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Remember the Pasadena Playhouse Alumni & Associates in your Estate Planning

PPA&A CONTACTS

PPA&A
vamidon@ppa-a.org

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Newsletter@ppa-a.org

PPA&A Website
www.ppa-a.org

Henry & Joyce Sumid Scholarship
www.Sumidscholarship.com

Pasadena Playhouse Archives
archives@pasadenaplayhouse

Playhouse Website:
www.pasadenaplayhouse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The Pasadena Playhouse has received several prestigious grants recently under leadership of former Executive Director Elizabeth Doran and her very talented and hard working staff.

The grants bestowed over the last 3 years include the James Irvine Foundation valued at \$600,000, The Wallace Foundation, where the Playhouse receives \$460,000 for each of three years (to total \$1.38 million), \$30,000 each from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Shubert Foundation, and \$19,500 from the Doris Duke Foundation, among others. There are very strict requirements just to be eligible to apply for these grants, and winning them reflects the recent growth and stability of the Playhouse.

I report all of this to inform you of the great progress the Playhouse has made in obtaining these gifts. But if you know what it takes to run a theatre - and I know you know you do as so many of you run theatres or have done so - you know it takes more than grants from foundations and ticket sales. It takes the support of everyone associated with the Pasadena Playhouse to keep it moving forward. If you have not yet made a gift to the Playhouse so far this year, please do so now. Let’s show the Playhouse we understand the needs of our theatre and of our continued desire to support it.

If you are one of our members who only receives the newsletter via regular mail, I’d like to highlight what you’re missing by not seeing the email or online version. Newsletter editor Ross Clark does a most amazing job in locating photographs of alumni to add to various articles and the newsletter comes alive with the addition of these pictures. If you are unable to get the

President's Message
continued from page 1.

newsletter on your computer or other viewing device, I urge you to get someone to help you see it. Once you do, you will want to see other editions online. Know that you can locate old editions via our website at www.ppa-a.org. And then you can send notes of thanks to Ross at Newsletter@ppa-a.org for his incredible work for our enjoyment.

Best,
Valerie

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pasadena Playhouse Alumni and Associates		
Treasurers Report		
Ending July 27, 2015		
	Check book balance from 5/30/15	\$1,156.76
Income	Annual memberships (0)	\$0.00
	Life memberships (0)	\$0.00
	Directories (0)	\$0.00
	Transfer from Franklin Fund	\$0.00
	Bank interest, 5/30 and 6/30	\$0.03
	Total Income	\$0.03
Expenditures	Secretary of State Filing Fees	\$20.00
	Registry of Charitable Trusts Fees	\$25.00
	Bank Service Charge	\$17.00
	Total Expenditures	\$62.00
	Check book balance, 7/27/15	\$1,094.79
Other cash assets	Unexpended legal retainer	\$1,000.00
	Cash balance, 7/27/2015	\$2,094.79
Investment Fund Balance (Franklin Income Class A - \$2,500 from Rose Freeman)		
	As of 6/30/15	\$43,458.53
	Account withdrawal	\$0.00
	Revised balance	\$43,458.53
	As of 7/27/15	\$43,458.53
	Gain/(loss)	\$0.00

BOARD MINUTES

PPA&A Minutes of Board Meeting

May 18, 2015

Present: V. Amidon, L. Almanzar, M. Cates, R. Clark, C. d'Anconia, J. McElveney, RJ Muehlhausen, J. Palmer, P Parkin

Absent: R. Easty, E. Bailey, A la Rose,

Call to order - 7:08 pm

Minutes of previous meeting - acceptance m/s/p

Treasurer's Report - acceptance m/s/p

Presidents statement:

- Treasurer will closeout Sumid Scholarship investment funds with Wells Fargo - transfer all into Merrill Lynch account

- Discussion restoring fire curtain

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Time to renew rental of P.O. box

GREENHOUSE:

- \$750 advanced to cover expenses for readings (reception to be held after 1st reading)

- Greenhouse is booming - writing is exciting interest

SUMID SCHOLARSHIP:

- Initial input of apps has been received - finalists still to be determined

- Numerous apps received from USC students - both grads and undergrads.

