

READERS  THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



DECEMBER 8, 2024 @6PM

While there is no charge for admission, we gladly accept donations for the Conejo Players Readers Theatre. If you would like to continue to see new exciting works through this program, please consider a donation to Readers Theatre.

[Click here to donate now!](#)

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

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens
adapted by Paul Babb

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Dec 8, 2024

6:00pm

The CAST

Jeff Raum..... Scrooge
William Hubbard Narrator
William SweeneyCratchit/Businessperson 1
Matt DeNoto Fred/Marley/Old Joe
Jessie Forbes..... Ghost of Christmas Past/Laundress
Samantha Netzen Bingham Fan/Martha/Fred's Wife
Brianna Csellak Belle/Guest 2
William Ackerman Fezziwig/Businessperson 2/Gentleperson 2/Guest 1
Courtney Potter Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Fezziwig/Gentleperson 1
Mary Alice Brady..... Ghost of Christmas Present/Charwoman
Logan Filippi..... Tiny Tim/Little Boy

Production STAFF

DirectorJené Hernandez
Readers Theatre Co-Producers.....Scott Quintard, Paul Babb
Light and Sound Operator Andy Ames

From THE DIRECTOR

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol has moved hearts for generations with its powerful message of redemption, generosity, and compassion. Though written nearly two centuries ago, its themes remain as poignant and relevant today as ever. In this Reader's Theatre production, without the use of props, costumes, or set pieces, we embrace the simplicity of traditional storytelling, allowing Dickens' timeless words to resonate fully and vividly. My hope is that you, our audience, will be transported by the tale and leave alight with the Christmas spirit, inspired to spread kindness and love to those around you. Thank you for joining us for this journey of transformation and hope.

- Jené Hernandez, Director





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 & DIRECTOR



Jeff Raum (Scrooge) was last seen on this stage about 20 years ago as Homer Zuckerman in *Charlotte's Web*. His last performance was in 2017 as Cogsworth in High Street's *Beauty and the Beast*. Some of the characters he's portrayed are; Fagin, Marley, Jesus, Merlin, Don Quixote, the Baker, and Malvolio. When he lived in New York, he worked as a Broadway make-up artist for *I'm Not Rappaport* and the original run of *Into The Woods*. Jeff currently works as a muralist and decorative painter. His work, both visual and performing, may be viewed at jeffraum.com.



William Hubbard (Narrator) You may have seen William recently in *Circle Mirror Transformations*, *Salvatori*, or *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. After living in Maui and Tucson, William is back in Southern California. He has been a member of the Screen Actors Guild for over 38 years and has appeared in many commercials, films, television and has voiced many animated TV series. William Hubbard currently resides in Ventura County, California where he plays Gramps, gardens, plays Baritone Ukulele and edits silly video projects. He would like to thank his family and friends for putting up with the right side of his brain. Aloha...mahalo nui!



William Sweeney (Cratchit/Businessperson 1) is excited to be sharing this timeless tale with a phenomenal cast. He has previously performed locally at Conejo Players Theatre (*Hairspray*, *A Murder Is Announced*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*) and at Camarillo Skyway Playhouse (*Curtains*, *Private Lives*, *Sylvia*). He would like to thank the producers and creative team of Readers Theatre and Conejo Players Theatre for making this all possible. He also thanks his loved ones for their patience with his overindulgence of Christmas music, which starts much earlier in the year than is reasonable.



Matt DeNoto (Fred/Marley/Old Joe) was most recently seen at Conejo Players in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, where he played Lord Adalbert D'Ysquith, Lord Henry D'Ysquith, Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, Asquith D'Ysquith Jr, the Reverend Lord Ezekial D'Ysquith, Major Lord Bartholomew D'Ysquith, Lady Hyacinth D'Ysquith, Lady Salome D'Ysquith, and Chauncey D'Ysquith.



Jessie Forbes (Ghost of Christmas Past/Laundress) has always loved theater. Her mother had her in music and dance lessons from a young age, so performing on stage in any capacity has always been appealing. Jessie moved to California five years ago, and has since been in *The Sound of Music* at High Street Arts Center, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* at Conejo Players. She is so happy to be able to take a little time out of her busy family life to be part of this timeless holiday classic.



Samantha Netzen Bingham (Fan/Martha/Fred's Wife) is absolutely thrilled to be with this phenomenal cast and production team to celebrate the holiday season! She has previously been seen in the Readers Theatre in their readings of *The Nameless Star* and *Sage*. Other favorite roles include Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda* (HSAC), Babe in *Crimes of the Heart* (Elite) and Marianne in *Disaster* (CSP). Many thanks to her family and friends for all their love and support! Special shout out to her husband Shane and cat Pumpkin, who she will happily spend Christmas Past, Present, and Future with.



Brianna Csellak (Belle/Guest 2) (they/she) is very excited to be a part of *A Christmas Carol* reading at Conejo Players. You might recognize them from Conejo Player's *Bye Bye Birdie* where they played the role of Fred. More recently, Brianna has been in productions at CSUN and was associate director of *Men On Boats*. She is excited to kick off the season with this production and wishes everyone happy holidays!



