

THE BOOK OF WALLS

A HISTORICAL DRAMATIC COMEDY

by Lauren Gunderson

Jun 6 - 28, 2025

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm
Thu Jun 12 at 8:00pm • Sat Jun 21 & 28 at 2:00pm

Welcome to CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 67th 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!

Conejo Players Theatre is a Proud Member of



Dana Marley-Kolt

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



THE BOOK OF WILL is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Jun 6 - 28, 2025

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The **CAST**

Patrick Clark	Henry Condell
Scott Quintard	John Heminges
Alan Waserman	Richard Burbage
Jené Hernandez	•
Ronna Jones	Rebecca Heminges
Brenda White	Elizabeth Condell
Patrick McMinn	Ben Johnson
Michael Thompson	Ralph Crane
Hugh McManigal	
Benjamin Colby Wilson	
Kevin Viado	
Jim Diderrich	
Paul Babb	
Wendy Babb	
Nancy Solomons Barker	Anne Hathaway Shakespeare
Fennel Emmanuelle	
Jeremy Richter	Male Understudy

The **SETTING**

London and Stratford-upon-Avon, England, 1619-1623

Special Thanks

Barbara Sellers, National Charity League

Production **STAFF**

Director	Dana Marley-Kolb
Co-Producers	Wendy Babb, Priscilla Losey
	Dana Marley-Kolb, Mark McCandless, Rick Steinberg
Costume Designers	Beth Eslick, Deidre Hobbs, Val Hobbs
Lighting Designer	Jack Allaway
	Robin Rassell
Projections Designer	Paul Babb
	Dona Pugh, Jaye Depew
Stage Manager	Toni Thompson
Associate Stage Manager.	Theo Kronemer
	Diann Alexander
	Wendy Babb
	Mark Suarez
Incidental Music Creator	Scott Donohue
Sound Board Operator	Joe Krause
Light Board Operator	Kristin Krause
	Rita McCaffrey
	John Barker
Stage Crew	Belle Krause, Haley Marie
Construction Head	Rick Steinberg
Construction Crew	Jim Diderrich, Judy Diderrich, John Holroyd,
	Max Honigsberg, Dana Marley-Kolb, Lee Marks,
	Monica Steinberg, Kurt Schwartz, Mike Watrobski
	Karen Graham-Hanna, Susan McNeill, Susan Weyant
Specialty Graphics	John Eslick
Specialty Props	Paul Babb
	Mark McCandless, Elena Mills
	Jack Allaway, Paul Babb, Wendy Babb,
	Clark, Jim Diderrich, Judy Diderrich, Jené Hernandez,
	nandez, Nick Hernandez, Fennel Higley, Rachel Higley, s, Dylan Kolb, Theo Kronemer, John Losey, Pax Losey,
	s, Dylan Kolb, Theo Kronemer, John Losey, Pax Losey, osey, Lee Marks, Dana Marley-Kolb, Hugh McManigal,
	Nelson, Scott Quintard, Jay Somdahl, Rick Steinberg,
	nompson, Toni Thompson, Doug Trafican, Kevin Viado,
	Alan Waserman, Susan Weyant, Brenda White
	s Amoroso, Eve Ashton, Zoe Ashton, Allison Branden,
	lie Clark, Patrick Clark, Susi Cruz, Fennel Emmanuelle,
	ené Hernandez, Lillybelle Hernandez, Nick Hernandez,
	os, Carl Link, Charles Link, Priscilla Losey, Haley Marie,
	Colb, Anne Mills, Elena Mills, Lily Mills, Scott Quintard,
	Shah, Joshua Tanenbaum, Leah Tepfer, Shannon Tepfer,
	Michelle Waggoner, Robert Waggoner, Dean Watson,
	Brenda White, Benjamin Colby Wilson
	Ezra Eells, Aaron Kirsch
	Dylan Kolb
	z juli Kolo

From THE DIRECTOR

Lauren Gunderson has been named the most produced playwright in America three times in the last ten years. And I understand why. She has a lot to say about the human condition and the part that art and writing take to enhance life. But she does so in wonderfully creative and accessible ways. She looks to fill her shows with intelligence, humor, and feeling. These elements combine to make the sort of theatre I most enjoy.

My long term love of Shakespeare and theatre drew me to this piece immediately. But above that, it was the recognizable characters and their relationships that pulled me in. I love language and so does this play, but it's the understanding of long term friendships and marriages that make the impact.

