



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

Agatha Christie's

MURDER

on the **Orient
Express**



adapted for the stage by **Ken Ludwig**

Aug 8 - 30, 2025

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thu Aug 14 at 8:00pm • Sat Aug 23 & 30 at 2:00pm

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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

aact
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE



Dana Marley-Kolt
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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Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

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The **CAST**

Ray Mastrovito	Hercule Poirot
Jim Miller	Monsieur Bouc
Brenda White	Mary Debenham
Stephen J Root	Hector McQueen
Daniel Krause	Michel
Vivien Latham	Princess Dragomiroff
Brandy Paolini	Greta Ohlsson
Jacquelin Arroyo	Countess Andrenyi
Courtney Potter	Helen Hubbard
Benjamin Mitnick	Colonel Arbuthnot
Scott Quintard	Samuel Rachett
Mark Suarez	Waiter

The **SETTING**

The Orient Express, travelling from Istanbul to Western Europe, 1934

Production **STAFF**

Director	Alan Wasserman
Co-Producers.....	Beth Eslick, Kristin Krause
Stage Manager.....	Haley Marie
Costume Designers.....	Penny Krevenas, Elena Mills
Costume Assistants.....	Deidre Hobbs, Valerie Hobbs, Stacy Mills, Susan Weyant
Specialty Costumes.....	Beth Eslick
Set Designer.....	Rick Steinberg
Set Construction	John Holroyd, Max Honigsberg, Rick Steinberg, Mike Watrobski
Lighting Design	Joey Hennings
Sound Design	Joe Krause
Props Design	Debbie O'Sullivan
Mic Operator.....	Joe Krause
Sound Operator	Rylee Stafford
Light Operator	Kristin Krause
Spot Operator.....	Hunter Krause
Script Secretary.....	John Barker
Video Producer/Publicity Photos	Ritchie Filippi
Stage Crew.....	Belle Krause, Mark Suarez, Jaden Timms
Wig Custodian.....	Haley Marie
Script Supervisor	John Barker
Audition Crew	Suzi Cruz, Jim Bukowski, Julie Jensen, Belle Krause, Joe Krause, Kiki Stafford
Strike Team.....	Jacquelin Arroyo, Suzi Cruz, Jim Diderrich, Judy Diderrich Beth Eslick, John Eslick, Dei Hobbs, Val Hobbs, John Holroyd, Max Honigsberg Belle Krause, Hunter Krause, Joe Krause, Kristin Krause, Haley Marie, Lee Marks, Elena Mills, Benjamin Mitnick, Eli Mitnick, Layla Mitnick, Meredith Mitnick, Brandy Paolini, Scott Quintard, Stephen Root, Rick Steinberg, Scott Donohue, Mark Suarez, Alan Wasserman, Mike Watrobski, Brenda White
Painting Crew	Suzi Cruz, Beth Eslick, John Eslick, Belle Krause, Joe Krause, Kristin Krause, Haley Marie, Jim Miller, Benjamin Mitnick, Eli Mitnick, Layla Mitnick, Meredith Mitnick, Aiden Paolini, Ava Paolini, Brandy Paolini, Courtney Potter, Scott Quintard, Alan Wasserman, Brenda White

Special Thanks

**Boys Team Charity, Kobe Burton, National Charity League, Julie Jensen,
Cassidy Rizzotto, John Eslick, Ronna Jones, Donn Robinson, Paul Babb**

From **THE DIRECTOR**

Welcome aboard the legendary Orient Express! Directing this play has been a journey in itself.

Bringing this train to life has required immense collaboration and creativity. The magic of this production lies not just in its mystery, but also in the set, costumes and larger-than-life characters it brings to you, the audience.

This Ken Ludwig adaptation captures the spirit of Agatha Christie's iconic novel and adds razor-sharp dialogue, bold characters, and a theatrical flair that makes the stage sparkle.

At its core, the play asks us to consider the nature of justice, the limits of the law, and the weight of human loss, all wrapped in a thoroughly thrilling and enjoyable evening at the theatre. I invite you to lean in, listen closely, and enjoy the twists and turns of a mystery that has endured for nearly a century.

Thank you for joining us tonight, and I hope you enjoy your time aboard the Orient Express!

