

# UNDERDOG

## The Other Other Brontë

By Sarah Gordon



**May 17, 2026**  
6:00pm

UNDERDOG THE OTHER OTHER BRONTË  
is presented through special arrangement with ConcordTheatricals.

READERS  THEATRE

Sponsored by

**CHANNEL VIEW**  
WEALTH ADVISORS  
OF TSG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

# Welcome to **CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**



Welcome to the 68th season of the Conejo Players Theatre! As the newly elected President of this incredible organization, I am humbled to stand in a line of leadership that stretches back nearly seven decades. Since first stepping on this stage less than two years ago, I've felt that CPT is the "Grande Dame" of the Valley—not just because we are the longest-running, all-volunteer theater in the region, but because of the authority and heart our volunteers bring to this stage every single night. We are an organization steeped in tradition, yet inspired to innovate.

Our mission is to be more than just a playhouse; we are a Creative Incubator. Whether it's a sprawling musical in our mainstage season or a thought-provoking drama in our Readers Theatre series, we are a laboratory where artists are forged and stories come to life. We are a place where children can develop a new talent and adults can rekindle a long-burning creative spirit. As we look toward our 70th Anniversary, we are modernizing our house to better serve you—our patrons—and our tireless volunteers.

Theater is the ultimate civic collaboration. From the first screw driven into a set to the final bow, this is your community at work. I invite you to join this family—whether in the front of house, backstage, or through a tax-deductible gift to our capital campaign. Thank you for being part of our "Next Act." Enjoy the show!

Onward & Upward,



**Jeremy Richter**  
President

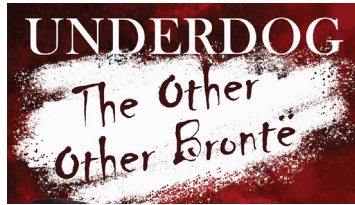
Email: [President@conejoplayers.org](mailto:President@conejoplayers.org)



## **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



by **Sarah Gordon**

UNDERDOG THE OTHER OTHER BRONTË is presented through  
special arrangement with Concord Theatricals

**Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA**

**May 17, 2026**

6:00pm

**The CAST**

**Sarah Boughton** ..... Charlotte Brontë  
**Claudia Stone Sheppard**..... Emily Brontë  
**Emily Vallance** ..... Anne Brontë  
**Peter Tussey** ..... Branwell Brontë/Newby  
**Michael Thompson**..... Ensemble  
**Erin Fagundes** ..... Ensemble  
**Ruby Strickland** ..... Ensemble  
**Christine Adams**..... Narrator

**Production STAFF**

Director ..... **Victoria McGee**  
Readers Theatre Co-Producers ..... **Scott Quintard, Paul Babb**  
Sound Designer..... **William Hubbard**  
Light & Sound Operators..... **Kristen Krause, Joe Krause**

---

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

[Click here to donate now!](#)



**Channel View Wealth Advisors  
of TSG Wealth Management  
is a Westlake Village advisory  
team that works with families  
and business owners across the  
region to help them plan for  
their future.**

**As members of the Conejo  
Valley community, they're  
proud to support the arts and  
organizations that bring people  
together.**



**CONEJO PLAYERS**  
T H E A T R E



**do-  
nate!**

**Your tax-deductable donation supports the work of the Conejo Players including no-cost youth theatre programs, community outreach and training the next generation of performers and technicians.**



**Click this link to get to our donation page. And thanks!**

**Donate now!**

## Production **NOTES**

You already know Charlotte. You might know Emily. Doubtful you've even heard of Anne.

That's the whole point.

Playwright Sarah Gordon's irreverent retelling of the rival sisters' story is sharp, funny, and more than a little uncomfortable ... in the best possible way. It's also, at its core, a play about the power of words which makes Readers Theatre the perfect home for it.

*Underdog* had its world premiere at the National Theatre in London just two years ago and we're thrilled to be one of the first theatres to present it in North America.

- **Victoria, Scott and Paul**





# 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](mailto:info@conejoplayers.org) for these and other volunteer options.

## "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 and DIRECTOR



**Sarah Boughton** (Charlotte Brontë) is thrilled to finally be working with CPT. Sarah has been performing since she could toddle. She has performed at theaters in NYC, LA and several states in between. In the Ventura area Sarah has been seen at the Elite Theater, CSP, and Santa Paula Theater Center. Favorite credits in the area include playing Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Olympe De Gouges in *The Revolutionists*, and Artemis in *Eleemosynary*. Sarah is also a Director and has directed three main stage shows at Santa Paula Theater Center: *Home, I'm Darling*, *Women in Jeopardy* and most recently, *The Fardale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*. Special thanks to the CPT's Readers Theater Producers Scott and Paul, to her amazing family and to Victoria McGee.



**Emily Vallance** (Anne Brontë) is excited to be in her first Readers Theatre production at Conejo Players! The last time she performed at this theatre was ten years ago in the production *Psycho Beach Party*. She is involved in community theater all across Ventura county, including at the Ojai Art Center, the Elite Theatre, and the Alcazar. In her free time, she enjoys reading library books and watching old movies. She'd like to thank Vicki and the whole Readers Theatre team for the opportunity. Enjoy the show!



