



RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL



**SOMEBODY
TO LOVE**

WRITTEN BY Robert Sternin & Prudence Fraser

MUSIC BY The Bands We Listened to on Vinyl in Our Basements

MARCH 25 – APRIL 19, 2026

THE KARYN JACKSON THEATER

Our Fair Lady

BARBARA MEISTER

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Kimberly Hessler as Eliza Doolittle in
My Fair Lady at Rubicon.
Photo Credit: Jeanne Tanner

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RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE



The season is made possible in part through a grant from the City of San Buenaventura and the County of Ventura. Recent building and equipment upgrades have been made possible through a grant from the California Arts Council and the State of California.

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FOURTH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION | Now on Stage



FIRST MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Book by COLIN ESCOTT & FLOYD MUTRIX
Original Concept & Direction by FLOYD MUTRIX
Directed by CRAIG SCLAVI

OCTOBER 15 – NOVEMBER 9, 2025

FIFTH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

ELEANOR

Written by MARK ST. GERMAIN
Directed by DAVID ELLENSTEIN
MAY 13 – MAY 31, 2026

SECOND MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Co-Produced with The Acting Company of NY
By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Directed by DEVIN BRAIN

DECEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 21, 2025

SIXTH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

RAGTIME

Book by TERENCE McNALLY
Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY & LYNN AHRENS
Directed by J. SCOTT LAPP

OCTOBER 21 – NOVEMBER 8, 2026

THIRD MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

THE 39 STEPS

Book by PATRICK BARLOW
Based on the Novel by JOHN BUCHAN
Directed by JENNY SULLIVAN

FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 1, 2026

FOURTH MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

World Premiere
Book By ROBERT STERNIN & PRUDENCE FRASER
Music by THE BANDS WE LISTENED TO ON
VINYL IN OUR BASEMENTS
Directed by SEAN DANIELS

MARCH 25 – APRIL 19, 2026

For more information or to purchase tickets for an upcoming show, scan the QR code.



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pponti@rubicontheatre.org or call 805.667.2912, ext. 225

INNOVATION THANK YOU

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

At Rubicon Theatre Company, new work is the lifeblood of our artistic mission. The creation of a new musical is a bold and beautiful act—one that requires imagination, collaboration, and above all, belief.

Somebody to Love exists today because of the extraordinary generosity of the donors, sponsors, and champions who choose to invest in the power of storytelling and the future of the American theatre.

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On behalf of the entire *Somebody to Love* company and everyone at Rubicon Theatre Company, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you for your generosity, your vision, and your belief in the power of new work.

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

27TH SEASON | 181ST PRODUCTION

J. SCOTT LAPP & KARYL LYNN BURNS

Producing Artistic Directors

in association with
NORA MCNEELY HURLEY & MICHAEL HURLEY

presents

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

Book by
ROBERT STERNIN & PRUDENCE FRASER

Music by
THE BANDS WE LISTENED TO ON VINYL IN OUR BASEMENTS

Music Clearance and Licensing
JANET BILLIG RICH & LISA MOBERLY for LOUDSPEAKER MUSIC GROUP
Music Licensing Associate VALERIE JOAN BRAATEN

Starring

SOPHIA
ALAWI*

GIZEL
JIMÉNEZ*

DONOVAN
MENDELOVITZ

RUSTIN COLE
SAILORS*

with

JESSE GRAHAM JOHN GREGORIO* F. MICHAEL HAYNIE* MOLLY KIRSCHENBAUM*
SYDNEY MUCHA DESMOND NEWSON* PRESLEY NICHOLSON SOLEIL PERRY
KAYLA QUIROZ ALEXIS SEMEVOLOS-VELAZQUEZ* MEA WILKERSON

Scenic Design
MIKE BILLINGS*

Projection Design
ANDRÉS POCH

Lighting Design
BRIAN GALE

Costume Design
PAMELA SHAW

Sound Design
DANNY FIANDACA

Intimacy Director
HAILEY MASHBURN

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CAMAL PUG

Musical Director/Vocal Arrangements
BRETT RYBACK

Choreographer
BECCA SWEITZER

Directed by
SEAN DANIELS†

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MAKE A DATE WITH HISTORY THIS MAY!

Eleanor



By **MARK ST. GERMAIN**
Directed by **DAVID ELLENSTEIN**
Starring **KANDIS CHAPPELL**

MAY 13 - 31, 2026

In this tour-de-force solo performance described as “brilliant and emotionally relevant” by the *Wall Street Journal*, Kandis Chappell brings First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to vivid life. Candid and commanding, vulnerable and visionary, from the shadows of the White House to the global stage, Eleanor finds her purpose at life’s greatest crossroads, shaping a legacy that continues to inspire. The story takes audiences from Hyde Park to The White House and beyond and provides a rich personal account of the Roosevelt family, dynasty, and presidency. If you loved last year’s *Eisenhower*, you’ll be enthralled by *Eleanor*.

SCAN FOR TICKETS
805.667.2900 | www.rubicontheatre.org



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

Welcome to Rubicon Theatre Company and the fourth Mainstage show of our 2025/2026 Season.

On behalf of our Staff and the Board of Directors, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Karyn Jackson Theater and our World Premiere production of *Somebody to Love*. This is our 50TH World Premiere and our 181ST production here in Ventura. We are thrilled to introduce you to Robert Sternin and Prudence Fraser, best known for their work on the hit TV show “The Nanny” and Off-Broadway’s *Under My Skin*, the writers of this new musical and dear friends of Rubicon.



Producing Artistic Director
J. SCOTT LAPP

Somebody to Love is set to the soundtrack of a generation and features music from Sly and the Family Stone, America, Billy Joel, Bad Company, Roberta Flack, Kiss, Blondie, Grand Funk, Jefferson Airplane, Jethro Tull, Little River Band, Chicago, Earth, Wind and Fire, the Doobie Brothers & Orleans... just to name a few. This funny, heartfelt new jukebox musical follows four friends who meet freshman year of college and vow to change the world, and to be there for each other forever. This is a timely story about the choices we make, and the turning points that define a lifetime. At its heart, this musical asks a question that is both deeply personal and universally human: What are we willing to risk for love?

The story follows characters standing at emotional intersections – between safety and vulnerability, expectation and authenticity, fear and courage. Each of us encounter moments that demand a decision: to speak or remain silent, to hold on or let go, to stay the course or change direction entirely. A World Premiere is itself a crossroads for a theatre company like Rubicon - an act of faith in new voices, new stories, and the belief that art can illuminate the turning points in our own lives. We are honored to share this beginning with you.

Your presence today is foundational to Rubicon Theatre Company. Without the support of our patrons and donors, we could not realize our commitment to bring bold new works to the stage, as well as continue our robust education and community engagement programs. Thank you for joining us today to keep live theatre thriving here in Ventura. We can’t wait for you to experience all that 2026 has in store.

With gratitude,

J. SCOTT LAPP
Producing Artistic Director



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WE DO IT ALL - BIG OR SMALL



today's hits + yesterday's favorites



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Q&A WITH THE WRITERS OF SOMEBODY TO LOVE

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

If you watched sitcoms like "The Nanny" and "Who's The Boss?," then you probably recognize the names Robert Sternin and Prudence Fraser, the star husband-and-wife writing team behind both of those long-running sitcoms. After years of working in Hollywood, Sternin and Fraser have turned their attention back to the stage.



Writers of *Somebody to Love*
ROBERT STERNIN &
PRUDENCE FRASER

Producing Artistic Director J. Scott Lapp recently sat down for a conversation with Rob & Pru about the new musical *Somebody to Love*.

JSL: Tell me about the genesis of *Somebody to Love*.

PRU: I just want to start by saying I really hate doing publicity, the interviews, photos, all that. I just don't think I'm very good at it. So I'm going to let Rob do most of the talking.

ROB: Gee, thanks.

PRU: I will jump in now and then, because what I am good at and frankly, quite enjoy, is correcting him.

ROB: Yes, we're married. We have been a husband-and-wife writing team for 45 years.

PRU: Actually, 44 years. It will be 45 in May.

