy Scrooge in Rubicon's mainstage production of *A Christmas Carol*. With Conejo Players, Neirin has played Jem Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Chad in *High School Musical*. He wants to act professionally and is currently seeking representation.



Hollis Dohr (Juliet) is honored to join the historic Conejo Players! She recently graduated from Pace University with a B.F.A. in Acting. Select credits: *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Broad Stage/Shakespeare's Globe), *Dead Man Walking* (The Broad Stage/Opera Parallèle), Olive in *...Spelling Bee* (JStage Irvine), Cosette understudy in *Les Misérables* (Interlochen Center for the Arts), Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Schimmel Center/Pace University). She has performed at The Mark Taper Forum as a finalist in The National August Wilson Monologue Competition and is a National YoungArts Award Recipient for Musical Theater. Love and gratitude to the *Romeo and Juliet* team, her teachers, and her family. @hollis_dohr



Ronna Jones (Nurse) is from Los Angeles. She is honored to be making her Shakespeare stage debut with this production at CPT. She recently appeared in the critically acclaimed original play *The Pitch* and received an 'Outstanding Featured Performance' award from @StageSceneLA for her performance as Vi Moore in SVCAC's musical *Footloose*. Other stage credits include *The Passion Of Dracula*, *Babes In Arms*, and originated characters in musicals *The Storm* and *Country!*. She is thrilled to be back at CPT where she previously played Jean Louise Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Penny Sycamore in the 2020 production of *You Can't Take it With You*, directed by (her husband) Alan Wasserman. Thank you Patrick McMinn for casting me in this complex and fun role!!



Rankin Dean (Romeo) is excited for his debut at Conejo Players Theatre. This has been a dream role of his since he first fell in love with the stage. Rankin was born and raised in Texas where he studied Theatre at WTC and Abilene Christian University. He's been blessed to be in *Sense and Sensibility* as John Willoughby, *Twelfth Night* as Orsino, *The White Rose* as Hans Scholl, and many more. For the last few years Rankin has been pursuing both stage and screen acting in New York and LA, as well as making indie films with his friends through Beyond Star Films. He gives thanks to God for being able to do what he loves.



Ryann Hernandez (Alla Mae Sanders/Juliet Understudy) This is Ryann's first show with Conejo Players Theatre and she is beyond excited to be a part of this production. She attends Moorpark High School where she has portrayed the roles of Lisa in *Mamma Mia!* and Countess Lily in *Anastasia* in her past two years as a student. She would like to thank her teacher Mrs. Rosenblum for always encouraging her and her friends and family for always supporting her.



Alan Wasserman (Montague) was last seen here on the CPT stage portraying Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He then directed CPT's wonderful 2020 production of *You Can't Take it With You*. Now, Alan is thrilled to be back working alongside his wife, Ronna Jones, and the rest of this extremely talented *Romeo and Juliet* cast and crew. Alan's other notable performances include Antonio Salieri in CPT's 2016 production of *Amadeus*, Hercule Poirot in *Murder on the Orient Express*, Iago in *Othello*, and King Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*. He thanks The Conejo Players Theatre and Director Patrick McMinn for this wonderful opportunity!



Benjamin Paul Birmingham (Paris/Score Composer) Ben is rather new to Conejo Players, but is an old friend of theatre. He never thought he'd be able to be a part of a production that combines Shakespeare and blues, two of his greatest loves. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Scott Quintard (Reverend Lawrence) has recently been seen as Franklin Hart, Jr. (*9 to 5*) King Charlemagne (*Pippin*) and is a co-producer for the CPT Readers Theatre program. Scott is so thankful to his wife Ann for her love and support and to his 3 children who continue to amaze him with their huge hearts and passion for life. He would also like to thank CPT for bringing our community a wide range of dramatic offerings and taking creative risks.



Jim Miller (Capulet) is thrilled to be back at Conejo Players Theatre. His previous roles there include Norman in *The Dresser*, The Husband in *Rashomon*, Sheriff Heck Tate in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Paul Sycamore in *You Can't Take it With You*. He is also a voice actor for video games such as: *Mortal Kombat* and *Fire Emblem: Engage*.



Connor O'Brien (Benvolio/Fight Choreographer) is a 22 year old from Indiana. He has over five years of stage combat experience. This is his first show that he has choreographed and is very thankful for the opportunity. He is also very grateful to play one of his favorite characters in Shakespeare. He would like to thank his friends and family for the undying support they give him.



Jerome A. Morata (Gregory) has performed in Ventura College's *These Shining Lives* as Tom Donahue and Rubicon Theatre's *Pippin* as part of the ensemble. He loves all aspects of the stage, from set-building to performing, and would like to thank Conejo Players for the opportunity to perform in *Romeo and Juliet*.



Zacharias Lopez (Balthasar) has performed in Rubicon Theatre's *Pippin* as well as *Henry V*. He loves all aspects of the stage, stage combat, to performing, and would like to thank Conejo Players for the opportunity to perform in *Romeo and Juliet*. He also loves improv.



Gianni Nicolini (Samson) is pursuing acting and theatre as a passion and a career. This is Gianni's 6th production overall and his 1st production with Conejo; he is more than thankful to be apart of an amazing production.



