

sfartsED ✖ players

20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

presents

*once upon A*  
**MATTRESS**





An old-school merchant de vin specializing  
in limited production wines from France & Italy,  
with a tiny corner of German Riesling,  
**And a proud supporter of SFArtsED!**

DIGWINESE.COM • 415.648.6133  
1005 MINNESOTA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Arts Education Project and  
The SFArtsED Players proudly present  
in celebration of their 20th Anniversary Season

# Once Upon a Mattress

Music by  
MARY RODGERS

Lyrics by  
MARSHALL BARER

Book by  
JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER and MARSHALL BARER

Adaptation by  
TOM BRIGGS and TIMOTHY ALLEN McDONALD  
Adaptation and support materials developed by iTheatrics  
under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

Original Orchestration by Hershey Kay, Arthur Beck and Carroll Huxley  
Musical Preparation by John Higgins

## **Artistic Staff**

SFArtsED Artistic Director: Emily Keeler

Director: Danny Duncan

Musical Director: Peter Meredith

Choreographers: Laura Elaine Ellis, Erin Gentry & Jamie Yuen-Shore

Production Design: Stacey Ransom with Mathes Boyd, Lisa Isaacs &  
Griffin Johnstone of the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts

Technical Theater Department

Costume Design: Tiersa Nureyev

Costume Assistants: Kathleen Moore, Marjorie Nureyev  
& Mallory McDaniel

Director of Photography / Editor: Pete Belkin

Assistant Director / Production Supervisor: Charlotte Baldiviez

Property Master: Mia Waller

Graphic Design: Julie Wertz

Illustration: John Hersey

© 2021. THIS AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION WAS PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT  
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS CORP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THIS AUDIO-VISUAL PRE-  
SENTATION IS AUTHORIZED FOR NON-COMMERCIAL USE ONLY. FURTHER DISTRIBUTION OF  
THIS PRESENTATION BY DOWNLOAD, STREAMING, REPOSTING, BROADCAST, TELECAST,  
OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER OR MEDIUM, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE  
AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS, AND ACTIONABLE UNDER APPLICABLE COPYRIGHT LAW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

## CAST

Queen Aggravain.....	Keira Gerstley
King Sextimus the Silent.....	Phoenix Anderson
Prince Dauntless the Drab.....	Christopher Napolitano-Mehlhorn
Princess Winnifred the Woebegon .....	Solveig O'Neill
Lady Larken.....	Kalani Faletoes
Sir Harry .....	Leonardo Ruiz
Minstrel.....	Tyler Winslow
Wizard .....	Jayden Tamboury
Jester.....	Gabriel Martinez
1st Knight.....	Diego Vaznaugh-Sanchez
2nd Knight .....	Max Ginsburg
3rd Knight .....	Parker Lee
4th Knight .....	Alon Johnson
Lady Rowena.....	Malena Sutter
Lady Lucille.....	Maya Lum
Lady Merrill.....	Naomi Coffman
Princess #12.....	Audrey Thornton
Sir Studley .....	Gavin Chen-Forral
Emily the Maid.....	Colette Rush
Prologue Dancers	
Queen .....	Nava Inclan
Princess .....	Daliah Chuzhoy
Prince.....	Diego Vaznaugh-Sanchez
Lady Beatrice (Spanish Panic Dancer).....	Stella Wiggins
Sir Harold (Spanish Panic Dancer).....	Gavin Chen-Forral
Spanish Panic Quartet.....	Kiyomi DallasKidd, Fia Delmon, Jennifer Liu, Trisha Yee
The Counting Sheep.....	Francesca Gangitano, Penelope Waldron, Mauressa Perkins, Parker Lee, Alon Johnson, Lucia Gonzales
Ladies in Waiting .....	
Isa Alexander, Kiyomi DallasKidd, Fia Delmon, Chiara DiGiorgio, Charlotte Duncan, Francesca Gangitano, Samantha Gangitano, Lucia Gonzales, Annelise Hall, Lily Hannan, Addison Kam, Jennifer Liu, Lily Normanly, Mauressa Perkins, Agatha Sterkel, Penelope Waldron, Trisha Yee	



## MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue/Many Moons Ago .....	Minstrel
An Opening for a Princess.....	Prince Dauntless, Lady Larken, Ensemble
On a Stormy Night.....	Minstrel
Shy .....	Princess Winnifred, Knights, Ladies
Sensitivity .....	Queen Aggravain, Wizard
The Swamps of Home .....	Princess Winnifred, Prince Dauntless, Ladies-in-Waiting
The Minstrel, The Jester, and I .....	Minstrel, Jester, King Sextimus
Happily Ever After.....	Princess Winnifred, Lady Larken, Lady Rowena, Lady Cayce
Yesterday I Loved You .....	Sir Harry, Lady Larken
Spanish Panic.....	Ensemble Featured duet: Sir Harold & Lady Beatrice Featured dancers: Spanish Panic Quartet
Song of Love .....	Prince Dauntless, Princess Winnifred, Ensemble
Quiet.....	Queen Aggravain, Ensemble
Finale.....	Company

## The 2020-21 SFArtsED Players Company



Isa Alexander	Lucia Gonzales	Mauressa Perkins
Phoenix Anderson	Annelise Hall	Leonardo Ruiz
Gavin Chen-Forrall	Lily Hannan	Colette Rush
Daliah Chuzhoy	Navia Inclan	Agatha Sterkel
Naomi Coffman	Alon Johnson	Malena Sutter
Kiyomi DallasKidd	Addison Kam	Jayden Tamboury
Fia Delmon	Parker Lee	Audrey Thornton
Chiara DiGiorgio	Jennifer Liu	Diego Vaznaugh-Sanchez
Charlotte Duncan	Maya Lum	Penelope Waldron
Kalani Faletoeese	Gabriel Martinez	Stella Wiggins
Francesca Gangitano	Christopher	Tyler Winslow
Samantha Gangitano	Napolitano-Mehlhorn	Trisha Yee
Keira Gerstley	Lily Normanly	
Max Ginsburg	Solveig O'Neill	

## From SFArtsED Artistic Director Emily Keeler

Making our *Once Upon a Mattress* virtual performance for The Players, the SFArtsED youth musical theater company, has defined the word “pivot.”

