

# INTO THE WOODS

Music and Lyrics by  
**Stephen Sondheim**

Book by  
**James Lapine**

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine  
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Directed by  
**Susi Damilano**

Music Direction by  
**Dave Dobrusky**

Choreography by  
**Nicole Helfer**

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**PLAYHOUSE**

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**  
JONATHAN CHANG  
ROBERT HULTENG

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*In Memoriam*

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather belongs to the Ohlone people of past, present, and future, whose homelands extend from Big Sur to the San Francisco Bay Area. We recognize that every member of the Bay Area community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land. We recognize that the Ohlone people are alive and flourishing members of the Bay Area communities today. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their land. Visit [sfplayhouse.org/edi](https://sfplayhouse.org/edi) for more information.

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450 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
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Mike Rippey & Gretchen Bartzen

# WELCOME



We live in a world built on stories: fairy tales, myths, and inherited narratives that shape what we believe is possible. Many of these myths are outdated, destructive. They tell us that princes will rescue us, that good and evil are simple and separate, that wishes come true without consequence, that the idealized past was better than the messy present. ***Into the Woods*** asks us to look squarely at these stories we've clung to for generations and to blow them up to make room for new ones.

Sondheim and Lapine don't destroy fairy tales out of cynicism. They dig into the cracks to reveal deeper truths. When Cinderella's happily-ever-after becomes complicated, when Jack's triumph brings devastation, when

the Witch reveals her broken heart, we begin to see that the old myths are too small for the world we now inhabit. They cannot hold our grief, our complexity, our interdependence. And so they must be shattered, not out of anger, but out of necessity.

What rises in their place are new myths that are messier, braver, and more human. Myths that say we are responsible for one another, even when the story doesn't go as planned. Myths that accept loss as part of love, that value community over conquest, and that suggest salvation may come not from a prince, but from the simple act of someone staying beside you in the dark.

"Careful the tale you tell," the musical warns, "that is the spell." The stories we tell shape our future. If we keep repeating tales of triumph of individuals, of blame, of fear, we will inherit a world built on isolation and distrust. If, however, we choose stories of forgiveness, of shared responsibility, of hope born through struggle, we begin to write a future that includes all of us.

Tonight, as we journey into the woods together, let us be brave enough to let the old myths crumble and die. Let us listen for the new ones rising beneath them. Stories that tell the truth about who we are and who we might become, because endings, in the theatre and in life, do not need to be apocalyptic. They are invitations to begin again.

Thank you for stepping into the woods with us.

## Bill English

*Artistic Director*

## OUR MISSION

*Our mission is to share stories that uplift spirits, deepen self-awareness, and nurture compassionate community. Our theater is an Empathy Gym where we come to practice our powers of compassion. Here, safe in the dark, we can risk sharing in the lives of the characters. We feel what they feel, fear what they fear, and love what they love, and as we walk through our doors we take with us greater powers of understanding to make our community a better place, one play at a time.*

**SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE**  
**BILL ENGLISH**, Artistic Director, **SUSI DAMILANO**, Producing Director, and  
**JONATHAN CHANG** and **ROBERT HULTENG**, Executive Producers,  
present

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Orchestrations by **JONATHAN TUNICK**

Directed by **SUSI DAMILANO**

Music Direction by **DAVE DOBRUSKY**

Choreography by **NICOLE HELFER**

Scenic Designer  
**HEATHER KENYON^**

Lighting Designer  
**CHRISTIAN MEJIA**

Projections Designer  
**SPENSE MATUBANG**

Wig Designer  
**LAUNDRA TYME**

Costume Designer  
**KATHLEEN QIU**

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**DAN HOLLAND**

Properties Designer  
**AMY BENJAMIN**

Dramaturg  
**BETH PIATOTE**

## CAST

Baker's Wife.....	RUBY DAY
Witch.....	ALISON EWING*
Florinda.....	RACHEL FOBBS*
Lucinda.....	CALLAHAN GILLISPIE
Little Red Ridinghood.....	OLIVIA HELLMAN
Narrator, Mysterious Man.....	MATT KIZER*
Cinderella's Prince, Wolf 1.....	TREVOR MARCH*
Milky White, Granny, Giant.....	MAUREEN McVERRY*
Jack's Mother .....	EIKO MOON-YAMAMOTO
Cinderella's Stepmother .....	HEATHER ORTH
Rapunzel, Cinderella's Mother .....	SAMANTHA RICH
Rapunzel's Prince, Wolf 2 .....	JOHANN SANTIAGO SANTOS
Jack.....	WILLIAM I. SCHMIDT
Cinderella .....	JILLIAN A. SMITH*
Baker .....	PHIL WONG*
Steward .....	TED ZOLDAN
<i>Dance Captain</i> .....	ALISON EWING*
<i>Fight Captain</i> .....	PHIL WONG*

## UNDERSTUDIES

Little Red Ridinghood, Florinda (2nd), Lucinda (2nd) .....	MAI ABE
Jack, Rapunzel's Prince, Wolf 2, Cinderella's Prince (2nd), Wolf 1 (2nd) .....	IAN BRADY
Narrator, Mysterious Man.....	KEN BRILL
Lucinda, Milky White, Granny .....	ANNIE DICK
Baker's Wife.....	RACHEL FOBBS*
Cinderella .....	CALLAHAN GILLISPIE
Jack's Mother, Cinderella's Stepmother .....	NICOLE HELFER*

*Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.*

Scenic Charge .....	CAYLA RAY- PERRY
Shop Carpenters.....	JOSH GRAVES
	KEVIN O'SHAUGHNESSY
	MAGGIE WENTWORTH
Light Board Programmer .....	ESPAN GARNER
Audio Engineers.....	BRITTANY COBB
	DAN HALL
	ELLIOTT ORR
Painters.....	KENZIE BRADLEY
	SYDNEY GORIN
	EDEN HAY
Electricians .....	SHY BANIANI
	TRAVIS CLARK
	NORI QUIST
	COLIN JOHNSON
	MARGARET LINN
	ANNIE OAKLAND
	CJ POEHNELT
	BRENT WIRTH

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



*Into the Woods* Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. **mtishows.com**

Original Broadway production by Heidi Landesman, Rocco Landesman, Rick Steiner, M. Anthony Fisher, Frederic H. Mayerson, and Jujamcyn Theaters.

