

WESTBILL

THEATRE WEST PROGRAMME

WE'RE NOT YOUR CUP OF TEA

May 11, 2024



**A FUNDRAISER SHOW
IN CELEBRATION OF
ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Theatre West and AADAP Present
WE'RE NOT YOUR CUP OF TEA
a fundraiser show in celebration of Asian Heritage Month

Saturday, May 11, 2024
8:00 pm

Produced by **Pamela Najera-Michael**
In association with Theatre West and AADAP

Associate Producer
Dina Morrone

Co-Producers
Evie Abat
Marcel Licera
Meg Lin

Consulting Director
Arden Teresa Lewis

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE
(in order of appearance)

Dina Morrone, *TW Vice Chair*

Evie Abat, *Emcee*

Councilmember **Nithya Raman**, *Guest Speaker*

Pamela Najera-Michael, *Soloist*

Meg Lin, *Soloist*

Renee Modina, *Guest Speaker*

Marcel Licera, *Soloist*

Paul Cady, *Accompanist*

Apoorva, *Performance Artist*

Intermission (last chance to purchase raffle tickets)

Filmmaker, Actress & Advocate **Giovannie Espiritu**, *Guest Speaker*

Christina and The Flying Curves, *Performance Artists*

AADAP CEO **Dean Nakanishi**, *Guest Speaker*

Cyndy Fujikawa, *Soloist*

Running Time 2:20 – including intermission

Enjoy a reception after the show!

PRODUCTION CREW AND STAFF

Technical Director, Lighting Designer & Videographer: **David P. Johnson**

Stage Manager: **David Mingrino**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Dillon Mount**

Public Relations: **Philip Sokoloff**

Photographer: **Garry Kluger**

Social Media: **Michaela Skaribas, Jayna Goins & Peter D. Michael**

Graphic Design: **Pamela Najera-Michael, Meg Lin & Randy Palisoc**

Behind the Scenes & Raffle Tickets: **Paulina Hong & AADAP Volunteers**

Box Office Manager: **Michael Van Duzer**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Anne Leyden**

Front of House Manager: **Marco Rivera**

Webmaster: **Eva Crawford**

Managing Director: **Lindsay Lefler**

Ushers: **David Baer, Kathie Barnes, Mimi Kmet, Scottie Nevil, Alexandria Sanders, Elise Walters & Adam and Ben**

Almond cookies donated by Phoenix Bakery in Chinatown

Casper, the Rescue Dog! book donated by Dr. Meg Palisoc (aka Meg Lin)

Window poster and postcard printing provided by Doug Haverty and Theatre West

Prosecco donated by Dina Morrone

Beverage service donated by "So In Any Event" Bartenders & Event Staff – Pamela and Peter D.

Inquiries for your future events, email soinanyevent@gmail.com

RAFFLE PRIZES

Tonight's raffle prizes were generously donated by:

- **AADAP** - 3 Sanrio Gift Baskets (worth \$100, \$200, and \$300)
- **Groundwork Coffee Co.** (in NoHo) - Basket of Hario V60 Dripper, Hario V60 Range Server 600 Clear, Organic Bitches Brew Coffee Beans, a coffee mug, a ski cap, and a cloth pouch
- **Le Pain Quotidien** (in Larchmont) - Basket of pantry goods (tea, coffee, jams, etc.)
- **Mandee Nicole from Inner Light Botanicals** - Gift Certificate for Energy Healing Paint Workshop (including art supplies mailed to recipient) worth \$298
- **Miceli's** - Two \$100 Gift Certificates
- **Mi Piace** - Two \$50 Gift Certificates
- **Miracle Springs Resort & Spa** - Complimentary Three Day/Two Night Weekday Stay for Two
- **Phoenix Bakery** - Gift Certificate for an 8" round strawberry cake (serves 8-10 people)
- **Your Good Neighbor Restaurant** - Two \$25 Gift Certificates

BIOS

SOLOISTS

Listed in order of appearance



EVIE ABAT @evieabat

Evie is proud to be a part of this production, benefitting TW and AADAP. She is a Filipina-American, Ph.D. level psychotherapist-turned actor/writer/director/producer. Her short film *Dad's Gone Wild* and short script *Romeo & Julio* garnered accolades and Official Selection status at the CineAsian, Golden State, and City of Angels Film Festivals. Evie will share her experience as the director of *Survivors* by Wendy Kout. *Survivors* is an educational play with a diverse cast, about 10 Holocaust survivors, that is touring schools and organizations along the West Coast. Evie congratulates the entire cast of this production for their dedication and their talent! *SAG-AFTRA*