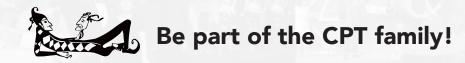
Before working on this piece, I never truly understood how little of Shakespeare's work would have survived if not for the dedication of his friends. I find that beautiful, and a story worth telling. I hope that after the show, each one of us honors and appreciates the special people in our lives just a little bit more. If so, then thank you Lauren Gunderson.

- Dana Marley-Kolb, Director



Why no ACCENTS?

It is thought that modern speech has varied so much from Shakespeare's time, that even today's British accents would be unrecognizable to him. The Book of Will is a modern play, written by an American, with modern language. It is to be spoken in the natural accent of the performers.



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



Paul Babb (Marcus)
Tho' Paul took up the script with trembling hand,
He had his wife and valu'ed friend at hand.
Sweet Wendy shares the stage (and, aye, his life),
While Scott brings wit and joy thru strife.
Their noble director — a friend most true —
Hath steered this ship with wit and wisdom too.
Tho' oft he toils in marketing, design,
He'll tread the boards for Will — or wine.
He thanks thee all for lending ears and eyes,
And bids thee hush... the curtain soon shall rise!



Wendy Babb (Producer/Emilia Bassano Lanier) This is an incredibly special endeavor for Wendy. Along with her husband Paul, (who she hasn't performed on stage with since the early 2000's), she is also working with her dear friend Scott (who was in one of her first shows, *Brigadoon*, back in the 1980's up in the Bay Area). To top it all off, her dearest friend Dana, with whom she has worked on and off since college, is directing her in this show. Old and new friends from the theatre community have been one of the finest gifts she could have received. Wendy enjoys performing, choreographing and directing. The last adventure was a labor of love choreographing *Anastasia*, right here at Conejo Players Theatre. Who knows what will be next, but for the spring of 2025, it couldn't be any sweeter than working on this beautiful play with this amazing and creative cast and crew.



Patrick Clark (Henry Condell) is making his Conejo Players Theatre debut. Originally from Towson, Maryland, Patrick acted quite a bit in his younger years. Inspired by his middle school daughter's love of theatre and grateful to his gracious wife, he reemerged on the stage last year with the Actors' Repertory Theater of Simi as Drake in the musical *Annie*. He spends his days working as a sound engineer for Disney television and feels incredibly blessed to be playing with such a great team of actors and creators.



Jim Diderrich (Ed Knight/Derring/etc.) was last seen on stage at CPT in the pandemic shortened production of *The Producers*. Other prominent Ventura County productions include You Can't Take It With You, The Crucible, Amadeus, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Damn Yankees, The Beard of Avon, Kiss Me, Kate, Nude With Pineapple, The King and I, 1776, Harvey, Lucky Stiff, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Rumors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Julius Caesar.



Fennel Emmanuelle (Crier/Susannah Shakespeare) is delighted to be a part of *The Book of Will*, especially since her family hails from Stratford-upon-Avon. Fennel most recently appeared in *Radium Girls* with Actors Repertory of Simi. She also appeared in *Lysistrata* at the ARTSpace Theatre in Simi. Fennel has played Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* at Young Actors Studio. She has also studied at RADA, UCLA & the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Fennel enjoys playwriting and her latest play is part of The Young Playwrights Festival at The New Vic Theatre in Santa Barbara.



Jené Hernandez (Alice Heminges) feels incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this beautiful play honoring the Bard and the real-life stories of those who made sure his masterpieces could be enjoyed by us, still, generations later. Jené first performed on stage at just two years old, and from then on she never looked back, dedicating her life to studying all facets of the performing arts. She truly believes that "all the world's a stage." You may have seen her most recently in Anastasia and MacBitches here at CPT. Some of her favorite past roles have included Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors, Sister James in Doubt, and Kate McGowan in Titanic. Jené would like to express her heartfelt thanks to her friends and family for their love and support, her amazing director Dana for her inspirational vision and guidance, the cast for becoming like a second family to her, and most especially Jené's husband, Nick, and daughter, Lillybelle: her muses, her reason for everything.



Ronna Jones (Rebecca Heminges) was last seen at CPT as The Nurse in Romeo and Juliet, Jean Louise Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird and Penny Sycamore in You Can't Take it With You. Other stage credits include Dr. Helga Van Zandt in The Passion Of Dracula, Bunny Byron in Babes In Arms, Annie Lynn in Country! The Musical and originating the roles of Wanda for the debut of The Storm - The Musical at The NoHo Arts Center in Los Angeles, and also as Angela in The Pitch, two years in a row for the LA Fringe Festival. Miss Jones received an Outstanding Featured Performance award from @StageSceneLA for her 2023 performance as Vi Moore in SVCAC's musical Footloose. She wishes to thank her husband, Alan Waserman, for his endless support and encouragement. And a big "Thank you" to director Dana Marley-Kolb and this wonderful cast and crew for all their hard work and support! Cheers!