We had decided in the summer to revisit the musical for the 20th anniversary of the Players, since it was the first musical from the Broadway canon we had performed with the company. Plans were excitedly being made for a series of performances and a celebratory gala at the newly renovated Presidio Theater. But by the time we were to begin rehearsals, it was clear that there would be no in-person rehearsals and likely no theatrical production. After some discussion and emboldened both by the successful SFArtsED virtual performing arts summer camp and the short *Bio Exuberance* film that had been made in the spring with some of the Players, the company's mentors Danny Duncan, Charlotte Baldievez, Erin Gentry, Laura Elaine Ellis, Jamie Yeun-Shore, and Peter Meredith bravely agreed to conduct the rehearsals on Zoom and create a virtual performance. A group of designers from past Players projects, too, was convened; Tiersa Nureyev (costumes), Stacey Ransom (sets), and Pete Belkin (video production), and discussions began regarding the ways their designs could be translated for this new kind of performance. It would involve photo-shopping images for sets, costumes constructed without ever seeing the performers in person (with an accent on hats and patterns), and immensely creative editing.

It was important to all collaborators that Players continue, facing down this pandemic shutdown, and, notably, almost all of the company for this season stayed. The process would be without the usual exuberant rehearsal gatherings and the many performances at the theater, but the 39 cast members faithfully came to rehearsals three times a week – two of those days after long hours of distance learning in school and also for the 4-6 hours on Saturdays. They came despite connectivity issues with their laptops, rehearsals in isolation, and learned as they went, the ways to work as artists on the quirky Zoom platform.

If the dedication of the performers was impressive, so too was the newly required support required by families to ensure these rehearsals and recording of the virtual performance happened. Families helped with pesky computer issues, picked up costumes and props from the central site, hung the black fabric backdrops we supplied, and set up lighting in their children's rooms to create the most ideal filming studios.

The directors, choreographers, designers, and cast met exclusively on Zoom with the occasional exception of an in-person al fresco vocal recording ses-



*The SFArtsED Players, including (from left) Kiera Gerstley, Solveig O'Neill, Tyler Winslow, Christopher Napolitano-Mehlhorn, Kyomi DallsKidd, and Jayden Tamboury, in Once Upon a Mattress. Photo by Pete Belkin*

sion or filming against a green screen. The Players unquestionably missed the old ways of making theater in person, missing the precious contact with friends and mentors, but the work kept them in a creative conversation and close to the thing they all love — performing.

This creation at a distance has also given us all new skills with which to create. For the performers there are new skills regarding acting for the camera, learning choreography on a screen, creating an optimal video studio, uploading voice and videos (not incidentally an important skill these days for auditions and other theatrical projects) and the responsibility for their costumes and props that are no longer on racks and tables backstage, but in their bedrooms at home. For the directors it has been a process of adaptation of the skills they have as artists and teachers as they continue to expect and extract the very best from the company.

Everyone is looking forward to sharing the virtual performance with the public — the beautifully directed and appointed *Once Upon a Mattress* in a never-before-seen way. There is tremendous pride we all have in this continuation in the face

Emily

# A History and a Celebration

By Emily Keeler, SFArtsED Artistic Director

The Players, SFArtsED's children's musical theater company, has touched the lives of hundreds of children in the last twenty years. I have heard the same thing from so many past Players — the company changed their lives and gave them a community they would never have had otherwise. And for many, that community, those friendships made, continue long after their time in the company. Some former Players go on in the theater as performers, directors, or teachers, some simply carry the joy of making theater, its discipline and skills, into other careers and into their lives.

How did this unusual children's musical theater company begin? It began, I would argue, many more years before 2001. The foundation for the company began to be laid 36 years ago. Come with me as I take you through a circuitous, but authentic path to our current company.

When I was hired by Ruth Asawa and her board of directors to come to work as Artistic Director for what was then called the School for the Arts Foundation, they were forging a new collaboration with Jacque d'Amboise and his New York-based National Dance Institute (NDI). I was hired to direct the program that would create *The Event*, an annual performance featuring students' work from performing arts residencies in the public schools modeled after what Jacques' organization had been doing in New York. NDI's performances were at Madison Square Garden. Our first two shows were mounted at the War Memorial Opera House. Sites for subsequent *Events* included the Palace of Fine Arts, Sigmund Stern Grove, the Golden Gate Bandshell, and Yerba Buena Gardens.

Our first performance at the Opera House, which had close to 300 in the cast, was completely sold out and included guest stars Robin William, Whoopi Goldberg, four team members from the 49ers, a Klezmer band, and an orchestra. For all 16 years of *The Event*, shows would be prepared at individual schools, each class learning their own section and also the finale from their artist mentor, which they would perform with the whole cast.

The most avid and interested students from the in-school residencies studied with choreographer Camille Olivier-Salmon and me each Saturday, rehearsing featured parts of the shows. We called those groups the Jump and Celebration Teams.