William Ackerman (Fezziwig/Businessperson 2/Gentleperson 2/ Guest 1) earned his MFA from UCI and his BFA from the University of Illinois. He has worked as an actor, director, and producer for over 40 years, and is currently the director of museum theater at the Stagecoach Inn Museum. His proudest accomplishment is his family, starring his wife of 42 years, two daughters, two sons, two children-in-law, and four grandsons, ages one to five, who he is certain are the coolest people in the world. This is Bill's first appearance with CPT.



Courtney Potter (Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Fezziwig/Gentleperson 1) is a devout fan of this Dickens classic, in all its legion forms... but has never performed in it – ‘til now! Favorite local/regional credits include Bea in *Something Rotten!* and Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins* (High Street Arts Center); Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein* (Conejo Players Theatre); Woman 2 in *I Love You, You’re Perfect, 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 Ethel Toffelmier in *The Music Man* (Cabrillo Music Theatre). Merry thanks to Jené, Paul, and Scott. “Where there’s music and laughter, happiness is rife.”



Mary Alice Brady (Ghost of Christmas Present/Charwoman) would love to wish you all a Merry Christmas, free of humbug! She feels so lucky to be able to play this dream role with such a talented group of artists. You last saw Mary Alice as Lady Eugenia in CPT’s *A Gentleman’s Guide...* this past April. She wanted to thank her incredible husband DJ for always supporting her. May you all live in the PRESENT this holiday season! Remember to hug your loved ones and drink more eggnog- that’s an order!



Logan Filippi (Tiny Tim/Little Boy) is ecstatic to be back on the historic Conejo Players stage! He wishes to thank Jené, Scott, Paul, & his castmates! Past credits include Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Sport in *Harriet the Spy* at Conejo Players, Pugsley in *The Addams Family* and Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* at Simi ARTS, and Nibs in *Peter Pan & Wendy* at Will Geer Theatricum. You can see him next as Michael in *Elf the Musical* at CSPAR. Follow on Instagram: @ Logan_Filippi. Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all!



Jené Hernandez (Director) Jené is thrilled to make her directorial debut at Conejo Players Theatre with this Reader’s Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*. She recently appeared onstage in CPT’s Reader’s Theatre production of *Macbitches* in the role of Cam and fell in love with the process of Reader’s Theatre. A seasoned performer and creative, her credits include directing and music directing productions such as *Seussical* (Fillmore Town Theatre), *The Wizard of Oz Jr.* (High Street Arts Center), and *Edges* (San Diego). She also recently did hair and makeup design for *The Glass Menagerie* (CPT) and founded and directed the youth-focused Broadway Bound summer camp. With a background in vocal performance and three decades of experience in music and theater, Jené brings a passion for storytelling to every project. She would like to thank her dream cast for their dedication, her incredibly supportive co-producers Paul and Scott, and her husband Nick and daughter Lillybelle for their unwavering encouragement and love.



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Dana Marley-Kolb**
 Vice President **Elena Mills**
 Secretary **Eve Kiefer**
 Business Director **Toni Thompson**
 Facilities Director **Andrew Costello**
 Media Director **Ritchie Filippi**
 Treasurer **Deidre Parmenter**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Exec. Director **Rick Steinberg**
 Exec. Producer **Beth Eslick**
 Exec. Tech. Director **Jim Diderrich**



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

THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Box Office Manager **Sarah Ely**
 Box Office Assistant..... **Jess Filippi**
 House Mgr. Coordinator **Elena Mills**
 House Managers **Ken Endress,**
 **Mike Mills, Bridget van Gelder,**
 **Danielle Romo, Penny Krevenas,**
 **Dana Marley-Kolb, Erin Fagundes,**
 **Christine Evangelista, Beth Eslick,**
 **Dona Pugh, Jess Filippi, Elena Mills**
 Front-of-House Coordinator. **Eve Kiefer**
 Snack Bar Coordinator **Jim Bukowski**

Legal Advisor **Jason Kirkpatrick**
 Costume Custodian **Beth Eslick**
 Furniture Custodian **Rick Steinberg**
 Sound Maintenance Master.. **Joe Krause**
 Props Custodian..... **John Eslick**
 Graphic Designer **John Eslick**
 Pre-Show VO..... **John Eslick**
 Wig Custodian **Haley Cruz**
 Key Master **Jim Diderrich**
 Theatre Ghost **Albert**

NEXT ON THE BOARDS

HOTBED HOTEL
 by **Michael Parker**

Jan 10 - Feb 1, 2025
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm
 Thu Jan 16 at 8:00pm • Sat Jan 18 & 25 at 2:00pm

HOTBED HOTEL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

ANASTASIA
 THE MUSICAL

Book by **Terrence McNally**
 Music by **Stephen Flaherty**
 Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical From the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Gay Bobbin.

Mar 21 - Apr 13, 2025
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm
 Thu Mar 27 at 8:00pm • Sat Apr 5 at 2:00pm

ANASTASIA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.