ROB: I was rounding up. We met freshman year of college in 1973. Graduated and set out to pursue our hopes and dreams.

PRU: Rob, we're here to talk about our show. It's not about us.

ROB: Right. It's about a couple of totally fictional characters who meet freshman year of college in 1973, graduate and set out to pursue their hopes and dreams.

JSL: I guess you just answered my next question, what inspired you to write it?

PRU: It all started when our director Sean Daniels called us in early March, 2020 asking if we wanted to meet him in Vegas, see a concert, and discuss the idea of doing a juke box musical with '70's rock.

ROB: Classic rock from the '70s? That was my life! Sitting in the basement playing it full blast on vinyl while my parents yelled, "Turn down that noise!" and, "Get a haircut!" We didn't have to think twice.

PRU: Actually, we did think twice. Remember March, 2020? There was a little thing going around called a coronavirus? But the idea of building a story around our favorite music was too good to pass up. So we packed up our antiseptic

A SOARING MUSICAL EPIC THIS OCTOBER!

RAGTIME

THE MUSICAL



Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY**

Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**, Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**

Based on the Novel "Ragtime" by **E.L. DOCTOROW**

Directed by **J. SCOTT LAPP**

OCT 21 – NOV 8, 2026

This Tony Award-winning musical masterpiece is a portrait of a country—and its people—on the brink of change. Based on E.L. Doctorow's acclaimed novel set at the turn of the twentieth century, three distinctly American tales are woven together – that of a stifled upper-class wife, a determined Jewish immigrant, and a daring young Harlem musician – united by their courage, compassion and belief in the promise of the future. Together, they confront history's timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair. With a soaring, emotionally rich score, *Ragtime* features show-stopping numbers like "Wheels of a Dream," "Make Them Hear You," and "Back to Before." Don't miss this thrilling and poignant theatrical event that resonates as powerfully today as ever—a musical experience that will move, inspire, and stay with you long after the final note!

SCAN FOR TICKETS
805.667.2900 | www.rubicontheatre.org



Q&A WITH THE WRITERS OF *SOMEBODY TO LOVE*

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

wipes and headed to Vegas on March 11, the day the world shut down. Tom Hanks had covid, flights from abroad were shut down, NBA games were canceled at halftime.

ROB: That really sucked. Basketball is my second favorite thing, after '70's rock.

PRU: Basically the whole world got sent to their rooms for what we thought would be two weeks but turned out to be a couple of years.

ROB: But now we had a project to work on. They say write what you know so we wrote a love story that starts at college in the '70s.

PRU: Actually...

ROB: Her favorite word.

PRU: It's more than a love story. It's about four friends who vow to be there for each other, no matter what. We follow them through the decades until something happens to them that they never saw coming. Neither did we.

ROB: And probably most of the audience. They start to get old.

PRU: As we (and our characters) look back on our life, we realize it wasn't about our achievements, the sitcoms we wrote, the money we did or didn't make. It's about, and this is not a spoiler alert, it's the title of our show, *Somebody to Love*.

JSL: What's the biggest difference between writing for television and live theatre?

ROB: They're both a lot of fun. You get to meet creative people, and work with them to bring your words to life. With television, you can watch what you did over and over again, at home, in your pajamas, eating a pizza. And that's great. But with theatre you can sit in an audience, night after night, and watch these amazing actors and musicians recreate your story for just this moment, for just these people. There's something magical about that. And we can't wait to have that experience with Rubicon audiences.

PRU: Actually...

ROB: Here we go.

PRU: That's exactly how I feel, too. Well said!

ROB: Awww.

JSL: I'll give you two some privacy.

AN EVENING OF POETRY & SONG

NOEL PAUL STOOKEY (*Peter, Paul & Mary*)
with his Daughter POET A.S. AUBREY

Listening FOR THE Notes

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 7PM

THE GIFT OF WORD & SONG IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Join Noel Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary and his daughter poet A.S. Aubrey for an inspiring evening of conversation, poetry, and song about the power of listening in these times, and how the creative process can heal and express what matters. Stookey will reflect on the inspiration behind several of his songs, and Aubrey will share what listening has meant to her as a poet. Both will explore and discuss how creative expression can bring us together in moments of challenge and include the audience in both reflection and song.

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A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR SEAN DANIELS

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

At a time when our industry is contracting and working to find relevance, I want to point something out to you. You're sitting in a theater that has dedicated its resources, time, and staff to developing and premiering a new musical.

Every musical or play you love was once a new one. *Sunday in the Park with George* was famously at music stands for its first run as so many changes were coming in. At some point a band of actors said, "let's see what we've got" and performed *Hamlet* for the first time to an audience. You love "Comedy Tonight" from *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*? Added during previews. As was "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*. All to say new musicals are where history is made.

Rob and Pru have written a joy-filled important musical that asks the questions all Boomers are asking: "Did any of it mean anything?" "Did the protests of the '60s, the push of the '70s mean anything?" "Are we better off?"

Because life and progress aren't straight lines, it can feel like the answer changes from year to year – but if you take the long view, the answer is clear. I was born in 1973, which means my mom couldn't get a credit card then because she was a woman. Yes, other women's rights from 1973 have gone away, but overall, we have moved the needle forward. That framework is important for any conversation about where we truly are today.

My friend Terrence McNally said, "We create a forum for the ideas and feelings that lead a society to heal and change. We do so by sharing space with each other, by expressing ourselves as people, as a society, and as individuals. We recognize that plays alone can't fix the world, but can make us better: better informed, emotionally available, passionately committed human beings."

I have no doubt that *Somebody to Love* can do that – but only because this theater we're sitting in is brave enough to make that space. And because you are here to be a part of it. So, thank you!

SEAN DANIELS

Director of *Somebody to Love*



Director of
Somebody to Love
SEAN DANIELS

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PRODUCTION NOTES

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

TIME & PLACE

America, 1973–2008

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Nick RUSTIN COLE SAILORS*
 Cynthia SOPHIA ALAWI*
 Joseph (Joe)..... DONOVAN MENDELOVITZ
 Gerianne..... GIZEL JIMÉNEZ*
 Stella..... ALEXIS SEMEVOLOS-VELAZQUEZ*
 Walt..... F. MICHAEL HAYNIE*
 Natalie & Others MOLLY KIRSCHENBAUM*
 Eddie Karp/Nick's Dad & Others..... JOHN GREGORIO*
 Dazzle & Others MEA WILKERSON
 Razzle & Others..... PRESLEY NICHOLSON
 Monty & Others..... DESMOND NEWSON*
 Megan/Cynthia's Mom & Others..... KAYLA QUIROZ
 Silverstein/Cynthia's Dad & Others..... JESSE GRAHAM
 Young Natalie SOLEIL PERRY

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a special announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Young Natalie (u/s) SYDNEY MUCHA

Dance Captain
 DESMOND
 NEWSON*

Production Stage Manager
 TYLER
 DANHAUS*

Assistant Stage Manager
 HANNAH
 RAYMOND*

SOMEBODY TO LOVE BAND

Conductor/Keyboards BRETT RYBACK
 Guitar 1 PERRY COWDERY
 Guitar 2 JEFFREY DUNN
 Bass..... ANDREW HILL, JOHN SNOW (sub), ZACH GATTO (sub)
 Sax/Flute/Clarinet..... DAVID OLIVAS, STEVE MARSH (sub)
 Drums EMILIANO ALMEIDA

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers in the United States.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

CAST OF CHARACTERS



SOPHIA ALAWI*



JESSE GRAHAM



JOHN GREGORIO*



F. MICHAEL HAYNIE*



GIZEL JIMÉNEZ*



MOLLY KIRSCHENBAUM*



DONOVAN MENDELOVITZ



SYDNEY MUCHA



DESMOND NEWSON*



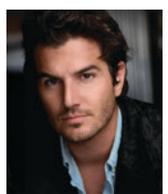
PRESLEY NICHOLSON



SOLEIL PERRY



KAYLA QUIROZ



RUSTIN COLE SAILORS*



ALEXIS SEMEVOLOS-VELAZQUEZ*



MEA WILKERSON

*Members of Actors' Equity Association

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording devices, either audio or video and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, are strictly prohibited.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. Please contact an usher if you require assistance.

