



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

by Arlene Hutton



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+)

Jim & Devery Holmes

Jason & Renee Rose

Christopher Soulios

Tim Holtwick

Ray & Cheryl Mastrovito

Margaret Doellstedt

Gary & Shelly Saxer

Frank Bonoff

CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

presents

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

by **Arlene Hutton**

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatist Play Service

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Jan 22 - 24, 2021

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Production **STAFF**

Elena Mills Director/Co-Costume Designer
Beth Eslick Producer/Co-Costume Designer
Mark Suarez..... Stage Manager
Rick Steinberg Set Designer
Jim Diderrich Co-Lighting Designer
Jack Allaway Co-Lighting Designer
John Eslick..... Props Designer/Sound Designer
Miriam Durrie-Kirsch..... Choreographer
Stephanie Rice..... Kentucky Accent Coach
Ritchie Filippi..... Stream Technical Director
Kathleen Pelaez Music Compilation
Robert Reeves..... Camera Operator
Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves..... Sound Operator
Rita McCaffrey Light Operator
Jeremy Zeller Technical Adviser
Tyler Lopez Photographer
Rick Steinberg, Jeremy Zeller, Leo Zeller, Mark Suarez, Jeff Lawless, John Eslick, Emilyrose Morris, Stacy Mills, Elena Mills..... Strike Crew
Jeff Lawless, Mark Suarez, Emilyrose Morris, Stacy Mills, Elena Mills..... Painting Crew
Rick Steinberg, Bob Jackson, Max Konigsberg..... Set Construction

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**



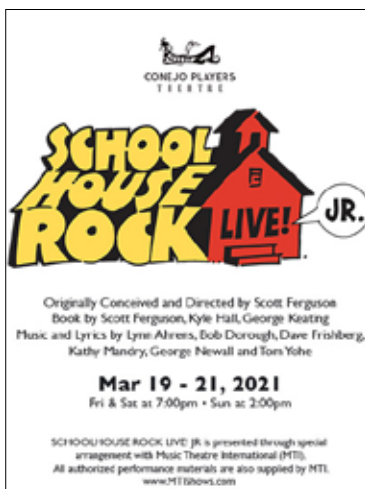
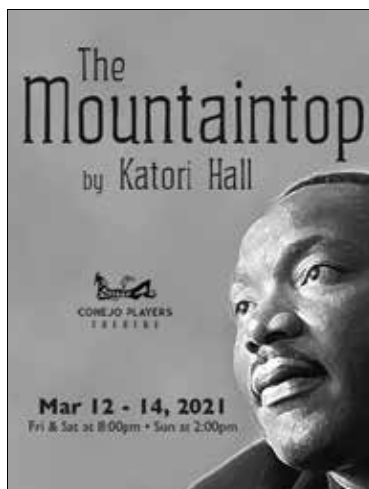
Director Emeritus.....**Dick Johnson**

THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Board Meeting Sponsor....**BethDressed**
 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



The **CAST**

Emilyrose Morris May
Jeff Lawless Raleigh

From **THE DIRECTOR**

Many years ago I read this play and immediately fell in love with it. I never dreamed to direct this one knowing that CPT usually doesn't produce two-person plays. But even the bad times can bring something good! And we did this play!

I can't be more happy and proud of our work. And it's not just because we brought this beautiful love story to life, but because we were able to continue to make art. Even now, even during this extremely difficult time, we did it! All the beautiful people who were involved – I salute you! You did an amazing job, every one of you!

The beautiful set was designed by my beloved friend Rick, and he built it together with Bob and Max. Great lighting (perfect for livestream) was done by Jack and Jim. I have worked with these gentlemen so many times and adore their talents! John did so much for this show and I can't thank him enough! He is the propmaster and he found the perfect and period-correct props. He is also the sound designer and did an amazing job. And he found wonderful images for you to look at between scenes bringing the special feelings of the time. I know you will truly enjoy them! Mark did an amazing job as a stage manager, spending a lot of time helping the actors and me. I call him a Miracle Worker! Beth worked so hard not just to produce the show but as a costume designer, and she found wonderful outfits which reflected the characters. I have worked together with Beth on so many shows and I am so happy we did it again! Our new CPT volunteer Kathleen found such beautiful music pieces which fit perfectly to the story we are about to tell you! Our great accent coach Stephanie spent may hours with us on Zoom teaching Jeff and Emilyrose the proper Kentucky pronunciation. How I can thank you enough, Rita and Joanne? They are with us every night, doing a great job to keep the show going! And of course our fearless camera men – Ritchie and Robert – without these gentlemen and their hard work and dedication you would not be able to see the show. And I appreciate so much every Board member who helped us with this show. It was truly teamwork and couldn't be done without people who love CPT and are doing everything they can to keep this place going and thriving.