PAMELA NAJERA-MICHAEL @pamelackn

Pamela's previous life was a medical assistant for 15 years for a private practice of dermatologists. Since then, she's danced professionally for over 20 years and continues to choreograph for other solo-playwrights. Pamela's childhood was shrouded in secrecy and deception. Despite her upbringing, her family immigrated from the Philippines to America in 1979, where she was expected to become a nurse. However, fate intervened, leading her into the captivating world of entertainment as a dancer and magician's assistant. Despite facing skepticism about her age, ethnicity, and stature, Pamela's career flourished. From performing with renowned magicians to touring as a cruise ship

entertainer, Pamela defied expectations and embraced her journey of transformation. Join her as she navigates the ridiculous limitations of her upbringing and discovers her true passion in an excerpt of *Too Old, Too Asian, Too Short*, Pamela's greatest personal achievement after becoming a professional dancer. She developed her solo show under the direction of Jessica Lynn Johnson. A special Thank You, to Cindy Chavez, who helped Pamela find her voice through dance.



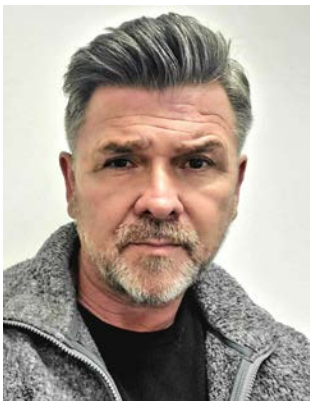
MEG LIN @iammeglin

The first in her family born in the U.S., Meg grew up in a traditional Taiwanese American household that emphasized education over entertainment. This led Meg to become a K-12 teacher and school principal before quitting her job to pursue her secret childhood passion for acting and writing. Meg's highlights on stage include Theatre West's *Love Stinks* and *Moose on the Loose*, Storybook Theatre's *Aladdin, the Princess, and the Magic Lamp*, and Hyperactive Studios' *Hamlet*. She also produced the world premiere of Garry Michael Kluger's *Walking in Space* at Theatre West. On screen, Meg can be seen in the upcoming feature films, *Barren* and *Neighbors Who Kill*, and in over 15 short films, including *Victoria's Manor*, which she co-wrote, co-produced, and co-starred in, and which won multiple film festival awards, including Best Indie Short Film and Best Horror Comedy Short. Her children's book, *Casper, the Rescue Dog!*, can be found on Amazon under her married name, Dr. Meg Palisoc. In tonight's performance, Meg breaks the tradition of "saving face" by sharing her darkest pain and deepest desires in this snapshot from her award-winning solo show *What Am I, Chopped Suey?*, which she developed under the guidance of former Casting Director turned acting/writing coach Cathy Reinking.



MARCEL LICERA @marcellicera

Marcel, a native of the Philippines, with a tinge of Chinese and Spanish, is most at home doing musicals – *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *Miss Saigon* (The Engineer), and *The King and I* (The King), to name a few. But he also welcomes the challenge of dramatic plays such as The West Coast Jewish Theatre's *FUGU* (originated Captain Matsuoka) and CASA 0101 Theater's *Remembering Boyle Heights 1 & 2* (originated Bruce and Professor Fong). When not performing, Marcel is a USPS postal worker and a LEGO enthusiast (former National Teen LEGO Champion Builder of the Philippines). Currently, Marcel can be seen in three short films – *Too Late To Sing*, *Martial Law*, and *Dad's Gone Wild* – all making their film festival rounds. Tonight, Marcel will perform a solo piece about accepting and making peace for being conventionally different from his Asian culture and the standard of American society, by continually pursuing expressions that align with his good guy values. He can be seen next in his 4th appearance at the Hollywood Fringe Festival this summer 2024 in the musical *No Matter Watt: Silver*. Marcel gives a shout out to TW Members Paul Cady, his accompanist, and Arden Teresa Lewis for helping to direct his piece. *SAG-AFTRA/AEA*



PAUL CADY

Paul has musically directed shows such as *Avenue Q*, *That Lovin' Feelin'* (Righteous Brothers musical), *Wizard of Oz*, and *Nightmare Before Christmas*, to name a few. As an actor and singer, Paul has performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Al in *A Chorus Line*, Johnny Brown in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, Samuel in the national tour of *The Pirates of Penzance* and Captain John Smith in *The Spirit of Pocahontas* for Disneyland.