NEWSLETTER:

- Not much input received-suggest possibly going to 3 issues per year.

- **ARCHIVES:**

- Work resuming at Huntington Library - will likely finish all Playhouse info - adding 3 photos for every show with explanatory blurbs on photo backs

ADJOURNMENT 8:35 PM

NEXT MEETING - JULY 27, 2015 7 PM

Marje Cates - Recording Secretary

Growing the Education Programs at The Pasadena Playhouse

The Pasadena Playhouse's legacy as a pioneering organization for theatre education has always been a source of pride and inspiration for me.

Thus I am thrilled to share with the Alumni & Associates that we are growing our education programs at The Playhouse. As you know, our New Generations program has been running for over a decade to great acclaim from funders and participants. This summer, with funding support from the LA County Arts Commission, we brought back summer internships to The Playhouse. Starting in the 2015-2016 season, are launching our new Student Matinee Membership and Teaching Artist Residency program. We have great momentum right now.

In order to sustain this growth, we need to invest in hiring a Part-Time Education Fellow to provide administrative support to me and to receive mentorship in running education programs. The annual cost is approximately \$20,000.

If you or any of the businesses you are involved with are in a position to make a contribution to grow our education programs at The Pasadena Playhouse, we invite you to do so. You may make a tax-deductible donation by mailing a check payable to: The Pasadena Playhouse Attn: Education Programs 600 Playhouse Alley, Suite 300 Pasadena, CA 91101

As we approach our centennial, and in the spirit of Mr. Gilmore Brown's trailblazing commitment

to continued learning, I seek your partnership to grow our education programs and reinstate our position as pioneers and innovators in the arts education field.

Alexis Chamow Education Programs
Consultant The Pasadena Playhouse

2015 SUMID SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

This year, the Sumid Scholarship committee chose to give the Henry & Joyce W. Sumid Scholarship to seven deserving students. The value of each scholarship is \$ 5,000.00, and we have now bestowed a total of \$220,000.00 in scholarships over the last nine years. A special Thank You to the members of the Sumid Scholarship committee for their hard work in reviewing and deliberating the many applications that were submitted.

The recipients for 2015 are:

Allison Rose Aoun - actor/director,
University of Southern California

Briana Billups - designer/technician,
University of Southern California

Kristina Dizon - actor, California State
University, Fullerton

Meghan Lang - actor, American Musical
and Dramatic Academy, L.A.

Amy Sizer - actor, University of Southern
California

Carolina Stevens - director, Southern
Oregon University

Rose Strasen - designer, California Institute
of the Arts

continued on page 4.

STAGE WHISPERS Summer 2015

Here are some sample notes of gratitude from our award recipients:

Thank you so much for granting me this scholarship. I am honored and overwhelmingly grateful for your generosity! Thank you again!

Sincerely, Carolina Stevens

Thank you so much!!! I was so honored last year to be selected, but I cannot express how incredibly grateful and humbled I am at being selected this year as well.

Sincerely, Meghan Lang

WE GET LETTERS

Don Frabotta '69 writes: Full Frontal Corrigan...it's really all about ME.....TV, that is.....watching one of my all time favorites....M*A*S*H....and there they had, Unedited, the segment where Corrigan plays Radar's cousin Millie, in a home video sent to Korea of Radar's family at a picnic....I'd not seen this one in YEARS and usually they cut it up....not this time....what a hoot to see her in all her Mary-ness.....

Don

Hi,
I'm trying to find the whereabouts of Donald Sandy Clark who appeared in Pasadena Playhouse productions before he made a career in the U.S. Air Force. If living, Sandy would be very elderly, more than 87. His last known state of residence was Tennessee.

Sandy married my distant German cousin Ursula Lauer of Waldmohr, Germany. I last saw them when I visited Waldmohr in 1975 with my mother and niece. Before her 1982 death, my grandmother, Frieda Hydal, made contact with Sandy, Uschi, and

their children Jackie and Karin in Tennessee. Unfortunately, I lost touch with them after that.

