



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

in conjunction with
CBJ Productions

NAT'S LAST STRUGGLE

by P.A. Wray

Welcome to CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE



I want to welcome you to Conejo Players Theatre. This has been a very special place in my life for the past 34 years! I'll never forget receiving an audition notice for *Evita* when we first moved to Agoura Hills; I had no idea then how enriched our lives would be with our amazing CPT family.

I have learned so much from these special people who support our theatre in so many ways: producers, directors, choreographers, actors, technical crew, stage crew, orchestra members, staff, and the incredible volunteers who make this all possible.

We are truly blessed to have Conejo Players Theatre in our community. CPT not only brings the best of theatre to us, but each volunteer has also helped build an inspiring and magical place where everyone can take a journey that will enhance and change their lives forever. **Whatever your passion is — whether it be seeing a great show, building sets, costuming, performing, directing, producing, ushering, etc. — we invite you to take this journey with us and become a part of our family.**


Devery Holmes
President

Proud Member of

aact
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Patron of the Theatre (\$5,000+)

Beth Dressed

Sponsor of the Theatre (\$2,500+)

Anonymous

Friend of the Theatre (\$500+)

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Christopher Soulios

Tim Holtwick

Ray & Cheryl Mastrovito

Margaret Doellstedt

Gary & Shelly Saxer

Frank Bonoff

CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE
In association with CBJ Productions
presents

NAT'S LAST STRUGGLE

by **P.A. Wray**

Production Licensed by Blue Moon Plays

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Feb 19 - 21, 2021

Fri & Sat at 7:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Production **STAFF**

Timothy Jones	Director
April Dobbs, Beth Eslick	Producers
Mark Suarez	Stage Manager
Robert Reeves	Streaming Tech Director
Rick Steinberg	Set Designer
Jim Diderrich	Lighting Designer
John Eslick	Props Designer/VO Artist
Beth Eslick	Costume Designer
Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves	Sound Operator
Rita McCaffrey	Light Operator
Timothy Jones	Camera Operator
Jeremy Zeller	Technical Adviser
Robin Russell	Media Director
Rick Steinberg, Rita McCaffrey, Maddie Treadwell	Painting Crew
Rick Steinberg, Bob Jackson	Set Construction

The **CAST**

John L. Adams	Nat Turner
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The **SETTING**

November 1831 - A jail cell in Virginia

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Devery Holmes**
Vice President **Elena Mills**
Secretary **Rita McCaffrey**
Treasurer **Mark Grisez**
Business Director **Renee Delgado Rose**
Facilities Director **Mike Mills**
Media Director **Robin Russell**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Exec. Director **Shelley Saxer**
Exec. Producer **Beth Eslick**
Exec. Tech. Director **Jeremy Zeller**



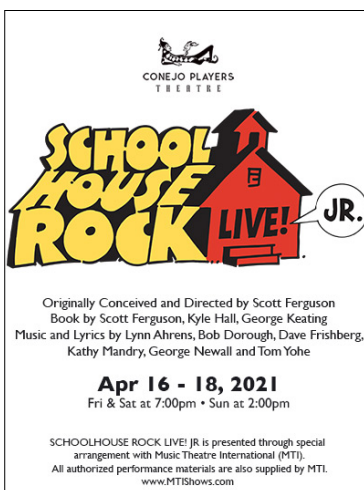
Director Emeritus.....**Dick Johnson**

THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Board Meeting Sponsor...**Beth Dressed**
Legal Advisor **Jason Kirkpatrick**
Box Office Manager **Sarah Ely**
Box Office Staff.....
..... **James Laguna, Trisha Greene,**
..... **Bill Sweeney, Lorna Bowen**
House Mgr. Coordinator...**James Laguna**
House Managers **Dona Pugh,**
.. **Patrick Rogers, Elisabeth Kirkpatrick,**
..... **Erin Fagundes, Don Johnson, Eve**
..... **Kiefer, Ken Endress, Megan Brister,**
..... **Will Carmichael, Mari Urenda**
Snack Bar Coordinator..... **Jim Bukowski**