On the day of these spring shows, we put all the parts together in the morning. The costumes were put on every child often in moving vans brought in to be used as dressing rooms, each made by our tenacious costumer Kathleen Moore. Mornings were spent creating the entrances and exits, and figuring out the alarming traffic backstage, the tempos for the music, the placement for everyone for the finale and of course, the bows. Pieces of the show were put on the stage in proper order, the dances and the songs from our schools and Saturday workshops and the offerings of our guest stars, who over the years included dancers from San Francisco Ballet, Oakland Ballet, ODC, Michael Smuin, comic Marga Gomez, actors from the ACT Masters Program, singers from the SF Opera Chorus, and performers from the Pickle Family Circus.

And in the early afternoon, all performed with the band led by Wayne Wallace — novice performers and seasoned professionals, to the delight of our audience.

es, amazed at the sheer number of kids, the talents and exuberance on display, the spectacle and the poignancy.

Many of these Events were created with scripts by Danny Duncan and music by Randy Craig. The shows had plots and characters and were fully formed musicals. Using books as primary material, *The Event* celebrated Hispanic, Chinese, Tibetan, and Black cultures — each was represented in one of the shows. Some of the other Events tackled weighty themes such as the destruction of the environment, bullying, literacy, and even the toll of the drug trade. There was always an orchestra as well as scores of volunteers helping the staff, including employees from Esprit de Corps and Alice Waters’ Chez Panisse every year. At Stern Grove there were elaborate picnics designed for supporters by Alice Waters and families and friends came early, spreading blankets and preparing for

*Continued*



## Players Production History

2001-02	Fairy Tales on Broadway
	The Invisible Princess
2002-03	Once Upon a Mattress
	One
2003-04	Secret Sondheim
	Pinocchio Jones
2004-05	Between Dirt & Sky
2005-06	Wonderful Town
2006-07	The Yellow Wood
2007-08	The Music Man
2008-09	The Pajama Game
2009-10	Fiorello
2010-11	Everything Goes
2011-12	Destry Rides Again
2012-13	Bells Are Ringing
2013-14	Li'l Abner
2014-15	Sittin' on a Rainbow
2015-16	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying
2016-17	Carnival
2017-18	Seussical
2018-19	Building Broadway
2019-20	Matilda
2020-21	Once Upon a Mattress

the day. Seminal artist mentors for those performances included Michael Koob, Laura Elaine Ellis, and Pearl Ubungen (dance) and Joseph Bryant Jr. (vocal.)

28 years ago, Sara Linnie Slocum, a lighting designer I had worked with at Oakland Ballet, saw one of these *Events*. Her child was a student at San Francisco Day School and she suggested to the head of school that I direct their summer performing arts camp. I took the job and brought the artists I admired from SFArtsED– Danny, Camille, Laura Elaine, Randy, Jeff Raz, and many more. I asked that we provide scholarships for our most gifted and diverse students, and they agreed. We had three wonderful summers there, making shows with the students and one another, two of which Danny and Randy wrote – *Mountains of Tibet* and *Little Nino's*. What we learned there provided the knowledge and interest in creating a summer camp for our organization.

And so we did. 26 years ago, using the public school sites as homes we began our own summer camps. They were places for kids who wanted to spend their days experiencing the arts without the “distraction” of school and not incidentally also provided more weeks of employment for our artists. The camp had classes for very young kids, the Exploration camp, and for the middle school ages, there were both classes in singing, dancing and acting, for the budding “triple threats” and sessions in which shows were made and rehearsed. In the beginning we called the camps Broadway Bound for the older kids and Broadway Adventure for the younger. The show we created that first summer was an original musical, *Harlequin: Clothed in the Love of His Friends*, written by the author and choreographer Remy Charlip with composer Miguel Frascioni. And we were launched.

The students interested in performing flocked to summers, for the classes,



*From the SFArtsED Players' 2002 production of Once Upon a Mattress featuring, from left, Yohannes Moore, Jamie Yuen-Shore, and Pierre Dogbo.*



which advanced their craft and the experience of creating shows with artist-directors of unparalleled ability. After several years running these musical theater camps, it became apparent (from discussions with campers and families) that there was an appetite for a teaching company that would meet during the school year. So, 20 years ago, after creating and producing Duncan and Craig's *The Invisible Princess* based on the Faith Ringgold book during the summer, we decided to take the plunge and plan a season of performances for a company. We started at the Eureka Theatre, whose manager, Torri Randall, after a single phone call decided the Players should be in residence at her theater. The first show was called *Fairy Tales on Broadway*, a revue. The second show was a re-mounting of the summer's *Invisible Princess* at ZEUM (now called the Discovery Museum) with our cast of 72.

The first year was about learning how to have a company, how to communicate with families, how many performers would be optimal, learning how much and where we should rehearse and how often to perform. To join Danny, Camille, Kathleen, and me, the summer camps informed us about who could work in this medium; who could choreograph, music direct, and design costumes and sets. Some of the extraordinary artists and designers who joined us included Nicola Bosco-Alvarez, Natalie Greene, Kathleen, Barbara Beccio, Sue Fox, Linda Ricciardi, Shannon Day, Vince Peterson, Henry Shin, Barry Koron, Lillie Wosk, Luba Kravchenko, and Justin Mendoza. They helped make every year's process and every show, special.

Each year there were so many things to learn as the company grew. There were, in the beginning, two seasons, which changed after the third year, to lengthen the rehearsals and runs for each show and we added a series of free shows for SFUSD students.

Summer camp also was the place we identified students to invite into the company, and the camp scholarships that were given out at the schools where we had residencies proved to be a successful way to encourage kids of all cultures and areas of the city to participate—first in camps and then, when asked, as a company members.

After a few years we also began a fruitful collaboration with Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (RA SOTA) and their Technical Theater Program, first with the director Dan Kryston and then with his successor, Paul Kwape. Both designed sets and built them with their students for our shows and had members of their departments stage-manage, design, and run the lights and sound for our productions. RA SOTA, when under the leadership of Donn Harris, was also our home for rehearsals, and they opened the doors of their theater for our free student performances.