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SONG CREDITS

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

“Dance to the Music”

Written by Sylvester Stewart
Published by Mijac Music.
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“Ventura Highway”

Written by Dewey Bunnell.
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“Easy Money”

Words and Music by Billy Joel.
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“Feel Like Making Love”

Written by Bad Company/Roberta Flack
(mash-up). Used by permission.

“Feel Like Makin’ Love”

Written by Michael Geoffrey & Paul Bernard
Rodgers. ©1974 WC Music Corp. (ASCAP).
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“Rock and Roll All Night”

Written by Gene Simmons & Paul Stanley.
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Cafe Americana, Inc. administered by
Intersong-USA Inc. Used by permission.

“Call Me”

Written by Deborah Harry & Giorgio Moroder.
Published by Music of Windswept (ASCAP) and
Sony/ATV Melody. Used by permission.

“(She’s) Some Kind of Wonderful”

Written by Willie J. Ellison
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“Somebody to Love”

Words and Music by Darby R. Slick
©Irving Music Inc. on behalf of Copperpenny
Music (BMI). Used by permission.

“Locomotive Breath”

Written by Ian Anderson.
Published by BMG Monarch (ASCAP).
The Ian Anderson Group of Companies Ltd
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“Help is on Its Way”

Written by Glenn Barrie Shorrock.
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“Jazz Band Jam”

Arranged by Dillon Kondor.

“Colour My World”

Written by James C. Pankow. Published by
BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP) and Primary Wave
Pankow (ASCAP). Used by permission.

“Christmas Medley”

Arranged by Dillon Kondor.

“Shining Star”

Written by Larry Dunn, Maurice White,
Philip Bailey. Published by EMI April Music.
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“Takin’ It to the Streets”

Written by Michael McDonald.
Used by permission.

“Dance With Me”

Written by John Hall.
Published by EMI Blackwood Music Inc.
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“Dance to the Music”

Written by Sylvester Stewart.
Published by Mijac Music.
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SOPHIA ALAWI* (*Cynthia*) is a proud Moroccan-American actress and is thrilled to be making her Rubicon Theatre debut. She is the recipient of a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for *Groundhog Day: The Musical* and was named one of the *Houston Chronicle's* "Five Standout Performances" in 2019 for *Spring Awakening*. Her Off-Broadway and regional theatre credits include *We Live in Cairo* (New York Theatre Workshop), *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre Center), *Nobody Loves You* (American Conservatory Theater), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Evita*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Groundhog Day: The Musical* (San Francisco Playhouse); *The Sound of Music* (Hillbarn Theatre); *Spring Awakening* (Theatre Under The Stars); and *In the Heights* (Playhouse on Park). Television credits include "Law & Order: SVU." Sophia is also a singer-songwriter and has a short film in development. @lioness.film | @sophiaintronaalawi

JESSE GRAHAM (*Silverstein/Cynthia's Dad & Others*) is thrilled to be back at the Rubicon Theatre! On Rubicon Mainstage, he was last seen in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (2016), and since then has worked up and down the coast of California with theatre companies such as The La Mirada Theatre, Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Solvang Festival Theater, The Great American Melodrama, Wallis Annenberg Center, Nocturne Theatre, SLO REP, Sierra Rep, and the Givens Performing Arts Center. Notable theatre

credits include *Kristoff* (*Frozen*), *Riff* (*West Side Story*), *Joe* (*9 to 5*), *Danny Zuko* (*Grease*), and *Valère* (*Tartuffe*). Aside from theatre, Jesse writes and produces his own music, which may be found on all streaming platforms under the artist name SESPE. He recently collaborated and starred in a full-length music video short called "SESPE - Ellie." Jesse received the "Rising Star Award" for his dedication to the Arts in Ventura County (2023), and graduated from PCPA Conservatory (Class of 2020). Jesse gives a special thanks to his mom, dad, and family for all their love and continuous support, and to Rubicon Theatre Company! Very grateful.

JOHN GREGORIO* (*Eddie Karp/Nick's Father & Others*) is delighted to make his Rubicon debut in *Somebody to Love*. He has performed Off-Broadway and regionally in *Around the World in 80 Days* (Davenport Theater), *Silent Laughter* (Lamb's Theatre), *Eurydice* (Writers Theatre), *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Notebooks of Leonardo DaVinci* (Goodman Theatre), *Treasure Island* (Berkeley Repertory), *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Arizona Theatre Company), *The Royale* (Milwaukee Repertory), *The 39 Steps* (Geva Theatre Center), *A Christmas Carol* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *A Funny Thing Happened...Forum* (North Shore Music Theatre), and *Legend of Pecos Bill* (Alliance Theatre). John has appeared on "Chicago Fire," "Good Eats," and "Smoking Gun TV." He is a founding member of Dad's

Garage Theatre Company (Atlanta) and faculty member of The Heifetz International Music Institute.

F. MICHAEL HAYNIE* (*Walt*) (they/them) has appeared on Broadway in *Wicked*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Holler If Ya Hear Me*, and *The Heart of Rock and Roll*. They also originated Olaf in the *Frozen* North American Tour. They appeared Off-Broadway in *Carrie* (MCC), *Dogfight* (Second Stage) and others. Performance highlights include *Quasimodo* in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ogunquit), *Found* (PTC), *Jesus Christ Superstar LIVE!* (NBC), and *Peter Pan LIVE!* (NBC). Thanks Moms, Grace, FF&FA, GUESA, (M)orons, Nicolosi & Co. @fmichaelhaynie.

GIZEL JIMÉNEZ* (*Gerianne*) can be heard as Rembrandt on Lin-Manuel Miranda and Eisa Davis' concept album "Warriors," and as McNamara in "One by One" on the recently released deluxe edition of *Heathers* Off-Broadway album. On Broadway, Gizel was seen as Nessarose in *Wicked*. Tour/Off-Broadway credits include *Rosalie* in *West Side Story* (1st National Tour), *Misty* in *Cornelia Street* (Atlantic Theater), *Kate Monster/Lucy* in *Avenue Q* (New World Stages), *Olivia* in *Miss You Like Hell* (The Public - Drama Desk & Lortel nominations), *Party People* (The Public), *Susan Wilkes* in *Big River* (Encores!) and *Unseamly* (Urban Stages). Recent regional credits include *Audrey* in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Denver Center), *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* (Old Globe), *Dawn* in

Waitress (Ogunquit Playhouse), and the World Premiere musical *Bliss* (5th Ave). Film/Television: "Sextet" in "Tick, tick BOOM!" (Netflix), "Bad Monkey" (recurring, AppleTV), "Dexter: New Blood" (recurring, Showtime), "Law & Order: SVU" (NBC), "Divorce" (HBO). @gizeljimenezofficial

MOLLY KIRSCHENBAUM* (*Natalie & Others*) (they/them) is an actor, writer, and comedian from beautiful Burbank, CA. Currently, you can find them performing around L.A. and on the internet with their comedy group Worlds' Most Best (which just broke 100k followers on TikTok!). Other credits include Tim Robbins' *Topsy Turvy* at The Actors' Gang, *Transparent The Musical* (developmental reading, Tina Landau), and *Straight Play: A Gay Musical* (LA Performance Practice, Gina Young), as well starring in their original show *Starfuckers!*, which had its debut reading at The Elysian (Los Angeles) with Stephnie Weir, John Ross Bowie, and Elizabeth Dennehy; and in NYC at The Tank starring Jackie Hoffman and Julie Klausner. They have recently created work for Rogue Machine, PlaygroundLA, and CrawlSpaceLA, and an indie pilot called "Harpies," which was a second-rounder at Sundance, Palm Springs ShortFest, and Austin Film Festival. They are elated to be back at Rubicon after performing in the development reading of *Somebody to Love* in 2024! @_goblynnne @worldsmostbest