Hugh McManigal (William Jaggard) is grateful for the opportunity to perform again at Conejo Players Theatre. Hugh wishes to thank the wonderful director, Dana Marley-Kolb, for all she has done for us and this show. He is also grateful for this extraordinary cast for sharing their time, talent and friendship. Past productions: Bent, M. Butterfly, Glengarry Glen Ross, Inherit The Wind, Social Security, as well as Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth, King Lear and Richard III. Hugh would like to acknowledge his family, his wonderful children, Hugh and Maddie and Melanie and Madeline,

and grandchildren, Gabby and Emiliano, as well as his beautiful and brilliant wife, Michelle, for her love and support.



Patrick McMinn (Ben Johnson) Patrick's career began as an actor and performing at such prestigious theatres as South Coast Repertory, The Old Globe Theatre, Grove Shakespeare Company and The National Shakespeare Company in New York. He then transitioned into directing and producing theatre in Los Angeles before founding an entertainment company that developed projects and provided representation for actors and directors in television and film. Now after several decades he's returned to the more friendly confines of the theatre. For CPT he has portrayed Mr. Gilmer in To Kill a Mockingbird, directed Romeo and Juliet and the Reader's Theatre production of Grand Horizons. He thanks his wife for encouraging him in his theatre redux and his two sons for inspiring him with their accomplishments.



Scott Quintard (John Heminges) has been seen most recently on stage in the roles of Reverend Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Franklin Hart in 9 to 5, King Charlemagne in *Pippin* and Sir Arthur Banks in *Witch*. Aside from his time performing, Scott is also a co-producer for the Conejo Players Readers Theatre program and frequent photographer for CPT productions. Scott wants to thank his wife for her support and constant love, Dana for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing cast and his fellow performers who inspire him every day.



Nancy Solomons Barker (Anne Hathaway Shakespeare) first appeared as Maria Mirelli in CPT's production of *Lend Me a Tenor*. Born and raised in Memphis, TN, her first stage role was as a 4-yrold Sugar Plum in *The Nutcracker*. At 19, she was a disc jockey at WHER, Memphis' all-girl radio station. In NYC Nancy worked at the Museum of Modern Art while performing, and taking acting classes at H-B Studio. Nancy has appeared on stages throughout Ventura County. She and husband John have resided in Thousand Oaks since 1987. Favorite acting roles: ALL 100 or so....



Michael Thompson (Ralph Crane) would like to thank Dana and the Conejo Players Theatre for the opportunity to share the stage with this excellent cast of *The Book of Will*. An alumnus of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts/LA, Michael has performed in the US and Europe for over 30 years. He is known for bringing an array of characters to life as well as his skills in directing over 25 productions on Florida's Space Coast. Michael is very excited to be performing again after an eight-year hiatus and would like to thank his beautiful wife, Susan, for all her love, encouragement and support. "Thank you my loving pixie."



Kevin Viado (Boy Hamlet/Compositor) has been in A Midsummer Night's Dream and is excited to be in the The Book of Will for his second production ever. Kevin thanks his family and friends for supporting him throughout auditions to performance. He would also like to thank the rest of the cast and crew for being amazing to work with and grow alongside during the bringing of life of this amazing play.



Alan Waserman (Richard Burbage) is thrilled to be part of this marvelous production of *The Book of Will*. His previous works here at CPT includes Antonio Salieri in Amadeus, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and last year's *Romeo and Juliet*. He has also had the pleasure of directing the classic comedy, *You Can't Take it With You* in 2019. Following this production, Alan will once again be taking the directorial seat in the next CPT production of Ken Ludwig's thriller *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. He thanks the Conejo Players Theatre and director Dana Marley-Kolb for this wonderful opportunity. And to all the cast and crew members who have made this production a pure joy!



Brenda White (Elizabeth Condell) earned her Bachelor's in Theater Arts-Acting from Sonoma State University. Her favorite roles include Irene Roth (*Crazy for You*), Kathy Selden (*Singin' in the Rain*) and April (*Company*). She is eternally grateful to her parents, who have supported every performance she has ever had, and to her husband and son for their unwavering love, laughter and encouragement.