CYNDY FUJIKAWA @fuj_desu

Cyndy is happy to return to Theatre West where she last performed her one person play, *Old Man River*, in 1997. It's the story of her and her dad, and her journey to understand how someone endures racism, economic exploitation, and finds a way to renewal. Her dad, Jerry Fujikawa, launched a successful acting career in the late 1940s, after sustaining incalculable losses during World War II, and his story has always inspired her. Along with a short excerpt from *Old Man River*, Cyndy will read a statement from her father about his experiences during removal from Los Angeles, and his family's incarceration at Manzanar. This statement has never been publicly read, and is the only account of her father's eye witness experience during this historic time. Many thanks to Peter Kjenaas of Mile High Theatre for his keen direction and creative support.

PERFORMANCE ARTISTS

Listed in order of appearance



APOORVA @llappyll

Apoorva, colloquially referred to as the “brown sheep,” was raised in a traditional Hindu family with a profound appreciation for education. Despite coming from a family of doctors, her formative years in India were dedicated to the pursuit of arts and communication. Initially drawn to journalism with aspirations of becoming a war correspondent, Apoorva underwent a transformative experience while creating her debut documentary on the political unrest in Kashmir, sparking a profound passion for filmmaking. This newfound calling led her to immerse herself in numerous projects, specializing in post-production and serving as an Assistant Director. Seeking to refine her craft, she ventured to Los Angeles, where she has amassed a portfolio of over twenty films, showcasing her expertise as both an assistant director and production designer. Notably, her latest directorial venture – a short film –

has garnered acclaim through its participation in various festivals. Tonight, Apoorva is performing an Indian classical dance on the spiritual song *Aigiri Nandini* which is about the strength of women. According to Apoorva, “I relate to this because as a woman I feel we have the power to destroy or create the world in us.”



CHRISTINA VILLEGAS and THE FLYING CURVES @flyingcurvesdancestudio

Reality television producer turned Empowerment and Embodiment coach, Christina embarked on a transformative journey after a tragic incident redirected her path. Raised in a conservative Filipino household, she discovered pole dancing as a means to reclaim her femininity, ultimately founding Flying Curves Dance Studio. Through her studio and her innovative live stage show, *Goddesses Empowered: The Show*, she empowers women to embrace their strength and sensuality. Documenting their journey, Christina celebrates the transformative power of movement and self-discovery, inspiring audiences with 11 successful shows. Through her coaching program, *Goddesses Empowered*, she guides women on a deeper journey of empowerment, helping them unlock their true potential and embody their most authentic selves. With a commitment to changing lives one goddess at a time, Christina continues to inspire and uplift women on their path to self-discovery and empowerment. Tonight, in addition to dancing with Alyssa Hilario, Ev Berlinger, and Gaby Collazos, Christina will share her journey as the CEO of Flying Curves and how her program was developed. Alyssa, Ev, and Gaby will also share about their personal empowerment journeys.



ALYSSA HILARIO



EV BERLINGER



GABY COLLAZOS

GUEST SPEAKERS

Listed in order of appearance



COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN @cd4losangeles

Nithya Raman (RAH-men) is an urban planner, a mother of two, an immigrant to America, and a member of the Los Angeles City Council representing District 4. She ran for City Council in 2020 and won a historic victory, becoming the first Asian-American woman and the first South Asian ever to serve on the City Council. In March 2024, she was elected to her second term. Since taking office, Councilmember Raman has prioritized delivering people-centered and effective services for people experiencing homelessness, building more affordable housing, and moving with greater urgency to meet our city's climate goals. She serves as Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, Vice Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance Reform, and member of the Transportation and Energy and Environment Committees. She also represents Los Angeles on the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and was recently nominated by Mayor Karen Bass to serve as Vice Chair on the LA County Executive Committee for Regional Homeless Alignment.



RENEE MODINA @swab2savealife

Renee is a senior at Eagle Rock High School and a GSGLA Girl Scout Ambassador with troop 1955. For her Girl Scout Gold award project, Renee produced a short documentary exposing the low percentage of AANHPI on the stem cell registry and demystifying the process of registration and donation. It is her

hope through this project to spread awareness and give blood cancer and disorder patients a second chance at life. YouTube: Click [here](#) or search for swab to save a life video documentary.