Originally produced by the Old Globe Theater, San Diego, CA.

The performance lasts approximately two hours and forty-five minutes with one intermission.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Performance Dates: November 20, 2025, to January 17, 2026.  
 Playbill content current as of November 3, 2025.

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# SONGS

## ACT I

Prologue: "Into the Woods" .....	Company
"Cinderella at the Grave" .....	Cinderella, Cinderella's Mother
"Hello, Little Girl" .....	Wolves, Little Red Ridinghood
"I Guess This Is Goodbye" .....	Jack
"Maybe They're Magic" .....	Baker's Wife
"I Know Things Now" .....	Little Red Ridinghood
"A Very Nice Prince" .....	Cinderella, Baker's Wife
"First Midnight" .....	Company
"Giants in the Sky" .....	Jack
"Agony" .....	Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince
"A Very Nice Prince" (Reprise) .....	Cinderella, Baker's Wife
"It Takes Two" .....	Baker, Baker's Wife
"Second Midnight" .....	Company
"Stay With Me" .....	Witch
"On the Steps of the Palace" .....	Cinderella
Finale: "Ever After" .....	Narrator, Company

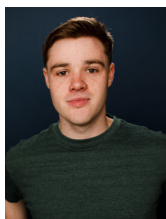
## ACT II

Prologue: "So Happy" .....	Company
"Agony" (Reprise) .....	Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince
"Witch's Lament" .....	Witch
"Any Moment" .....	Cinderella's Prince, Baker's Wife
"Moments in the Woods" .....	Baker's Wife
"Your Fault" .....	Jack, Baker, Witch, Little Red Ridinghood, Cinderella
"Last Midnight" .....	Witch
"No More" .....	Baker, Mysterious Man
"No One Is Alone" .....	Cinderella, Little Red Ridinghood, Baker, Jack
Finale: "Children Will Listen" .....	Witch, Company

# THE COMPANY OF INTO THE WOODS



**MAI  
ABE**



**IAN  
BRADY**



**KEN  
BRILL**



**RUBY  
DAY**



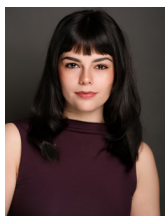
**ANNIE  
DICK**



**ALISON  
EWING**



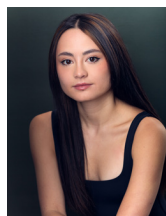
**RACHEL  
FOBBS**



**CALLAHAN  
GILLISPIE**



**NICOLE  
HELPER**



**OLIVIA  
HELLMAN**



**MATT  
KIZER**



**RANDY  
LEE**



**TREVOR  
MARCH**



**MAUREEN  
McVERRY**



**EIKO  
MOON-YAMAMOTO**



**HEATHER  
ORTH**



**LOUIS  
PARNELL**



**SAMANTHA  
RICH**



**JOHANN SANTIAGO  
SANTOS**



**WILLIAM I.  
SCHMIDT**



**MONICA ROSE  
SLATER**



**JILLIAN A.  
SMITH**



**PHIL  
WONG**



**TED  
ZOLDAN**



# BIOGRAPHIES

## CAST

### MAI ABE

**U/S: Little Red Ridinghood**

**U/S: Florinda (2nd)**

**U/S: Lucinda (2nd)**

Mai (she, her) is thrilled to be making her San Francisco Playhouse debut! Regional credits include Little Red in *Into the Woods* (Santa Cruz Shakespeare) and Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Additional favorite credits include Natalie in *Next to Normal* (Sunnyvale Players) and Daphne in *Gods of Comedy* (The Pear Theatre). "With love and gratitude to Jade, Dilla, and this amazing cast and crew!"

### IAN BRADY

**U/S: Jack**

**U/S: Rapunzel's Prince**

**U/S: Wolf 2**

**U/S: Cinderella's Prince (2nd)**

**U/S: Wolf 1 (2nd)**

Ian (he, him) is a proud Pennsylvania-born actor and organizer committed to making the dream and pursuit of acting more accessible to working-class and queer youth. Recent credits include *Spring Awakening* (Relic Theatre), *Being Alive: A Sondheim Celebration* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), and *A Guide for the Homesick* (Theatre Rhinoceros). "Glac mo ghrá, glac mo thalamh, Tabhair mé san áit nach féidir liom seasamh. Is cuma liom, táim fós saor, Ní féidir leat an spéir a thógáil uaim. Ní neart go cur le chéile." [ian-matthew-brady.com](http://ian-matthew-brady.com) | [@iannottthekillebrady](https://www.instagram.com/iannottthekillebrady)

### KEN BRILL

**U/S: Narrator**

**U/S: Mysterious Man**

Ken is a Bay Area actor-musician, most recently onstage at the Lark Theater in Larkspur as Man #2 in *And The World Goes Round* as well as Man 2 in *Side By Side by Sondheim*. Ken has played keyboards for many San Francisco Playhouse productions.

### RUBY DAY

**Baker's Wife**

Ruby is thrilled to be at San Francisco Playhouse playing another dream role! She is a proud Bay Area native and graduate of

the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Clown Conservatory in San Francisco. Some favorite theatrical experiences include playing Jenna in *Waitress* (San Francisco Playhouse), Charity in *Sweet Charity* (San Jose Stage Company), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Transcendence Theatre Company), Star to Be in national and international tours of *Annie*, and Snow White in the iconic *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Ruby has performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and with her band Ruby Day & The Knights. She was also a back-up dancer for Belle and Sebastian at Radio City Music Hall. Commercial and voice-over credits include work for Apple, Uber, Logitech, hers.com, and Zoom. Ruby is dedicated to her work as a private vocal coach and teaching artist for the San Francisco Arts Education Project (SFArtsEd), Pacific Singers & Actors Workshop, and American Conservatory Theater. [@\\_therubyday\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_therubyday_)

### ANNIE DICK

**U/S: Lucinda**

**U/S: Milky White**

**U/S: Granny**

Annie (she, her) is thrilled to be returning to San Francisco Playhouse for her fourth production! Other credits here include the ensemble of *As You Like It*, understudy for Clown in *The 39 Steps*, and a swing for *My Fair Lady*. Other recent credits include Rose in *The Speakeasy* (Boxcar Theatre), Jessica in *Let's Kill Jessica* and Karen in *KAREN VS. HELL* (Awesome Theatre). If she isn't in a theater, you can find her teaching in classrooms around San Francisco or recording commercials in her home vocal booth. "Shout out to my parents for always supporting me through the ups and downs of being an artist, my friends for always being there whether on stage with me or in the audience, and my two cats for just being their crazy, adorable selves." [@annie\\_banannnie](https://www.instagram.com/annie_banannnie)