I would very much like to get in touch with Sandy and/or Uschi, and would appreciate any help you may be able to render.

Thank you very much.
God bless you.

Sincerely,
Gaylord O. Hydal, MSgt, USAF (ret.)
New Bern, North Carolina

Editors Note: We have a Donald Clark (49) in our database but no info other than the year. Do you have any additional information that you could send to Mr. Hydal?

Mark Martin '69 writes: Hello Everyone:

I am sending along this announcement of a wonderful event which took place on Saturday May 23rd and Sunday May 24th, 2015. Entitled Senior Star Search, this was a talent event which sponsored by Senior Star Power, an organization that is presided over by Ms. Jackie Goldberg,

also known as "The Pink Lady."

THE PINK LADY and BARBARA VAN ORDEN

Present

SENIOR STAR SEARCH
SINGERS, DANCERS, COMEDIANS & VARIETY ACTS

MUST BE

55 Years Young and Over

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON YOU!

Auditions Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th
Final Competition and Awards Sunday, July 12th

Hollywood, California - where stars are RE-Born!

Winners receive

Monetary Awards
Performance Opportunities
Professional Headshots
Entertainment Workshop Access
Publicity & Industry Exposure

Please call or email for your audition appointment:

818-400-2701 / pinklady7@earthlink.net

No, I did not audition for the event, but I assisted Ms. Goldberg and her associates for these days. Senior Star Power is an outreach to all people in the Hollywood area who are "55 years young and

beyond." It is a beautiful organization which enables Seniors to realize the full potential that is within us, regardless of age. Our Inner Spirits

continued on page 5.

are forever young and as such, we have the power to accomplish our goals, our hopes and our dreams.

Mark

Minta Curtis Dietrich '54 writes: I have a new email address: aradiet16@gmail.com. The old address was minta.dietrich@gmail.com.

Minta

Type to enter text

Jaime Delgado '47 writes:

Cali, Colombia, February 6th, 2015

Thank you so much for the Stage Whispers (Newsletter).

In reading the articles included in the Newsletter, I would like to let you know that I was also a student of Dr. Helmuth Hormann back in 1951, in his Shakespeare class. I do not remember well enough, but I think I was the only Latin student in his class. I enjoyed his teaching tremendously!!!

Saludo cordial,

Jaime

Anthony (Tony) Williams '61 writes:

Greetings,

I was a tech student at the Playhouse 59/60, 60/61. Recently I have been sorting through a box of old pictures and came upon these I took while at the Playhouse.

Pictures attached*: img396 is of the main stage IATSE prop master; img397 is the main stage IATSE lighting designer/stage electrician (believe his name is William Young); img399 I believe was also an IATSE carpenter; Dale White ran the Television Dept. and also was in charge of main stage audio; Pete was the IATSE carpenter; and there are 2 pictures of Zazu Pitts starring in the 1960 main stage production of "Curious Savage."



Dale White was also an actor and played Don Wilson's son on "The Jack Benny Show"

Tony
Bensalem,
PA

main stage IATSE prop master



main stage
IATSE lighting
designer/stage
electrician
William Young



I believe this was also an I A T S E carpenter. Any one remember his name?



Dale White ran the Television Dept. and also was in charge of main stage audio

WHAT THE ALUMNI ARE DOING

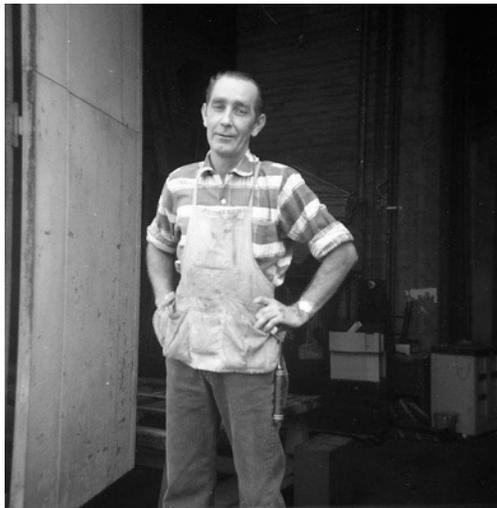


James Cady ('64)