Front-of-House Coordinator. **Eve Kiefer**
Front-of-House Coordinator (CPYT).....
..... **Heather Gonzalez**
Front-of-House Coordinator (Thurs.).....
..... **Sharon Caswell**
Archivist.....**Mike Mills**
Costume Custodian **Beth Eslick**
Furniture Custodian **Rick Steinberg**
Props Custodian..... **John Eslick**
Graphic Designer **John Eslick**
Pre-Show VO..... **John Eslick**
Key Master **Jim Diderrich**
Theatre Ghost **Albert**

NEXT ON THE BOARDS



Meet THE CAST



John L. Adams (Nat Turner) is more than an actor. He is a director, a writer, a comedian, an acting coach, and a lawyer. John realized that entertainment was his calling after performing in a talent show at Winston-Salem State University and less than five years later, he made his first appearance as a series regular on NBC's "Just Deal." This was quickly followed by a number of guest star appearances on hit television shows like, CSI, NCIS, and Girlfriends. John starred as Bruce Lewis for six seasons, on USA Network's "The Dead Zone" and made his directorial debut with the episode "Revelations." John continues to act in Atlanta, where he hopes to inspire fans with the stories he tells through his work.

Meet THE STAFF

Timothy Jones (Director: Atlanta) is a true renaissance man. Actor, Director, Filmmaker, TV host, Preacher, and more! A theatrically trained actor, Timothy has had leading roles in many stage plays for over 20 years. He's hosted his own television show for PBS ("HIDDEN HIKES"), and he's written and produced an independent film ("DISCOVERING DESTINY") and several shorts. Timothy's vision is to maximize his talents to tell compelling and inspiring stories that make people's lives better.

April Dobbs (Producer: Atlanta) As co-founder of CBJ Productions, April aspires to produce compelling black stories in theatre, television, and web-based content. April is Univision Los Angeles' Sales Analyst & Planner and co-founder of their Black & Indigenous People Global Inclusion group, Kulture. She has over 20 years of experience in several titles in television & radio broadcasting to include Creative Director, Content Developer, Live Events Producer, and Special Program & Events Specialist. April is a former radio personality and an avid mentor and advocate for HBCU students with career aspirations in broadcasting. She is the host and producer of her music podcast, "Soul Titty". April is an active member and contributor with W.I.S.E (Women in Sports & Events) and the Los Angeles Urban League Young Professionals. She is also a graduate student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill pursuing a Master of Arts in Education Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship.

Beth Eslick (Producer: Thousand Oaks/Costume Designer) Beth has enjoyed producing and costuming *Nat's Last Struggle*. Beth is an Honorary Life Member of the Conejo Players Theatre, a Golden Sweatshirt winner, and has been the Costume Custodian since 2008. In real life, Beth is a Costume Designer and the Wardrobe Supervisor at Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum in Topanga. Hugs and kisses to my incredible, ever-so-patient Sunshine, and thank you to Chelsea, Tori, and Bennie for their encouragement, love, and support." Bethdressed.com.

Mark Suarez (Stage Manager) Mark Suarez has been contributing to Conejo Players Theatre productions, periodically since 2009. He started as a performer, and through his participation with this company has expanded his skillset to include stage managing. This past year has involved exploring how to coordinate and present a hybridized form of performance. Mark lives in Studio City and works in Glendale. Beyond his "day job" and his contributions to our company, he writes and produces his own work through his production company: Seditious Apostate Theatre Company, LLC. His current writing projects include solo performance pieces and a martial arts mini-series. Past productions include *No Need for Word*, *The Imp & the Troll*, and *Made in America*.

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 and has won awards in both Directing and Set Design. He is a honorary life time member and multiple Harlequin Award recipient.