Benjamin Colby Wilson (Isaac Jaggard) has called theatre "his art" for thirteen years. In that time he has acted in, written and directed shows mainly with the Fractured Actors Theatre Co. with a little bit of Ojai, a little bit of Oxnard's Elite and a little bit of CPT in the mix. Plays he holds nearest and dearest to his heart are, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Red and now The Book of Will. When not on stage, Benjamin is an activist for animal rights. In 2023, he raised awareness to this issue by successfully walking across America from Santa Monica Pier to St. Simon's Beach, Georgia. You can read about his adventures on Instagram. @xvxcolbyxvx



Meet THE STAFF

Dana Marley-Kolb (Director/Set Designer) is excited to be directing this wonderful play on this wonderful stage. At CPT she has performed as Rose in Gypsy (Four Star Award), Muzzy in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Phyllis in Follies, Barbara in Social Security, Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd (Four Star Award), Arlene in Baby, Violet in 9 to 5 The Musical, and Amanda in The Glass Menagerie. Behind the scenes at CPT, she served as Dramaturg for the streamed The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [Revised] and for Romeo and Juliet, staged two Car Park Theaters, directed Daddy Long Legs and The Secret Garden, and produced 25th... Spelling Bee, Romeo and Juliet, and Gentleman's Guide...Murder. In an earlier life, she directed Macbeth, Richard III, Our Country's Good, and The Beggar's Opera (among others) in Los Angeles. Thank you all, and special thanks to her family and friends, and to the amazing Book of Will production team. She is currently serving as Conejo Players Theatre's President.

Priscilla Losey (Producer) is an Honorary Life Member of Conejo Players Theatre, a three-time Four Star Award winner, a Golden Sweatshirt recipient and the inaugural recipient of the Gerda Fadden Congeniality Award. She has produced, assistant choreographed, made costumes, designed props, painted sets, ushered, designed lobby boards, sold concessions and occasionally performed on stage. Some of her favorite on-stage credits include *Miss Saigon*, *The Women*, *Joseph ... Dreamcoat*, *Children of Eden*, *Music Man*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cabaret*. By day, Priscilla is an event planner and makes custom cakes. But the most meaningful and rewarding role she holds is that of wife and mommy. She is so honored to have had this experience with the incredibly talented Dana Marley-Kolb and Wendy Babb, and this extraordinary cast and crew. Much love and thanks to Bear, Cubby and to the One who makes all things possible.

Rick Steinberg (Set Designer/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. He has won awards in both directing and set design. He is an honorary lifetime member and multiple Harlequin Award recipient.

Robin Rassell (Sound Designer) has sound designed several CPT productions over the past few years, including *The Pajama Game, The Secret Garden, Catch Me If You Can* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She has appeared on stage in HSAC's *The Sound of Music* as well as CPT's production of 9 to 5 the *Musical* and *Calendar Girls*. Being part of the theater has been a bucket list item so she is honored to have supported CPT on stage, behind the scenes and as a board member over the years.

Beth Eslick (Costume Designer) has enjoyed costuming these amazing actors! She is an Honorary Life Member of the Conejo Players Theatre, is the 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-sopatient Sunshine." Bethdressed.com.

Dona Pugh (Props Mistress) has been volunteering at CPT for over 17 years, mainly as a House Manager. She enjoys working on props together with her sister, Jaye. They previously worked on the props for *The Glass Menagerie*, *Pajama Game*, and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. She wants to thank Priscilla and Dana for inviting her to be a part of this exciting production, after all, according to Shakespeare "the Play's the thing..."

Theo Kronemer (Associate Stage Manager) is new to Conejo Players Theatre and the Southern California area. They study stage management and sociology at Carnegie Mellon University. Their recent credits include *My First Play* (New Product Company), *Y2K*: *Before Midnight* (Carnegie Mellon Playground), *Children of Eden* (Overdue Theater), *Gloria* (Carnegie Mellon) and *A Little Night Music* (Carnegie Mellon). Originally from the St. Louis community theater scene, Theo is grateful to the cast and crew of *The Book of Will* for warmly welcoming them into the Conejo Players family.

Haley Marie (Backstage Crew) is the wig custodian at CPT. This is her second year with Conejo Players Theatre. She enjoys working backstage and helping make the shows come to life.



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

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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, Amie Smith, Elena Mills
Michele Waggoner, Jeremy Richter,
Deidre Parmenter
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Furniture Custodian Rick Steinberg
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Props Custodian John Eslick
Graphic Designer John Eslick
Pre-Show VO John Eslick
Wig Custodian Haley Marie
Key MasterJim Diderrich
Theatre Ghost Albert

NEXT ON THE BOARDS