After a career spanning 30 years working as a producer in commercials and the movie industry in Los Angeles, Jim moved to New Mexico in 1990. After several years in Santa Fe, he moved to Rio Rancho (just north of Albuquerque) in 2005. It had been over thirty years since he taught at the University of Cincinnati, UCLA, UC Berkeley. Twiddling his thumbs one evening, his wife, Marcelle, spotted an audition notice for the community non-profit Adobe Theater – a production of *Morning's At Seven*. That was the re-birth of Jim's stage acting, and directing. Since then he has appeared in several plays including Lennox Robinson's *Is Life Worth Living?*, the role of 'Ben' in *Death of a Salesman* (which he directed), Jerome Bixby's *The Man From Earth*, *Singin' In The Rain*....

His directing of several plays in Albuquerque, has earned him the respect of many actors and directors, and he receives much praise from the local critics. He prefers the tried and true American classics - including Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* and *Death of a Salesman*, Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon For The Misbegotten* at The Adobe Theater; *Salesman* (honored as "Best Production of 2012" by the Albuquerque Journal) and Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur's *The Front Page* at The Vortex Theater. In 2011 he got up the nerve to write and perform his own original one-man show *The Unauthorized Afterlife of Eugene O'Neill* which he brought to the Carrie Hamilton

Pete was the IATSE carpenter



Zazu Pitts starring in the 1960 main stage production of "Curious Savage."

Editor's note: If you find pictures you would like to share send them to us.

Theatre with the support of his good friend, and frequent stage manager, Donna Marie Barra. Last summer, Donna produced and Jim directed James Cady's *Hamlet* – which he set in a prison!

He has never forgotten the time he spent with Ethel Waters at The Pasadena Playhouse when she performed in *The Member of the Wedding* at the Playhouse. To honor her, this winter he directed *The Member of The Wedding*. Following this acclaimed production, he directed Stephen Temperley's *SOUVENIR (A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins)* which also received great acclaim. Next year he will direct *The Philadelphia Story*. When not on stage or “back stage”, he is currently the Artistic Director of The Adobe Theater.

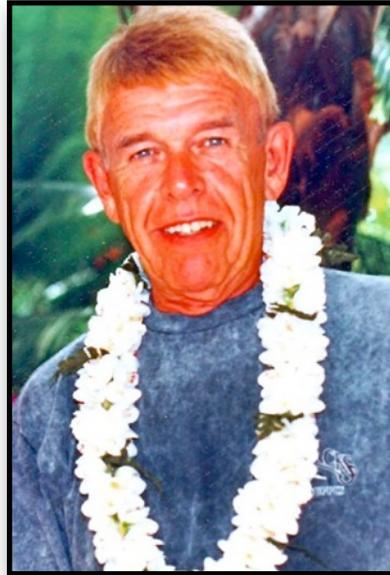
With the growth of filming in New Mexico, Jim renewed his SAG-AFTRA membership and can be seen in several TV series and feature films.

Jaelyn Carmichael Palmer ('62) shot an episode of NBC's "Marry Me" entitled "Wake Me" (season finale) with the delightful and funny Tymberlee Hill. Also filmed "The Gloaming" directed by award winning director, Helen Strivers. Other appearances include "The Other Client List" (recurring character) which was just shown at the Chinese Theatre, and just shot a part in the web series, "Andy and Mandy" and worked on a Southern California Gas Company shoot.

**Please send your alumni doings to:
newsletter@ppa-a.org
so we can keep everyone up to date!**

FINAL CURTAIN

Royal (Roy) Baxter '56



Royal (Roy) Baxter, class '56, passed away January 27, 2015, at Chonburi, Thailand, of pneumonia, a result of a fall and a fracture of his femur. He was 84. Roy was born in Chattanooga,