### ALISON EWING\*

**Witch**

Alison happily returns to San Francisco Playhouse after performing here in *Guys and Dolls* and as Sheila in *A Chorus Line*. Her Broadway credits include Lulu in *Cabaret*

at the Roundabout Theatre Company and Tanya in **Mamma Mia!** Her national tours include Sally Slayton in **Parade**, Countess Lily in **Anastasia**, **Clue**, **An American In Paris**, Fräulein Kost in **Cabaret**, **Flashdance**, and Tanya in **Mamma Mia!** Favorite regional credits include Helen in **Fun Home** (Berkeley Playhouse), **Hand To God** (San Jose Stage Company), **Emma**, **Big River**, **Into the Woods**, **Harold & Maude**, and **Ain't Nothin' But the Blues** (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** (San Jose Repertory Theatre), **Sweet Charity** (Center REP), **Beggar's Holiday** (Marin Theatre), **The Last 5 Years** (Playhouse West) and Desiree in **A Little Night Music**, **A Grand Night for Singing**, and the title role in **Irma La Douce** (42nd Street Moon). Alison is also an audiobooks narrator with Audible. "Love to Keith always." [alisonewing.com](http://alisonewing.com)

## RACHEL FOBBS\*

Florida

U/S: Baker's Wife

Rachel (she, her) is blessed to join the San Francisco Playhouse family this holiday season! Fresh off the brilliant **Where the Mountain Meets The Sea** (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), she is ready to bring on the laughs! Rachel has a passion for new works, including the world premiere of **Christmas in Connecticut** (Goodspeed Musicals), the national tour of **Escape to Margaritaville**, and the actor-musician production of **Godspell** (St. Michael's Playhouse). Next, Rachel will be the Broadway guest artist for the latest Disney Cruise Line ship, Disney Destiny. [rachelfobbs.com](http://rachelfobbs.com)

## CALLAHAN GILLISPIE

Lucinda

U/S: Cinderella

Callahan is overjoyed to journey through one of the greatest musicals of our time in her San Francisco Playhouse debut, and even more overjoyed to finally challenge her apparent streak of "cartoon boy roles." Selected credits include the title role in the 2024 national tour of **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**, Off-Broadway as Timmy in **A Fairly Odd Musical!** and various roles in **Toothy's Treasure**, the female swing in **Company** (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), Emily in the concert of **The Emily Dickinson Musical** (The Green Room 42), **Syzygy**, **Nine**, and **The 25th Annual Putnam County**

**Spelling Bee**. Callahan is a proud AMDA College of the Performing Arts BFA alum. "Thank you to mom, Johnny, Brett, Bryttany, and the Firestarter Entertainment team." [@callahangillispie](https://twitter.com/callahangillispie)

## NICOLE HELFER\*

U/S: Jack's Mother

U/S: Cinderella's Stepmother

Nicole is an award-winning choreographer, director, and performing artist, and has been a dance and theatre teacher for 25 years. She has graced the San Francisco Playhouse stage several times now as both choreographer and performer including as Cassie in **A Chorus Line**, understudy for Harry the Horse and Benny Southstreet in **Guys & Dolls**, and as a swing for **Cabaret**, **Groundhog Day**, **Follies**, and **Evita**. Additional performance credits include Marian Paroo in **The Music Man**, Fantine in **Les Misérables** (Shellie Award), Audrey in **Little Shop of Horrors** (Shellie nomination), Cassie and Val in **A Chorus Line**, Velma Kelly in **Chicago** (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination), Betty Shaeffer in **Sunset Boulevard** (Shellie nomination), Sarah in **The Lover** by Harold Pinter, Kate Monster and Lucy T. Slut in the regional premiere of **Avenue Q**, Miraid in **Brimstone** (SFBATCC and Shellie nominee), and Kitty in **Sweet Charity**, as well as featured ensemble roles in **A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder** and **Me and My Girl**.

## OLIVIA HELLMAN

Little Red Ridinghood

Olivia is honored to return home (Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts '20) to make her San Francisco Playhouse debut playing one of her dream roles! She grew up seeing shows at this theater, making this moment especially meaningful. National tour credits include **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!**, **The Musical**, and Off-Broadway and regional credits include **Footloose** (John W. Engeman Theater Northport), **Smile** (The J2 Spotlight Musical Theater Company), **Open, Stay** (Off The Lane), and **A Christmas Carol** (American Conservatory Theater). She earned a BFA in drama from New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Olivia is also a singer-songwriter with original music on all streaming platforms. "Endless thanks to the **Into the Woods** team, the one and only Stephen Sondheim, Resolute

Artists Agency, and my incredible friends and family for their constant love and support. Thanks for welcoming me home."  
**@oliviarhellman**

## MATT KIZER\*

**Narrator**

**Mysterious Man**

Matt has performed in world premieres and at regional theater nationwide. At San Francisco Playhouse, he was in the all-Indigenous production of *Cashed Out* as Buddy Paul, alongside his daughter Louisa. He originated the role of Mr. Gatz in the world premiere of *Gatsby: An American Myth*, directed by Tony Award winner Rachel Chavkin, with music by Florence Welch, at American Repertory Theater, where he also played Tashtego in *Moby Dick*, including for a concert at the American Museum of Natural History. Regionally, Matt played Señor Costa in *The River Bride* (AlterTheater), Officer Lonnigan in *Wonderful Town* (Marin Theatre), and performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Grease*, and *Damn Yankees* (American Musical Theatre of San Jose). Other roles include Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and Action in *West Side Story* (Mountain Play). A proud Washoe Tribal Member, Matt champions new works by Octavio Solis, Michael John LaChiusa, Dave Malloy, and others. **@matt.kizer**