GIOVANNIE ESPIRITU @giospirit2

Giovannie's identity is inherently political: A bisexual, once-undocumented immigrant Filipina mom who spent time in a Biblical doomsday cult as a teen. Most of her work has taken aim at dismantling the patriarchy, healing generational trauma, and exposing systems of bias with humor. She just finished writing and directing the feature film, *Love & Karma*, with Oscar nominee Eric Roberts (*Runaway Train*), Golden Globe nominee Joanna Pacula (*Tombstone*), Golden Horse nominee Bai Ling (*Anna and the King*), and starring Filipino talent Belinda Panelo and Jojo Riguerra. An actor herself, she was once nominated alongside Academy Award nominees Alfre Woodard and Amy Irving for Best Supporting Actress, but she didn't know what to do with that information other than put it on her business card. In her spare time, she rock climbs and advocates for Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention and LGBTQ equality. She has served on the Board of Directors for C.O.R.A. (a Bay Area domestic violence hotline and agency), volunteered at ALLICE, and was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the Senate and California Assembly for her community service. In 2021, she was recognized as one of 23 "Most Influential Filipina Women in the World" in the Innovator & Thought Leader category by the Filipina Women's Network. Her IRL and reel life mantra is to "Break Hearts Wide Open and Create More Moments of Joy."



DEAN NAKANISHI @aadapinc

Dean was named Chief Executive Officer of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) in 2021, previously serving as Administrative Director at AADAP for over 20 years under Mike Watanabe,

former AADAP President and CEO. AADAP is one of the largest, longest serving substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs in the Second District in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles, having provided services during the crack epidemic, the Northridge earthquake, and the Civil Unrest following the Rodney King injustice. Dean is passionate about addressing the economic, social, and emotional well-being of vulnerable populations who suffer from substance use disorder, especially in light of the gentrification he has observed in neighborhoods and how it affects the economic, social, and emotional well-being of its residents. He has overseen all aspects of AADAP's business planning, fundraising, and operational design, and is proud to have been involved in expanding the organization's services, including employment services, HIV/AIDS outreach, and sober living homes. Dean has a Bachelor's in Business Management and an MBA from Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business. He has been happily married since 1998 and is an avid fisherman who enjoys traveling and spending time in his home garden.

PRODUCTION TEAM



DINA MORRONE (Associate Producer)

Dina is a Valley Theatre Award winner, for best solo show *The Italian In Me*, based on a meeting with the “Maestro” Federico Fellini. Most recently, she co-produced her full-length play *Moose On The Loose* which was awarded several Scenie Awards including one of the best comedies 2023 and best ensemble cast. She is the Editor/contributing writer for the socially conscious lifestyle magazine, *The Eden Magazine*, and has interviewed the likes of Louis Gossett Jr, Blair Underwood, Gina Lollobrigida, and Bruce Dern, to name a few. VO credits: *Ferrari, Avatar, Pinocchio, Luca, Dune, The Bad Guys, The Morning Show, Video Game Starfield, Media Access Awards* on PBS, etc. Previously produced: *So Many Stars, Moose On The Loose* (playwright), *Sunday Night Solo Series, Portraits 2 Solo Shows, Solopalooza 2.022*, produced and directed *WHO I AM*, etc. Dina encourages all to watch feature films on the big screen and theatre LIVE on stage! www.dinamorrone.com



ARDEN TERESA LEWIS (Consulting Director)

Arden is a Daytime Emmy Nominated filmmaker for her first feature documentary film, *Leveling Lincoln*, which can be viewed on the PBS App and is distributed by NETA for one hour TV broadcast and streaming. The full-length director's cut is available for community screenings or DEI corporate events at www.levelinglincoln.com. She directed Garry Michael Kluger's critically acclaimed *Walking in Space*

and *Thorn in the Family Paw*, at Theatre West. She also directed *The Night Forlorn, or Waitin' on Godsford*, which was awarded Best Production of a Play at the 2018 Valley Theatre Awards. In addition to directing, Arden is also a writer and actor. Her feature script, *Gravel Road*, was a 2022 semi-finalist at the Ojai Film Festival, Big Apple Film Fest, Manhattan Film Fest, Lady Filmmakers Fest, among others. She received the Lilian Nesburn Award from the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild for *Grandma Good* and was a semi-finalist for the Jane Chambers Award with her play, *Baby Dreams*. Her play, *Little Rhonda*, was produced at Theatre Geo and is in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theatre Archives at the Los Angeles Central Library. Arden is also published in two anthologies: *Scenes For Women By Women* and *Even More Monologues For Women By Women*. In addition to Theatre West, she has acted at Primary Stages, The Bouerrie Lane Theatre, Soho Playhouse, the Paper Mill Playhouse, and the La Mirada Civic Theatre.

