



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE



The
Belle
of
Amherst
by William Luce

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 33 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



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Anonymous

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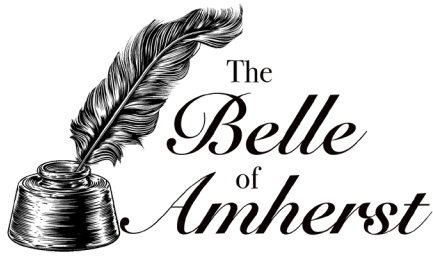
Margaret Doellstedt

Gary & Shelly Saxer

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CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

presents



by **WILLIAM LUCE**

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatist Play Service

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Nov 27 - 29, 2020

Fri & Sat at 7:30pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Production **STAFF**

Judy DiderrichDirector
Jim Seerden Assistant Director
Jim Diderrich Producer
Rita McCaffrey Stage Manager
James Laguna Set Dresser
Jeremy Zeller Lighting Designer
Lisa Ingalls Propmaster
Erin Nicole Sound Designer
Beth Eslick Costume Designer
Leo Zeller Video Designer
Robert Reeves Video Controller
Mark Grisez Music
John Barker Script Supervisor
Mark Suarez Sound Operator
Mike McCauley Specialty Props
Jim Bukowski, Jim Diderrich, Judy Diderrich, John Eslick, Lisa Ingalls, James Laguna, Rita McCaffrey, Mike Mills, Robert Reeves, Rick Steinberg, Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, Emily Zahorsky-Reeves, Jeremy Zeller Strike Crew

The **CAST**

Joanne Zahorsky-ReevesEmily Dickinson

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President**Devery Holmes**
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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



Meet THE CAST



Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (Emily Dickinson) is so honored to have been chosen to portray the poet Emily Dickinson in such a touching script as *The Belle of Amherst*. This is her third appearance on the Conejo Players stage. The first was as Mrs. Edith Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* in 2014, followed by a more sinister role as the villain in *A Murder is Announced* in 2017. Born and raised in upstate New York but a Californian since 1999, you may have seen her in other productions at the West Valley Playhouse, where she is 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. A huge “thank you” to husband Rob and daughter Emily for their unfailing support. “*Find ecstasy in life; the mere sense of living is joy enough.*” - Emily Dickinson

Meet THE STAFF

Judy Diderrich (Director) has been hanging around CPT for 40 years and is an Honorary Life Member. She has been working in local theatres all her life, but CPT people are her family. She is also a long time member of the Every Now and Then theatre performing in yearly radio dramas.

Jim Diderrich (Producer) has previously produced *Aladdin Jr.* and *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* for Conejo Players Theatre. His usual behind the scenes work the past five years has been as a lighting designer and has worked on the last three live streaming shows. And he is an actor and was on stage at the beginning of 2020 in *You Can't Take It With You* and the pandemic-shortened production of *The Producers*.

Jim Seerden (Assistant Director) Theater has been my passion and my salvation throughout my life. Since my first appearance in kindergarten 76 years ago, I have given all I have to this sacred art. The end of my theatrical life is very near so I am particularly thankful to Jim and Judy for including me in this unique production. Conejo Players was home to a couple of my most treasured performances. The first show I did here, I played George in *Who is Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and followed that up with Salieri in *Amadeus*. In a sense, this place is my church away from church, as it were. I do hope you enjoy the show.

James Laguna (Set Dresser) James has dressed sets at Conejo Players for *You Can't Take It With You*, *Bad Seed*, *Cheaper By the Dozen*, *Gypsy* and many more. James also produces musical productions and works the front of the house. James would like to thank his loving and supportive husband Mark.

Beth Eslick (Costume Designer) Beth loves being a costume designer and has done well over 100 musicals, plays, and movies. Some of her favorites have been *Don't Dress for Dinner* at Conejo Players, *Almost, Maine* at Windward High School in Los Angeles, and *Haiti* at the Will Geer Theatricum. Beth is a proud Honorary Lifetime Member of Conejo Players and has been presented with a coveted Golden Sweatshirt. In real life, Beth is a Costume Designer and the Wardrobe Supervisor at Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum in Topanga. Elena, once again, I could not have done this without your help. 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.

Lisa Ingalls (Props Designer) This is Lisa's second production at CPT and she is thrilled to be back. She got her start on *You Can't Take It with You* and found she really enjoys the creativity, resourcefulness and, most of all, the shopping that's needed for finding and creating props!

Jeremy Zeller (Lighting Designer) is the Executive Technical Director for the Conejo Players Theatre. He is also 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.

Erin Schumaier (Sound Designer) Erin is once again pleased to be on yet another production team at CPT. Not only is this a fabulous production but the entire crew has been amazing. During these tough times being able to rely on the community at CPT has been unparalleled. She hopes that you love and enjoy this show as much as she has.

Rita McCaffrey (Stage Manager) Rita is happy to be part of *The Belle of Amherst* as the Stage Manager. As a member of Conejo Players Theatre she has performed onstage as Hattie Walker in *Follies*, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein* and recently started learning about lights and other behind the scene roles. It's a pleasure to be part of this theater and this great play.