## RANDY LEE

**U/S: Cinderella's Prince**

**U/S: Wolf 1**

**U/S: Steward**

**U/S: Rapunzel's Prince (2nd)**

**U/S: Wolf 2 (2nd)**

Randy (he, him) is a Bay Area actor, musician, and realtor. He has played Isamu in *In the Shadow of Mt Fuji* (3Girls Theatre), Fred Obermuller in *Pickpocket* (Musical Cafe), Neville Landless in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Lamplighters Musical Theatre), The Mate in *Elixir of Love* (San Francisco Opera), Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda* (Palo Alto Players), Minli in *Baked! The Musical* (Faultline Theater), Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Bay Area Children's Theater). He has also covered roles in *Waitress* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Madama Butterfly* (San Francisco Opera), *Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812* (Shotgun Players), and *The Great Wave* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). **@randomlee\_randy**

## TREVOR MARCH\*

**Cinderella's Prince**

**Wolf 1**

Trevor is very grateful to be a part of this team and to be making his Equity and San Francisco Playhouse debut! Trevor is an actor, producer, singer, writer, and creator. He is also the founder of the app, MyBook - Music Book. Trevor is a proud graduate of Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) and a Bay Area native from Livermore. Some of Trevor's past credits include Gabe in *Next to Normal*, Shakespeare in *Something Rotten!*, Nigel in *Something Rotten!*, Cornelius in *Hello, Dolly!*, Davey in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and Billy in *SQREAM!* He has been a main stage performer for Disney Cruise Line, as well as a resident guest vocalist for Princess Cruise Line. He sends his love and gratitude to all of his friends, family and loved ones for their amazing support. **trevormarch.com | @trevormarch**

## MAUREEN McVERRY\*

**Milky White**

**Granny**

You may see a woman up there playing a cow and think "Why?" and really the answer to that thought is, "Why not?" After a 45-year career in San Francisco (and beyond), when Susi Damilano called with the unusual offer, Maureen thought to herself "When else will I play a cow?" On this VERRY stage in 1986, Maureen worked in her first eight show a week contract playing Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Four years later here, she played Kitty in the huge summer hit *Curse of the Werewolf* directed by the legendary Michael Smuin. In that show, she played a virgin ingenue while pregnant. That's acting. Since this stage has evolved into the San Francisco Playhouse, Maureen has been in three more musicals on it: *Into the Woods*, *Sunday In the Park with George* and *Follies*. Maureen thanks you so much for coming to see a live performance. Nothing can replace this time we will have together making a memory. "Thank you and 'break legs.'"

## EIKO MOON-YAMAMOTO

**Jack's Mother**

Eiko (she, they) born in Tokyo, and raised in Seoul, Hawaii, and Central California. San Francisco Playhouse credits include *Follies*, *Clue*, and *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Regional

credits include *Little Women* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), *Cymbeline* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *Sleeping Beauty* (Presidio Theatre), *Disenchanted!* (3Below), *A Noh Christmas Carol* (Theatre of Yugen), *Working* and *Flower Drum Song* (Palo Alto Players). Favorite roles include Shogun's Mother in *Pacific Overtures* (Kunoichi Productions), Afong Moy in *The Chinese Lady* (Pear Theatre), M'Lynn Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias* (Sierra Repertory Theatre), and Meiko in *Eureka Day* (Spreckels Theatre). She has also worked with The Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep, Magic Theatre, Play On Shakespeare, Marin Shakespeare Company, African-American Shakespeare Company, Playwrights Foundation, Z Space, Company One, AlterLab, Mountain Play, and Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory. Film credits include *The Truer History of the Chan Family*. Eiko is a company member of PlayGround and artistic associate of Rainbow Zebra Productions. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the California College of Arts and a member of SAG-AFTRA. "Aloha!" [eikoyamamoto.com](http://eikoyamamoto.com) | [@eikoyoh](https://twitter.com/eikoyoh)

## HEATHER ORTH

**Cinderella's Stepmother**

**U/S: Witch**

Heather is thrilled to be back in her most frequented character niche: terrible mothers. Other terrible mothers she played before turning forty include Rose in *Gypsy* (Sierra Repertory Theatre, Broadway by the Bay), Margaret White in *Carrie* (Ray of Light Theatre), Mrs. Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice: A New Musical* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), Big Edie/Little Edie in *Grey Gardens* (Custom Made Theatre Company), and Stepmother in *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Sierra Repertory Theatre). She's also played Mother Superior in *Sister Act* twice (Berkeley Playhouse, Broadway by the Bay), and various other maiden aunts, teachers, and women's prison matrons going all the way back to middle school. She remains ambivalent about having finally aged into these roles.

## LOUIS PARNELL\*

**U/S: Narrator (2nd)**

**U/S: Mysterious Man (2nd)**

Louis is pleased to return to San Francisco Playhouse, where he most recently played Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off* and served

as assistant director for *A Chorus Line* and *My Fair Lady*. He has acted in or directed over twenty productions at the Playhouse including their inaugural production. Favorite roles there include *Waitress*, *The Nether*, *Cabaret* and *Follies*. He has been an actor and director for close to fifty years with numerous theatre in companies in the Bay Area including American Conservatory Theater, Marin Theatre, Magic Theatre, Center REP, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and many smaller companies, as well as working in New York and Los Angeles. He has been nominated for San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards fifteen times (winning five) and has been honored with various other awards. He has performed numerous film, commercial and television roles and is a member of SAG/AFTRA and Actors Equity Association.

## SAMANTHA RICH

**Rapunzel**

**Cinderella's Mother**

Samantha is overjoyed to be making her San Francisco Playhouse debut, especially in a Sondheim show. A San Francisco native, she played this role with the Young Conservatory at American Conservatory Theater many years ago and is grateful for the chance to revisit it. Recent credits include Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* and understudying Anya in *Anastasia* (Woodminster Summer Musicals), understudying Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory), the ensemble of *9 to 5* (Ray of Light Theatre), Emma in *The Prom* (Foothill Music Theatre), and Mary Bennet in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Altarena Playhouse). She earned her BFA in acting from Hofstra University. "Much love to my family, friends, and Liam for their unwavering support!" [samantha-rich.com](http://samantha-rich.com)

## JOHANN SANTIAGO SANTOS

**Rapunzel's Prince**

**Wolf 2**

Johann is feeling incredibly blessed to be returning to the San Francisco Playhouse stage where he had roles in *Evita* and *As You Like It*. Other credits include the 50th anniversary tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and work with Laguna Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Atwood Concert Hall, 42nd Street Moon, Titusville Playhouse, Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Alhambra Theatre, Broadway Palm, Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre,