The company was adventurous with its shows. Learning from what we had done for our *Events* and camps, we often produced original works with challenging themes, giving the Players the unique opportunity of creating a new work with their directors.

It started with *Invisible Princess*, which explored slavery and race. We employed blind color casting for our diverse company, with each character's race designated by a piece of tape, either black or white worn on their forehead. We created a vibrant production of *The Yellow Wood* written by Danny Larsen, then a recent graduate of the NYU Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program. It explored the challenging world of a Korean-American boy with ADHD. *Between*

*Continued*

*Dirt and Sky*, written by composer Lisa Quoresimo, told of the early years of Cesar Chavez's political organizing. It thrilled us all when the show traveled to San Jose and was performed with many of his family in the audience. The Duncan and Craig team wrote *One*, which explored the roots of monotheism from a novella by Isaac Bashevis Singer, complete with a virgin sacrifice at its beginning. We mounted a revival of one of Danny's older pieces, *Pinocchio Jones*, a show he had created several years before at the Bayview Opera House. His tuneful work challenged that story with its specifically Black perspective. These were substantial pieces for any performer. But our young Players always came up to the material, unflinching when it came to the maturity of the themes and thrilled to be part of "finding" these new shows. "We don't do kiddie theater," Mr. Duncan has famously said. We didn't then and we still don't do it now.

In the last ten years our attention has turned primarily to Broadway musicals, from the Golden Age and recently the more modern era with *Seussical* and *Matilda*. We also have explored musical theater material in the revues – *Building Broadway: How Broadway Musicals Are Made*, *Sittin' on a Rainbow: the Music of Harold Arlen* and *Everything Goes: the Music of Cole Porter*. The experience of studying these classic shows and classic composers with powerful artist directors like Danny and choreographers Erin Gentry, Natalie Greene, Laura Ellis, Jamie Yuen-Shore, and with musical directors Henry Shin, G. Scott Lacy, Stefano Flavoni, and Peter Meredith, has given the students tremendously strong skills and a grounding in the history of the musical. They have the opportunity to perform in these beautifully constructed and composed shows replete with elaborate choreography and inspired direction.

Many of our Players through the years, beginning with *Carousel* in summer of 2010 and the five subsequent summer shows, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma!*, *On the Town*, *Ragtime* and *West Side Story*, have enhanced their skills and excitement for performing by returning as alumni in these semi-stage productions, often accompanied by a full symphony orchestra. Those summer productions put our company and our camp together, creating moving productions which feature Players—past, present and future.

For the last six years, Players have seized other opportunities to grow as artists with spring workshops for new musicals with composers and librettists, opportunities to create devised theater with Joe Goode's company, and workshops with teams of artists to create unusual performances either seen in the SFArtsED gallery (like *Portraits in Play*) or most recently in a short film inspired by the work of Zoe Farmer's exhibition *Bio Exuberance*. These special workshops have expanded the idea for our Players of what it means to be a fully collaborating artist.

And here we are in 2021—celebrating the company's birth and roots. We also celebrate the artists of all ages who have contributed to its mission: a place to create and learn, a place to be respected as an artist and find cohorts.

Even in this time of no-gathering, we have gathered, albeit virtually, to make a performance. In a way, this process rivals any process we have had, finding new ways to work with one another as we bring a show to life. It has been a pivot to be sure, but one in keeping with the history of this company, responding to this life, and staying true to the art.



# Congratulations to the artists and performers of SFArtsED



Catharine Clark Gallery  
celebrates 30 years of exhibits  
and 5 years of BOXBLUR events

<https://cclarkgallery.com/artists/exhibitions/box-blur>

**CATHARINE  
CLARK  
GALLERY**

**BOXBLUR**  
at Catharine Clark Gallery

BOXBLUR 2016: SFArtsED students perform in response to Kambui Olujimi's sculpture

## SFArtsED ARTIST BIOS

### Emily Keeler – Artistic Director

Ms. Keeler has worked primarily in the Bay Area as a dancer, choreographer, educator, and advocate since 1975. She was both a dancer and resident choreographer for the San Francisco Moving Company for eight years and a principal dancer for Cliff Keuter's New Dance Company and Joe Goode Performance Group. Ms. Keeler has choreographed for numerous companies, both modern and ballet, including Joffrey Dancers, Oakland Ballet, and DanceArt and has been a movement consultant and choreographer for American Conservatory Theater, Magic Theater, George Coates Performance Works, Pickle Family Circus, Make\*a\*Circus, Z Space, the Dance Generators, and Choral Chameleon. Ms. Keeler has been a resident artist and lecturer at DeAnza College, Mills College, San Francisco State, NYU Musical Theater Graduate Writing Program, and at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts. She is the recipient of four National Endowment for the Arts Choreographic Fellowships and has been a judge at both the Colorado Dance Festival and the American College Dance Festival. Ms. Keeler served for three years as the dance member of the San Francisco Arts Commission. In 2016 she was awarded an MFA from San Francisco State in Creative Writing. She has been the Artistic Director of SFArtsED since 1985, a collaborating artist and producer for the Players since 2001, and is one of the curators at SFArtsED's gallery at Minnesota Street Project. She respectfully thanks her teachers Roberta Humphrey, John Wilson, Aaron Osborne, Margaret Jenkins, Elina Mooney, Alonzo King, Yehuda Maor, Kahz Zamuda, John Lasky, and Cooley Windsor.

