

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

BY TOM STOPPARD



JULY 19, 2026 @ 6PM

READERS  THEATRE

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD
is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals

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,

Conejo Players Theatre
is a Proud Member of



Jeremy Richter
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



by **Tom Stoppard**

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Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Jul 19, 2026

6pm

The **CAST**

Jeremy Richter	Rosencrantz
Michael Rosenblum	Guildenstern
Jim Miller	The Player
Michael Thompson	Narrator
Benjamin Colby Wilson	Hamlet
Samantha Netzen Bingham	Gertrude/Ophelia
Ray Mastrovito	Claudius
William Ackerman	Polonius
Itzhak Matos	Horatio/Soldier/Tragedian
Alex Greene	Alfred/Ambassador/Tragedian

Production **STAFF**

Director	Sarah Boughton
Readers Theatre Co-Producers	Scott Quintard, Paul Babb
Light and 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!](#)

From **THE DIRECTOR**

In 1966, Tom Stoppard debuted *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland to wildly enthusiastic reviews. Since then, it has become one of the most beloved absurdist pieces of theater, rivaled perhaps only by Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

This existential comic-tragedy flips the script on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, re-telling the classic tragedy entirely from the perspective of two minor, seemingly innocent characters. Guided, and occasionally misled, by the Player and his eclectic acting troupe, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern find themselves caught up in Hamlet's tragic tale.

At the end of Shakespeare's brilliant tragedy, in one throwaway line we learn that "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead."

But why? How? What happened? Answering those questions, Stoppard moves us through a deep examination of existence, non-existence, fate, and purpose. Because, after all, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead... right?

For those in need, here's Hamlet in two sentences: Hamlet comes home to Denmark to find his Uncle (Claudius) has killed his father, usurped the crown, married his mother (Gertrude) and his love Ophelia has been instructed to avoid him. Feigning insanity to plot his revenge, Hamlet's obsession with vengeance turns into his tragic flaw as it leads to the deaths of everyone, innocent or guilty, in his wake.

- **Sarah Boughton**, Director





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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!



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.

"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



Jeremy Richter (Rosencrantz) is an award-winning playwright/composer and the current President of Conejo Players Theatre. He recently completed the musical adaptation of Pamela Butchart's children's book *Jeremy Worried About The Wind* for an extended run in the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Playwriting and composing credits: NYMF Songwriting Workshop Composer-Lyricist (w/ Anna K. Jacobs); *Future, Here* (Published with DPC; International Thespian Festival selection); *Feedback*, a meta-musical (Pittsburgh Fringe, Capital Fringe, Midtown International Theatre Festival). Other credits include co-founder and host of "Beers & the Bard" – Shakespearaoke and co-founder of the Independent Theatre Collective (ITC). Member of the Dramatists Guild of America. Most fulfilled in the roles of Dad to Faith, Wilson, Emaline, Beckett and Neve, and Husband to Liz.



Michael Rosenblum (Guildenstern) is excited to be a part of his first Reader's Theatre and CPT production, stepping back into a role he first played in college, just with much less hair this time around. Locally, Michael has performed in a number of shows at the High Street Arts Center including *Something Rotten* (Nick), *Young Frankenstein* (Frederick), *Matilda* (Mr. Wormwood), and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy). Thank you to Sarah, Scott, Paul, and the entire R&G cast and production team for this wonderful opportunity.



Jim Miller (The Player) is thrilled to be back at Conejo Players Theatre. His past appearances include Monsieur Bouc in *Murder on the Orient Express*, Sheriff Heck Tate in *To Kill A Mockingbird* and Norman in *The Dresser*. He is also a video game voice actor, and has been featured as Sub-Zero in two Mortal Kombat Games, and as Lindon in "Fire Emblem Engage." Big thanks to his wife Shannon and son James for their endless patience, love and support.



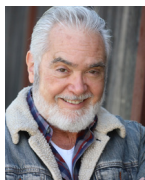
Michael Thompson (Narrator) is pleased to return to the Conejo stage in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. He was last seen in the previous Readers Theatre production of *Underdog: The Other Brontë* and as Henry Saunders in *Lend Me A Tenor*, as well as Ralph Crane in *The Book of Will* on the main stage. He also directed the first Readers Theatre production this season 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!



Benjamin Colby Wilson (Hamlet) is grateful and excited to be back at Conejo Players Theatre. Benjamin has been doing theatre for almost 15 years as an actor, writer, director, stage manager, producer - you name it. Theatre is near and dear to his heart and will always be his chosen art form. Benjamin also walked across America in 2023 raising awareness to animal rights and veganism. Benjamin loves Michelle Aquino to death and is forever grateful for her supporting his chaotic endeavors. @vxvcolbyvxv



Samantha Netzen Bingham (Gertrude/Ophelia) is elated to return to the Readers Theatre, after previously being seen in their stagings of *The Nameless Star*, *Sage*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Favorite mainstage roles include Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*, Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda*, and Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Huge thanks to the production team, and a special shout out to her husband Shane and cat Pumpkin, who she loves to be absurd with.



Ray Mastrovito (Claudius) 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 the Conejo family for this wonderful opportunity. As always, thanks to Cheryl.



William Ackerman (Polonius) earned his MFA from UCI and his BFA from the University of Illinois. He has worked as an actor, director, and producer for many years, and is currently the director of museum theater at the Stagecoach Inn Museum. His proudest accomplishment is his family, starring his wife, two daughters, two sons, two children-in-law, and five grandsons, ages one to seven, whom he is certain are the coolest people in the world. This is Bill's second appearance with CPT. He last appeared in *A Christmas Carol* in 2024 as Fezziwig.



Itzhak Matos (Horatio/Soldier/Tragedian) A recent CSUN graduate in theatre, Itzhak is excited to take this exciting step with Conejo players to bring this absurd and exciting play to the stage. He would like to thank his friends and family for their ongoing support.



Alex Greene (Alfred/Ambassador/Tragedian) returns to the Conejo stage after an extended hiatus. Please, everyone, hold your applause. Highlights of previous CPT productions include *Don't Drink the Water* (Magee), *The Mousetrap* (Trotter), and *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli). Is it just him, or did you do something with your appearance? It looks great.



Sarah Boughton (Director) is thrilled to go back to back with Conejo Players Readers Theatre. Her journey in the theater began practically before she could walk — she has been performing since she could toddle, with a career that spans stages in New York City, Los Angeles, and several states in between. As a director, Sarah has helmed three mainstage productions at Santa Paula Theater Center: *Home, I'm Darling*, *Women in Jeopardy!*, and most recently, *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*. Also a familiar face on local stages, Sarah's recent performance credits include playing Charlotte in the CPT staged reading of *Underdog: The Other, Other Brontë*, *How Can I Help?* (an award-winning ensemble piece by Victoria McGee), and Jean in *POTUS*. Other favorite roles in the Ventura area include Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* at CSP, Olympe de Gouges in *The Revolutionists* at SPTC, and Artemis in *Eleemosynary* at The Elite. Sarah sends a special thank you to CPT's Readers Theatre Producers, Scott and Paul, and to her family who continue to support her through it all.



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