Arden holds a BA in Theatre from UCLA. FB or IG: @ATLewisFilms or Website:

www.ardenteresalewis.com



DAVID P. JOHNSON (Technical Director, Lighting Designer & Videographer)

David's works include (Film/TV) – *The Rum Diary*, *Pandorum*, multiple episodes of *1000 Ways to Die*, *The Muppets*, *Driving by Braille* and others, (Theatre) *Waiting in the Wings* (with Betty Garrett); *A Very Brady Musical*; *Bell, Book and Candle*; *Something for the Boys*; *Sleeping Beauty*; *Little Red Riding Hood*; *Biloxi Blues* and *Presidential Suite* (the last of which he also served as composer and contributing lyricist). His theatrical directing credits include, *Stuck in Neutral*, *The Princess and the Frog*, *A Dose of Family*, *Sally Spectre the Musical*, which enjoyed a terrific run here at Theatre West last year, and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. SAG-AFTRA/AEA



DAVID MINGRINO (Stage Manager)

In the last 45 years, David has been on stage in over 100 productions. They include, *Walking In Space*, *The Man Who Saved Everything*, *The Petrified Forest*, *Thicker Than Water*, *Verdigris* and *Under The Shade Of The Old Oak* at Theatre West, musicals including *Motel*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, and *Jesus in Godspell*. Other shows include *Room Service* (which received 6 Ovation nominations including best ensemble cast). He has been in three independent features, *Under The Shade Of The Old Oak* (now on Amazon Prime), *Sweet* and *The Devil Within* (Amazon). He has stage managed for Charles Durning, Charles Nelson Reilly (who became a good friend), Hal Linden, Joyce and Dick Van Patten, Carol

Channing and Patti Page to name a few. His directing credits include *The World Goes Round* and the cabaret shows *Vamping Till Ready* and *Desire* which he also conceived.



DILLON MOUNT (Assistant Stage Manager)

Dillon is a local with an interest in creative media, who has rubbed shoulders with theater lovers all his life. He's had an enjoyable time at Theatricum Botanicum's Shakespeare's program, working as crew on the independent student film *Pinky Promise*, and most recently, Dillon was the stage manager for Theatre West's *Walking In Space*. Dillon has embarked on an educational journey in post-production for film and television. He is happy to be part of this special production, and hopes you enjoy the show.



PHILIP SOKOLOFF (Publicist)

Philip is Theatre West's resident publicist. Also an actor, he appeared on stage at Theatre West in *Falling Upward*, *Drunk and in Charge of a Bicycle*, *The Petrified Forest*, *Four Pilots*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Perfect Evening*, and *Anticipation*.



GARRY KLUGER (Photographer)

Garry has authored three books, nineteen plays, two TV pilots, twelve documentaries, and several series. In 2023, *Walking In Space* became his 2nd full-length play to be showcased at Theatre West. Garry likes to refer to this play as his non-fictional, fiction play since events in the play detail actual events from Garry's teenage years. His first play, and full production, for Theatre West, *A Thorn In The Family Paw*, won Best New Play from the Stage Scene L.A. Awards, and Garry won Best Writer – Original Play, from the Valley Theatre Awards. He has won the DFAP International One Act Festival for *The Other Half*, the Gold Award for *Office Hours*, and the Silver Award for *In A Yellow Wood* from the World Series of Screenwriting. He's also won Highly Recommended from the Segora Playwrights Festival in France for

Prodigal Returns, and was twice a finalist from the Sterts Theatre in London for his one acts, *The Other Half* and *Brotherhood*.



MICHAELA SKARIBAS (Social Media)

Michaela is an artist based in Los Angeles. Some of her most recent credits include creating the immersive theatre show *The Showroom* and producing the new musical *Valley of Light*. She is currently producing *Where Within*, a new musical coming to Hollywood Fringe this summer. Find out more about her at michaelaskaribas.com or [@mscarryboss](https://www.instagram.com/mscarryboss) on Instagram!



JAYNA GOINS (Social Media)

Founder and creator of Eleimon Events, Jayna is a multifaceted creative with skills and professions in event planning, choreography, show production, styling and much more! Her magical touch to each event she creates is truly one to experience. Known for her unique direction for micro events, Jayna is a trail blazer and powerhouse making a name for herself in the world of creative expression. As a partner at First Flame Marketing, a marketing company dedicated to promoting and expanding businesses' social media presence and engagement through platforms like Instagram, Yelp, and TikTok, Jayna has collaborated with various artists, photographers, and models, honing her business sharpness. She possesses extensive knowledge of the evolving social media industry and has helped boost the revenue of renowned restaurants such as Wokcano, Lotus Dim Sum House, and Han Korean BBQ. Jayna is expanding her creative enterprise business, Eleimon, by collaborating with established startups and small businesses across California. Her ultimate goal is to open a flex space facility that caters explicitly to the needs of creatives, helping the arts community thrive and flourish in the coming years.