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Emerald Coast Theatre Company, Candlelight Pavilion, California Theatre of the Performing Arts, Center Stage Theater, Woodminster Amphitheater, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, Mountain Play, and Broadway by the Bay. For every blessing Johann gives all glory to God! (Matthew 6:25–34)

## WILLIAM I. SCHMIDT

### Jack

William (he, they) is a multidisciplinary theatre and performing artist. He is extremely excited to be returning to San Francisco Playhouse after understudying Juicy in *Fat Ham* last season, and to be returning to *Into the Woods* after a decade! Growing up singing, he studied theatre at California State University, Sacramento. He has performed professionally throughout California and is based in Sacramento and the Bay Area. Off stage, William teaches acting and music for multiple programs across all ages. Recent performing credits include QC in *The Day The Sky Turned Orange* (SFBATCO), Pharus in *Choir Boy* (Shotgun Players), Tock the Crock in *Peter Pan the Panto* (Presidio Theatre). "Much love all!"

## MONICA ROSE SLATER

### U/S: Rapunzel

### U/S: Cinderella's Mother

### U/S: Florinda

### U/S: Cinderella (2nd)

Monica Rose (she, her) is a Brazilian-American singer, actor, and educator, thrilled to make her San Francisco Playhouse debut. Since moving from Virginia to San Francisco in 2021, she has received a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination for Best Principal Actor for *Ghost Quartet* (Oakland Theater Project). Additional credits include *Annunciation* and *Who's-Dead McCarthy: Stories by Kevin Barry* (Word for Word Performing Arts), *She Loves Me* and *Falsettos* (42nd Street Moon), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Iolanthe* (Lamplighters Music Theatre), *Cinderella* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Hairy Ape* (Eugene O'Neill Foundation), and *The Sound of Music* and *Oklahoma!* (Cinnabar Theater). Monica Rose earned a master of music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied opera. She teaches private voice lessons and works with Accompany, a nonprofit community choir. As a producer and actor, Monica brought *Two Sisters and a Piano* to the stage with

Teatro de las Tias partly through a Theatre Bay Area CA\$H Grant. "Love and gratitude to my parents, Vovô e Vovô, and Tia Liane." [@monicaroseslater](#) | [monicaroseslater.com](#)

## JILLIAN A. SMITH\*

### Cinderella

Jillian (she, her) is overjoyed to be heading *Into the Woods* this winter with San Francisco Playhouse. She's "wished" to tell this story since she was a child, and is thrilled to do so in her hometown! She was last on stage here as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Other favorite regional credits include Anya in *Anastasia* (Hillbarn Theatre), Bebe in *A Chorus Line* (San Francisco Playhouse), Erma in *Anything Goes* (42nd Street Moon), Helga in *Cabaret* (Center REP), Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors* (SPARC Theater), and Olive (Alternate) in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Jillian trained in ballet at the Bolshoi Academy in Moscow, and received her BA in computer science and theatre from the University of California, Berkeley. "Deepest gratitude to Susi, Dave, this beautiful cast and crew, my family, hot tea, and slippers that fit!" [jillian-a-smith.com](#) | [@jillians\\_1](#)

## PHIL WONG\*

### The Baker

Phil (he, him) is an award-winning theatre artist from the City of Oakland. He returns for a fifth time to the San Francisco Playhouse stage after playing Bing and Gering in *Chinglish*, Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, Chris in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and Actor 6 in *Exotic Deadly: Or, The MSG Play*. Regional credits include Duch in the national tour of *Cambodian Rock Band* (A Contemporary Theatre), Louis in *Revenge Song* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), and a guest artist in the Tony-award winning *Freestyle Love Supreme* (American Conservatory Theater, Portland Center Stage). Local credits include work with TheatreWorks, SF Shakes, ZSpace, Word for Word Performing Arts, Shotgun Players, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Killing My Lobster, Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory, Los Altos Stage, Palo Alto Players, Ray of Light Theatre, The EXIT, California Shakespeare Theater (RIP), Bay Area Children's Theatre (RIP), and Cutting Ball Theater (RIP). Phil's kitchen play *Sic, Heung, Mei* 色香味 was developed at the Ground Floor Summer Residency Lab at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. [@phillywongsteak](#) | [@phillywongsnacks](#)

## TED ZOLDAN

### Steward

#### U/S: Baker

Ted is thrilled to be back at San Francisco Playhouse. A graduate of San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he most recently performed at Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory as Charles Guiteau in *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim and as fourteen characters in *Baskerville* by Ken Ludwig, receiving a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination for the latter. Some performances you may have seen include *She Loves Me*, *Titanic: In Concert*, *Scrooge in Love!* (42nd Street Moon), *American Journalero* (Oakland Theatre Project), *Into the Woods* and *Yeast Nation* (Ray of Light Theatre), *Annie* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Town Hall Theatre Company), *Middletown* (Custom Made Theater Co.), *Ulysses* (West Edge Opera), various sketch shows with Killing My Lobster, and over two years in a van touring schools throughout California with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. Ted made his San Francisco Playhouse debut in the award-winning 2022 production of *Indecent* by Paula Vogel, and apparently only books shows here that start with the word "In", so look for him next whenever the Playhouse decides to mount *Inherit the Wind*.

### CREATIVE TEAM

## STEPHEN SONDHEIM

#### Music & Lyrics

Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (1962), *Anyone Can Whistle* (1964), *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Frogs* (1974), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *Sunday In The Park With George* (1984), *Into The Woods* (1987), *Assassins* (1991), *Passion* (1994), *Road Show* (2008) and *Here We Are* (2023), as well as the lyrics for *West Side Story* (1957), *Gypsy* (1959), *Do I Hear A Waltz?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *Candide* (1973). *Side By Side By Sondheim* (1976), *Marry Me A Little* (1981), *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (1983), *Putting It Together* (1993/99), *Moving On* (2001), *Sondheim On Sondheim* (2010) and *Old Friends* (2023) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films,

he composed the scores for *Stavisky* (1974), co-composed the score for *Reds* (1981), and wrote songs for *Dick Tracy* (1990). He wrote songs for the television production *Evening Primrose* (1966), co-authored the film *The Last of Sheila* (1973) and the play *Getting Away With Murder* (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays *The Girls of Summer* (1956), *Invitation To A March* (1961), *Twigs* (1971) and *The Enclave* (1973). He won the Tony Award for Best Score for *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, and *Passion*, all of which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, as did *Pacific Overtures* and *Sunday In The Park With George*, the latter also receiving the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1985). Sondheim was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Williams College, winning the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition, after which he studied theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He served on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, and served as its president from 1973 to 1981. In 1983 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1990 was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1993, the National Medal of Arts in 1996, the MacDowell Medal in 2013 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: *Finishing the Hat* (2010) and *Look, I Made a Hat* (2011). In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor, and in 2019 he became the first living artist to have a theatre named in his honor on Shaftesbury Avenue when, to commemorate Sondheim's 90th birthday, Sir Cameron Mackintosh renamed the refurbished Queen's Theatre in London's West End to the Sondheim Theatre.