### Danny Duncan – Director

Mr. Duncan is a native San Franciscan who has worked as a theater artist in the Bay Area most of his life. As founder and Artistic Director of Duncan & Company, he toured the West Coast for seven years. Mr. Duncan's writing career began in 1969 with *Uhuru*, which appeared Off Broadway in New York at the City Center Theatre. Since then, he has authored and produced eight original musicals including *Billie's Song*, winner of six Bay Area Critic Awards including Best Musical and *Go Down Garvey* produced by TheatreWorks. Mr. Duncan has written the librettos and lyrics for eight of SFArtsED Events and three original musicals for the SFArtsED Players: *Invisible Princess*, *One*, and *Pinocchio Jones*. He is also the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Award for his choreography for TheatreWorks' production of *RAISIN* as well as the Dean Goodman Choice Award for outstanding achievement in theatre. For five years he served as Artistic Director for the Mayor's Summer Youth Program in Bayview Hunter's Point and for ten years with United Projects, an arts organization that trained young people in the performing arts. Mr. Duncan has had a long association with the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts as the director of their school-wide musicals, has taught theater at the American Conservatory Theater, and was on the faculty of the Oakland School of the Arts as theater teacher and director of their musicals. He has worked with SFArtsED in their school residencies, Broadway Bound camps, and as the director of all but two of their produc-

tions for the Players since 2001. He is at work on a new musical: *Every Saturday Night* about the vibrant world of Western Addition jazz clubs when he was a child.

### **Peter Meredith – Musical Director**

Mr. Meredith is a pianist, choir conductor, singer, and music educator who enjoys helping people of all ages experience the joy of making music. He is currently finishing his Master's of Music Education at Holy Names University, where he studies vocal pedagogy and the Kodály method. He works as a director and accompanist for Ragazzi Boys Chorus in Redwood City, and a piano instructor at Spindrift School of Performing Arts. He is the music director at College Heights Church in San Mateo and First Congregational Church of Redwood City, and a cantor and pianist for Grace Cathedral's Sunday evening service. He also performs regularly as a jazz and salsa musician, leading the Golden Gate Jazz Trio and playing with several Bay Area salsa bands.

### **Laura Elaine Ellis – Choreographer**

Ms. Ellis is on faculty of the Theater and Dance Department at Cal State University, East Bay and has choreographed numerous CSUEB theater productions. She co-directed and co-choreographed, with colleague Kimiko Guthrie, *A Chorus Line*, which garnered critical praise and was the catalyst for CSUEB's Musical Theater program. In addition to her work on SFArtsED/BATCO's *Ragtime* in 2017 and *West Side Story* in 2019, Ms. Ellis has staged productions for Open Opera, Festival Opera, George Coates Performance Group, Douglass Morrison Theater, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Shotgun Players. She performs and tours with Dimensions Dance Theater and Flyaway Productions, has danced in works for choreographers Emily Keeler, Donald McKayle, Garth Fagan, Deborah Vaughan, Joan Lazarus, Anne Bluethenthal, Kim Epifano, and Robert Moses. She is co-founder of the award-winning Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now. Ms. Ellis' first Bay Area teaching experience was with SFArtsED, in 1990.

### **Erin Gentry – Choreographer**

Ms. Gentry has been a choreographer with SFArtsED Players and Broadway Bound summer camp since graduating from the University of San Francisco in 2010. A performer throughout the Bay Area, she has performed most recently in the ensembles of *The Rocky Horror Show* at Ray of Light Theatre, and *Saturday Night Fever* at Broadway By the Bay. She has also choreographed for Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts mainstage musicals, Jewish Community High School, and Throckmorton Theater. In the Players 2018-2019 season, she had the privilege of directing the Players production of *Building Broadway*. Ms. Gentry is immensely proud of the hard work of each of these young performers and the entire artistic staff for their valuable contributions and collaboration.

### **Jamie Yuen-Shore – Choreographer**

Ms. Yuen-Shore is a proud alumna of the first generation of SFArtsED Players. In addition to SFArtsED, she has taught musical theater and theater education with the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre; the Fulbright Program in Montevideo, Uruguay; Aim High; and San Francisco Day School, where she also teaches 6th

grade Social Studies. She is a board member and alumnus of Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company (YPTMTC) and she is a founding member of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (SFBATCO), where most recently she co-created and directed *I, Too, Sing America* with Othello Jefferson and Christine Chung (Winner of Theater Bay Area Award for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Musical Theater production). She has previously choreographed with SFArtsED for *Carnival*, *Ragtime*, *Seussical™*, *Building Broadway*, *West Side Story* and *Matilda the Musical*.

### **Tiersa Nureyev – Costume Designer**

Ms. Nureyev has created costumes for film, musical theater, dance, and performance art and has worked with fellow artists to create fiber-based elements, structures, and garments for gallery projects and set design. She is the co-founder of the collaborative design studio Stella Fluorescent, which creates sustainably designed fashion, textiles and jewelry. Ms. Nureyev is an active teaching artist (via SFArtsED) and leads summer programs with youth that explore fashion as identity. This is Tiersa's ninth year costuming for the Players.

### **Stacey Ransom – Set Designer**

Ms. Ransom is one half of Ransom & Mitchell, the wonderful mess created from smashing together the creative talents of set designer/digital artist Stacey Ransom and director/photographer Jason Mitchell. Their approach combines cinematic lighting with distinctive scenery and digital artistry to create a distinctive brand of magical realism. Clients have included a number of magazines, agencies, and direct clients including Grey, Young & Rubicam; DDB; DDB Remedy; Hub Strategy; BSSP; Duncan/Channon; Townhouse; JVST; Virgin Records; KVP; Juxtapoz; Hi-Fructose; Decibel; Magnet; Apex; Kixeye; and The Oakland Museum of California. Ms. Ransom has also taught Design for Theater, a two-week summer workshop as part of SFArtsED Summer. [ransommitchell.com](http://ransommitchell.com)

### **Pete Belkin – Director of Photography / Editor**

Mr. Belkin's visual practice spans across multiple mediums and genres. His work is typically concept-driven and approached as a chameleon would a new tree. His time-based projects include documentary films with artists, immersive video installations, sculptural environments and other investigations of the natural and human world. His creative projects have been shown locally as well as internationally in museums and arts institutions. Pete has been living and working in the Bay Area since 2003 and serves on the SFArtsED staff as the Artistic Growth Associate.