TN, a veteran of the Korean War where he was wounded. The Pasadena Playhouse was next where, at one time, he was a driver for Gilmore Brown. In the early 1960s to late 1970s Roy and his life partner, Michael Keller, class '55, lived in Carmel, CA. While living in Carmel, Roy directed and acted at the Studio Theatre and the Golden Bough Circle Theatre. Roy's favorite acting role was Henry II in "The Lion in Winter." The play he most enjoyed directing was the musical, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." In his Hollywood career Roy was a Location Auditor for Viacom and Metromedia. Roy and Mike retired to Thailand in August 1995. Roy loved the country and the Thai people. In death Roy received the highest honor the Thai Government can bestow. He will forever be known to the Thai people as Arjan Yai, or in English "Big Teacher," because he chose to donate his remains to Thai medical science at the Chulalongkorn Medical Center at the University. He is survived by his life partner of

60 years, Michael Keller, and many members of his Playhouse family.

by Jim Bradford, '55

Leonard Nimoy '50



Leonard Nimoy, probably best known as Mr. Spock on "Star Trek," has died, according to family members who confirmed his

death to multiple media outlets. He was 83.

Born in Boston on March 26, 1931, Nimoy caught the acting bug at a young age, appearing in his first play when he was 8 years old. He acted throughout his teenage years at Boston's English High School and continued to pursue the craft while attending Boston College. He left college before graduating and moved to California where he studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Soon, his acting career started taking off: Nimoy landed parts in "Dragnet," "The Rough Riders," "Bonanza" and "The Twilight Zone."

More recently, Nimoy starred in the FX series "Fringe," which ran from 2009-2012. He lent his voice to "The Simpsons" and "Futurama," in a couple of episodes -- playing himself.

In 2009, he returned as Mr. Spock in a big-screen adaptation of "Star Trek," with Zachary Quinto playing a younger version of Spock.

Nimoy wed Sandra Zober, a fellow student at the Pasadena Playhouse, in 1954. They had two children, Julie and Adam before divorcing in 1987.

Nimoy then married Susan Bay, a film production executive, the following year.

Aileen Taylor Smith '51



Aileen was a student at the Playhouse in 1950-51 and went on to notable success in Canada. The following obituary was written by her family who asked that I pass it on to you. Mary

Cavena.....

Aileen, a vibrant, creative, and compassionate woman, was born in Tennessee, studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse in California, and settled in Toronto. She had a successful stage and film career both acting and directing for more than sixty years. Of note were her positions as Artistic director of Huron Country Playhouse and President of ACTRA Toronto. Her positive attitude and unconditional love and support will be held in our hearts forever.

Aileen passed away on December 29th after spending a lovely Christmastime with her family. She was the beloved wife of Ronald Smith (deceased) for 49 years, loving mother to David (Gail), Averil (Dave), and Joannah (Brian), and adoring grandmother of Daniel, Christine, Kevin, David II, Tristan, Alexander, and Gillian.

If desired, gifts may be sent to PAL Canada (palcanada.org) in her memory, or to a theatre that you love.

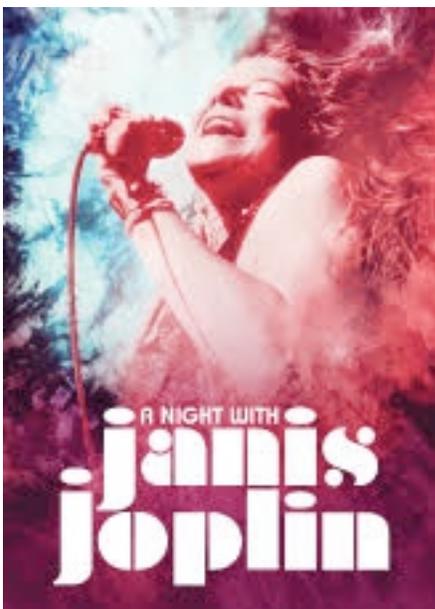
Kathleen Rae Morrison (Hayes) '47

Kathleen passed away on April 27th, 2015. She was 89. Kathleen was surrounded by her children. She is survived by daughter Julie Anne Dawson (Edd), sons Eric David Morrison and William Michael Morrison.