DONOVAN MENDELOVITZ (*Joseph*) is so grateful to be making his Rubicon debut in *Somebody to Love*,

and thanks you for coming! Since moving back to Los Angeles, he has performed in several productions around Southern California, recently *Legally Blonde* (La Mirada/Ordway), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Moonlight Stage, La Mirada), *Jersey Boys* (Musical Theatre West, CCAE), and *Cabaret* (5-Star Theatricals). His other favorite roles include Stacey Jax in *Rock of Ages* (San Antonio Broadway) and Steve in the upcoming indie feature film "LAcEd." Huge thanks to Jeremy, Sean, Brett, the whole Rubicon team, and to Rob and Pru for the chance to craft this character. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School and is represented by ATB Talent. This one's for his Auntie Eve. Follow him @donomendz and at donovan-mendelovitz.com

SYDNEY MUCHA (*Young Natalie u/s*) is delighted to return to Rubicon Theatre Company. She made her Rubicon debut performance last summer as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, a role she loved bringing to life and one that strengthened her passion for performing. Since then, Sydney has appeared in PTYA's *The Lion King* and *Aladdin Jr*. She is passionate about singing, acting, and the magic that happens when they come together on stage (or in the living room). Sydney feels grateful for every opportunity to learn from directors, castmates, and mentors who inspire her to keep improving her craft. When not performing, Sydney may be found on the soccer field, snowboarding, surfing, or shopping.

DESMOND NEWSON* (*Monty & Others/Dance Captain*) has been seen in *Motown: The Musical* (Broadway), *Hamilton* (Hollywood Pantages), and *FLY* - honoring the Tuskegee Airman (Pasadena Playhouse/Off-Broadway). Notable credits include; *Dreamgirls: 35th Anniversary Concert* featuring the original Dreamgirls – Sheryl Lee Ralph, Loretta Devine, and Jennifer Holliday; *Kinky Boots* at The Hollywood Bowl; and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* directed by the incomparable Phylicia Rashad (Mark Taper Forum.) He won the NAACP Theatre Award for *Carmen Jones* (Ensemble Theatre Company). Beyond the stage, Desmond is an exceptional playwright and storyteller. He will use his appellation to help create a more authentic narrative for people of color. As a director and choreographer, Desmond's artistry has been featured during Disney's Celebrate Soulfully. As an adjunct professor and instructor, Desmond's goal is to empower the next generation of creative artists to be BOLD in the pursuit of their dreams. Immeasurable love and gratitude to his mother for all that she is.

PRESLEY NICHOLSON (*Razzle & Others*) is thrilled to be making her Rubicon Theatre debut in *Somebody to Love*! She has appeared regionally in *A Chorus Line* and *Saturday Night Fever* at Laguna Playhouse. Presley recently received her B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Point Park University and will be featured as a dancer in Mark Waters' film "Hershey" set to be released in theatres this summer. Presley hopes you enjoy the show!

SOLEIL PERRY (*Young Natalie*) is 11-years-old and was born in Carpinteria. She started vocal coaching at the age of 6 and has been performing as a solo artist on the big stage ever since. Performances include singing at Carpinteria's Rods & Roses Festival, Avocado Festival, 4th of July Parade, the Ventura Holiday Concert, Goleta Lemon Festival, and Soho Night Club in Santa Barbara. She made her acting debut last year when she got the part of Marta in *The Sound of Music* at Buena High School. After that experience, she caught the acting bug and never wants to stop acting and singing. She has also played the roles of Flounder in *The Little Mermaid* and Shenzi in *The Lion King* for Performance Theatre for Young Artists. Soleil currently attends Ventura Acting School. She also runs her own singing YouTube channel called "Soleil Sings."

KAYLA QUIROZ (*Megan/Cynthia's Mom & Others*) is thrilled to be making her Rubicon Theatre debut! Some favorite credits include the World Premiere of *Real Women Have Curves, The Musical* (U/S: Ana, Flaca, Itzel, & Swing) at A.R.T., originating Mirabel Madrigal in *Mirabel's Gifts of the Season* at Disneyland Resort, and her Off-Broadway debut leading as Kate James in *Beyond Perfection* at AMT. Most recently, she was Dance Captain and Onstage Female Swing of the 1st North American Tour for *Gabby's Dollhouse Live*. In addition, she was also Dance Captain and Lady Hastings for the World Premiere of *The King's Wife* at Constellation Stage and Screen. Some other companies that she has

ventured with are TheaterWorksUSA, Moonlight, Fountain Theatre, and New Swan Shakespeare. Kayla is a UCI alumni, where she earned a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre and Honors in Acting. She sends love to her family (especially Asher) and Manager Christopher Natahanuel.

RUSTIN COLE SAILORS* (*Nick*) makes his Rubicon Theatre Company debut in the World Premiere of *Somebody to Love*. He was most recently seen at South Coast Repertory as Elvis in *Million Dollar Quartet* and previously starred there as Guy in *Once*, earning BroadwayWorld's Best Actor in a Musical. On screen, Rustin appeared as Rock Star Santa, a Hunky Finalist on Season 2 of "Finding Mr. Christmas" (Hallmark Channel), and as Lucien Maxwell in Season 4 of "Into the Wild Frontier" (Amazon Prime Video). Other credits include ABC's "Prank Panel" (premiere episode) and the film "Pandemic Sex Party." A proud Actors' Equity member, Rustin joined the union following his Las Vegas Venetian debut as Drew in *Rock of Ages*. Regional highlights include Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Sierra Repertory Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Voice of Moritz) with Deaf West Theatre, *Hair* at the Hollywood Bowl, and performances in *RENT*, *Les Misérables*, and *For the Record: The Brat Pack* for Norwegian Cruise Line. Forever grateful to his family, friends, and team @infin8artists. IG: @rustinsailors

ALEXIS SEMEVOLOS-VELAZQUEZ* (*Stella*) is thrilled to make her Rubicon Theatre debut in *Somebody to Love*. She previously appeared Off-Broadway in *The Golden Bride* and has performed regionally in *On Your Feet* (Gloria), *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *Grease* (Rizzo), *School of Rock* (Rosalie), *West Side Story* (Maria), Lippa's *The Wild Party* (Kate), *Rock of Ages* (Regina), *Evita* (The Mistress), *The Vote* (Paola), *Bright Star* (Alice, u/s), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Florika, u/s Esmeralda), *Anything Goes* (Hope Harcourt), and *She Loves Me* (Amalia). Alexis is passionate about elevating underrepresented voices and is honored to help bring this new work to life. Mucho amor a mi familia y a mi novio Alex, gracias por su apoyo

infinito. She also extends sincere thanks to her supportive agents at FSE. Learn more at AlexisSemevolos.com or follow @lexisem.

MEA WILKERSON (*Dazzle & Others*) is an actress, singer, and dancer based in Los Angeles. She began her career in musical theatre, earning recognition for her work on stage, including *Hairspray* (Broadway National Tour). Mea has appeared in television and film projects for Netflix, ABC, FX, and Starz, and most recently stars in "P-Valley" Season 3. With a deep love for storytelling through music and movement, she is thrilled to be part of this production and grateful to continue doing the work she loves. Follow on Instagram @MeaWilkerson



ROBERT STERNIN & PRUDENCE FRASER (*Book*) are a prolific television writing and producing duo whose work is still syndicated and streaming all over the world. They are known for their work on some of the most iconic sitcoms of the 1980s and 1990s, as well as their later contributions to theatre. They began their careers writing for the hit series "Alice" (starring Linda Lavin,) Terrence McNally's "Mama Malone," and other beloved shows such as "Who's the Boss?" (with Judith Light and Tony Danza), "Married People" (Bess Armstrong and Jay Thomas), and "The Charmings" (with the Royal Shakespeare Company's Judy Parfait as the wicked witch and Sounder's Paul Winfield as the magic mirror.) Their most notable television success came as head writers, show runners and exec. producers of "The Nanny," the hit CBS sitcom starring Fran Drescher, which ran for six seasons and remains a fan favorite worldwide. They then moved on to their first love, theatre. Rob and Pru have collaborated with Brill Building songwriter Jeff Barry on the medieval musical *Knightlife* (regional,) teamed with Deke Sharon of "Pitch Perfect" fame on the touring acapella show *Vocalosity*, and, most recently, were the authors of *Under My Skin*, a comedy about the health care business produced by Marla Phillips (*Jagged Little Pill*, *Tommy*) and Marcy Carsey (the Carsey-Werner Co.) that premiered at the Pasadena Playhouse, then moved to N.Y.'s Little Shubert Theater. They have been married for almost 45 years and are still writing together and talking to each other!