MICHAEL VAN DUZER (Box Office Manager)

Michael's LA directing credits include *The Collection*, *As You Like It*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Edward II*, *The Double Dealer*, *Halsted Street: Chicago*, *The Lisbon Traviata*, and *In On It*. For Musical Theatre Guild, he directed *The Golden Apple*. He helmed the local premieres of his own plays, *Up on the Roof*, *Hopeful Romantic*, *Recalled to Life*, *Tawdry Tales*, and *Gardening for Beginners*. He has staged Opera Buffs Showcases since 1991, including his adaptation of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. He also directed their concert opera productions of *Carmen*, *La Boheme*, *La Cenerentola*, the *Donizetti Gala*, and is working on their June 9th concert production of *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. For the past eight years, he has been a member of Theatre West where he directed productions of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, the world premiere of *The Man Who Saved Everything*, and numerous short plays in WestFest. Lately, he has returned to performing, playing roles in his own short plays, *Hands Beneath the Table*, and *Sons of God*, along with singing in the holiday shows, *Winter Wishes* and *So Many Stars*. He played Henry Kissinger in the world premiere of *Our Man in Santiago*, winning a Robby Award for Featured Performer. He reprised the role of Kissinger in the Off-Broadway production of the play.



ANNE LEYDEN (Volunteer Coordinator)

Anne Leyden is an actor, singer, writer and producer. In 2022, she made her Off-Broadway debut and also formed the theatrical label Behind the Bar Productions. Most recently, she co-produced *Garden of Alla* here at Theatre West and wrote and performed for *Love Stinks* in March of this year. Anne has enjoyed a multi-decade career, performing in original works, children's theater, classic titles, Shakespeare, musicals, cabaret, TV and film. Look for her in the cabaret *No Matter Watt: Silver* at The Hollywood Fringe Festival in June. [imdb.me/anneleyden](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045444/), IG/X: @anneleyden5



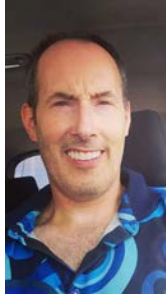
MARCO RIVERA (Front of House Manager)

Marco – associate with the SITI Company, The Berliner Ensemble, and member of The Bertolt Brecht Institute and Latino Theatre Co. – is a creative based in LA and proud part of the Theatre West Family. A UCLA Directing and Dramaturgy alumni, his theatrical work includes: Karen Sacarías' *Just Like Us* with the Los Angeles Theatre Center's UCLA Theatre Comunion, the USA premiere of Lope De Vega's *Women and Servants*, the USA premiere of Dea Loher's *Life on Praça Roosevelt*, the West Coast Premiere of *The Pride* by Alexi Kaye Campbell, and *Swan Lake* at the Hudson Theatre in NYC.



LINDSAY LEFLER (Managing Director)

Lindsay is a theater director and producer recognized for her impactful work at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre. She was instrumental in developing over 60 new musicals, including *Freak Dance*, *7th Grade: The Musical*, *Working Girl: The Musical*, and *Vivé*. Her contributions have also been highlighted at SF Sketchfest and the NY New Musical Theatre Fest. As the Managing Director at Theatre West, Lindsay leverages her extensive experience to broaden the theater's influence across the Los Angeles community. Her previous positions, including Director at Upright Citizens Brigade and her involvement in the launch team of REDCAT at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, have been crucial in establishing these venues as key players in the city's arts scene. A proud Ant eater from UC Irvine, Lindsay graduated with honors in Directing from the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Her dedication to the arts is driven by a commitment to innovative storytelling, funny jokes, and fostering community engagement.



DAVID BAER (Usher)

David has appeared in or assisted in a number of productions and readings here at Theatre West, most notably *Waiting For Lefty* (2010). For the last 10 years, David has worked in an assisted living facility, mostly with seniors who have Alzheimer's and dementia. David is excited about the next stage of his life, where he's focusing on acting and other creative endeavors full time. David will be appearing in *Private Parts*, running May 31-June 2nd here at Theatre West.