## JAMES LAPINE

#### Book

James Lapine is a playwright and director. On Broadway, he has worked with Stephen Sondheim on *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, and *Passion*. He also conceived and directed the musical review *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Lapine created *Falsettos* with William Finn at Lincoln Center Theater, *Little Miss Sunshine*,



**Muscle**, and directed Finn's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other Broadway credits include his play based on Moss Hart's memoir *Act One* (Lincoln Center Theater), *Amour*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Golden Child*, and *Dirty Blonde*. He has written the plays *Table Settings*, *Twelve Dreams*, *The Moment When*, *Fran's Bed* and *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing*. Lapine has been nominated for eleven Tony Awards, winning on three occasions. He has also been the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the Mr. Abbott Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theater from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

## SUSI DAMILANO

### Director

Susi (she, her) is co-founder and producing director of San Francisco Playhouse. She has directed Playhouse productions of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Waitress*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The 39 Steps*, *Clue*, *Indecent*, *Twelfth Night*, *Groundhog Day The Musical*, *Cabaret*, *Mary Poppins*, *Noises Off*, *She Loves Me*, *Stage Kiss*, *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves*, and *Wirehead* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination), the West Coast premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes* (SFBATCC nomination), *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays*, and *Roulette*, and the world premieres in the Sandbox Series of *On Clover Road* by Steven Dietz, *From Red to Black* by Rhett Rossi, and *Seven Days* by Daniel Heath. Susi also regularly performs in Playhouse productions each season.

## DAVE DOBRUSKY

### Musical Director

Dave has been working in the Bay Area for thirty years. Career highlights include *My Fair Lady*, *Waitress*, *Evita*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Follies*, *Groundhog Day The Musical*, *Cabaret*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *City of Angels* (San Francisco Playhouse) and *Falsettos*, *Anything Goes*, *Hot Mikado*, *110 in the Shade*, *Dames at Sea*, *Me and My Girl*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Scrooge in Love!* (42nd Street Moon). He has worked at a range of other Bay Area theatre companies including Theatre Rhinoceros,

Ray of Light Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory. Dave is originally from Albuquerque and attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He has won San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards for his work on *Waitress*, *A Chorus Line*, *Cabaret*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Paint Your Wagon*.

## NICOLE HELFER

### Choreographer

Nicole is an award-winning choreographer, director, and performing artist who has worked with many well-known Bay Area theatre companies including TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, 42nd Street Moon, Broadway by the Bay, Center REP, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Ray of Light Theatre, Mountain Play, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, and Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre. She has choreographed for San Francisco Playhouse since 2019 starting with *Cabaret* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award and TBA Award finalist) and followed by *Groundhog Day* (SFBATCC nominee), *Songs for a New World*, *Starting Here*, *Starting Now* (SFBATCC nominee), *Twelfth Night* (SFBATCC award), *Follies* (SFBATCC nominee), *Indecent* (SFBATCC award), *A Chorus Line* (SFBATCC award and Isadora Duncan Dance Award), *Guys and Dolls* (SFBATCC nominee), *Evita*, *Waitress*, and most recently *My Fair Lady*. Additional choreography credits include *She Loves Me* (SFBATCC award), *Dames at Sea* (TBA finalist and SFBATCC nominee), *The Music Man* (TBA finalist), *West Side Story* (TBA Award), *In the Heights* (TBA Award), *No, No, Nanette* (TBA finalist and SFBATCC nominee), and *Lizzie* (SFBATCC nominee). She is delighted to be a part of this amazing production with this incredibly talented team of artists!

## AMY BENJAMIN

### Properties Designer

Amy draws from an extensive background in multidisciplinary art to create theatre magic. She most recently served as properties artisan for *Noises Off*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Fat Ham* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Marin Shakespeare Company), and a theatrical adaptation of *The Strange Library* by Haruki Murakami (Word for Word Performing

Arts Company). Amy has been mentored in scenic design by Nina Ball through a fellowship at Shotgun Players.

## **SAM HATTERSLEY\***

### **Assistant Stage Manager**

Sam is thrilled to return to San Francisco Playhouse where he was previously on stage in *The Play That Goes Wrong* and has been backstage for many other productions including *My Fair Lady*, *Fat Ham*, *Waitress*, and *The 39 Steps*. Additional credits include puppeteering for *The Empire Strips Back*, Pericles in *Pericles* (Theatre Rhinoceros), Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night* and Malcolm in *Macbeth* (Berkeley Shakespeare Company). Sam earned their BA in drama from San Francisco State University

## **DAN HOLLAND**

### **Sound Designer**

Dan (he, him) is a San Jose-based sound designer, audio engineer, and composer. He is the sound and video design associate at American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), and is a proud member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (TSDCA), the Association for Sound Design & Production (ASDP), and the Audio Engineering Society (AES). Recent sound design credits include *Hadestown: Teen Edition* (A.C.T.), the New Works Festival (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), *Head Over Heels* (City Lights Theater Company), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (West Valley College). Recent design associate credits include *Kim's Convenience* (Soulpepper Theatre Company), *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), and *Co-Founders* (A.C.T.).  
[dan-holland.com](http://dan-holland.com)

## **HEATHER KENYON**

### **Scenic Designer**

Heather (she, her) is a Bay Area scenic designer. Previous work for San Francisco Playhouse include scenic design for *Noises Off*, *Exotic Deadly: Or, The MSG Play*, *Evita*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Clue*, *The 39 Steps*, *As You Like It*, *Follies*, *Twelfth Night*, *Starting Here*, *Starting Now*, *The Fit*, and *Washed Up on the Potomac*, and lighting design for *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *Songs for a New World*, *I Was Right Here, Art*, and *Hold These Truths*. She also worked with American Conservatory Theater (Young Conservatory and MFA Program), TheatreWorks Silicon