Arriana Rodriguez (Stage Manager/Ella Mae Sanders) is a theatre maker onstage and backstage. She was recently seen as Mischa Bachinski in *Ride the Cyclone* and backstage she has assistant produced *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lone Star* at the Elite. She would also like to thank Hayley and Steven Silvers for their continued support. Arriana is very excited for you all to see this show and she is very proud of the production, along with the amazing cast.



Meet THE STAFF

Patrick McMinn (Director) Patrick's career began as an actor, performing at such prestigious theatres as South Coast Repertory, The Old Globe Theatre, Grove Shakespeare Company and The National Shakespeare Company in New York. During this time, he had the opportunity to work with many talented people including Tony Award winning directors Jack O'Brien and Ellis Rabb. He then transitioned into directing and producing theatre in Los Angeles before founding an entertainment company, McMinn Management where he developed projects and provided representation for actors and directors in television and film. Now after several decades he's returning to his Shakespeare roots with *Romeo and Juliet*.

Dana Marley-Kolb (Producer/Dramaturge) is thrilled to be part of bringing Shakespeare back to the CPT stage. Offstage at CPT, she has also produced ... *Spelling Bee* here, as well as directed *The Secret Garden*, *Daddy Long Legs*, and several Car Park revues. On stage she has performed in seven CPT shows, including Rose in *Gypsy*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, and most recently as Violet in *9 to 5*. She thanks Patrick for this special opportunity, and her family and friends for their support. She is currently serving as Conejo Players' President.

Dona Pugh (Prop Designer) has been volunteering at CPT for over 16 years, mainly as a House Manager. She and her late husband Randy enjoyed working on props together. They previously worked on the props for several CPT shows, including *How To Succeed...*, *Follies*, *Amadeus*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Recently she had propped *The Secret Garden* and *Calendar Girls*. She is now working with her sister Jaye. Dona wants to thank Patrick and Dana for inviting her to be a part of this outstanding production.

Jim Diderrich (Lighting Designer) has designed the lights for 26 CPT productions during the last eight years. He just finished directing *The Mousetrap*, his first show in 11 years. Jim has also been an actor who last appeared in CPT's pre-pandemic productions of *You Can't Take it With You* and *The Producers*.

Beth Eslick (Costume Designer) Beth has enjoyed costuming this show, and can't wait to see these actors in this beautiful piece. Beth is an Honorary Life Member of the Conejo Players Theatre, 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 Theatricum Botanicum in Topanga. "Hugs and kisses to my incredible, ever-so-patient Sunshine." Bethdressed.com.

Jaye Depew (Prop Designer) has been behind the scenes working with her sister, Dona Pugh, creating props for many productions. You may have seen the dummy she made for *Young Frankenstein*, the floral wreath and Victorian Crumb Cake for *Calendar Girls*, signs, and pillows for other productions. Jaye has a BA in Art from CSUN. She loves putting her creative ideas to good use. She wants to thank Patrick, Dana and her 'sis' for letting her be part of this show.

Carla Ames (Sound Operator) is more frequently seen on the CPT stage than behind it, but she also enjoys the opportunity to help out behind the scenes. She was most recently seen in this season's *Calendar Girls* as Celia, and last season's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* as Mrs. Alexander and Voice 6. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Kristin Krause (Light Operator) This is my third show running the lights and I am blessed to find Conejo Player Theatre. Thank you to my family for all their love and support.

Rick Steinberg (Set Designer) 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, He has won awards in both Directing and Set Design. He is a honorary life time member and multiple Harlequin Award recipient.

Emma Garcia (Projection/Spot Operator) This is Emma's first production at Conejo Players Theatre! She is a current California Arts Scholar and senior at Rancho Campana High School, with aspirations to major in theatre in college. Emma is so excited to be a part of the *Romeo and Juliet* production! She's previously done work with Camarillo Junior Theatre and the Elite Theatre Company. Emma wants to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support for their her passions.

Wendy Babb (Choreographer) has been dancing all of her life. She continued this love of dance through college and now, has moved into choreographing pieces for theatre, weddings, talent shows and more. It was special to help tell the story of *Romeo and Juliet* with a small bit of choreo. She thanks Patrick for including her in this timeless, beautiful story.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



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Scott & Holly Donohue**

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 Exec. Producer **Beth Eslick**
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THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Box Office Manager **Sarah Ely**
 Box Office Assistant..... **Jess Filippi**
 House Mgr. Coordinator..... **Elena Mills**
 House Managers **Christine Adams**,
 .. **Dona Pugh, Ken Endress, Jess Filippi**,
 .. **Danielle Romo, Christine Evangelista**,
 .. **Erin Fagundes, Elena Mills, Beth Eslick**
 Front-of-House Coordinator. **Eve Kiefer**
 Snack Bar Coordinator..... **Jim Bukowski**
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 Graphic Designer **John Eslick**
 Pre-Show VO..... **John Eslick**
 Key Master **Jim Diderrich**
 Theatre Ghost **Albert**

NEXT ON THE BOARDS