SEAN DANIELS* (*Director*) is an internationally known theatre director, writer, and Artistic Director, known for new work and innovative community-based leadership. He is a Drama Desk Award-winner and has been a *NYTimes* Critics' Pick as a director and a writer. He is Executive Director of the Recovery Arts Project. As a director, Sean's work has appeared at Manhattan Theatre Club and Lynn Redgrave Theatre (NYC), Southwark Playhouse and St. James (London), Club eX, Prince Hotel Shinagawa (Tokyo), Daegu Festival, Culture and Arts Theatre CT (Seoul), and many wonderful regional theatres around the US of A (Kennedy Center (RIP), Geffen, ACT, Arena, The Old Globe, etc.). He is the former Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Dad's Garage in Atlanta, Ga. Sean has been named "one of the top fifteen up & coming artists in the U.S., whose work will be transforming America's stages for decades to come" & "One of 7 People Reshaping and Revitalizing the American Musical" by *American Theatre* magazine.

BRETT RYBACK (*Musical Director*) is an actor, composer/lyricist, and writer. He is the recipient of the ASCAP Foundation's Cole Porter Award. His musical podcast "In Strange Woods" hit #1 on Apple's fiction chart and was an iHeartRadio Award nominee. Other works include: *Love Is Dead* (NAMT, Village Theater); *Passing Through* (Goodspeed); *Joe Schmoie Saves the World* (NAMT, ASCAP/Dreamworks Workshop); *Arthur & Friends Make a Musical!* (First Stage); *Nate the Great*

(TRW); and *Free Speech Zone* (Austin Film Festival Semifinalist). His award-winning plays *Weird* and *A Roz By Any Other Name* are both published in "The Best American Short Plays 2007-2008." As an actor, Brett originated the role of Marcus Off-Broadway in *Murder for Two*, and more recently appeared in the First National Tour of Jack Thorne's *A Christmas Carol*. He lives in L.A. with his husband and their miniature schnauzer Hilde.
www.brettryback.com

DILLON KONDOR (*Music Supervisor/Orchestrations*) is a New York-based orchestrator and composer working across concert music, Broadway, and media. He earned a master's degree in classical composition from the Manhattan School of Music and has created orchestrations performed by the New York Pops, Nashville Symphony, and Virginia Symphony. His symphonic work includes arranging and orchestrating programs such as *The Voice of Whitney: A Symphonic Celebration* with the Nashville Symphony, as well as performances at the Kennedy Center. Dillon worked on *Dear Evan Hansen* both onstage and for the feature film adaptation, and has played guitar for seven other Broadway shows. His television and film credits include "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert" on NBC, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Tick, Tick... Boom!," "Spirited," "Vivo," and "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile." His music reflects both an indie songwriting voice and a grounded classical foundation, shaping projects for stage and screen.

BECCA SWEITZER (*Choreographer*) is a three-time World Choreography Award nominee whose choreography has appeared on the TV shows "Jessie," "Bunk'd," "Code Black," "AGT," Fox's "Alter Ego" and HBO's Emmy nominated "We're Here." Commercial credits include Ugg, Chrysler, Beats By Dre and Sensa, and music video credits include Scissor Sisters, Passenger, Raphael Saadiq, and Cher Lloyd. She's worked with many high profile drag queens on videos, tours, Shudder's *Dragula*, and at Dolce & Gabbana's Fashion Week party in Milan. Theatre credits include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Garry Marshall Theater), *Starmites* (Open Fist Theatre Company), *A Cinderella Christmas* (Lythgoe Family Productions/Laguna Playhouse), *Winter of Oz* (Lythgoe Family Productions/5-Star Theatricals), *Grease* (TACFA) and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (ICT). Favorite performing credits are *Hairspray*, *Austin Powers in Goldmember*, *La La Land*, *Academy Awards*, *DWTS*, and appearances with Jennifer Lopez, Christina Aguilera, and Ricky Martin. Becca was in the original LA cast of *Rock of Ages* and once partnered Jane Lynch in a gorilla suit on the Primetime Emmys. @beccasweitzerchoreo

HAILEY MASHBURN (*Intimacy Director*) is thrilled to return to Rubicon Theatre for *Somebody to Love!* Hailey works across film, television, and theatre, exploring the work with curiosity, care, and a love for discovering the story through collaborative creation. Previously,

Hailey joined Rubicon as the Intimacy Director for *The 39 Steps* and *Bonnie & Clyde*. Additional theatre credits include: *Twelfth Night* (CSU Northridge), *The Meowing Nuns* (Shackleton Theatrics), *LZRDCRL* (AnyWay Theatre), *Area Code* (AnyWay Theatre), *Fool for Love* (Brick Smasher Theatre Co.), *Gross Old Man*, and *Science Fiction* (Riot Act), and *The Fear of Kathy Acker* (Misfit Toys Collective). Film/TV credits include: "It's Florida, Man" (HBO Max), "True Crime Story: Smugshot" (AMC+), "The Killing Jar" (Rising Voices; Hulu), and "THE ONE" (Dolce&Gabbana). Hailey received a B.A. (Hons) in Acting from The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. IG: @haileymashburn

MIKE BILLINGS^ (*Scenic Designer*) returns to Rubicon for his 21st production, three of which have earned Ovation Nominations. West End credits include Dreamworks' *The Prince of Egypt*. Off-Broadway credits include *Vanities* and *Becoming Dr. Ruth*. Mike's many regional credits include productions at Bay Street Theater, Arizona Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre Company, Geva Theatre Center, Berkshire Theatre Group, CCAE Theatricals, Laguna Playhouse, Flint Repertory Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Ebony Theatre Company, Guild Hall, Quintessence Theatre Company, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, and Dorset Theatre Festival. He designed themed attractions at Busch Gardens and Six

Flags, and the international touring exhibitions of *Harry Potter*, *Titanic*, and *Downton Abbey*. Mike holds a B.F.A. from the University of Connecticut and is a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA829.
www.mikebillingsdesign.com
IG: @mikebillingsdesign

BRIAN GALE (*Lighting Designer*) Brian's most recently designed lighting and projections for *Crazy Mama*. His previous Rubicon designs include *Twilight Los Angeles, 1992* (lighting), and *Almost Maine* and *Lonesome Traveler* (lighting and projections). He has designed lighting and projection extensively in Southern California. Recent credits include lighting for East West Players' productions of *Brothers Paranormal*, *Pacific Overtures* and *Paranormal Inside*. He has also designed productions at The Lewis Family Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Rogue Machine, The Matrix Theater, Laguna Playhouse, Skylight Theater, Pasadena Playhouse, San Diego Rep, the El Portal in Hollywood; as well as several productions at the Mark Taper Forum, including *Waiting for Godot*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and *Harps' and Angels*. In addition, Brian has designed lighting for *Carrie the Musical*, *God of Carnage*, and recently, *Waitress* at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts; and Lighting and projection for LA Opera's complete Ring Cycle. Brian spent 24 years with the Walt Disney Company designing theme parks, shows, and special events worldwide. He is a member of IATSE USA, Local 829.