Valley, Aurora Theatre Company, Western Stage, Ballet San José, Palo Alto Players, CMT San José, WVLO Musical Theatre Company, San Jose Stage Company, and Custom Made Theatre Co. Heather earned an MFA from San Francisco State University, teaches scenic design at Santa Clara University, and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local USA 829. [heatherkenyon.net](http://heatherkenyon.net)

## **ALICIA LERNER\***

### **Stage Manager**

Alicia is excited to return to San Francisco Playhouse. She was stage manager here for productions of *My Fair Lady*, *Fat Ham*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Evita*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Noises Off*, and *The Christians*. Other recent credits include *Mame* (42nd Street Moon), the San Francisco engagement of the national tour of *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, plus *In the Heights*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Clue*, *Always... Patsy Cline*, and *Our Town* (Center REP), *Paradise Blue* and *Stoop Stories* (Aurora Theatre Company), and *The Little Mermaid* and *Meet Me in St. Louis: A Live Radio Play* (Sierra Repertory Theatre). Alicia earned a BFA in media-film studies from the University of California, San Diego, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

## **SPENSE MATUBANG**

### **Projections Designer**

Spense is a lighting and projections designer currently based in Oakland, and is very happy to return to San Francisco Playhouse where they designed projections for *Home?* and *Chinglish*. Recent lighting design credits include *The Last of the Love Letters* and *Edit Annie* (Crowded Fire Theater), *Dragon Lady* (Center REP, Geffen Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Marin Theatre), *The Roommate*, *FROGGY*, *The Great Leap*, and *Every Brilliant Thing* (Center REP), *Yellowface*, *Thirty-Six*, *Best Available*, and *The Triumph of Love* (Shotgun Players), and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Projections design credits include *The Magnolia Ballet* (Shotgun Players), *The Jungle Book: Rudyard Revised* (EnActe Arts), *Evolution* (Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company), *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory), and *Miss You Like Hell*, *Waiting for Next*, and *Coded* (City Lights Theater Company). [spensematurbang.com](http://spensematurbang.com)



## CHRISTIAN MEJIA

### Lighting Designer

Christian believes that light has the ability to hold us in a moment and transport us to places both real and imagined. Light affects our perception, informs our emotional landscapes, and enhances the experiences that make up our lives. Thoughtful lighting can build expansive containers that help stories to move beyond words. His approach to design seeks to create environments that invite us to lean into and learn something about our shared humanity and his design practice includes live performance, architectural lighting, and immersive entertainment. His work has been seen on stages and in built environments around the world. Christian earned his BFA from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts and his MFA from California Institute of the Arts. He teaches lighting design at Stanford University. [christianvmejia.com](http://christianvmejia.com)

## BETH PIATOTE

### Dramaturg

Beth is a writer, playwright, and scholar who centers Native American storytelling in her work. She is Nez Perce, enrolled with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the author of three books, two plays, and other works. Her plays have been supported by New York Classical Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Native Voices, and AlterTheater. She is an associate professor of comparative literature and English at the University of California, Berkeley, where she specializes in Native American literatures, Indigenous languages, and creative writing.

## KATHLEEN QIU

### Costume Designer

Kathleen is a Los Angeles-based costume designer and thrilled to be returning to San Francisco Playhouse. Previous credits here include *Exotic Deadly: Or, The MSG Play*, *Waitress*, *My Home on the Moon*, *Guys and Dolls*, *As You Like It*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, and *The Great Khan*. Other recent credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Lysistrata*, and *Killing Game* (California State University, Northridge), and *A Night of Absurdity* (Santa Clarita Shakespeare). In addition, Kathleen has worked on major film and television productions including *Grotesquerie*,

*Shining Vale*, *Grown-ish*, *Westworld*, and *The Accidental Getaway Driver*, and a variety of short films and independent productions. She is a proud member of IATSE 705 Motion Picture Costumers. [kathleenq.com](http://kathleenq.com) | [@kat.jlq](https://twitter.com/kat.jlq)

## LAUNDRA TYME

### Wig Designer

Laundra is known for her incisive style and incredible bespoke creations. She is the founder and creative force behind Wigs by Tips. A veteran of the San Francisco drag scene, Laundra also served as wig master for *Beach Blanket Babylon*, the longest-running live theatre revue in history.

## FOUNDERS

### SUSI DAMILANO

#### Founder & Producing Director

Susi (she, her) is co-founder and producing director of San Francisco Playhouse, with over two decades of professional collaboration with Bill English. She is a five-time recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Award for Principal Actress in a Play from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and she has directed over a dozen Playhouse productions. When absolutely necessary, Susi will admit to being a CPA, and in another life she played the role of "VP of Human Resources." For real.

### BILL ENGLISH

#### Founder & Artistic Director

Bill is the co-founder and artistic director of the San Francisco Playhouse. In twenty-three years, he - with Susi Damilano - has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest nonprofit theatre company in San Francisco. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning multiple playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to mainstage to Off-Broadway (including the Off-Broadway transfers of *Ideation* and *Bauer*), and presenting the very first production of *Grounded* by George Brant which later played at the Public Theater. He coined the phrase "the empathy gym" and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

## PRODUCTION AFFILIATIONS

### ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1913, Actors' Equity Association is the US labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages and working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

**[actorsequity.org](http://actorsequity.org)**

### UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS

United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE, is a labor union and professional association of designers, artists, craftspeople, and department coordinators, organized to protect craft standards, working conditions and wages for the entertainment and decorative arts industries. The members of Local USA 829 work in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, and exhibitions. **[usa829.org](http://usa829.org)**

## MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia). **[mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)**

Biography content is provided by the artists profiled.  
Opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views of San Francisco Playhouse.

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

# RISEING STARS

Rising Stars are the future movers and shakers of the American theatre. They are high school students who are also actors, directors, writers, and designers. They are dreamers and doers, and their journey is made possible by heroes like you. For only \$150 you can sponsor four tickets for local Rising Star students to see four plays at San Francisco Playhouse. Visit us online today and join the heroes below!