KATHIE BARNES (Usher)

Kathie works in TV, Film and Theater and was a series regular in the Warner Brothers online series *DECEPTION*. She is Blessed to have been nominated for two Best Actress Awards for theatrical roles. *INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker*, her solo show, written and directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz, continues to be performed in Los Angeles and around the country. Kathie was last seen originating the role of Francine Silberman in Theatre West's world premiere of *Walking In Space*, written by Garry Michael Kluger.



MIMI KMET (Usher)

A writer, actor and singer, Mimi joined Theatre West in 2019. She has appeared in several TW productions, including *My Trans Wife*, which she co-wrote, and *Bittersweet Oranges*, as well as cabarets (*Love, Actually* and *Winter Wishes*) and Pride shows. She has also acted in short films, including *Matriarch*, which she wrote.



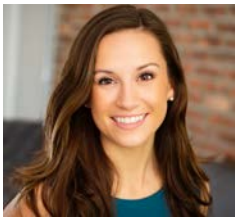
SCOTTIE NEVIL (Usher)

Scottie graduated from UCLA in 2018 with her BA in Theatre, where she collaborated with peers to create the theatre ensemble titled Devised Puppetry Project. She also worked on several projects with Lainie Kazan exploring the art of cabaret. Scottie is currently a player in Theatre West's "Storybook Theater," and hopes to continue navigating all aspects of being a theatre-maker.



ALEXANDRIA SANDERS (Usher)

Alexandria is a graduate of the Los Angeles Film School (2012) with an A.A.S in cinematography and film production. After school, she landed her first film-related job as a Script Supervisor under producer Ahmed Best (Jar Jar Binks of *Star Wars*) in 2013. For 10 years, Alexandria worked as a Script Supervisor on various feature films, televised series, music videos, and commercials before being accepted into the local 871 Script Supervisor Union and landed her first network television production on Nickelodeon's *Danger Force* season 3. In 2020, Alexandria started on a pursuit to perform. After a series of short films, she was accepted into Theatre West and was featured in TW's 2023 WestFest.



ELISE WALTERS (Usher)

Elise is a multifaceted interdisciplinary artist in the performing arts, blending her talents as a singer, pianist, dancer, choreographer, and actor with her passion for teaching, fundraising, and directing. A proud alumnus of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College (Opera Vocal Performance/Theatre & Dance). Recent credits include choreographer for Storybook Theater's *Aladdin*, *the Princess*, and *the Magic Lamp*; featured soloist in San Luis Obispo's New Year's Eve Gala; Independent Opera Company's *Little Red Riding Hood*; *WestFest* at Theatre West; Write Act Repertory's *Path to Catherine*; Pacific Opera Project's *Pirates of Penzance*; and *Turkeys! The Musical* at Zombie Joe's Underground. Director credits include *Trouble in Tahiti* and *The Soldier's Tale* at the Queens College Arts

Festival, as well as serving as Assistant Director for productions such as *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Dido and Aeneas* with Queens College Opera Theater. Relocating to Los Angeles in 2020 from New York, Elise continues to share her passion for music through teaching while actively participating on multiple non-profit boards dedicated to advancing arts education in the public sector as well as unconventional artistic collaborations.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

The producers, cast, and crew of *We're Not Your Cup of Tea* would like to thank the following people for their invaluable help in this production:

All of our families and friends, our volunteers, our partners at AADAP, the membership and artistic board of Theatre West, and all of our generous sponsors and donors. A special shout out to Paulina Hong, Peter D. Michael, and Randy Palisoc for their tremendous help and support behind the scenes! And we especially want to thank YOU, our patrons and audience members, for supporting LIVE theater!

ABOUT THEATRE WEST

Established in 1962, Theatre West is celebrating its 62nd year as the oldest continually running professional theatre company in the city of Los Angeles. It is a membership collective of actors, playwrights, directors, and technicians. Theatre West's alumni members include Ray Bradbury, Beau Bridges, Richard Dreyfuss, Sally Field, Betty Garrett, Martin Landau, Lee Meriwether, Jack Nicholson, Carroll O'Connor, Sherwood Schwartz, Joyce Van Patten, and Paul Winfield. Theatre West has produced more than 300 plays and musicals. Of these plays, nearly 70% are original works developed in its workshops and many have led to Broadway, regional tours, and feature films including *A Bronx Tale* by Chazz Palminteri; *A Very Brady Musical* by Lloyd Schwartz and Hope Juber; *Our Man in Santiago* by Mark Wilding that transferred to Off-Broadway in the Fall of 2022; and our co-production of *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground* that went to Broadway in 2023. [@theatrewest](#)