### **Charlotte Baldiviez – Assistant Director / Production Supervisor**

Ms. Baldiviez is a New York-based actor, dancer, and choreographer. She studied Performing Arts and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco with an emphasis in both theater and dance, and at Pacific Conservatory Theater (PCPA) in the 2-Year Professional Actor Training Program. She is a proud SFArtsED teaching artist and has previously worked with the company on *Ragtime* and *West Side Story*. This show has been a bright light at this time and she is grateful for the artistry, creativity, and dedication of all of the artists involved.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
NAOMI  
for your hard work!**

**Love,  
Meme, Papi,  
Uncle Jay, Aunt  
Catey,  
Edie, Ikey &  
Georgia**



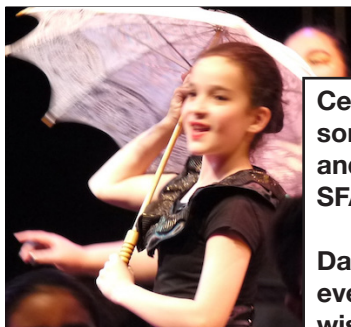
***Portfolio and Wealth Management***

*Lorne Abramson, CFA, CFP®*

*Elana Lieberman*

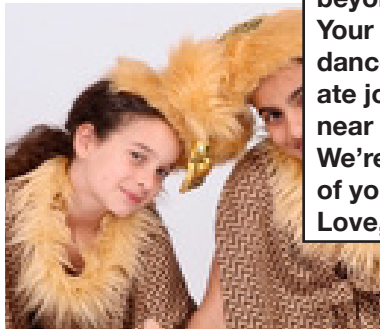
**111 Anza Boulevard, Suite 120  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650-697-3013  
[www.elmadvisors.com](http://www.elmadvisors.com)**





**Celebrating 4 seasons as a Player and 6 years with SFArtsED!**

**Daliah – You’ve met every challenge with wisdom and grace beyond your years. Your laughter, song, dance, and art create joy for our family near and far. We’re infinitely proud of you!  
Love, Mom & Dad**



**Happy 20<sup>th</sup>,  
Players!  
Keep the  
momentum  
going!**



**All our best,  
Martin Schuler & Milo Straghalis**  
Li’l Abner 2014    Sittin’ on a Rainbow 2015  
How to Succeed in Business  
Without Really Trying 2016

**Congratulations  
to the SFArtsED Players.**

**All of you are  
“exceedingly rare!”**

**from  
William Hack  
Member,  
SFArtsED  
Board of Directors**

Tossing and turning all night?  
A Pilates workout will make it alright



**Christina Briggs**

Pilates Instructor, NCPT  
Dance Educator, MFA

[Christina@PilatesMovement.net](mailto:Christina@PilatesMovement.net)

[www.PilatesMovement.net](http://www.PilatesMovement.net)

(917) 531-8772

**Congratulations Players!**

To our always (almost never) shy girl and the entire amazing Players community –

You have an amazing answer to “What did YOU do during the pandemic?”

Congratulations doesn’t fully capture the awe, gratitude, and love.



Your adoring family & fans



# Many Thanks to our Generous Donors

## DONOR CIRCLE

Mr. Frank Alde  
Dr. Seth Ammerman  
Ms. Amy Andersen  
Ms. Meryl Bennan & Mr. James Bennan  
Mr. Christopher Bigelow  
Ms. Deborah Bishop &  
    Mr. Michael Lieberman  
Ms. Virginia Boster  
Ms. Rebecca Burad  
Mr. William Byerley  
Ms. Katie Byers  
Ms. Michelle Calvi  
Ms. Liz Cardone  
Ms. Gayle Chan & Dr. William Chan  
Mr. David Coffman  
Ms. Helen Cohen & Mr. Mark Lipman  
Ms. Nancy Colman  
Ms. Valerie Corvin & Dr. Scott Corvin  
Ms. Janet Crane &  
    Mr. Rod Freebairn-Smith  
Ms. Aiko Lanier Cuneo &  
    Mr. Laurence Cuneo  
Ms. Leela De Souza Bransten &  
    Mr. Peter Bransten  
Ms. Loni Dantzler  
Dr. Marjorie Denker  
Mr. Mark Denton & Mr. Joseph Sun  
Ms. Jeanne Dinkelspiel  
Mc. Mary C. Dino  
Mr. Neel Doppalapudi  
Ms. Rachel Ennis  
Mr. Jack Fischer & Jack Fisher Gallery  
Ms. Laura Marie Fontana  
Ms. Zoe Francis & Mr. Rick Francis  
Ms. Bria Goeller  
Dr. Elena V. Gonzales  
Mr. Peter Gutkin  
Ms. Sue Horst & Mr. Blair Horst  
Dr. Jacqueline C. Jones  
Ms. Alexis Joseph  
Mr. Walter Knoepfel  
Ms. Ada Kriegman  
Ms. Annette Lai  
Ms. Sharonjean Leeds &  
    Dr. Richard Leeds  
Ms. Zdenka Levy  
Ms. Elana Lieberman &