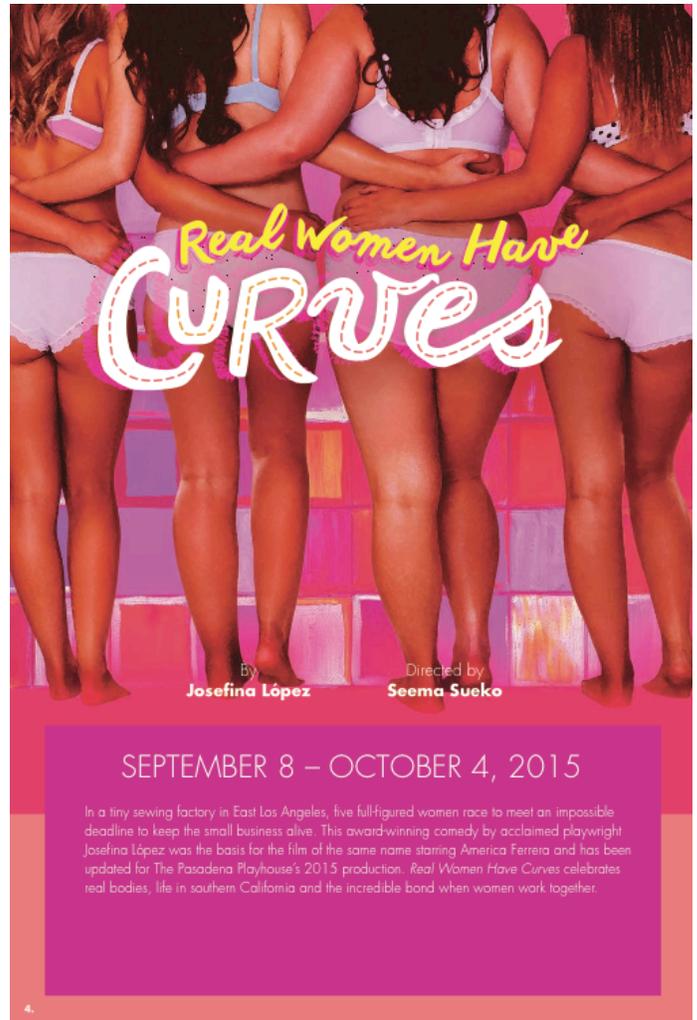
Born in Oklahoma on February 5, 1926, Kathleen moved with her family to Pasadena, in 1929. Acting was always a love of hers. Her mother, Julia, helped promote Kathleen's acting talent at a very early age. She graduated from Pasadena City College with a degree in Theater and went on to hone her skills at the famed Pasadena Playhouse. She married Donald Robert Morrison (predeceased) in 1948 and they both worked in a small theater group, Orchard Gables on Western Avenue in Hollywood for several years.

Editor's Note: If you know of the passing of one of our Alumni please send us any information you have so that we can publish it in our newsletter. Any obits and photographs that you have will be used and will be greatly appreciated. We want to celebrate the lives of our wonderful Alumni!

**On the Playhouse Mainstage
July 21 - August 16, 2015 Don't miss it!**



The 2015-16 Season Subscribe Now



Reminder of The Ticket Policy with The Pasadena Playhouse and the PPA&A

- The PPA&A will receive a maximum of 2 complimentary tickets to each production that is produced solely by The Pasadena Playhouse. (The box office will inform the Alumni caller if the production is a Playhouse production or otherwise.) Requests for tickets must be made within 48 hours prior to the performance of choice. **Please call the box office for reservations at (626) 356-7529.** Tickets will be based on space availability. **Complimentary tickets will not be available during the final week of the production.**

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

BREAKING THROUGH

Book by
Kirsten Guenther

Music and Lyrics by
**Cliff Downs and
Katie Kahanovitz**

Directed by
Sheldon Epps

OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 22, 2015

A World Premiere Musical, *Breaking Through* is told through the eyes of a young, talented singer/songwriter as she tries to navigate the treacherous shark-filled waters of the music business. She embarks on a compelling journey to find her way back to her authentic self and in the process rediscovers the music that truly makes her alive. *Breaking Through* features a score by Emmy Award-winning songwriter and producer Cliff Downs ("The Voice," "American Idol,"), and Katie Kahanovitz (*Girls Night Out Pop Radial*), with a book by Kirsten Guenther (*Mrs. Sharp*, 2008 Richard Rodgers Award-winner, the upcoming *Benny and Joan*). *Breaking Through* originated as a HOTHOUSE staged reading at The Pasadena Playhouse. Launched in 2005, HOTHOUSE is the signature new play development program at The Pasadena Playhouse.