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Claire Axelrad &  
Mark Pahlavan  
Eve Barringer  
Suzanne Beim  
Linda Brewer  
Nina Buthee  
Victoria Chen  
Rajeev Chopra  
Lily L. Chow  
Darryl & Carolyn  
Compton  
Mike Crosby &  
Dr. Marsha Brown  
Edward Cullen  
Sheila Dalton  
Margery Eriksson &  
James Nelson  
Mark Evanoff

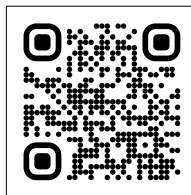
Paul Feasby  
Jeffrey Fell  
Lynn Fonfa  
Gary & Paula Fracchia  
Diana Gay-Catania &  
David Catania  
Deene Goodlaw  
Christine &  
Eric Gornitsky  
Maria Hilakos Hanke  
Richard &  
Terry Horrigan  
Gary Jaffe  
Carolyn Jayne  
Rosemary Jenckes  
Herman & Gloria Jew  
Robert &  
Kathleen Kaiser  
John A. Kelley  
Nelda Kilguss

Duff, Carol &  
Mikayla Kurland  
Kenneth C. Larson &  
Linda Adams  
Nancy Lenvin  
Nancy Lewis  
Tom & Stephanie Lima  
David Madfes &  
Judy Leash  
David May &  
Susan Carluen May  
Michael McKeon  
Denise Michael &  
David Schirle  
Kenneth Noyes &  
Alan Pardini  
Thomas Owen  
Lynne Painter  
Kiran Pandit  
Dan & Dee Dee Pisano

Tuesday Ray  
Jeff Rodman &  
Adrienne Hirt  
Bill & Julie Ryan  
Linda Scaparotti  
Dara Silverstein  
Tanya Slesnick &  
Ted Mitchell  
Barbara Sprung  
Gilda Sullivan  
Karen Sullivan &  
Ken Mitchell  
Diana Taylor  
W.L. Thomson  
Gretchen Trabant  
Jim Turner  
Katharine &  
David Velleman  
Mary Wais  
John Wildermuth

## SKIP THE LINE AND SAVE SOME TIME!

You can now pre-order drinks and snacks from our concessions bar.



Scan the QR code above to place your order for intermission or after the show, and your concessions will be waiting for you in the lobby.

# SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

San Francisco Playhouse, the City's "Empathy Gym" as described by Artistic Director and Co-Founder Bill English, is celebrating over 150 productions of award-winning theatre. Every season for 22 years, it has offered a selection of original works mixed with reimagined classic plays and musicals, "making the edgy accessible and the accessible edgy." Commissions and world premières are a regular feature at the Playhouse and include works by esteemed playwrights George Brant, Christopher Chen, Ruben Grijalva, Lauren Gunderson, Claude Jackson Jr., Theresa Rebeck, Michael Gene Sullivan, Steve Yockey, and Aaron Loeb, resident playwright. Three of these transferred directly to New York productions. Gunderson's *Bauer* and Loeb's *Ideation* opened Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters, and Loeb's *Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party* won the best of New York International Fringe Festival. This steadfast focus on new works has been honored by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing, and Playhouse commissions have garnered regional acclaim. Grijalva's *Shoot Me When*, presented online during the pandemic, won the Will Glickman Award and Rebeck's *Seared* opened the 2016–2017 season and was nominated for ten San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards. Works developed by the Playhouse have also gone on to national recognition. Chen's *You Mean to Do Me Harm* won the Lanford Wilson Award from the Dramatists Guild of America in 2016. Yockey's *Pluto*, a Playhouse commission, was named a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Brant's *Grounded*, a Playhouse premiere, was produced at the Public Theater starring Anne Hathaway and directed by Julie Taymor in 2015 and has been adapted by Tony-winner Jeanine Tesori for the Metropolitan Opera this season. Rebeck's *Seared* was produced Off-Broadway at MCC Theater starring Tony-nominee Raúl Esparza in 2019. The Playhouse has also supported emerging voices in its experimental Sandbox Series, running from 2009 to 2020, and including original works and world premieres by Steven Dietz, Dipika Guha, Chelsea Marcantel, Rogelio Martinez, Walt McGough, Carey Perloff, Geetha Reddy, Lynn Rosen, and Lauren Yee. [sfplayhouse.org](http://sfplayhouse.org)

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image by donny gilliland



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NOV 20, 2025 — JAN 17, 2026

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MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN  
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*"ONE OF SONDHEIM'S MOST CHERISHED MUSICALS  
... ITS TIMELESSNESS COMES FROM ITS  
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FEB 5 — MAR 14, 2026

### **M. BUTTERFLY**

BY DAVID HENRY HWANG

*"THIS IS AN AUDACIOUSLY IMAGINATIVE PLAY AND  
A SATISFYING INSTANCE OF A TALENTED WRITER  
HITTING FULL STRIDE." - VARIETY*

TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY • PULITZER FINALIST



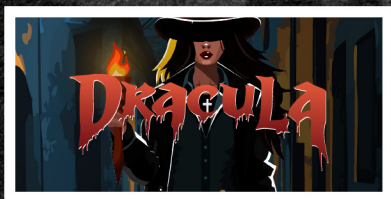
MAR 26 — MAY 2, 2026

### **FLEX**

BY CANDRICE JONES

*"CRITIC'S PICK! A SLAM-DUNK NEW YORK DEBUT"  
- NEW YORK TIMES*

*"WOW... THE AMAZING BASKETBALL ON STAGE [IS]  
WONDERFUL TO WATCH" - THE DAILY BEAST*



MAY 14 — JUNE 27, 2026

### **DRACULA** A FEMINIST REVENGE FANTASY, REALLY

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY BRAM STOKER  
BY KATE HAMILL

*"MS. HAMILL HAS GIVEN US A TREMENDOUSLY  
ENTERTAINING 'DRACULA' THAT HAS 'GREAT BIG HIT'  
STAMPED ALL OVER IT." - WALL STREET JOURNAL*



JULY 10 — SEP 12, 2026

### **HAIRSPRAY**

BOOK BY MARK O'DONNELL & THOMAS  
MEEHAN • MUSIC BY MARC SHAIMAN • LYRICS  
BY SCOTT WITTMAN & MARC SHAIMAN

*"EXHILARATINGLY FUNNY" - THE NEW YORKER*

WINNER OF 8 TONY AWARDS • BEST MUSICAL