Mr. Lorne Abramson  
Ms. Susan Malone  
Ms. Patricia Maloney  
Ms. Berta McDonnell &  
    Mr. Mark McDonnell  
Ms. Tracy McQuay  
Ms. Irene Mecchi  
Mr. Steven Miller  
Dr. Janet Mohle-Boetani &  
    Mr. Mark Manasse  
Ms. Minette Nelson & Mr. David Eckles  
Ms. Nancy Ng  
Ms. Lebechi Odenyi  
Ms. Beth Ogilvie & Ms. Susan Straghalis  
Mr. Daniel Ostrow  
Mr. Aliqwan Pack  
Ms. Kenzi Parton  
Ms. Polly Peterson  
Ms. Belinda Presser  
Ms. Nancy Quinn & Mr. Thomas Driscoll  
Ms. Jaime Rush & Mr. George Rush  
Ms. Sue Saracco & Mr. Eugene Saracco  
Mr. Roger Schachtel  
Ms. Pamela Ann Scrutton  
Ms. Sheri Siegel & Mr. Paul Siegel  
Mr. Todd Stein & Mr. Chad Jones  
Ms. Nancy Sutterly  
Ms. Masako Takahashi  
Ms. Janet Tarlov & Mr. Richard Tarlov  
Ms. Lucene Thomason  
Mr. Todd Traina  
Mr. Joseph Tramontana  
Ms. Geraldine Dal Porto Travins  
Ms. Laura Trupin  
Ms. Ashley Tucker  
Ms. Kristine Twining  
Ms. Erin Tyson Poh  
Ms. Valerie Velardi  
Mr. Nino Walker  
Ms. Jo Waller & Mr. Gary Waller  
Mr. John Walpole  
Mr. Andrew Weinstein  
Dr. Sandra D. Yuen &  
    Dr. Lawrence G. Shore  
Ms. Lisa William Zigmund  
Ms. Betty Zlatchin & Mr. Carl Zlatchin  
Mr. Charles Zukow & Mr. John Ferrara



## PRODUCERS CIRCLE

Ms. Diane Anderson  
Mr. Evan P. Anderson  
Ms. Amy Greenleaf Bassert  
Ms. Deborah Bishop &  
Mr. Michael Lieberman  
Ms. Lynn Blair  
Ms. Dianne Calvi  
Ms. Shirley Chen  
Ms. Shona Curley & Mr. Dirk Delmon  
Mr. Daniel Dan  
Ms. Sheryl Denker & Mr. Alex Chuzhoy  
Ms. Paula Dinnell & Mr. Larry Doyle  
Ms. Joselle Duncan &  
Mr. Callum Duncan  
Ms. Karen Epstein  
Ms. Erin Gangitano &  
Mr. Gregory Gangitano  
Ms. Simone Garland &  
Mr. Christopher Garland  
Ms. Carla Gomez & Mr. Joey Sutter  
Ms. Alysia Gonzales  
Ms. Jeanette Gonzales  
Mr. William Hack  
Mr. Cory Jones & Ms. Alexis Gaines  
Mr. D. Ronald Jones

Dr. Jacqueline C. Jones  
Ms. Luba Kravchenko  
Ms. Sharonjean Leeds &  
Dr. Richard Leeds  
Ms. Sara O'Neill & Mr. John O'Neill  
Ms. Glenna Pop-Stefanov  
Ms. Nancy Quinn & Mr. Thomas Driscoll  
Ms. Sher Rogat & Mr. Wayne Garcia  
Ms. Jaime Rush & Mr. George Rush  
Ms. Jane Rush & Mr. George Rush  
Mr. Sambuddha Saha  
Ms. Emma Sanchez &  
Mr. Richard Vaznaugh  
Ms. Sharon Shepherd & Mr. Laird Rodet  
Mr. Todd Stein & Mr. Chad Jones  
Ms. Molly Sterkel & Mr. Tyler Sterkel  
Mr. Cole Thomason-Redus  
Ms. Lucene Thomason  
Ms. Eileen Thornton &  
Mr. Matthew Thornton  
Ms. Kate Thornton  
Ms. Eileen Tirpak  
Ms. Geraldine Dal Porto Travins  
Ms. Julie Wertz & Ms. Karen Fullerton  
Dr. Sandra D. Yuen &  
Dr. Lawrence G. Shore

# SFartsED donor circle

The San Francisco Arts Education Project's Donor Circle supports our artists' work in all SFartsED programs, including Artists-in-Residence in the public schools, after-school/weekend classes and workshops, SFartsED Summer, student exhibitions at Minnesota Street Project, and scholarships.

## P R O D U C E R S C I R C L E

The Producers Circle specifically supports SFartsED's performing arts programs, including the SFartsED Players and this year's production of *Once Upon a Mat-tress*. Every great company needs great producers!

**Your gift will be matched!** This spring, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous member of the SFartsED Board of Directors, up to \$5,000. This means your gift has double the impact!

### HOW TO GIVE:

**[www.sfartsed.org/donate](http://www.sfartsed.org/donate)**

Or send a check to SFartsED c/o Nourse Auditorium, 135 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

**Colette Rush**

**Our Beautiful  
Rising Star**

**Wishing You The Best**

**With Love  
From**

**Goma and Gompá**

**Congratulations  
Agatha**

on FOUR YEARS  
of spectacular  
performances with  
the Players! We are  
so proud of your  
dedication, diligence,  
determination, and  
raw talent.

**Love,  
Mom, Dad, Ursula  
& Matilda**

**Many thanks to Leewood Press and John Frisch  
for untold years of fresh ink and imPRESSive support  
of SFArtsED**



**Leewood Press, Inc.**

**1407 Indiana Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107**

**P: (415) 896-0513**

**F: (415) 896-0815**

For those of us who love  
musical theater,  
the SFArtsED Players are a  
San Francisco treasure.  
Congratulations on 20  
fabulous seasons!