ANDRÉS POCH (*Projection Designer*) is a Colombian live entertainment artist and designer. He is a graduate of University of Maryland with an M.F.A. in Design in Scenic and Projection. He currently serves as Vice President and Director of Theatrical Productions at Glenda's Baby Production. His artistic mission is to improve accessibility to theatre through design for people onstage, backstage, and audiences. This mission led him to the creation of ROLOTECHS, a local directory of production folks encouraging more diverse practices for theatres in the DC area. He has worked as a Projection Designer on *Julius X* (Folger Theatre), *Meat Expectations* (Gallaudet Theatre), *I Will Eat You Alive* (Interrobang Productions), and *Not so Quiet Nocturne* (VOCA). He also has worked to bring open captioning to theatre in *Autocorrect Thinks I'm Dead* (Gallaudet), *She Loves Me* (UMD), and *Madre de Dios* (Round House Theatre). www.andrespoch.com

DANNY FIANDACA (*Sound Designer*) returns to Rubicon having previously designed *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Once*, *In the Heights*, *A Cowboy Lullaby*, *The World Goes 'Round*, and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, among others. He began as the assistant/associate to Peter McBoyle for ten years on productions across U.S. and Asia including Broadway (Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*). He designed all musical theatre productions for Princess Cruises between 2010-2020, collaborating with Stephen Schwartz

and the Jim Henson Company on multiple productions. He has 40+ sound design credits (regional/international). Recent designs include *Viva La Musica* (Princess Cruises), *Million Dollar Quartet* (ETC Santa Barbara), and *The Buddy Holly Story* (Music Theatre West).

PAMELA SHAW (*Costume Designer*) is the resident costume designer for The Theatre Group at SBCC, recently designing *Lost in Yonkers*, *Legally Blonde*, *Emma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Treasure Island*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, *Something Rotten!*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Thin Man*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Grease*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, and *Significant Other*, among many other productions. Pamela is Costume Designer for the Off-Broadway show *Lonesome Traveler*, *The Dark of the Moon*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Fuddy Meers*, and *South Pacific* at Rubicon Theatre; *The Curious Case of the Watson Intelligence*, *San Patricios*, and *The Book of Will* at PCPA; and Assistant Costume Designer for TV sensation "Vampire Diaries." She was Assistant Costume Designer on the Best Picture and Best Costume Design Academy Award-winning film "The Artist" with Mark Bridges, Costume Designer. Pamela is the 2017-2026 Western Region Board Chair and Local Union Executive Board Trustee of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

JACOB HOLCOMBE (*Properties*) is thrilled to return to Rubicon as a props designer for *Somebody to Love*. Recent credits include Assistant Props Designer for *Great Expectations* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The Acting Company, and Assistant Props Designer for *Million Dollar Quartet* at Rubicon. Jacob also serves as the resident Deck Captain at 5-Star Theatricals and as Rental Production Manager at the Santa Susana Performing Arts Center. He is grateful to Rubicon for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful production.

TYLER DANHAUS-BIANCHI (*Stage Manager*) is a NYC Stage Manager originally from Wausau, WI. Finally working on the West Coast not on tour, he's excited to see how the other side lives. On days away, he may be found hiking, kayaking, cooking, playing the violin, and asking for more cheese on everything. He dreams of the day when he can provide a loving home for fur babies. Recent credits include - Off-Broadway: *CATS: The Jellicle Ball*, *Pygmalion*, *Pretty Perfect Lives*, *Fish*, *Russian Troll Farm*, *Scene Partners*, and *This Land Was Made*. Other NYC: *The Cause* (WP Theater), *Smart Blonde* (59E59), *The Imbible* (New World Stages), *Titanique* (The Green Room 42); *Fish in a Tree* (Theatre Row), *Gun and Powder* (Sheen Center), Tours: *Little Black Dress* and *The Elf on the Shelf*. Regional: Weston Theater Company (VT), Lyric Rep (UT), Hangar Theatre Company (NY), The Rose Theater (NE), and Chester Theatre Company (MA). B.F.A. UW- Milwaukee. Tyler

sends love to Nick who allows him to go on adventures like this one.

HANNAH RAYMOND* (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a Texas native who enjoys game nights with friends. She is an avid reader and baker, (her current obsession has been sourdough bread). She believes there is power in storytelling and lives for the moments after shows when the audience is alive with conversation. Hannah previously stage managed *The 39 Steps*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Crazy Mama* and *Constellations* at Rubicon, *Cabaret* and *Hair* at Altadena Music Theatre, *The Lifespan of a Fact* and *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* at Fountain Theatre, and *Jersey Boys* with Plan B Entertainment. Shout-out to her husband Braden for always supporting her in everything she does. Romans 12:21 IG @bananaslaymond

TOM POLUM (*General Manager*) is an Outer Critics Circle Award-winning, Lortel-nominated producer, director, and composer with a career spanning theatre, digital media, and live performance. He co-produced *The Toxic Avenger* Off-Broadway and directed major productions including *Oklahoma!* and *Phantom*. As co-founder of Streaming Musicals, he produces original musicals for film and stage licensing, with several titles acquired by Music Theatre International. His original works include *Abelard* and *Heloise* and *Finding Frida Kahlo*. A University of Wisconsin music graduate, Tom also served as the board chair of Theater Resources Unlimited, a non-profit that educates producers.

RUBICON ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

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J. SCOTT LAPP⁺ (*Producing Artistic Director*) is an award-winning director, a proud member of the SDC, and the incoming Producing Artistic Director at Rubicon Theatre Company. He has worked across the United States, as well as internationally in London, Denmark, Japan, and Canada. He is an alumnus of the Directors Lab West and a 2011 SDC Emerging Artist. He is the recipient of the 2022 Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding New Production for *Witnesses*. Recent directorial projects include the 2025 revival of *Murder for Two* that recently played Tokyo and a number of other Japanese cities and the U.S. premiere of a reimaged production of *Bonnie & Clyde* at Rubicon. He also served as Associate Director on the World Premiere West End production of Dreamwork's *The Prince of Egypt* that can now be viewed on BroadwayHD and various streaming services. Associate/Assistant Directing credits include Broadway: *Bonnie & Clyde*; International: *The Prince of Egypt* (West End, Fredericia Teater); Off-Broadway: *Murder for Two* (New World Stages), *Freedom Riders* (NYMF); National Tours: *Murder for Two*, *Xanadu*. Regional: *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Paper Mill Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse); *Rain*, *Into The Woods*, *Good People*, *A Room With a View* (Old Globe); *Secondhand Lions* (5th Ave). Selected directing credits include International: *Murder for Two* (Japan, Calgary), Regional: *Bonnie & Clyde*, *the Musical*

(U.S. Premiere), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (San Diego Premiere), *Bottle Shock! The Musical* (World Premiere), *Witnesses* (World Premiere), *Once*, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in Concert* (CCAETheatricals), and *Disney's Mary Poppins*, *Freaky Friday* (Moonlight Amphitheater). Jeremy has worked for several major regional theatres including 5th Avenue, Arizona Theatre Company, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Cape Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, NC Theatre, the Old Globe, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Pittsburgh CLO, Portland Center Stage, Saint Michael's Playhouse, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and others. He is a recipient of Noel Craig, StageRaw, PAMTA, Inland Theatre League, Patté, National Youth Theatre, Billy, and Director's Choice awards. Much love to Holly for being his sounding board, rock, and lifelong partner. www.jscottlapp.com
IG: @jscottlapp

KARYL LYNN BURNS (*Producing Artistic Director*) founded Rubicon with husband James O'Neil in 1998 and has overseen more than 180 productions for the company, including the World Premieres of *23.5 Hours/Conviction* by Carey Crim (a co-production with Bay Street Theater and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Daddy Long Legs* (which has traveled to 15 U.S. cities and 4 countries and is licensed by MTI); *The Best is Yet to Come: The*

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Music of Cy Coleman (NY Drama Desk Award); *Lonesome Traveler* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations); *My Antonia* adapted and directed by Scott Schwartz with music by Steven Schwartz; *It's Only Life* by John Bucchino, directed by Daisy Prince; and *Hello! My Baby* by Cheri Steinkellner. Karyl Lynn partnered with Daryl Roth to produce the Off-Broadway production of *Wiesenthal* by Tom Dugan, directed by Jenny Sullivan (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations). For over a decade prior to starting Rubicon, Karyl Lynn was CEO of State of the Arts, an arts marketing and management firm. Clients included Ventura Music Festival, New West Symphony, Ensemble Theatre Company, PCPA Theaterfest, Theatre League, Broadway Producer Normand Kurtz, and Tony Award-winning playwright Dale Wasserman. Karyl Lynn worked with students from Oak Meadow School who received the United Nations "Global 500" Award for their work on environmental issues. For The Dream Foundation, she produced a PSA directed by Mimi Leder and starring Jeff Bridges. As an event planner, Karyl Lynn and her staff coordinated the 10TH Annual "Cool Comedy, Hot Cuisine" with Robin Williams, Howie Mandel, and Bob Saget, emceed by Bob Costas; a concert for Scleroderma Research with singer Sheryl Crow at the Santa Barbara Bowl; and several charity film premieres. For Capps for Congress, she managed a 400-person luncheon with Hillary Clinton as keynote

speaker. Karyl Lynn is also an award-winning actor and sound designer.