- **Alan D. Wasserman**, *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



Ray Mastrovito (Hercule Poirot) Since 1988, Ray has appeared throughout the county as a performer for Conejo Players, Cabrillo Music Theatre, Elite Theatre, Monterey Media, and Simi Valley's ARTS, as well as in ENATT's annual radio version of A Christmas Carol for the past 23 years. He served as Chair of the Board of 5-Star Theatricals from 1992 - 2000 and is currently on the board of that organization. He has produced 10 musicals at the 1800-seat Thousand Oaks Kavli Theatre and is now retired from his full time medical practice. Heartfelt thanks to Alan, Beth, and the Conejo family for this wonderful opportunity. As always, thanks to Cheryl.



Jim Miller (Monsieur Bouc) is thrilled to be returning to CPT. He first appeared here in 1986 as Norman in *The Dresser* and was last seen as Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Jim is also a voice actor for video games and loves spending his offstage time with his supportive and talented family.



Brenda White (Mary Debenham) earned her Bachelor's in Theater Arts-Acting from Sonoma State University. Her favorite roles include Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*, Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain*, and April in *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.



Stephen J Root (Hector McQueen) is honored to be a part of this wonderful cast and great show. He hopes everyone enjoys the show.



Daniel Krause (Michel) was last seen here in *Calendar Girls*. His other credits include TV's *Sex Sent Me To The ER* and *Decker: Declassified!*, and features *The Big Noir* and *The Deceased Won't Desist*. He is pleased to appear in this old warhorse of a play with such talented people, under the smart direction of Mr. W.



Vivien Latham (Princess Dragonmiroff) is delighted to return to the stage after appearing in *Footloose the Musical* as Principal Clark in 2023. Her last role at CPT was as the drunken actress Gay Wellington in *You Can't Take It With You*; other roles include Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* and Christine Penmark in *The Bad Seed*. She has worked in almost every theatre in Ventura County for over 25 years, in over 50 plays. Favorite roles include Katharine Hepburn in *Tea at Five*, Judy Garland in *Judy's Scary Little Christmas*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Regan in *King Lear*, the two Dromios in *The Comedy of Errors*, Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*, Dotty Otley in *Noises Off!*, and Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Heartfelt thanks to our Director, Producers, and the crew for all their hard work, and the cast for the fun and laughter. Enjoy the show – but please don't tell whodunnit.



Brandy Paolini (Greta Ohlsson) is very excited to be doing a play with this wonderful cast! She has a degree in theater from ISU and various acting classes in NYC. You may have seen her recently here performing with Conejo Players improv. Some of her favorite roles were Ophelia in *Hamlet* and Mary in *How the Other Half Loves*. She thanks her family for being so supportive. Enjoy the show and thank you for coming.



Jacquelin Arroyo (Countess Andrenyi) is making her Conejo Players Theatre debut. A Ventura County local, Jacquelin started her acting career at the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club drama department, but transitioned to film, featuring in such titles as: *The Great Alaskan Race*, *The Serial Killer Seduced Me* (Lifetime), *Deadly Inn* (Lifetime), *Tales of a Fifth Grade Robin Hood* (Tubi), and *Mundo: From Altar Boy to Hitman*, to name a few. She feels so fortunate to be able to share her love of acting with her community and is proud to work amongst such a talented group of entertainers and collaborators.



Courtney Potter (Helen Hubbard) is treading the Conejo Players Theatre boards in a Mainstage production for the first time since 2017 - and she's awfully appreciative for the opportunity. Most recently, here at CPT, Courtney produced/assistant directed the acclaimed '24 production of Jonathan Larson's *Rent*, appeared in the Readers Theatre adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, and consulted creatively™ on the dazzling *Anastasia the Musical* earlier this season. As an actor, other local/regional credits include Bea in *Something Rotten!*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia!*, and Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins* (all at High Street Arts Center); Elizabeth Benning in *Young Frankenstein* (CPT); 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). Big thanks to the entire production staff; to her talented castmates; and to friends and

family. "Ain't this the bee's knees!" IG: @divaliving



Benjamin Mitnick (Colonel Arburthnot) is delighted to return to the Conejo Players Theatre stage! Welcome aboard the pride of the Wagon-Lits company, the Orient Express. You may have recently seen him as Vlad Popov in *Anastasia The Musical* earlier this year. Other favorite credits include *The Nutcracker* (Mr. Stahlbaum), *Brigadoon* (Tommy Albright), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Sergeant of Police), *Singin' in the Rain* (Don Lockwood), and *South Pacific*. He would like to thank his wife and kids for their infinite love and support - I can't wait to share the stage with you in *Descendants The Musical* later this year!