And a huge ovation to the  
cast and creative team  
behind *Once Upon a  
Mattress*. What an  
extraordinary achievement  
in this extraordinary year.

**Todd Stein** |



*Licensed Insurance Agent Specializing in Long-Term Care Solutions*

**www.toddsteinltc.com    415.861.5088**

## MESSAGES TO THE PLAYERS

Congratulations, Isa!

We're so excited for you (and your cast mates and crew) and hope you've had a wonderful time being part of such a unique experience and production. We know how hard you have worked and how much energy you've put into your role and performance.

Love you, Aunt Amy and Uncle Doug

Dear Lucía,

I am so proud of the commitment and creativity you have demonstrated throughout this experience! You are an amazing artist with so much beauty & light to share with the world.

LOVE YOU

Alysia (aka Mama)

Congrats to Minstrel Tyler and the rest of the Players!

You all certainly deserve a good night's sleep.

xox

Mom & Morgan

Dear Alon,

We love watching you pursue your interests.

Your enthusiasm is contagious and a delight to watch.

Have fun!

Love,

Grandma and Grandpa

Bravo Colette!

Love, Mom, Dad, Gigi & Sakai

## Christopher –



**Your Mama and her college friends from Williams are so proud of you! Can't wait to see this production, and where you go from here. Your future is so bright!**

**Love,  
the Susie Hopkins  
et al. gang**

*Congratulations*

to the cast and creative team of

*Once Upon a Mattress*

A huge (virtual) hug to everyone who helped make this performance possible.

And happy 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the  
SFArtsED Players!

With love from

*The Thornton Family*

CONGRATS  
SF ARTS ED  
PLAYERS!

ON YOUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
AND YOUR PRODUCTION OF  
ONCE UPON A MATTRESS  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

CANYON  
MARKET







**Christopher,**  
**Who knew where it would lead you when you auditioned for**  
**Players? I am so proud of you! And I know Mama would be too.**  
**Love, Mom**



**Stella**

We are so proud of your dedication and hard work, and it has been such a joy watching you perform and grow during your three years with Players.

You are such a bright light in our lives, and we know you will light up the screen just as you lit up the stage. Break a leg!

**Love,**  
**Mom, Dad, and Ben**

## **SFArtsED Mission Statement**

The San Francisco Arts Education Project provides participatory experiences in the arts to the children of San Francisco so they are better equipped to make use of their creative abilities in all aspects of their lives.

## **SFArtsED Board of Directors**

President Julie Wertz, Lorne Abramson, Amy Andersen, Meryl Bennan, Deborah Bishop, Michelle Calvi, Neel Doppalapudi, Zoe Farmer, Stephen Goldstine, William Hack, Martha Mangold, Janet Mohle-Boetani, Wendy Norris, George Rush, Janet Mason Tarlov, Sylvia Faison Wilkerson

## **SFArtsED Staff**

Chad Jones, Executive Director; Emily Keeler, Artistic Director;  
Mia Waller, Program Director; Kathleen Moore, Administrative Coordinator & SFArtsED Summer Registrar; Pete Belkin, Artistic Growth Associate;  
Laura Bloch, Business & Accounts Manager; Laird Rodet; Development Consultant; Susan Tramontana, Glen Park After-School Site Coordinator

## **Special Thanks**

Sharonjean and Richard Leeds  
Crankstart  
Eva Leah Gunther Foundation  
Nicola Bosco-Alvarez  
Stacey Ransom and  
Ransom & Mitchell  
John Frisch & Leewood Press  
Lucene Thomason &  
Cole Thomason-Redus  
Julie Wertz & Karen Fullerton  
Deborah Bishop  
Ryan Doyle  
Paul Kwapy and the Ruth Asawa High  
School of the Arts Technical Theater  
Program

Fort Mason Flix  
Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture  
Nancy Quinn & Tom Driscoll  
Paula West

Special thanks to Players Families for sharing their children and lending their support

Funding for the San Francisco Arts Education Project is provided in part by San Francisco Grants for the Arts; the California Arts Council, a state agency; and The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

[www.sfartsed.org](http://www.sfartsed.org) • [info@sfartsed.org](mailto:info@sfartsed.org)  
415.551.7990 at Nourse Auditorium  
415.970.2275 at Minnesota Street Project



# Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Players!



From helping  
kids flex their  
creative  
muscles...

to building  
confidence  
& instilling  
passion...



You've created a family of  
life-long relationships and  
dedicated arts enthusiasts.

**Congratulations!**

Milo & Theo Straghalis  
(2014- 2020)

Xoxo- Mia Waller





**Christopher, we are very proud of you! Thank you for sharing your love of performing with us. It has brought so much joy into our lives. Looking forward to seeing where your journey takes you. Keep on smiling!**

**Love, Aunt Sue,  
Uncle Kurt, and Kaleb**



**Break a Leg, Naomi! You've come a long way, baby!**

**Mom, Dad, Grandma, Leo (yes, Leo), Cocoa & Mango**

# piccino

## **Italian-Inspired California Cuisine**

A community hub in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood since 2006, Piccino features the freshest local and sustainable ingredients from our own farm in Healdsburg and other local vendors.

**We are proud supporters of SFArtsED!**



piccino.com • 415. 824.4224  
1001 Minnesota Street, San Francisco

# congratulations

## SFartsED ✧ players

congratulations emily, danny and the  
two decades of cast and crew on this  
momentous anniversary. hats off also to  
the supporting cast of parents, artists,  
allies and accomplices.

it has been my great honor to serve alongside  
you as we create a platform for the children of  
san francisco to thrive through musical theatre.

julie wertz, SFArtsED board chair