JAMES O'NEIL (*Rubicon Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Emeritus*) is the Co-Writer/Director of *A Cowboy Lullaby*, which completed a successful run at Rubicon last fall. He is also Writer/Director of *Lonesome Traveler: A Journey Down the Rivers and Streams of American Folk* (NY Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations), which premiered at Rubicon as a co-production with Laguna Playhouse and then transferred to 59E59 Off-Broadway. Jim's other Rubicon directing credits include *I Dig Rock and Roll Music* (Writer/Director), *King Lear*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Indy Award), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Delicate Balance*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Indy Award), *Driving Miss Daisy* (NAACP Award - Best Direction of a Play), *All My Sons* (L.A. Ovation Award - Best Production of a Play), *Sylvia*, and *Gem of the Ocean*. Under Jim's artistic leadership, Rubicon accepted the NY Drama Desk Award for *The Best is Yet to Come: The Music of Cy Coleman*, conceived and directed by David Zippel. Other directing credits include *The Lion in Winter*, *The Petrified Forest*, *Inherit the Wind*, and regional premieres of *A Coupla' White Chicks Sitting Around Talking*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. While on staff at Landmark

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Entertainment Group, Jim directed a multi-million-dollar animatronics/special effects show in Japan, supervising all aspects of production and creative direction for themed attractions in Sanrio's Harmonyland. As an actor, Jim's Rubicon credits include the title role in *Clarence Darrow*, Dr. Prospero in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Michael in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and multiple roles in *The Turn of the Screw*. He appeared for two years as Pontius Pilate in the National Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* starring Ted Neeley, Carl Anderson, and Irene Cara. Regional credits include John Adams in *1776*, The Duke/Dr. Carrasco in *Man of La Mancha*, and Adam in the first workshop of Dale Wasserman's *Western Star*. Jim may be heard singing the title role in *Quasimodo: Prince of Fools* and as Tsar Nicholas in *Rasputin* on concept albums by Michael Rapp.

STEPHANIE A. COLTRIN (*Associate Artistic Director/Producer*) is an award-winning theatre director and producer whose work spans musicals, Shakespeare, contemporary plays, and world premieres. At Rubicon, her directing credits include *Almost, Maine*, *Buyer and Cellar*, *Taking Sides*, *Sylvia*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and the Ovation-recommended production of *The Last Five Years*. As Associate Artistic Director/Producer, Stephanie line produces all mainstage performances and special events at Rubicon. Stephanie is the Co-Artistic

Director of Shakespeare by the Sea and Little Fish Theatre, leading two distinct but interconnected professional theatre programs serving communities throughout Southern California. Shakespeare by the Sea presents a free summer Shakespeare repertory that tours to more than 20 locations, while Little Fish Theatre produces a year-round season of classic and contemporary work. For Shakespeare by the Sea, Stephanie has adapted and directed *Hamlet* (twice) *Richard III*, *Richard II* (virtual), *Twelfth Night* (virtual), *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI Part 1* (co-director), *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Julius Caesar* (twice), *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet* (twice), *King John*, and others. For her work with the company, she has been featured on PBS and interviewed by the Folger Shakespeare Library. At Little Fish Theatre, her directing credits include *The Lonesome West*, *Bloody Poetry*, *Oswald: The Actual Interrogation*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *The Love List*, *Panache*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Weir*, *Table Manners*, *And the Stones Will Cry Out*, *Looking*, and *Spit Like a Big Girl*. Her additional directing credits include *The Santaland Diaries*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Godspell*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Private Lives*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Blythe Spirit*, *Art*, *The Green Room* (*World Premiere*), *Come Back to the Five & Dime*, *Quilters*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *Fully Committed*, and

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Manson's Girls. Stephanie previously served as Artistic Director of CLO of South Bay Cities and the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, where she helmed full seasons and directed productions including *Miss Saigon* (Ovation Award for Best Musical, Directing nomination), *Seussical the Musical* (BroadwayWorld Award for Best Director), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (StageSceneLA Award), *Oklahoma!*, *She Loves Me*, *Bark!*, and *The 1940's Radio Hour*. She has taught musical theatre master classes, served as an Ovation Awards voter, judged LA's Next Great Stage Star, and taught graduate-level seminars. Her career also includes extensive stage management and production work, as well as film production coordination.

DAVID ELZER (*Publicist*), in addition to representing Rubicon, works with Actors Co-op, Celebration Theatre, Circle X Theatre Company, The Colony Theatre Company, 5-Star Theatricals, Independent Shakespeare Co., Laguna Playhouse, La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, NoHo Arts Center Ensemble, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Open Fist Theatre Company, Road Theatre Company, Theatre of NOTE, Theatre Tribe and VS. Theatre Company. As a producer, he has twice won the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award and was also honored to receive the Circle's prestigious Joel Hirschhorn Award for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre. David has been nominated for six Ovation Awards (winning two), and has also won

Drama Desk, *L.A. Weekly*, and Garland Awards for his producing and writing efforts. Productions include the Celebration Theatre productions of *Justin Love*, which he conceived, commissioned, and co-wrote; and *The Color Purple*. David also produced the World Premiere musical *Having It All* at the NoHo Arts Center and Laguna Playhouse; the World Premiere play *Girls Talk* starring Brooke Shields; the record breaking, 19-month run of *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *Winter Wonderettes* at the El Portal Forum Theatre; and the smash-hit *Life Could Be a Dream*, which ran for a year at the Hudson Mainstage in Hollywood. www.DemandPR.com

CHRISTOPHER BEYRIES (*Production Manager*) is delighted to join the Rubicon team. He previously designed sets for Rubicon productions of *Taking Sides*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *A Tuna Christmas*. Other favorite design credits include *And the Stones Will Cry Out*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Taking Sides*, *Chapter Two*, *Time Stands Still*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Pick of the Vine*, *The Weir*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *Beehive*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Spit Like a Big Girl*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Green Room*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Nerd*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Twice Upon a Time*, *Art*, and *Godspell*. He previously served as Technical Director and Resident Scenic Designer for Civic Light Opera



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of South Bay Cities and Hermosa Beach Playhouse. His work has been seen coast to coast (and beyond), including NBC, Princess Cruises, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Opera San Jose. Chris created the “Behind the Scenes Workshop” at the Santa Monica Playhouse, where he was also the technical director. Chris’ work has taken him to Mexico, Europe, and Japan.

JIMMY CALLAHAN (*Technical Director*), had his first taste of theatre assisting the previous technical director and working backstage for *The Realistic Joneses* at Rubicon. He has since continued with productions including *Dark of the Moon*, *The World Goes Round* and “A” Train. Jimmy was also part of the Rubicon production of *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, traveling with the show to Santa Barbara and Olney Theatre Center in Maryland. He has now taken on the role as Technical Director here at Rubicon Theatre.



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Rubicon’s Jewel Club is a three-year sustaining membership program offering various behind-the-scenes benefits.

Membership is a great way to make new friends with similar interests, meet many of the artists involved in directing and designing Rubicon productions, and gain insight into the creative process. Members attend directors’ previews in private homes and receive other special perks.



For more information, please contact:
Kimiko Tokita, Development Manager
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or at 805.667.2912, ext. 226.