And the last but not least – two beautiful actors who are bringing this story to you. Emilyrose and Jeff... I can go on and on telling you how I was happy to work with them, how I appreciate their dedication, how much time we spent talking, trying, discussing and arguing to create these characters. But I just will say – I love them. I do believe that the director has to fall in love with the actors – only love can create art!

I know for many of us this is not the last show. But this one definitely will be the unforgettable one. And I hope for you too. Enjoy the show!

- **Elena Mills**, Director

Meet THE CAST



Emilyrose Morris (May) Some call her a renaissance woman; others call her a moderate klutz. I call her a

pretty cool chick.

Growing up, a Jewish girl from The Valley, she has yet to impress or disgrace her family, which, in comparison to her younger self, is quite an accomplishment. Morris knows not the secrets of this craft called acting but the lost art of listening. She is brand-spankin' new to the theatre, as her first-ever play was CPT's *Mark Twain's The Diaries of Adam and Eve*, co-starring alongside Jeffrey Lawless. I have Morris here to ask her what drew her to the theatre. "On the evening of August 31st of 2020, I had what can only be described as a frenzy of profuse exigency to partake in theatre. Luckily for me, Devery Holmes is phenomenal at responding to late-night emails." – Emilyrose Morris She is now taking the stage of Elena Mills' romantic and human vision of *The Last Train to Nibroc* side by side the unfettered artistic genius of Jeffrey Lawless. Morris hopes viewers will see not only the brilliance of Mills' direction, but the soul of the entire crew who brought this production to life. She looks forward to growing as an actor and a human being with Conejo Players Theatre.



Jeff Lawless (Raleigh) Some call him a classy man; others call him your average dork. In 2018, The Acorn's Cary Ginell called him

"Lanky Jeff Lawless"

Growing up, Jeff always wanted to be a paleontologist like Ross from "Friends," yet now he's 22 and plays pretend for a living... Although he actually doesn't quite make a living off of acting (just yet) - Jeff works part-time as an acting teacher at Norris Performing Arts Center in Murrieta California. He last graced the Conejo Players stage two years ago, playing Riff in *West Side Story* (for his second time). Since graduating and earning his BFA in Drama from NYU last May, Jeff has moved back to California to try and brave the LA film industry. Finishing school amidst the pandemic, Jeff was drawn back to Conejo Players when he discovered that they had brilliantly found a way to bring live theatre back in a safe way! He was fortunate enough to work with Devery Holmes

again last October in her production of *Mark Twain's The Diaries of Adam and Eve*. There he met his co-star, Emilyrose Morris - who refuses to unveil the fact that she attended Harvard (it's true). He is now taking the Conejo stage again in Elena Mills' beautiful rendition of Arlene Hutton's *The Last Train to Nibroc* - once again opposite to the illustrious Emilyrose. Jeff hopes audiences will enjoy the work that Elena and the entire production team put in to share this heartfelt story with you. He is truly honored to be back with his Conejo family and to bring the character of Raleigh to life. Jeff thanks his family, his friends, Don Johnson, his car Tzipi, and his dog Cooper for all their support! Keep the arts alive! More @jeff_flawless

Meet **THE STAFF**

Elena Mills (Director, Co-Costume Designer) is very happy and proud of everyone who is involved with this production! During such a difficult time these people did their best to bring this beautiful story to life. And Elena is very grateful to everyone. Through many years of volunteering at CPT Elena was set painter and set designer; costume designer and maker; worked as a House Manager and a member of the box office; for many shows she was a producer and assistant director. She also was on stage and always had a blast! Two years ago she became Vice President of Conejo Players and has been able to help her beloved theatre in many ways as a Board member. Elena was a teacher back in Russia, always loved to work with kids and was happy enough to start rehearsals for *The Music Man Jr.* last year. It didn't happen, but she is sure one day this show will be shining on stage of CPT! Together with Beth she directed and produced few kids' shows on Zoom in 2020 and is very proud of this work. And finally Elena had a chance to direct this beautiful play - she fell in love with this story and wanted to share it with everyone. She is thrilled to work with such an incredible team of talented, dedicated and kind people. Elena thanks everyone for their wonderful work. This show is very special for many reasons, but the most - because of the people who involved. Elena is sending love and respect to her husband Mike and daughter Stacy who always support and help her; to the beautiful people - Emilyrose and Jeff - who made her dream come through; to Beth and John who are always here to help; to Mark - the miracle worker; to all my crew (sorry people - too many names, but they are all in the program!) who worked hard and did an amazing job. And a very special thank to you - our audience - who love and support CPT! Enjoy the show!