Scott Quintard (Samuel Rachett) has been seen most recently on stage in the roles of John Hemmings in *The Book Of Will*, Reverend Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Franklin Hart in *9 to 5 The Musical*, 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 Ann for her support and constant love and CPT for this amazing community of artists.



Mark Suarez (Waiter/Stage Crew) has been involved with CPT since 2009; but the most recent stint began in 2018 when he was cast as Martin the Pessimist in *Candide*. Since then, he has primarily participated in CPT productions as staff or crew. His artistic ventures outside of CPT have focused on new works and different approaches to entertainment production such as private performances and joint venture projects.



Meet THE STAFF

Alan Wasserman (Director), best known at CPT as a performer, has been given the reins to direct this Ken Ludwig comedy thriller based on Agatha Christie's masterpiece, *Murder on the Orient Express*. This is his third opportunity at CPT. Five years ago, he directed the Kaufman and Hart comedy, *You Can't Take it With You*. Alan's other credits at Conejo Players include playing Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus*, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and, most recently, Richard Burbage in this past year's historical dramady, *The Book of Will*. He thanks his producers, Beth Eslick and Kristin Krause, as well as the CPT, for the wonderful experience! Also, to his superbly talented cast and crew, a deeply heartfelt thank you for all their hard work and patience!

Beth Eslick (Co-Producer) has enjoyed co-producing this show with Kristin, and is amazed at the ability of the actors on our stage. Beth is an Honorary Life Member of the Conejo Players Theatre, and has been the Costume Custodian 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."

Kristin Krause (Co-Producer) has found a family here at Conejo Players Theatre. This is her third time being a producer. She loves being involved with all aspects of the theater. She thanks her family for all their support and love.

Joe Krause (Sound Designer/Operator) This is Joe's fourth time helping with a Conejo Players production. He is multi-talented and jumps in wherever needed - from construction to chauffeur. He loves being able to support the theater and his daughter in her acting journey.

Rick Steinberg (Head of Construction) 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.

Ritchie Filippi (Video Producer/Publicity Photos) is a media, commercial, and film producer/director. He is thrilled to be working with Alan and this amazing cast on the video portions of the show. He has previously produced videos for NBC Sports, Sony Pictures, Nintendo, Discovery, and Sesame Street, to name a few. He is also the current Media Director for CPT. Enjoy the show, it is killer!

Haley Marie (Stage Manager) - Haley is the Wig Custodian at CPT. This is her 11th show with the theater, but her first time stage managing. She loves helping the shows come to life and looks forward to working future shows.

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

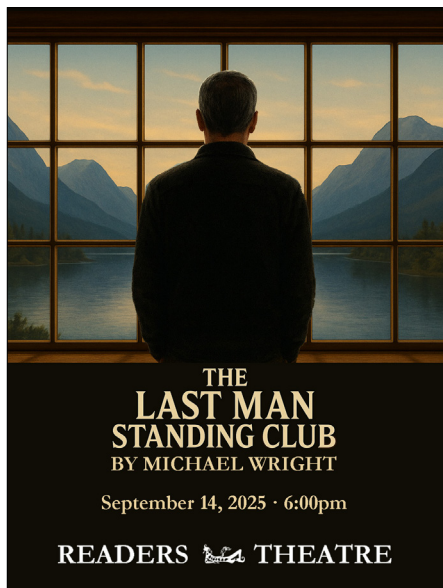
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Box Office Manager **Sarah Ely**
Box Office Assistant **Jess Filippi**
House Mgr. Coordinator **Elena Mills**
House Managers **Ken Endress,**
..... **Dona Pugh, Erin Fagundes,**
..... **Penny Krevenas, Dana Marley-Kolb,**
..... **Jess Filippi, Christine Evangelista,**
..... **Mike Mills, Danielle Romo,**
..... **Bridget Van Gelder, Elena Mills,**
..... **Michele Waggoner, Jeremy Richter,**
..... **Deidre Parmenter, Beth Eslick**
Front-of-House Coordinator. **Eve Kiefer**

NEXT ON THE BOARDS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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



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

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**
Archivist..... **Lucien Jervis**
Wig Custodian **Haley Marie**
Key Master **Jim Diderrich**
Theatre Ghost **Albert**