ABOUT AADAP

The Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2022 and it continues to change lives and save families adversely impacted by substance use. It provides the diverse and multi-ethnic communities of Los Angeles a comprehensive "whole person" approach in its education, intervention, treatment, outreach, advocacy, and employment programs. AADAP distinguishes itself by embodying the Hawaiian concept of *Ohana*, meaning family. Each individual who joins AADAP, joins a FAMILY bound together by its values of compassion, responsibility, and respect. [@aadapinc](#)

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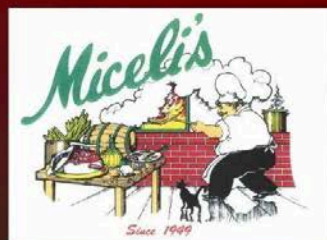
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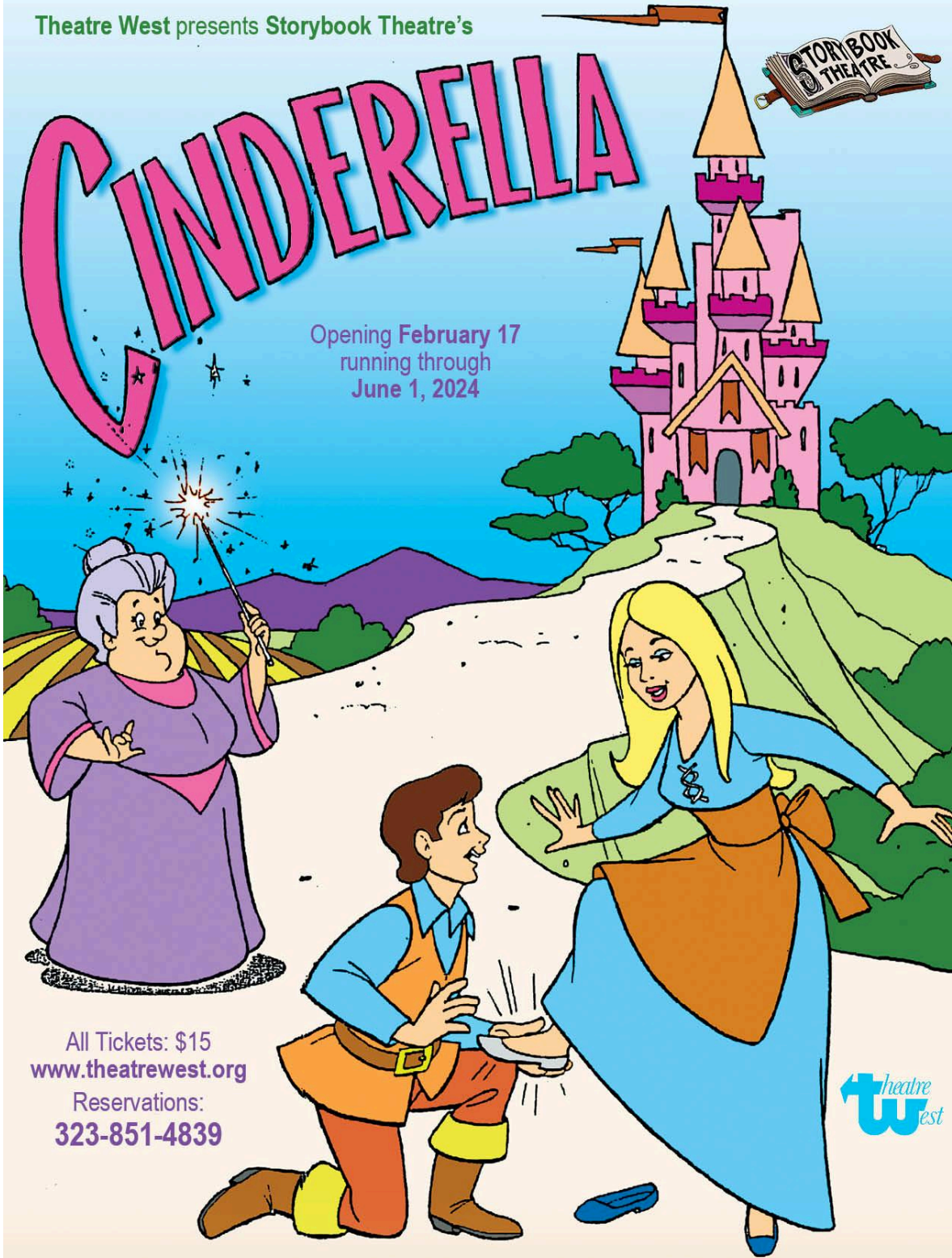
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