5.

**Peter Pan
and
Tinker Bell
A PIRATES CHRISTMAS**

By **Kris Lythgoe** Directed by **Bonnie Lythgoe** Musical Direction by **Michael Orland** Choreography by **Spencer Liff**

DECEMBER 9, 2015 – JANUARY 3, 2016

Peter Pan and Tinker Bell A Pirates Christmas is the latest Holiday Spectacular presented by Lythgoe Family Productions in the style of the traditional British Panto. Tinkerbell, Wendy and Peter Pan embark on a wild quest to foil the pirates' plot to kidnap Peter for Captain Hook's Christmas present in this flying, singing, swashbuckling adventure. Featuring comedy, magic, dancers from "So You Think You Can Dance" and contemporary music from Taylor Swift to the Bee Gees, a Panto is interactive holiday fun for all ages. "Those who have never been to a panto will have a glorious introduction to the form." – *Los Angeles Times*. Panto at The Playhouse productions have featured luminaries from the worlds of music, theatre and television, including Ariana Grande, Ben Vereen, Olivia Holt and Lucy Lawless.

6.



By **Trey Ellis and Ricardo Khan** Directed by **Ricardo Khan** Produced in Association with **Crossroads Theatre Company**

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 21, 2016

With a focus on hope, endurance, and accomplishment, *Fly* tells the story of the first African-American Army Air Corp fighters known as the Tuskegee Army who flew over the skies of Europe and North Africa during World War II. Featuring a cast of eight men, including "Tap Griot," a dancer who uses tap dance steps to set a mood that is part sublimated anger, part empowerment, *Fly* was hailed by *The New York Times* as "a superior piece of theatrical synergy." Coauthor and director Ricardo Khan is Tony Award-winning cofounder and former artistic director of the Crossroads Theatre Company, known as one of the nation's foremost African-American theatre companies. In honor of Black History month, The Pasadena Playhouse and Crossroads Theatre Company's production of *Fly* dramatizes the historic contributions made by the Tuskegee Army to the desegregation of the American military and the furthering of civil rights.

7.



CASA Valentina

By **Harvey Fierstein** Directed by **David Lee**

MARCH 15 – APRIL 10, 2016

From four-time Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein, the iconic playwright of the Broadway hits *Torch Song Trilogy*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Newsies* and *Kinky Boots*, comes the West Coast Premiere of *Casa Valentina*, the recipient of four 2014 Tony Award nominations. Directed by nine-time Emmy Award-winner David Lee of NBC's "Frasier" and director of the acclaimed Pasadena Playhouse productions of *Can-Can* and *Art*, this moving and insightful play is nestled in the Catskills in 1962 — land of dirty dancing and borscht belt comedy. But an inconspicuous bungalow colony is more than a place to escape the sweltering summer heat. For a group of heterosexual men it is a place to escape. Based on real events and infused with Fierstein's trademark wit, this new work was lauded by *The New York Times* for posing "genuinely arresting questions about identity" and hailed by *Theatermania* as "far and away the best new play of the season."

8.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Photos (l-r): **Be Sukett** (L) and **Emily Padgett** (R), in *Waterfall*, photo: **Joan Marcus**. The spouses of the *Parish House Orphanage Issue Twist* in a scene from *Twist* - *An American Musical*, photo: **Craig Schwartz**.

MAY 31 – JUNE 26, 2016
TO BE ANNOUNCED

How many of our famous Alumni can you identify? **Will Diaz '54** put this together for use when giving tours of the Playhouse. If you would like to arrange a tour email tours@pasadenaplayhouse.org What famous Alumni are missing from this collection?