**Claudia Stone Sheppard** (Emily Brontë) is absolutely delighted to be making her Conejo Players debut. Previous theatre adventures include *Mary Poppins* (ensemble), *Singin' In the Rain* (ensemble), and *The Tempest* (Antonio). When not on stage, she can be found roaming the halls of *Abbott Elementary* (ABC/Hulu) or observing a trial in *The Lincoln Lawyer* (Season 4)—yes, really. Claudia is grateful for the opportunity to share this production and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does.



**Peter Tussey** (Branwell Brontë) is a dedicated community theater performer for many years, Peter brings a background in improvisational theater to his stage work. Off the stage, he works as an Associate Social Worker. He is grateful to the cast, crew, and audiences who make community theater such a vital and rewarding art form.



**Erin Fagundes** (Ensemble) has been performing, directing, and producing theatre throughout Ventura County for over 35 years. Favorite directing credits include *Anastasia*, *9 to 5 the Musical*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (coming again in 2027!). Some of her favorite onstage roles include Sue in *Snapshots*, Marietta Shingle in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid*, Rona in

*The 25th Annual...Spelling Bee*, Percy Talbot in *The Spitfire Grill* and Eve/Mama Noah in *Children of Eden*. She is grateful to finally participate in this great Readers Theatre program, which she has enjoyed several times as an audience member.



**Michael Thompson** (Ensemble) is pleased to return to the Conejo stage in *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*. He was last seen as Henry Saunders in *Lend Me a Tenor* and as Ralph Crane in *The Book of Will*. He also directed the last Readers Theatre production of *Things You Shouldn't Say After Midnight*. He is an alumnus of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts LA and has been performing and directing for over 30 years. A special thank you to my beautiful Bride, Susan for all her support and encouragement. Thank you my loving pixie!



**Ruby Strickland** (Ensemble) is a rising senior at California Lutheran University majoring in Theatre Arts Performance. Recent credits include Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Jo March (*Little Women*), Lucentio (*Taming of the Shrew*), and S'up S'up (*Starmites*). She will be working with Kingsmen Shakespeare Company this summer. This is her first production with Conejo Players and she is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast. She thanks her friends and family for all their support and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Christine Adams** (Narrator) was last seen as Carla in the Conejo Players Readers Theatre production of *Grand Horizons*. Other favorite roles have included Alma Hix (*The Music Man* – HSAC), Mama Magdalena (*Nine* – CSP), Anna (*As You Like It* – CSP), and Babette (*She* – Elite). She directed the Pulitzer Prize winning play *WIT* and *Life on My Knees* at the Elite and the musical *Baby* here at CPT. She has also directed and written one act plays for Playzapaloosa at Santa Paula Community Theatre. Thanks to Vickie, Scott and Paul for the opportunity with Readers Theatre.



**Victoria McGee** (Director) is extremely grateful to be directing this play! She has appeared at Santa Paula Theater Center in several productions and directed for their Playzapaloosa. She has appeared in and directed theatrical productions in Ventura County, Tucson, and Maui. She is also the author of "A Trauma Toolbox, How to Include Your Soul in Healing Trauma," and director of Free Range Comedy SoCal, a comedy improvisation group in Ventura County. Many thanks to this amazing cast and the supportive producers of the Conejo Players Readers Theatre project! May theatre, the arts, and programs such as this keep evolving, challenging, and questioning the status quo, returning us all to our humanity.

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... **Jeremy Richter**  
Vice President ..... **Elena Mills**  
Secretary ..... **Eve Kiefer**  
Business Director ..... **Hugh McManigal**  
Facilities Director ..... **Joe Krause**  
Media Director ..... **Ritchie Filippi**  
Treasurer ..... **Deidre Parmenter**

## THEATRE MANAGEMENT

Box Office Manager ..... **Sarah Ely**  
Box Office Assistant ..... **Jess Filippi,**  
..... **Michele Waggoner**  
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**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Exec. Director ..... **Rick Steinberg**  
Exec. Producer ..... **Beth Eslick**  
Exec. Tech. Director ..... **Joey Hennings**




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

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

## NEXT ON THE BOARDS

**Avenue**  
**Q**

  
CONEJO PLAYERS  
THEATRE

Music and Lyrics by  
**Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx**  
Book by **Jeff Whitty**  
Book based on an original concept by  
**Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx**

**Jun 5 - 28, 2026**  
Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm  
Thu Jun 11 at 8:00pm • Sat Jun 20 at 2:00pm

AVENUE Q  
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
www.mtishows.com

  
CONEJO PLAYERS  
THEATRE

**Conejo Improv Players**  
Back in the Mix in '26!

**YES AND**  
**improv.**  
conejo improv players

Shake it up with the Conejo Improv Players!  
Share our locally brewed improvised comedy show.

**Sat Jul 18, 2026**  
8:00pm