John Eslick (Props Designer/VO Artist) has designed and constructed props for many CPT productions, the last being *Last Train to Nibroc*. John has many years experience as a prop and model maker for special effects and entertainment companies. He is the Props Custodian for the theatre.

Jeremy Zeller (Technical Adviser) is the Executive Technical Director for the Conejo Players. He is the director of the currently sidelined-due-to-the-pandemic Conejo Improv Players and has enjoyed helping to bring the Players into the streaming age. He hopes you enjoy the production.

Rita McCaffrey (Light Operator) I am happy to be part of this production. The cast and crew are the best and I am always glad to support CPT any way I can. I have been onstage as Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, and as Hattie Walker in *Follies*. I have also been a prop mistress and a stage manager. I am ready to return to the stage when CPT revives *Grandma Moses* and gives me the lead.

Jim Diderrich (Lighting Designer) has been designing the lights for many CPT productions during the last five years with the most recent being *Last Train to Nibroc*. Surprise - he's also an actor.

Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (Sound Operator) is so happy to be involved with yet another wonderful CPT production. She is lucky to have been involved with Conejo both behind the scenes (running sound for *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged) [Revised]* and for *Last Train to Nibroc*, and assisting with costumes for a number of other productions over the years) and on the stage (*The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Murder is Announced*, *The Belle of Amherst*). A resident of California since 1999, you may have seen her in other productions at the West Valley Playhouse, where she is also active both on-stage (*The Dinner Party*; *Towards Zero*; *Same Time Next Year*) and as a costumer (*The Night of January 16th*; *Towards Zero*; *Same Time Next Year*; *Love from a Stranger*). When not pursuing her love of the theater, she can be found practicing veterinary medicine at UCLA, as she holds both a veterinary and a doctoral degree. "With theatre, you have to be ready for anything." – Willem Dafoe

Robert Reeves (Streaming Technical Director) Working as a cameraman and master control operator at an NBC affiliate in Knoxville, TN prepared Robert for his work in Conejo Players recent online plays. He is happy to be able to help bring these shows to a larger audience. When not pointing a camera or pushing buttons Robert can sometimes be seen on stage as he was in the CPT productions of *Young Frankenstein* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

P.A. (Patti) Wray (Author) studied dramatic writing at Old Dominion University in 2001, and continues to learn the craft through workshops, self-study and participation in Virginia Playwrights Forum (VPF), a group she helped form in 2000. In 2007, Wray and her investment partner opened a storefront performing arts space in Norfolk to help foster the fledgling writers group. This space, known as The Venue on 35th, in addition to being the home of the Forum, became popular with a variety of artists. In 2016 Wray stepped down from being the executive producer at The Venue to focus on her writing. She also, through VPF, is currently working with Wayne Theatre to bring dramatic works for the stage to the Wayne, with emphasis on new works by Virginia playwrights.

Over the years Wray's plays have been featured in local new play festivals as productions and staged readings. *Nat's Last Struggle*: a one act, one man solo piece received critical acclaim during Norfolk Summer Play Fest 2011 and was presented at The Earl Hamner, Jr. Theatre, Afton, Va. and Gateway Theater, Waynesboro, Va. in Oct. 2011. It was produced in July

2015 and presented at Generic Theater, Norfolk, Va. This piece is currently available for production through Blue Moon Plays.

Nat Turner's Last Struggle: Finding His Way Home: a one act, two character play, is a re-imagined version of *Nat's Last Struggle*. It was selected for a Summer Reading Series by Heritage Ensemble Theatre Company and was presented in a fully-staged reading at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va. July 2016. The piece was produced at The Venue on 35th March 2017 where it received rave reviews from audiences and literary professionals. A different production was part of Virginia Theater Association Fringe Festival in October 2017. A new production will go up at Wayne Theatre in February 2019 as part of their 2018/2019 Fall and Winter Season. This piece is available for production through Blue Moon Plays.



CBJ Productions