Beth Eslick (Producer/Co-Costume Designer) Beth has enjoyed producing and costuming *Last Train to Nibroc*, and is amazed the ability of the actors on our stage. 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 Theatrum 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.

Ritchie Steven Filippi (Camera/Media Director) is a producer and director in Los Angeles with experience across several production platforms: feature films, television, and new media. A member of the Producer's Guild, Ritchie has production managed such feature films as "L.A. Slasher," starring Misha Barton, Eric Roberts, and David Batista, "The Last Godfather," starring Harvey Keitel and Jason Mewes, and the supernatural thriller "Dead Awake", starring Nick Stahl and Amy Smart. On set, Ritchie worked in a variety of positions and learned from acclaimed directors such as Steven Spielberg on "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and David Fincher on "Zodiac". He has also worked on such high-profile films as "Live Free or Die Hard," "Rock of Ages," and "Iron Man." In the world of New Media, Ritchie has produced content for IBM, Discovery Channel, Coke, Electronic Arts, Universal McCann, Listerine, and Dove. He produced "Inside the Indy Car Challenge", a 9 part documentary series focusing on the Honda Racing team and Indianapolis 500 winning

driver Simon Pagenaud, and "UVerse Talk Back," a sports commentary/talk show spotlighting college football games guest hosted by ex-college stars for mobile devices. In 2011, Ritchie directed his debut feature film, the horror movie "The Eve," which was distributed worldwide by Indie Rights Movies. He has also directed commercial spots for Nintendo, Upper Deck, NBC Sports, and the Tile App, along with video packages for National Small Business Week and conferences shown throughout the world.

John Eslick (Propmaster) has designed and constructed props for many CPT productions, the last being *Zero Hour*. 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.

Miriam Durrie-Kirsch (Choreographer) is happy to be a part of this new CPT show! She was able to work with actors on Zoom and together they made a nice addition for this lovely story. Miriam was trained as a dancer/singer/actor and after graduating The American Musical and Dramatic Academy she went on to perform in many musicals. Miriam spent several years as a teacher/choreographer for award winning dance companies. In 2009 she felt in love with CPT and directed several musicals, was a choreographer and a performer. So much love to her loving, supportive husband, Aaron and kiddos Dani and Sammy. Also a big "Thanks Mom and Freddie!"

Stephanie Rice (Accent Coach) Stephanie is so excited to help out the Conejo Players Theater with their production of *Last Train to Nibroc*. She was born in Kentucky and even though she has been in California for years, she feels Kentucky will always be her home. She has been involved on and off stage in community theater since 2015. She loved working with the cast and crew of this show and wants to thank Elena Mills for making this experience so much fun!!

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. Happy New Year!

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

Jack Allaway (Co-Lighting Designer) is a Lifetime Member and a gift to our Theatre. He has designed too many shows to mention at CPT and keeps coming back. We are so thankful that he does!

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 William Shakespeare (abridged) [Revised]*, 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

Kathleen Pelaez (Music Compilation) As the child of a concert clarinetist and a concert trumpeter, Kathleen's music education began remarkably early on. In her childhood years, she studied multiple instruments and began seriously studying vocal performance at the age of 14. Operatic roles include: "Marcellina" in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, "Sorceress" in *Dido and Aeneas* and "Alice" in *Falstaff*. After completing her education, Kathleen went on to teach instrumental and vocal music for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Music Unlocks Success in Children Foundation. She designed and delivered professional development for classroom teachers on how to integrate music and the arts into classroom learning and for arts teachers on mainstreaming special needs students into arts education and using SDAIE techniques to teach the arts to English language learners. Kathleen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She is also an accomplished pianist and clarinetist.