The listing below reflects memberships received from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. Gifts received after February 28, 2026 will be included in the next program. To become a new Jewel Club member, or to notify us regarding any errors or omissions, please contact Kimiko Tokita, Development Manager, at 805.667.2912, ext. 226, or e-mail her at ktokita@rubicontheatre.org.

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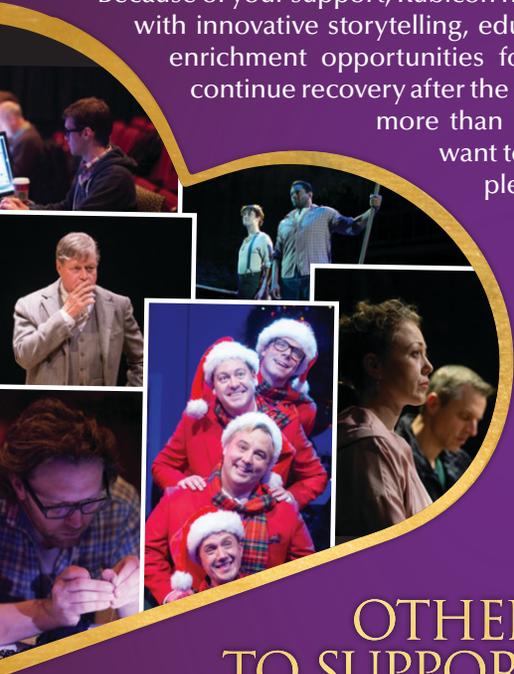
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YOUR INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Because of your support, Rubicon has been able to serve our community with innovative storytelling, education and outreach programs, and enrichment opportunities for more than two decades. As we continue recovery after the pandemic hiatus, your help is needed more than ever to sustain the company. If you want to contribute to keeping the arts alive, please consider an individual donation.



SCAN TO DONATE:



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▶ SPONSOR A SHOW

Contact Kimiko Tokita at ktokita@rubicontheatre.org or at 805.667.2912 ext. 226, to find out more about our customizable sponsorship packages.

▶ JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Members of the Legacy Society ensure that Rubicon's artistic and educational programs will entertain and enrich the lives of future generations of theatre-lovers. For information about making a lasting impact on the cultural life of our region, contact Karyl Lynn Burns at klburns@rubicontheatre.org, or call 805.667.2912, ext. 224.

The listing below reflects donations made between February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026. Donations made after January 31, 2026 will be listed in the next program. To make a donation, or to let us know of any errors or omissions, please contact Kimiko Tokita, Development Manager, at 805.667.2912, ext. 226, or e-mail her at ktokita@rubicontheatre.org.

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*Administered through the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Tributes are made to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or remember those who have passed away. Thank you to the following individuals for making a tribute gift to the theatre. These listings reflect one-time gifts of \$100 or more, received March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026. To make a gift, or to let us know about a correction, please contact Kimiko Tokita, Development Manager, at 805.667.2912, ext. 226, or e-mail her at ktokita@rubicontheatre.org.

In Honor of Joanie and Moustapha Abousamra
Jody Shapiro

In Memory of Lynn Allen
Dennis Allen

In Honor of Penny Barnds
Gene Pitman

In Memory of Alexander Christian Beirne
Christine Beirne

In Memory of Clement E. Blake
Carol Holmquist

In Honor of Karyl Lynn Burns
*Barbara Meister
James Witney
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In Honor of Karyl Lynn Burns and Jim O'Neil
Jenny Sullivan

In Memory of Mary Choura
Pat & John Masterson

In Honor of Mary Ann Cohen
*Cheryl A. Schuler
Lynda Marvel*

In Loving Memory of Catherine "Cathy" Carras Cwiok
Anonymous

In Honor of Sarah Dunn and Guy Rolls for Introducing us to Rubicon
Ilene & David Rapkin

In Memory of John C. Egger
Peter Chapa

In Honor of Nancy and Richard Francis
Eileen Whitley

In Honor of Nancy Francis' Birthday
Eileen Whitley

In Honor of Richard Francis' Birthday
Eileen Whitley

In Honor of Joseph Fuqua
*Barbara Meister
Penny Barnds*

In Honor of Joseph Fuqua and Seryozha La Porte
Brickey Family

In Memory of Normand Kurtz
Marjorie & Susie Kurtz

In Honor of Seryozha La Porte
Donna Burger

In Honor of Seryozha La Porte, his Mother and their Story
*Trudy Arriaga
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In Honor of Kay Liddi's 90TH Birthday
*Freddie Contarino
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Have your likeness or that of a loved one painted by internationally renowned painter Michael O'Kelly and included in a 32' mural featuring many renowned Rubicon artists who have appeared in musicals or cabarets at the theatre.

For more information, contact:

KARYL LYNN BURNS

805.667.2912, ext. 224 | klburns@rubicontheatre.org

RUBICON THEATRE STAFF

Producing Artistic Director J. Scott Lapp
 Co-Founder & Producing Artistic Director Karyl Lynn Burns
 Co-Founder & Artistic Director Emeritus James O'Neil
 Associate Artistic Director & Producer Stephanie Coltrin
 Chief of Staff Perla Medina Ponti
 Production Manager Christopher Beyries
 Technical Director Jimmy Callahan
 Development Associate & Company Manager Holly Lapp
 Marketing & Community Relations Director Tessa Neeley
 Guest Services Director Steve Braun
 Business Manager & Finance Director Ellen White
 Summer Program Director Joseph Fuqua
 Front of House Manager Diane Frantela
 Development Manager Kimiko Tokita
 Guest Services Associate Vanessa Navarro
 Marketing Assistant & Social Media Manager Spencer Zetterberg

ARTISTIC CONSULTANTS

Artistic Associates Thomas S. Giamario, Jenny Sullivan
 Company Members George Ball, Joseph Fuqua, Joe Spano
 Director of New Works Michael Jackowitz
 Director of International Programming Katharine Farmer

BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Strategic Development Hannah-Beth Jackson
 Systems & IT Israel Galindo, Advanced Networks
 Paid Digital Media Consultant Sandy Aichner
 Graphic Design & Website Mance Creative, Inc.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Assistant Choreographer Camal Pugh
 Assistant Stage Manager Hannah Raymond
 Sound Engineer Danny Fiandaca, Everett Wall
 Music Supervisor Assistant Adam Dorfman
 Assistant Lighting Designer/Programming Zo Haynes
 Assistant Costume Designer Dahlia Schuette
 Master Electrician Claire Cleary
 Set Construction Sets To Go
 Follow Spots Ben Hament, John Marston, Mike Butler
 Backstage Crew/A2 Joe Lopez
 Wardrobe Harlan Lomeli
 Load-In Crew Mike Butler, Stewart Fogey, Ben Hament, Joe Lopez, James Spuill
 Casting Associate Tara Donovan



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ABOUT RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

Rubicon Theatre Company was founded in 1998 as an actors' and directors' company, committed to creating a nurturing environment for artists where exploration and experimentation are encouraged and supported. In the company's intimate 180-seat home in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District, Rubicon has played to more than 550,000 audience members and reached 55,000 students.

True to the Company's name and the vision of founders Karyl Lynn Burns and James O'Neil and Producing Artistic Director J. Scott Lapp, the company has developed a reputation for innovation, approaching classics with a fresh eye, and treating new works with a reverence often reserved for classics. Rubicon has been the recipient of a special award for Sustained Excellence from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and has received two New York Drama Desk Awards. The Company has also received multiple Ovation, Indy, Rep, and NAACP Awards.

Many luminaries have graced the Rubicon stage, including Tony, Obie, Olivier, Ariel, and Dora Award winners. These artists work in concert with Rubicon company members, regional and local professionals, and aspiring young artists from Rubicon's education and outreach programs.

Rubicon is governed by a Board of Directors of local business and civic leaders led by Doug Halter, and supported by a Board of Advisors and a volunteer auxiliary.



RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

1006 E. Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001
Box Office: 805.667.2900 Fax: 805.667.2903
Offices: 805.667.2912
guestservices@rubicontheatre.org
www.RubiconTheatre.org

*Rubicon Theatre Company is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization.
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